

Code of Conduct

- Last updated: 2022-01-14
- Review Date: 2023-01-30

Note: This Code of Conduct is heavily cribbed from [Valkyrie WMAA](#) without their permission.



Objective

LongEdge Fencing is a physically, emotionally and socially safe environment where the skills taught within the group may be learned, practiced and enjoyed by all. An environment which is not physically, emotionally and socially safe risks injury to any who participate in or spectate the group's activities. An unsafe environment limits the capacity of members and other participants to enjoy our arts and limits our ability to learn through instruction and from our own successes and mistakes.

Definitions

"LEF" and "group" may be used interchangeably to refer to the fencing group and its membership as a whole. LEF stands for LongEdge Fencing.

"Member" refers to a participant who has signed the General Waiver and who has paid for:

- the current eleven-week term, or
- a five-session card with at least one unused session.

All memberships expire at 11:59pm on the night before the start of the first term of the calendar year.

Non-members may participate in training and other activities if they:

- can prove they have appropriate insurance coverage from another school or provider, and
- pay for the session at the casual rate.

Expected Behaviour

Safety is an attitude and a set of behaviours. Each member and participant in LongEdge Fencing activities is responsible for not only their own safety but the safety of all people they interact with regardless of whether they are group members, members of other schools and the general public.

In other words, this Code of Conduct applies to the behaviour of:

- LongEdge Fencing members
- LongEdge Fencing members participating in events run by others
- members of other schools participating in LongEdge Fencing events
- spectators at LongEdge Fencing events

Therefore, we agree that these behaviours are expected of all, whether they perform the role of the instructor, student, competitor or spectator.

General Behaviour and Training Rules

- The training space may be used for solo practice at any time but individuals must remove themselves to give priority to group classes.
- Members in partner drills are either learning a skill or providing the correct physical inputs for their partner to learn a skill. Where a member has been given a set of actions to perform so that their partner can learn, these actions will be performed. Do not fight the drill.
- Members are expected to calibrate their level of resistance, force, and aggression to their training partner and the current drill. If in doubt, ask your partner or instructor what they expect.
- Members are welcome to ask questions and give each other feedback (especially to help their partner calibrate correctly) but only instructors may provide instruction. Please limit peer coaching to exercises where it is explicitly requested.
- Members may choose to participate or not in drills and other activities as they judge best without judgement from others.
- No person may participate in training or sparring while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Sparring Rules

All members must receive a safety orientation and be cleared to fight by an instructor prior to sparring. During sparring, all fighters must wear safety gear as determined by the instructor and consistent with the **HFA Safe Operating Procedures** document. Participants must fight at an appropriate level of intensity for each participant. Fighters are expected to take responsibility for their own safety and the safety of their training partners, and to follow all instructions from instructors during sparring.

A fighter should always strike with the minimum amount of force required to complete an action. Cuts and thrusts targeting the body should strike their target with a light impact (a noticeable touch) that does not cause bruising or shove the target out of position. Cuts targeting the sword should displace the weapon enough to grant the fencer an additional tempo for attack, without intentionally hurting the opponent's wrist or knocking the sword out of their hand.

If a fencer's attack has too much force, it must be "broken" at the moment of contact to reduce its impact. Thrusts can be broken by relaxing the elbow of the sword arm and allowing it to bend, absorbing the impact of the blow. Cuts are broken by relaxing the elbow and wrist of the sword arm, and gently drawing the sword along the target back towards the fencer.

A high level of awareness and dexterity is required to fight safely. If a fencer is losing focus due to fatigue or stress, or if their sword arm is so tired that they cannot control the direction or force of their blows, they should immediately end the bout.

All injuries will be recorded on the **HFA Injury Report Form** and forwarded to the HFA.

Unacceptable Behaviour

The behaviours listed below are examples only. It is not exhaustive by design. These zones apply to all persons interacting with LongEdge Fencing including staff, instructors, members and the general public. Bear in mind that unacceptable behaviour which is rated Yellow Zone for a group member may be rated Red Zone for staff or an instructor because of the misuse of a privileged position.

Red Zone

These are behaviours which will get you banned and expelled from the group immediately. Examples of Red Zone behaviour include any kind of physical or sexual assault, abuse of power by staff or senior students including stalking.

This will be dealt with at the time of the incident, removing the offender from the class or activity, providing appropriate care to the target(s) of the assault or abuse, and getting written statements about the incident. All staff and any senior students may intervene.

Follow up actions will be cancelling by written notice the membership of the offender and reviewing all relevant policies and procedures. If warranted, Red Zone incidents may be referred to the police or other relevant legal authority.

Yellow Zone

These behaviours may not result in immediate expulsion from the group but will not be tolerated. Examples of Yellow Zone behaviours include but are not limited to verbal or sexual harassment and bullying in any form including social exclusion.

This will be dealt with at the time of the incident removing the offender from the class or activity, providing appropriate care to the target(s) of the behaviour, and getting written statements about the incident. All staff and any senior students may intervene.

Depending on the severity of the offence, the offender may be permanently banned or suspended from the group. Where the ban is not permanent, the instructors will work with the target(s) of the behaviour to make a plan for reconciliation and reintegration of the offender into the group.

Background Radiation

Background radiation includes all other behaviour which gets in the way of a member's ability to enjoy the training and social environment of the group. This includes but is not limited to the casual use of slurs and stereotypes, and inappropriate sexual comments.

Any staff on the scene will inform the offender that their behaviour is inappropriate and suggest how to correct the issue. Staff will follow up with the target(s) of the inappropriate behaviour to ensure that the behaviour has been addressed.

Repeated incidents may warrant escalation to the Yellow or Red Zone.

Raising Concerns and Other Issues

If you encounter situations, behaviour or attitudes which fail to meet this Code, please see Chris Slee.

If you are not comfortable raising issues directly with Chris, please raise with one of our External Advocates, who can act on your behalf to resolve any issues.

Contact Details

Chris Slee

PO Box 902, Kenmore QLD 4069

M: 0403 182768

E: chris@longedgefencing.com

External Advocate

Kate Hickey

M: 0408 359 400

E: hickeyk@bigpond.net.au

Eddie Ngaluafe

E: etueni.ngaluafe@icloud.com

Safety Policy Information

Risk Management and Waiver

All members should make themselves aware of the Risk Assessment process and the resulting assessment document outlining known venue and activities risks and the mitigation put in place to minimise harm. This is available from the link on the group's webpage. While the Risk Assessment is performed by one of the group's instructors, it specifies specific safety obligations on members and does not diminish a member's responsibility for protecting their own safety and the safety of others.

The General Waiver does not absolve members from the consequences of their actions even when participating in the group's activities. All members are obligated to be concerned with their safety and the safety of other members, participants and spectators. All members are expected to act in a manner consistent with this Code and the Risk Assessment for the venue and activity.

Data Collection and Privacy

All personally identifying information collected is solely for the purpose of administering the group and will not be shared with any third parties unless required by law.

Information about physical, medical, psychological and social needs, deficits and preferences may be recorded and used solely for the purpose of mitigating the risk of injury. This information will not be shared with any third party unless required by law and will be shared with medical and primary care practitioners in the case of injury to ensure appropriate treatment.

Members can request access to any information the group has about them at any time. Information is kept for as long as it is relevant then destroyed.

COVID-19 Safety

All LongEdge Fencing members, non-members and spectators must protect themselves and all others from the risk of COVID-19 infection. All training participants have the right to feel safe from COVID-19 and other infections.

LongEdge Fencing has implemented control procedures to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transfer and infection. All LongEdge Fencing members, non-members and spectators must abide by these procedures until the National and State government regulation directs otherwise. All activities will be regulated in line with current government and health department directives.

The COVID-19 control measures include:

- No spectators will be allowed during LongEdge Fencing training sessions at Graceville Uniting Church Hall. The only people who should be attending the training session are those who are actively training.
- All training participants including members and non-members must be appropriately vaccinated or have a valid and approved medical exemption. Any person without this will be refused entry. We're over two years into this plague and LEF is taking no shit from anyone about this.
- LongEdge Fencing will provide hand sanitiser and disinfectant wipes all for training session participants.
- No school or personal equipment will be shared between training session participants.
- School equipment will be cleaned at the start and end of each session.