**Coach Behaviour Guidelines at Fencing Competitions**

To ensure a positive, respectful, safe, and fair environment for all participants at fencing competitions, coaches are expected to follow these guidelines at all times. Also, please refer to the CFF [Safe sport information page](https://fencing.ca/safe-sport/) and the CFF [Safe Sport Policy Manual](https://fencing.ca/wp-content/uploads/CFF-Safe-Sport-Policy-Manual-March-29-2023.pdf) for more information regarding the Code of Conduct and Ethics and the Discipline and Complaints policy.

**1. Coach Box**

* Remain inside the designated coach box behind the end line during all matches, except for during the one-minute break of a direct elimination match, or if permitted to do so by the referee.
* Do not leave the designated coach box to approach the referee during the bout.

**2. Speaking to Your Athlete**

* Speak to your athlete only:
  + Between the “Halt” and “Allez”.
  + During the one-minute break between periods in a direct elimination (DE) bout.
* No coaching or verbal cues during active fencing (from “Allez” to “Halt”).
* Speak in a calm, professional, and encouraging tone.
* Avoid yelling, aggressive body language, or any form of disruption.

**3. Respect Officials**

* Always show respect to referees and officials.
* Do not argue with the referee.
* Use appropriate channels after the bout if clarification is needed.

**4. No Abuse or Harassment**

* Absolutely no verbal abuse, intimidation, or negative behavior toward athletes, officials, opponents, or other coaches.

**5. Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior**

* Coaches who do not follow these guidelines may face:
* A verbal warning
* A yellow or red card from the referee
* A black card from the referee and removal from the competition
* Suspension from future events
* A safe sport complaint in accordance with the Canadian Safe Sport Program

**Coaches are role models. Your conduct helps shape the competition environment. Thank you for your leadership and professionalism.**