



Abbey Gymnastics Social Networking Policy



The use of social media, chat rooms, text messaging and emails and is now a normal part of life for many people and is used for communication, entertainment and self-expression. To protect and safeguard our members and promote a positive image of Abbey Gymnastics C.I.C., we are committed to the safe, professional and legal use of social media.

The purpose of this policy is to;

1. Ensure that the relationship between coaches, officials, volunteers, helpers, gymnasts, Parents, guardians or carers remain professional at all times.
2. Protect gymnasts, coaches, parents, guardians or carers and all persons associated with our club from allegations of inappropriate conduct and ensure they have clear guidelines for the use of social media and other communication methods.

Failure to adhere to this Social Media Policy will result in a disciplinary referral to the Designated Welfare Officer and Head Coach and may lead to exclusion from the club or cancellation of membership.

Coaches / Officials / Volunteers / Helpers

Coaches, officials, volunteers, helpers are in a position of trust and responsibility therefore must;

- Never have any gymnast under 18 years old as a friend or contact on their personal phone, social media or other electronic communication facility.
- Never contact a gymnast under 18 years old on their personal phone, social media or other electronic communication facility. All communications should be made through parents, guardians or carers.
- Decline any friend request made by any gymnast under the age of 18 years old.
- Not post any remarks, photographs, or videos that are derogatory, inappropriate or could be embarrassing to the club, its coaches, officials, volunteers, helpers, members or other gymnastics clubs on any social media facility.
- Ensure any personal social media sites are set as private where possible.
- Adhere to this Social Media Policy and that of British Gymnastics.

Children and Young People under 18 years Old

Children and Young People under 18 years old must;

- Not ask a coach, official, volunteer or helper to be your friend on a social networking site. They are in a position of trust and will be in breach of Club Guidelines and the British Gymnastics Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy if they accept the request.
- Use the internet positively and do not place yourself at risk. Have a look at www.ceop.gov.uk for some useful tips.
- Consider who you are inviting to be your friend and follow the good advice of the social networking sites to ensure you are talking to the person you believe you are talking to.
- Never share your personal details online and ensure your privacy settings are secure.
- Always remember that anything that is said or shared via social media, chat rooms, text messages, emails or other electronic communication including photographs, pictures and videos may be shared with people other than those whom it was intended for. Once something is posted or sent it is no longer in your control. Remember that it can be difficult to delete information that has been uploaded to the internet as it may have been shared or copied as soon as it is uploaded.
- Never post or send photographs, comments or videos which may be hurtful, untrue or upsetting and you may regret sharing later on.
- Not put pictures or names of other club members on personal sites which directly or indirectly mention Abbey Gymnastics.
- Not post any remarks, photographs, or videos that are derogatory, inappropriate or could be embarrassing to the club, its coaches, officials, volunteers, helpers, members or other gymnastics clubs on any social media facility.

- Never place a comment on the internet or via any other electronic communication that you would not say face to face to the individual concerned. To do so, you may not only be in breach of our club and British Gymnastics Policy but also the law.
- Remember to report any concerns you have to a responsible adult.

Parents /Guardians/Carers

Parents, guardians and carers must;

- Never communicate with a gymnast under the age of 18 years old via social media, chat room or other electronic communication unless prior consent has been given by their parent, carer or guardian.
- Decline any friend request from a gymnast under the age of 18 years old made via social media, chat room or other electronic communication unless prior consent has been given by their parent, carer or guardian.
- Not post any remarks, photographs, or videos that are derogatory, inappropriate or could be embarrassing to the club, its coaches, officials, volunteers, helpers, members or other gymnastics clubs on any social media facility.
- Always remember that anything that is said or shared via social media, chat rooms, text messages, emails or other electronic communication including photographs, pictures and videos may be shared with people, other than for those whom it was intended. Once something is posted / sent it is no longer in your control.
- Never post or send photographs, comments or videos which may be hurtful, untrue or upsetting and you may regret sharing later on.
- Not put pictures or names of other club members on personal sites which directly or indirectly mention Abbey Gymnastics.
- Never place a comment on the internet or via any other electronic communication that you would not say face to face to the individual concerned. To do so, you may not only be in breach of our club and British Gymnastics Policy but also the law.

All of the above must adhere to this Social Networking Policy and that of British Gymnastics.

What to do if you have a concern_

As a user of social media, chat rooms and other electronic communication either as a child, young person or adult, you may at some time have a concern regarding what you have seen or what you have been told by another user. This may range from abusive or negative comments and cyber bullying to suspected grooming for sexual abuse or exploitation.

If you have a concern please contact the Designated Welfare Officer or Head Coach immediately.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis in order to acknowledge and understand changes in the following circumstances and to further develop our duty of care to our members.

TIPS FOR PARENTS TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

1. Get to know your child's online habits. Children are inquisitive. They will look to explore the internet as much as they do the real world. Knowing the sites they go to, the people they meet there and what they do will help to keep children safe.
2. Stay alert to any sudden changes in mood or appearance, or to any major change in habits or to increased secretiveness. These are often tell-tale signs that something is not right.
3. Keep lines of communication open - tell your child they can always talk to you or another trusted adult, such as a teacher or Club Welfare Officer, if they do end up in some sort of trouble on the internet. Make children aware that there are things on the internet which may distress them.
4. Spend time with your child(ren) surfing the internet together. Explain the Applications (App), games and social media platforms that are acceptable for them to use and the reason for others not being suitable. NSPCC and O2's Net Aware is your guide to social networks, apps and games: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>
5. If your child(ren) mentions that they wish to use an App, game or social media platform that you have not permitted them to, research the area and explain the reason it is not acceptable.
6. Spend some time surfing the internet yourself. The more that you know about the internet, the better able you are, in turn, to help your child navigate around it without coming to any harm.
7. Set parental controls.
8. Install internet filtering software showing a Child Safety Online Kitemark on your computer. Filtering products with a Kitemark have been independently tested to provide a simple and effective means of support to parents, helping to ensure that a child's online experience is a safe one. The Kitemark scheme is sponsored by the Home Office and Ofcom.

Additional National Guidance

The Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) provides a wealth of advice and guidance. In particular, their website provides additional guidance regarding Social networking services, social media and sport. It can be accessed via <http://thecpsu.org.uk> Additionally, Safety Net Kids provides specific advice for children at:

<http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk/personal-safety/staying-safe-online/>

The following is a list of agencies that you can contact for further information, advice or raise any concerns you may have anonymously;

www.thinkuknow.co.uk - the main UK Government website with advice for parents on how to keep children safe online.

www.ceop.police.uk - the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) is the Government body dedicated to eradicating abuse of children. Concerns about inappropriate contacts between a child and an adult, including online, can be reported directly to CEOP. Reporting can be accessed by pressing the CEOP button on the BG website's CEOP page.

www.iwf.org.uk - the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) works to remove illegal material from the internet. If you have found any material you believe to be illegal e.g. child sex abuse images, other obscene material or material which incites racial hatred, you can report it to the IWF.

A number of specialist websites contain general advice that may be of help to parents. These include:

www.nspcc.org.uk, www.barnardos.org.uk and www.beatbullying.org

Other sites can offer parents support on broader issues. These include https:

www.familylives.org.uk/

Childline 0800 1111 or www.Childline.org.uk is another NSPCC support service. Using this website, children can talk confidentially to NSPCC advisors online about any issues or problems they may be experiencing, using an application similar to Instant Messenger (IM).

Stop It Now 0808 1000 900 or www.stopitnow.org.uk