



Guernsey Gymnastics Club Photographic Policy

Introduction

Guernsey Gymnastics Club is committed to providing a safe environment for children and young people under the age of 18. Essential to this commitment, is the need to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to protect children and young people from the inappropriate use of their images in resources, internet and media publications.

There have been concerns about the risks posed directly and indirectly to children and young people through the use of photographs on gymnastics web sites and other publications. The two main concerns are that photographs can be used as a means of identifying children and young people when they are accompanied with personal information, for example, - *this is X who is a member of Hometown Gymnastics Club who likes Westlife and supports Manchester United*. There are concerns that this information may be used inappropriately which could then make a child more vulnerable to an individual who may wish to start to "groom" that child for abuse. Secondly, the content of the photo can be used or adapted for inappropriate use. While this is rare in gymnastics, there is evidence of adapted material, not necessarily from gymnastics, finding its way onto child pornography sites. When assessing the potential risks in the use of images of gymnasts, the most important factor is the potential of inappropriate use of images of children.

By adopting this Photographic Policy the Guernsey Gymnastics Club aims to put into place the best possible practice to protect children and young people wherever and whenever photographs and recorded images are taken and stored.

These guidelines adopt the following key principles:

- The interests and welfare of children taking part in gymnastics are paramount
- Parents/carers and children have a right to decide whether children's images are to be taken, and how those images may be used
- Parents/carers and children must provide written consent for children's images to be taken and used wherever practicable. It should be accepted that children may appear in the background of general pictures taken at events and that it may not be practical or reasonable to seek consent in all circumstances.
- Images should convey the best principles and aspects of gymnastics fairness and fun
- Care should be taken to ensure that images are not sexual or exploitative in nature, nor open to obvious misinterpretation and misuse
- Images should only be taken by authorised persons, as agreed in the protocol for a particular event
- All images of children should be securely stored
- In the case of images used on web-sites, particular care must be taken to ensure that no identifying details facilitate contact with a child by a potential abuser such as details beyond the child's club and coach without the consent of the parents or carers.



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Publication of Images

Wherever possible the Guernsey Gymnastics Club will aim to follow these key guidelines:

- Ask for written permission from the gymnast and parent/carers to take and use their image wherever practicable. This ensures that they are aware of the way the image is intended to be used to represent the sport. The Consent Form will be used wherever possible. It should be accepted that children may appear in the background of general pictures taken at events and that it may not be practical or reasonable to seek consent in all circumstances.
- If the gymnast is named, consider if it is necessary and appropriate to use their photograph and if possible seek parental consent.
- If a photograph is used, avoid captioning the name of the athlete directly. **NEVER** publish personal details (email addresses, telephone numbers, addresses etc) of a child or young person
- Where possible only use images of young gymnasts in suitable dress (Tracksuit, or competition clothing) to reduce the risk of inappropriate use
- Try to focus on the activity rather than a particular child where appropriate and where possible use photographs that represent the broad range of children and young people taking part in gymnastics. This might include both boys and girls, children from ethnic minority communities and children and young people with disabilities.
- Ensure that images reflect positive aspects of children's involvement in gymnastics, (enjoyment/competition etc)

Use of Photographic Filming Equipment at Gymnastics Classes and Events

The Guernsey Gymnastics Club does not want to prevent parents, carers or other spectators being able to take legitimate photographs or video footage of competitors. However, there is evidence that certain individuals will attempt to visit sporting events to take inappropriate photographs or video footage of children and young people. Any concerns during classes or an event should be reported to the Head Coach, Competition Organiser, Indoor Sports Centre Duty Manager or GGC Club Welfare Officer

All parents, carers, other spectators and members of the media wishing to take photographs or video footage of children and young people will be required to register with the Head Coach, Duty Manager of the Indoor Sports Centre or the GGC Club Welfare Officer for permission to take photographs or video footage of children and young people at a particular class or nominated event.

Gymnastics event organisers and Head Coach should:

- Inform gymnasts and carers if a photographer will be in attendance at an event and ensure they consent to both the taking and publication of films or photographs.
- Ensure that a system is introduced to ensure that press photographers are made aware of those children and young people without consent for images to be taken.



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- Provide a clear brief to official photographers about what is considered appropriate in terms of content and behaviour
- Issue the photographer with identification which must be worn at all times
- Do not allow unsupervised access to young gymnasts or one to one photo sessions at events without an appropriate chaperone
- Do not approve or allow photo sessions outside the events or at a gymnast's home

If parents, carers or other spectators are intending to photograph or video at an event they will also be made aware of expectations by setting them out at the point of entry to the event or in the event programme. Such expectations should include:

- The interests and welfare of children taking part in gymnastics are paramount
- Images should convey the best principles and aspects of gymnastics - fairness and fun
- Care should be taken to ensure that images are not sexual or exploitative in nature, nor open to obvious misinterpretation and misuse
- In the case of images used on web-sites, particular care must be taken to ensure that no identifying details facilitate contact with a child by a potential abuser such as details beyond the child's club and coach without the consent of the parents or carers.
- If a photograph is used on line, avoid captioning the name of the gymnast directly. **NEVER** publish personal details (email addresses, telephone numbers, addresses etc) of a child or young person on line.
- Where possible use images of young gymnasts in suitable dress (Tracksuit, or competition clothing) to reduce the risk of inappropriate use

Competitors and spectators should be informed that if they have concerns regarding any photography or video recording at any gymnastic class or event they can report these to the Head Coach, Andy Buckley or the Club Welfare Officer, Kathy Stuart where they will be recorded in the same manner as any other child protection concern

Videoring as a coaching aid

Video can be a legitimate coaching aid for coaches. However, if it is to be used we will make sure that children and their parents/carers have given written consent, and understand that it is part of the coaching programme. We will make sure that the films are then stored safely and destroyed when they are no longer required for use.

For further information on welfare please visit www.british-gymnastics.org

Or contact the Guernsey Gymnastics Centre Welfare Officer, Kathy Stuart on 210203 or gymnastics@isc.gg

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