

THE NORFOLK ACADEMY OF GYMNASTICS LTD – SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

This policy has been written in conjunction with the British Gymnastics guidelines for the use of social media. Its primary objectives are to protect the children and young people who are our members (either as gymnasts, coaches, helpers or volunteers), provide a safe and positive environment in which our members and their parents and families can promote the club and its achievements, and to present the club in a professional manner.

How do we maintain a positive image of The Norfolk Academy of Gymnastics

In addition to protecting children in our club, those connected to TNAG have a responsibility to maintain a positive image of the club and the sport of gymnastics.

Our social media policy has been developed to provide a recommendation of best practice to all British Gymnastics club members and parents/carers on the use of social networking sites as they relate to that individual's role in within TNAG. If used correctly, social networking can be a fun, safe and productive activity.

The following guidelines refer to any posts, photographs, video, status updates and any other item that can be published on social media which mentions or directly or indirectly points attention to TNAG:

- Coaches, parents and gymnasts alike should avoid posting remarks, photographs, and videos disparaging comments or comments that could be perceived as such about the club, coaches, officials or other gymnasts. This applies to private text messaging as well as all social media and instant messaging services.
- Gymnasts and parents should avoid posting any remarks, photographs or video that could be disparaging or embarrassing to another gymnastics club, its members, coaches or officials.

- Gymnasts should avoid social chat with club coaches or officials via any instant messaging or text service.
- Parents should avoid interacting with gymnasts other than their own children via social media/text message. Where this is necessary, such as in an emergency for changes to transportation/pick ups etc the child's parents or the Club Welfare Officer should be copied in and/or informed as soon as possible thereafter.
- Gymnasts or parents should inform the club if at any point they notice a contravention to these guidelines or the guidelines for coaches and officials.
- Parents/Gymnasts must not upload Photographs/Videos to any social media sites if they contain other gymnasts than their own child without prior consent from their parent/guardian.
- Parents/Gymnasts must not copy and upload professional photographs/videos without the consent of the photographer (who should thereafter be credited in the post)
- Parents are encouraged to monitor their children's use of social media in order to protect them and guide them in its appropriate use.

Additional guidelines for Coaches and Officials:

- Coaches and officials should avoid chatting to gymnasts via any instant messaging service. Direct text/messaging/emailing between coaches and gymnasts should only be used either in an emergency or where necessary and limited only to gymnastic arrangements such as training times, attire

etc. Wherever possible a parent or the Club Welfare Officer should be copied in to the correspondence

- If you receive any messages/requests from Gymnasts by way of Social Networking/Chat/Text please do not respond to the child directly, please respond via their parents, or let the Club Welfare Officer know.
- Coaches and Officials should not text gymnasts in their care for any reason, except for cases where the express permission has been sought and given by the parent. Please always communicate through the parent.
- Coaches and officials should not become “friends” with gymnasts or other members under the age of 18 on social media. Gymnasts aged under 16 will not be permitted to join the club’s closed Facebook group and those aged over 16 but under 18 will only be permitted to do so if they have a parent who is also a member of the group

By following the above we will ensure relationships between coaches and gymnasts remain professional whilst protecting gymnasts, coaches and parents from allegations of inappropriate conduct.

By setting clear guidelines for parents, coaches and gymnasts concerning the use of social media/text messaging we will preserve the reputation and positive image of our club, coaches, volunteers and members.