

ENIGMA
GYMNASTICS
CLUB



**Child Protection
Policy**

Participation in Gymnastics offers opportunities for children and young people to develop social skills, self-esteem, confidence and teamwork. Despite all these benefits, sport can provide easy access to children and present opportunities for an individual who may want to harm children.

The welfare and safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of everyone in sport.

At Enigma Gymnastics Club, we have a duty of care towards all members and we are committed to adopting best practice to ensure the safety and welfare of all participants.

Enigma Gymnastics Club complies with the standards set in the Scottish Gymnastics Child Protection Policy.

The policy is based upon the following fundamental principles:

-The Children Act 1989 defines a child or young person as anyone under the age of 18 years of age;

-All young people and adults, regardless of age, gender, disability, racial origin, religious belief and sexual orientation have a right to be protected from abuse;

-It is the responsibility of the child protection experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place, but it is everyone's responsibility to report it;

-The welfare of young people and vulnerable adults is paramount and all concerns and allegations of potential poor practice or abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately;

-Confidentiality will be upheld in line with the Data Protection Act 1998.

What are the Club's responsibilities and good practice?

We endeavor to promote the highest standards of care for participants and will:

- Adopt the SG Child Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy;
- Promote the policy to all club members and parents;
- Establish a Complaints Procedure, complying with BG guidelines;
- Request written consent for participation, contact details, photography consent and medical information;
- Keep written records of any poor practice or child protection related incidents;

- Carefully recruiting coaches and ensuring that they hold both valid training qualifications and certification from Disclosure Scotland indicating their suitability to work with children;
- Promoting the ongoing training and development of coaches, helpers and officials both through the British Gymnastics Coaching Schemes, and in Scottish Gymnastics child protection training;
- Provide an open-door environment;
- Ensure every effort is made to prevent situations where an adult is alone with a child or group of young people;
- Ensure there are at least two responsible adults present at training sessions;
- Keep parents fully informed about child protection procedures;
- Designate a Safeguarding Officer with PVG scheme membership and appropriate training. Gill Low is available as a confidential and accessible route for people to voice their concerns or allegations regarding issues of protection and welfare;
- Dealing with all issues of protection and welfare sensitively, swiftly and in confidentiality
- Enforcing a code of conduct for all members, backed up by a disciplinary policy
- Screen coaches, helpers and officials - all with PVG scheme membership;
- Publicise an Anti-bullying policy;
- Ensure appropriate levels of supervision where situations do not arise wherein a child is alone and unobserved with a coach/adult either on the premises, or during travel to a competition. At all times on site children will work in groups or with other coaches and children in the gym. On visits off-site where it is necessary for children to travel with a coach, where possible more than one adult will attend the trip, where this is not possible the children will not travel unless with the express permission of the parents/guardians
- Create a safe environment for members to enjoy and participate in the sport.

Supporting and spotting a gymnast is an essential part of coaching gymnastics in that it helps the gymnast to understand shapes, movement patterns and complex skills, but it also reduces the risk of injury due to a fall or error in performance.

Guidance on appropriate and recognised supporting techniques is given to coaches on BG coach education programmes, but a Coach will ensure that support is only used when necessary and is non-invasive. If a gymnast or parent has any concerns, these should be raised with our Club's Safeguarding Officer.

How are concerns reported?

All concerns (no matter how small) or complaints about issues of child protection will be taken seriously and dealt with promptly and in confidence, in line with Scottish Gymnastics guidelines. Concerns should be reported to our Safeguarding Officer, Gill Low or if that is not appropriate then our Head Coach.

The most serious situation with which a member or official of the Club may have to deal, will be an allegation or suspicion of child abuse. If this occurs, the person who suspects the abuse must bring it to the attention of our Club's Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible. The club member or official will not attempt to question the child but will make a written record of their observations as soon as possible and will be dealt with in line with Scottish Gymnastics guidelines.

Non-action is NOT an option if there is suspicion of child abuse: it is the responsibility of the person suspecting the abuse to act on those concerns and report it to the appropriate authority.

Individuals are welcome to make contact via email:

clubcpc@enigmagymnasticsclub.co.uk

or

clubcoach@enigmagymnasticsclub.co.uk