



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Ensuring the safety, well-being, and development of young athletes is paramount in gymnastics. This safeguarding policy is designed to assist in maintaining a safe and supportive environment for athletes whilst competing at an NGA UK event. Please ensure that all additional points outlined in our Best Practice Guidelines are reviewed and acknowledged alongside this policy.

Safeguarding - Best Practice Policy for Athlete Safety at NGA UK Events

1. Transparency and Parental Involvement

- Parental Access: parents or legal guardians must have access to observe their children during competition sessions.
- Visibility: ensure that all interactions between an adult and an athlete occur in areas visible to others, maintaining open lines of sight.

2. Changing Areas

- Adult Presence: no unrelated adult should be alone with a minor athlete in changing areas or toilets.
- Only parents or legal guardians may accompany their child to changing areas, and this should only be if essential. This is intended to ensure the respect and privacy of all users.

3. Physical Interaction

- The athletes' club is responsible for ensuring that any physical adjustments, such as spotting, are limited to necessary coaching corrections.
- Coaches must inform their athletes beforehand and clearly explain the purpose of the physical interaction/spotting (unless the interaction was sudden and to prevent a possible injury).

4. Parental Consent for Treatments

Any physio or similar activity must be performed by a qualified professional. The professional must obtain parental consent and ensure that all treatments are carried out in an open, visible area. In the event of an accident requiring medical treatment and the absence of parents, the participating club's coach assumes responsibility for authorising necessary care, and ensuring the child receives appropriate medical attention as well as the completion of the appropriate NGA Accident/Incident Form.



5. Impaired Behaviour

No adult, irrespective of their role, may participate while under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol. Any individual suspected of being impaired will be immediately prohibited from interacting with athletes and removed from the venue.

6. Digital Communication (Social Media and Messaging)

All digital communication between coaches and athletes must include the athlete's parent or legal guardian. This applies to emails, texts, and social media interactions.

7. Photography and Videography

Parental Consent: Coaches and individuals may only take photos or videos of athletes in public view and with the explicit approval of the athlete's parent or legal guardian. These images must be appropriate and suitable for public sharing.

Event Coverage: Images captured at competition events should focus on performance and achievement, ensuring that there is no unnecessary or inappropriate attention directed at any individual.

8. Mandatory Reporting

Legal Obligation: In the UK, there is a legal requirement for certain professionals, including those working with children (such as coaches, club staff, NGA Officials), to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. This obligation is guided by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004, which emphasise the welfare of the child.

Reporting Protocol: If there is a suspicion or confirmation of child abuse, it must be reported to appropriate authorities, such as local child protection services and/or the police. An NGA UK Child Welfare Contact will be able to support in this.

9. Child Welfare Contact

NGA UK will appoint a designated individual to act as the Child Welfare Contact at its events. This person will be responsible for guiding coaches, staff, and athletes on how to report concerns about child welfare. They will have access to local safeguarding contacts and child protection services to ensure that any issues are addressed appropriately. Additionally, if applicable the NGA UK representative will contact the associated club to inform them of any concerns raised at an NGA UK event, as our duty of care responsibility.

11. NGA UK's Role

The above guidelines reflect NGA UK's commitment to creating a safe and supportive competition environment where all children can thrive. However, as event organisers, NGA UK is not responsible for individual actions or for holding individuals accountable beyond our legal obligations.



For concerns that do not meet legal criteria, they will be referred to the individual's club and their designated Safeguarding Officer, who will address the matter in line with the club's specific Safeguarding Policy.

It is the club's responsibility to ensure that all their representatives are well-informed of NGA UK policies and fully compliant with safeguarding best practices. Ultimately, it is up to each club and its officials to adhere to these guidelines and create a positive, abuse-free environment for all participants.

By adhering to this policy, alongside their club's Safeguarding Policy, coaches can foster a safe, inclusive, and positive competitive environment where athletes can thrive.

Safeguarding is Everybody's Responsibility—it is a shared duty that extends to every individual involved in our community. Whether you're a coach, parent, official, or volunteer, ensuring the safety and well-being of children is paramount. By staying vigilant, upholding best practices, and fostering a positive environment, we can collectively create a space where every child feels safe, supported, and empowered to thrive. This is the vision we strive to uphold at NGA UK events.