Okehampton Flyers Gym, Trampoline & DMT Club

Social Networking Policy

* A young person/child is defined as anyone under the age of 18.

Coaches, Judges, helpers/volunteers and other officers in a position of trust and responsibility at the club:

1. Should not be in contact with young people through social networking sites if they hold such a position in respect of that individual young person.
2. Should a young person in the club request to become a named friend on a coach/official's social networking page or request that the coach/official become a named friend on the young person's social networking page, the coach/official should decline if they are in a position of responsibility in respect of that child, they hold a position of trust and responsibility in the club or their contact with the child is through the club and the parent/guardian of the child does not give their consent to such contact.

Coaches who have children that they coach in the club:

The coach concerned should not have direct contact with gymnasts other than their own child through their social networking site, should not accept such gymnasts as friends on his/her home site, and should inform the Club Welfare Officer of this arrangement.

Coaches/officials who are under 18:

If the parent of a young person in a position of responsibility aged 16/17 and the young person themselves requests to have contact with an adult club officer or coach for the purposes of sharing professional information relevant to their role, the club will:

- Gain written consent of the parent/guardian and young person to have such contact naming the individual adult and social networking site concerned
- The named adult must sign an agreement to keep the contact with the young person to the discussion of matters relevant to the young person's professional role in the club
- All such communications should be shared with an identified third person (e.g. the young person's parent/guardian or club welfare officer)
- If the young person or the adult is found to breach the above agreement, action will be taken by the club to address the concern and/or the breach.

Club members under the age of 18:

1. Do not ask your coach, judge, helper/volunteer or club official to be your social networking site friend – they will refuse as that would breach good practice and the BG Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy.
2. Always remember that anything you say including photos, pictures and video clips posted on your site may be shared with people other than those for whom it was intended.
3. Do not put pictures of other club members on your site within the club setting as you may breach the BG Photography Policy. If you do wish to upload such a picture you must get advice and consent of your parent, the other young person and their parent and a club officer before even considering uploading such a photo. This will not prevent you having pictures of your gymnastics friends on your site taken outside of the sporting arena but it is good advice to always ensure they and their parents are happy with any picture you have of them on your site.

Communication

Coaches and officials should:
- Only communicate with gymnasts under 18 through their parent outside of sessions. Communication should be limited to training related issues. If it is necessary to make contact with 16- and 17-year-old coaches via email or text then this must be done in mass.
- Not make contact or hold discussions with gymnasts via social networking sites, texting or email
- Not post or discuss unfavourable comments about coaches, gymnasts, any helper or volunteer, parent or club
- Turn their mobile phones off during sessions, except in the case where a phone is used as a club contact number or for emergencies. Club designated devices may be used to takes videos and photographs for feedback and to check the time if there are no clocks in the gymnasium/sports hall.

In the event of a gymnast showing a coach a text message, image or email that is considered to be inappropriate for a child to have, the coach must inform the club welfare officer.