

Uttoxeter Gymnastics Club

Safeguarding & Protecting Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Uttoxeter Gymnastics Club (UGC) subscribes to the principles of safeguarding and protecting children and vulnerable adults. We aim to ensure that anyone participating at our gymnastics club can do so in a safe and child-friendly environment.

UGC is registered with British Gymnastics, the national governing body for gymnastics. As such the club recognises its legal obligations under, and abides by, the requirements of the British Gymnastics Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy. The British Gymnastics policies can be found at:

[Safeguarding \(british-gymnastics.org\)](https://www.british-gymnastics.org)

The welfare of children [anyone under the age of 18 yrs.] or anyone deemed to be a vulnerable adult is of paramount importance and UGC believe that all children, regardless of ability, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, parental status, race, religion or belief or socio/economic background have a right to be protected from abuse.

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is everyone's responsibility – every individual within the organisation, must play their part in ensuring the sport is safe. We adopt a child-centred approach to gymnastics provision to ensure we better meet the needs of children. This includes ensuring decision making is informed by a clear understanding of the needs and view of children.

UGC OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES

The organisation will promote the highest standards of safeguarding and will:

- Promote the welfare of members and the importance of safeguarding.
- Ensure that everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding.
- Ensure robust systems are in place to manage any concerns or allegations.
- Respond to child protection and poor practice concerns.
- Liaise with BG, other agencies and local statutory organisations as required.

UGC STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

The organisation will ensure all members of staff and volunteers within the club promote the highest standards of safeguarding and will:

- Ensure UGC staff and volunteers are able to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children, young people or vulnerable adults.
- Ensure UGC staff and volunteers complete British Gymnastics' recognised Safeguarding and Protecting Children training every three years.
- Ensure UGC staff and volunteers have appropriate pre-recruitment checks (including criminal records checks where appropriate).
- Ensure UGC staff and volunteers hold the appropriate coaching qualifications to the level of the skills being coached.
- Ensure UGC staff and volunteers maintain the appropriate coach to gymnast ratios and provide the appropriate level of activity for the abilities of the gymnasts they are coaching.
- Support whistle blowing and take steps to ensure members, their parents/carers and others feel able to raise concerns without fear of negative repercussions.
- Ensure UGC staff and volunteers work in partnership with the club management team to ensure poor practice is addressed and any required remedial action is taken.

UGC WELFARE OFFICERS

UGC will ensure that, at all times, the club has at least one appropriately qualified and training Club Welfare Officer and will ensure all members, parents/carers and others know who those Welfare Officers are and how to contact them

Our Welfare Officer(s) will promote the highest standards and will:

- Help and assist the UGC club management team and coaching team to plan, prioritise and implement the various safeguarding responsibilities and activities.
- Develop a skilled and competent safeguarding workforce within the club.
- Ensure young people and their parents /carers are consulted and where appropriate fully involved in decisions that affect them.
- Ensure that any concerns raised by club members are dealt with in a professional, timely and confidential manner and any learnings implemented into the club's practices.
- Liaise with outside agencies and local statutory organisations as required.
- Maintain confidentiality in relation to concerns and referrals, and share information only on a 'need to know' basis.
- Attend British Gymnastics approved Safeguarding and Protecting Children training and Time to Listen advanced safeguarding training courses every three years.
- Hold current British Gymnastics membership and a current (within 3 years) criminal records check certificates.

GENERAL POLICY INFORMATION

This policy will be regularly reviewed and updated by the UGC club management team and the UGC Welfare Officer(s), in conjunction with any changes made to the British Gymnastics Safeguarding and Protecting Children policies and any legislative changes.

Last Review Date: September 2023