

Alton Gymnastics Club

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Social Media Policy Gymnasts and Parents

PLEASE ALSO READ THE PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO POLICY

The use of social media is now a normal part of life for many people and it is used for entertainment, communication and self-expression. In addition to protecting children in the club, members of any club or organisation have a responsibility to the organisation, its staff and officials, and other members to maintain a positive image of the organisation and this extends to the use of social media publication.

Parents are encouraged to monitor their children's use of social media in order to protect them and guide them in its appropriate use.

The purpose of this policy is:

- To ensure that relationships between coaches and gymnasts remain professional.
- To protect gymnasts, coaches and parents from allegations of inappropriate conduct.
- To ensure that there are clear guidelines for parents, coaches and gymnasts with regard to the use of social media.
- To preserve the reputation and positive image of the club, its staff, volunteers and members

If you experience any contravention to this policy please let your head coach know as soon as possible, even if you don't think it is a problem. Most contraventions will be innocent and non-harmful but nonetheless we would like to know.

If you are both a coach and a gymnast, please read the guidelines for coaches, officials and parents. If you are unsure about anything, please ask the Director of Gymnastics and Coaching.

Guidelines for appropriate use of social media:

The following guidelines refer to any posts, photographs, video, status updates and any other item that can be published on social media which directly or implicitly mentions or directs attention to Alton Gymnastics Club.

Gymnasts and Parents should be aware that contravention to this policy that results in upset, potential damage to reputation or amounts to harassment or bullying of a member, coach or official may result in the implementation of the club's grievance procedure during which time the accused may be suspended from attending the club. Such incidents will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

- Gymnasts and parents MAY NOT post on their social media profile any photo or video taken at the club without the express permission of the Club and ALL members appearing in the video.
- Gymnasts and parents MAY NOT download and/or share any video or photograph that appears in the Members only Group for the Club.

When permission is granted:

- Gymnasts and parents should avoid posting any remarks, photographs or video that could be disparaging or embarrassing to the club, its staff or volunteers or members in any social media facility.
- 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 service unless the message is directly through the Club's page or profile.
- 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.

Please also note the following guidelines for Coaches and Officials:

- Coaches and officials should avoid chatting to gymnasts on the instant messenger facility on Facebook or any other instant messaging service. If you receive a message about a training or competition arrangement please reply to the gymnast's parent, not the gymnast.
- **Coaches and officials could face serious reprimands if it is found that young people in their care have been exposed to inappropriate material via their social media pages, even if it is unintentional.**
- Coaches and officials are discouraged from allowing free access to their social media profiles or from adding gymnasts as 'friends' or other similar actions.

Alton Gymnastics Club take the protection of young people from the unintentional exposure to inappropriate materials online seriously. However, it is acknowledged that above all, it is the responsibility of parents to monitor their children's use of the internet and social media.