

Lynx Gymnastics Club Safeguarding Policy

At Lynx Gymnastics Club, we believe everyone involved in gymnastics has a shared responsibility to create a safe, supportive, and positive environment for all participants. To achieve this, we have adopted the IGA Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy and are committed to ensuring the welfare of all our members.

Commitment to Safeguarding

We provide a comprehensive duty of care for our members by ensuring that all coaches and adults follow the guidelines set out in the IGA Safeguarding Policy, along with our club's supporting policies. Our staff, including coaches and officials, have completed recognized coaching qualifications, safeguarding, child protection training, and have undergone DBS checks. Upon joining, all staff members receive an induction covering these policies and our expectations.

Welfare Officers and Safety Protocols

To further ensure safety, we have designated Welfare Officers who have completed safeguarding and child protection training. This ensures a continuous and reliable system for handling concerns. Coaches are qualified to appropriate levels for the gymnasts they train and operate within the limits of their qualifications. They are responsible for maintaining a safe training environment to minimize the risk of injury.

Our Safeguarding Standards

Lynx Gymnastics Club is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of care for all members, staff, and officials. We do this by:

Adopting IGA Health, Safety, and Welfare Guidelines: Our club fully complies with all policies issued by Independent Gymnastics (IGA)

Prioritizing the Safety and Wellbeing of Young People: The safety and wellbeing of all children and young people are always our top priority.

Appointing a Dedicated Welfare Team: We have a Welfare Team, including a lead welfare officer and two backup welfare officers, who handle grievances or complaints confidentially.

Screening Staff and Coaches: All staff and coaches are thoroughly screened to confirm their suitability to work with children and understand their safeguarding roles.

Providing Clear Guidance for Help: We ensure that young people and their parents know where to go for help or if they have concerns.

Promptly Addressing Grievances and Complaints: All grievances and complaints are handled promptly according to our established procedures, with all safeguarding concerns securely stored.

Maintaining Adequate Supervision: There is always a minimum of two responsible adults present at all training sessions.

Managing Photography and Filming: Participants and parents are informed about the purpose of any videoing, filming, or photography during training or events, with all data securely stored according to data protection laws.

Enforcing Zero Tolerance for Misconduct: We have zero tolerance for poor practices, bullying, or any form of abuse and enforce a strict code of conduct for all members, staff, and coaches.

Encouraging Continuous Development: We promote the ongoing training and development of coaches through the IGA coaching programs and child protection training.

Promoting Inclusivity and Equality

The club encourages participation from all communities at every level, whether as athletes, coaches, officials, or in management. We are committed to treating all individuals fairly and equally, regardless of gender, age, ethnic origin, religion, political beliefs, or disability.

Policy Review and Confidentiality

This policy is reviewed annually or whenever there are updates to government or local safeguarding guidance. We handle all child welfare concerns with complete confidentiality and provide a safe, transparent process for raising and addressing issues without fear of retaliation.

Compliance and Enforcement

This policy and its procedures are widely promoted and mandatory for everyone involved in Lynx Gymnastics Club. Failure to comply will be addressed immediately.

We are dedicated to creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for everyone involved in our club. Your commitment to these standards helps us maintain a positive experience for all our members.

Nicola & Heather Adams

September 1st 2024

Signed: _____
Centre Managers
Lynx Gymnastics Club

Date:

Contact Details

Lead Welfare Officer – Michelle Freeman

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Deputy Welfare Officer –

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IGA Website: www.independentgymnastics.com