



Berkhamsted Gymnastics Club

Communication Policy (incl. Social Networking)

Version number	Date published /reviewed	Revisions made
1.0	15/07/2019	
2.0	05/05/2021	Branded and checked

Introduction:

As technology has developed, the internet and its range of services can increasingly be accessed through various devices including mobile phones, computers and game consoles. Although the internet has many positive uses, it provides the key method for the distribution of images of child abuse. In addition, networking sites and chat-rooms have increasingly been used by people for the purpose of 'grooming' children and young people for abuse, and by children as a means of bullying.

This policy covers the use of communication devices and the way in which coaches can communicate with children and young people.

Policy:

- Mobile phones should be turned off in the gym except in the case where a phone is used as a club contact number or for emergencies.
- It is inappropriate for adult members to communicate **directly** with gymnasts under the age of 18 years by:
 - Text message
 - Through internet chat rooms/social networking sites
 - E-mail

All communication by the above methods should be through the parent.

- **Subject to parental consent**, coaches can communicate with young people either by group e-mails/texts/club chat groups or by copying correspondence to either the Club Welfare Officer or a senior official, as well as the parent(s).
- Coaches should limit communications to training related issues.
- 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.

Further Information:

Further information and guidance on this subject can be found in the [BG Social Networking Guidelines](#)

If you have any concerns or questions on the Communications Policy, please contact the club welfare officer on 07947 396 630 or email welfare@berkhamstedgymnastics.co.uk