



Communication Policy and Procedures

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.

Sue Birchall - Head Coach

Mobile: 07917 657956

Carly Cain – General Club Co-ordinator

Mobile: 07507 916607

Nikki Woodworth – Senior Coach/Welfare Officer

Mobile: 07761 375699

- It is unacceptable for adult members to communicate 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 will be through the parent
- However, subject to parental consent, coaches can communicate with young people over the age of sixteen years but a copy of all correspondence will also be sent to a senior official.
- Coaches will only communicate on training related issues.
- 1 to 1 communication between coach and a minor is unacceptable.

Young Coaches

From time to time it is necessary to contact our coaches via email/ text.

If they are 16 and 17 years communication can be sent directly to them but must be part of a club communication involving senior officials and several children. Any coach under the age of 16 years will be contacted via their parent.

As technology develops, the internet and its range of services can 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 chatrooms 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.

- 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 will inform the appropriate welfare officer.
- All staff, volunteers, parents and members should always behave responsibly and respectfully when online or texting.
- They should not post or discuss unfavourable comments about coaches, gymnasts, any helper or volunteer, parent or club/s
- Coaches should not make contact or hold discussions with gymnasts via social networking sites or texting.
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For further information please see the CPSU guidance on Social Networking and Texting:

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/cpsu/Resources/Briefings/text_and_email_messaging_wdf66628.pdf 16 Communication