

# Gymnastics Safeguarding Policy Independent Schools Gymnastic Association

**September 2026**



## 1. Statement of Intent

The Independent Schools Gymnastics Association is committed to ensuring that every child, young person, and adult who participates in gymnastics has the right to do so in a safe, positive, and encouraging environment. The welfare and well-being of the participant are always paramount.

This policy applies to all staff, coaches, judges, volunteers, parents, and participants affiliated with The Independent Schools Gymnastics Association. From henceforth will be known as ISGA.

## 2. Core Principles

**Paramountcy:** The child's welfare is the primary consideration in all decisions.

**Equal Rights:** All participants, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation, have an equal right to protection from abuse.

**Shared Responsibility:** Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every individual involved in the sport must recognize signs of abuse and know how to report concerns.

**Zero Tolerance:** Abuse, harassment, bullying, or unsafe physical practices are strictly prohibited.

## 3. Key Roles & Contact Information

| Role                                                | Name           | Contact Details                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Lead Designated Safeguarding and Welfare Lead (DSL) | Verity Boulger | Safeguarding<br>@isgagymnastics.org |
| Deputy Welfare Officer                              | Joanne Cox     |                                     |

## 4. Code of Conduct & Physical Contact Boundaries

Gymnastics is a hands-on sport where physical guidance ("spotting") is often necessary for safe skill development. However, physical contact must strictly adhere to the following standards:

### 1. Spotting / Manual Handling:

Touch must be strictly for safety or instructional purposes, appropriate to the gymnast's age and skill level.

Physical guidance must take place in an open environment, never behind closed doors or out of sight.

Coaches must explain the touch before applying it and gain the gymnast's understanding where possible.

**Open-Door Policy:** A minimum of two qualified adults/coaches must be present during training sessions or travel to ensure appropriate supervision ratios, Although this should be a requirement of the policy of each affiliated participating school.

### 2. Digital & Media Communication:

ISGA Members must never message or connect with underage gymnasts on personal social media accounts.

Photography and video recording are strictly regulated and require explicit parental/guardian consent.

| Roles                             | Regulated Activity | Guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Coach                             | Yes                | All coaches are employed by their school and therefore it is understood that they will be covered by their own safeguarding policy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Judge                             | Depends on role    | Judges who only attend competitions to assess gymnasts and who otherwise do not have any role with children in a training environment, it would not be a requirement for a DBS check. Judges who attend a training environment to provide instruction to children would fall within the scope of regulated activity providing that they meet the frequency requirements. Judges who are always fully supervised by someone in regulated activity (e.g. a coach), or who attend a training environment to provide instruction on a 'regular' basis (e.g. once a month) should be checked at Enhanced level without a barred check. |
| Welfare and Safeguarding Officers | Yes                | All Welfare and Safeguarding Officers must complete a check.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Medical Staff                     | Yes                | Where medical staff are supplied via another organisation for a specific event, the event organisers must seek written assurances from the employer that an enhanced check with children's barred list has been obtained within the last three years.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## Should a Concern Arise

1. **Listen:** If a child discloses abuse, listen calmly, reassure them, and do not make promises of absolute secrecy.
2. **Record:** Write down facts, dates, times, and exact statements as soon as possible.
3. **Report:** Pass all information directly to the Lead Safeguarding Officer/ Deputy Safeguarding Officer within 24 hours.

## Important Displayed Information

### 1. Safeguarding Policy Notice

Each event must display a notice about its safeguarding policy.

### 2. Safeguarding Who's Who

Each event must display contact details for people who have safeguarding roles.

A new dedicated email address added to posters

Each Event must display a 'Promoting Safer Gymnastics' poster.

### 3. ISGA Website

Safeguarding arrangements or a link to the correct page must be clearly visible on the front page of the ISGA website.

4. A safeguarding report on be presented at the AGM every year.

This Policy was adopted by The ISGA Committee on ..... and will be reviewed every three years or as often as required by statute law.