



# BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN Gymnastics Club

## Safeguarding & Protecting Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy Statement

This is to confirm that Blackburn with Darwen Acrobatic Gymnastics Club has adopted the British Gymnastics Policies listed below in relation to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

### Scope

Blackburn with Darwen Acrobatic Gymnastics Club believes that everyone has the right to participate in gymnastics in an environment free from non-accidental violence regardless of sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, age, marriage and civil partnership, parental or marital status, pregnancy and maternity, disability, religion or belief, colour, race including nationality or ethnicity and socio/economic background.

British Gymnastics and Blackburn with Darwen Acrobatic Gymnastics Club, recognises our duty of care and wider responsibility for the welfare of all our members. We believe that the wellbeing of children and adults at risk should be at the centre of everything we do and recognise the need to ensure that we have a responsibility to promote their welfare.

Blackburn with Darwen Acrobatic Gymnastics Club accepts our responsibility to ensure that we have effective safeguarding arrangements in place and respond appropriately to any incidents of harassment, abuse and poor practice that arise relating to the activity provided. Blackburn with Darwen Acrobatic Gymnastics Club must ensure that any suspected abuse of children or adults at risk are reported to the Police and/or Children's or Adult Services in line with the applicable reporting procedure and in line with local arrangements.

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who receive Blackburn with Darwen Acrobatic Gymnastics Club's services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children, young people and vulnerable adults and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to every member of Blackburn with Darwen Acrobatic Gymnastics Club. We believe that:

- Children, young people and vulnerable adults should never experience abuse of any kind
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all Children, young people and vulnerable adults, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.



# BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN Gymnastics Club

We recognise that:

- The welfare of our members is paramount in all that we do and in all the decisions we take all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a nominated Welfare Officer for children, young people and vulnerable adults, as an appointed committee member for safeguarding & welfare
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through policies, procedures and code of conduct for all members
- Implementing BG online safety policy and related procedures
- Providing effective management for coaches and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- Recruiting and selecting coaches and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, and discussions
- Making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- Using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against coaches and volunteers appropriately
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints, disciplinary and whistleblowing measures in place
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance



# BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN Gymnastics Club

- Building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns
- Creating an environment within the organisation that encourages coaches and volunteers to challenge peer actions and behaviours that deviate from agreed conduct.

## Supporting documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other British Gymnastics related policies, procedures and guidance documents.

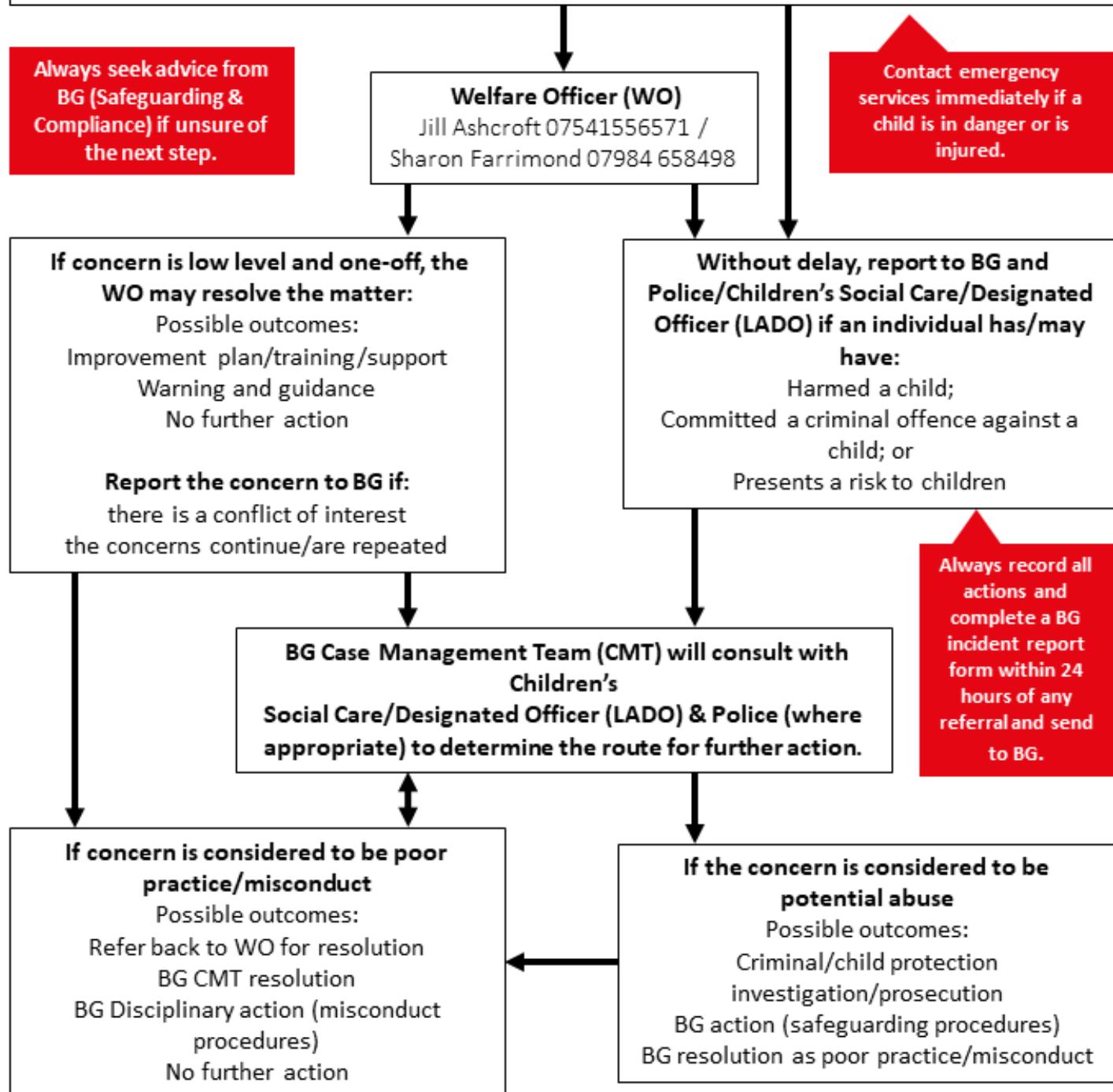
- BwD Constitution
- Role description for the designated Welfare Officer
- BG Safeguarding Policy & Procedures
- BG Health, Safety & Welfare Policy for Clubs & Affiliated Organisations
- BwD Health, Safety and Welfare Policy Statement
- BG Health, Safety & Welfare Guidance. Coaching Practice
- BG Health, Safety & Welfare Guidance. Safe Participation
- BG Health, Safety & Welfare Guidance. Safe Trips
- BG Safeguarding Children: Safe Recruitment
- BG Criminal Record Checks Policy and Guidelines
- BG Safeguarding Children: Safe Environments
- BG Equality and Diversity Policy
- BwD Accessibility Policy Statement
- BwD Complaints & Disciplinary Policy
- BwD Acceptable Behaviour Policy
- BwD Privacy notice
- BG Social Networking Guidelines
- BwD Coaches, Volunteers & Officials Codes of Conduct



## **Allegation, suspicion or disclosure of poor practice or abuse**

Concerns arise about the behaviour of a member of staff, coach or volunteer towards a child/children.

*It is a shared responsibility to report concerns; you are not expected to decide what is or is not poor practice or abuse*



Concerns about a child arising outside gymnastics e.g. at home, school etc. must also be reported to the Welfare Officer who may refer to or consult with BG, Children's Social Care and/or Police regarding what action to take (including who will inform parents).





# BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN Gymnastics Club

## Contact details

<b><u>British Gymnastics</u></b>	
<b>Safeguarding Manager / Lead Officer</b> Mike Harrison MBE 0345 129 7 129 ext 2633 <a href="mailto:mike.harrison@british-gymnastics.org">mike.harrison@british-gymnastics.org</a>	<b>Safeguarding &amp; Compliance Team</b> Lilleshall National Sports 0345 129 7 129 ext 2564/2609/2724 <a href="mailto:safeguarding@british-gymnastics.org">safeguarding@british-gymnastics.org</a>
<b>Safeguarding Officer North</b> Helen Murphy 07860 844160 <a href="mailto:helen.murphy@british-gymnastics.org">helen.murphy@british-gymnastics.org</a>	
<b><u>Regional Welfare Officer</u></b>	
<b>North West</b> Justine Caroll <a href="mailto:northwest.rwo@british-gymnastics.org">northwest.rwo@british-gymnastics.org</a>	
<b><u>Blackburn with Darwen Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)</u></b>	
Contact for confidential advice and consultation. Monday to Friday 08.45-17.00 please call: <b>01254 666400</b> If you are calling outside these hours, please contact the Emergency Duty Team on 01254 587547.	
<b><u>Blackburn with Darwen Acrobatic Gymnastics Club Welfare Team</u></b>	
Jill Ashcroft 07541 556571 Sharon Farrimond 07984 658498 <a href="mailto:welfarebwdro@outlook.com">welfarebwdro@outlook.com</a>	
<b><u>Information &amp; Support for Adults Concerned about a child</u></b>	
<b>Childline 0800 1111</b> <b>NSPCC 0808 800 5000</b> <a href="https://www.nspcc.org.uk/">https://www.nspcc.org.uk/</a> <b>Child Protection in Sport Unit</b> <a href="https://thecpsu.org.uk/">https://thecpsu.org.uk/</a>	

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

For Further Guidance please visit <https://www.british-gymnastics.org/gymnasts/gymnast-membership/document-downloads/safeguarding-compliance>



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## ADDENDUM TO EXISTING SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The principles of the current safeguarding policy remain the same, but we would like to reinforce the following procedures to ensure the safety of all gymnasts and coaches during this period of COVID-19.

### SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITIES

#### CLUB WELFARE OFFICER - CWO

The CWO should be the first point of contact for any safeguarding concerns that relate to a member of the club.

Jill Ashcroft – 07541 556571

Sharon Farrimond - 07984 658498

[welfarebwdacro@outlook.com](mailto:welfarebwdacro@outlook.com)

#### BRITISH GYMNASTICS REGIONAL WELFARE OFFICER - RWO

##### North West

Justine Caroll

[northwest.rwo@british-gymnastics.org](mailto:northwest.rwo@british-gymnastics.org)



# BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN Gymnastics Club

## GUIDELINES

### FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS & VISITORS

As part of the British Gymnastics protection policies for children and vulnerable adults adopted by the club, we kindly request that all non-members on club premises adhere to the following rules and procedures:

- Please do not enter the gymnastics hall unless specifically requested to do so by a coach.
- The viewing and seating areas upstairs are currently closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- If your child is being collected by someone who does not normally pick them up, please make sure the coach in charge of the session is aware of this at the beginning of the session.
- No photography or video recording equipment including photo and video imaging phones may be used during training sessions other than for training purposes by the coaching team.
- Please ensure that your child is aware of and abides by the members code of conduct (available on the club website).
- Please avoid any behaviour that could be interpreted as intimidating, this includes threatening, bullying, trying to gain an unfair advantage and public disparagement of club members/coaches
- If you wish to raise and concern about any aspect of the club procedures or regarding a specific incident please contact the welfare team at [welfarebwdacro@outlook.com](mailto:welfarebwdacro@outlook.com)