

SAFEGUARDING, WELFARE AND CODE'S OF CONDUCT

Total Gymnastics Academies TGA Code of Ethics (adapted from the British Gymnastics Health and Safety and Child Protection Policies). This code of ethics was written with specific reference to parents and gymnasts. However, most aspects of this code are also applicable to other people involved in the sport.

Injury or illness

If your child has sustained an injury at home please inform your child's coach before the session. If your child is not going to be attending a session because of illness or injury or they cannot make it for any other reason, please contact the TGA office to inform us.

Gymnasts conduct

At TGA we expect the gymnasts to arrive on time and in the correct clothing for their training session. A high level of discipline is required in gymnastics, therefore we expect the gymnasts to listen to their coach and not to do anything the coach has not asked them to do. Hydration is essential during sport so every gymnast must bring a drink to every session. Still juices or water are preferred to energy drinks or fizzy drinks and the children should not bring any food, including chewing gum, to eat during their sessions.

TGA feel very strongly about the welfare of all our gymnasts and it is for this reason that we ask if the gymnasts go to the toilet before or after the sessions.

Please note at our Total Fitness Venues, parents will need to stay onsite for the duration of the lesson and will be responsible for taking their child to the toilet during our lesson times. If during the class a child feels unwell, gets injured or needs to go to the toilet then the parent or responsible person will be located. For more information, please see 5.5 of Total Fitness' Terms and Conditions: <https://www.totalfitness.co.uk/terms-conditions/>

Parent's code of conduct

We do not discourage parents observing their child's sessions in our academies, however, TGA requests that if you wish to watch your child train to please watch in the designated viewing areas or windows and not sit in the gymnastics hall while the session is being conducted. Leave the coaching to the coaches; the coaches need to have the full attention and concentration of all their gymnasts at all times so that the gymnasts can perform to their best and correctly understand instructions. Parents should not pressurise their children or offer coaching advice, but should be supportive of their child and be patient with the child's progress as every child will improve and mature at different times.

Anti-bullying policy

TGA do not accept any form of bullying in their sessions. Bullying can be emotional, physical, racist, verbal or cyber and can occur between adults, children, gymnasts and coaches alike. TGA has an open environment and provides adequate supervision at all times to discourage bullying. The gymnasts should be encouraged to speak out if they have any problems and can talk to their coach if they have a problem. The coach will then either deal with the issue and make the parents aware, or inform the welfare officer for more advice. Gymnasts will be given a warning initially regarding their behaviour. If this does not improve, parents or guardians will be informed and in some cases, gymnasts may be asked to leave the club.

All information is kept in strict confidence, however if an issue becomes more serious information may need to be shared with other parties.

Session requirements

We ask that the gymnasts are prepared for each session and have the correct attire (see gymnasts code of conduct) and are physically and mentally ready to train. Your child must bring their Progress Booklets to every session. With regards to receiving badges, if the gymnast has not brought the book in for some of the sessions the coach cannot record what skills have been achieved, therefore the child may not receive their badge and certificate.

Transport Policy

TGA request that all gymnasts are on time for each session and that parents are on time to pick their children up. As part of the British Gymnastics Safeguarding Children Policy the coach is required to stay with the gymnasts until they have all been returned to their parents. If for some reason you are going to be late or someone else will be picking them up and the children do not know about it please contact the coach to inform them during the session. The coach is not allowed to take a child in a car without another appropriate adult present and without parental consent.

Complaints procedures

If you have any complaints or concerns about your child, the coach, the centre or any part of your TGA experience, please do not hesitate to call us on 0161 979 0611. Alternatively, you can email info@totalgymnastics.co.uk. Once we are aware of the issue we will follow the correct channels to resolve the problem and keep you updated of any developments.

TGA Safeguarding Children Commitment Statement

“In a situation where a child is at risk of significant harm or has been harmed in connection with their involvement in gymnastics, the parent/carer should contact the club Welfare Officer who has the responsibility of referring any concerns of possible abuse to Children’s Social Care Service/Social Services and/or the Police and informing British Gymnastics. Alternatively the parent/carer can contact Children’s Social Care Service/Social Services and/or the Police direct. It is requested that where a parent/carer has made a direct referral to the Children’s Social Care Service/Social Services

and/or the Police, that the British Gymnastics Safeguarding and Compliance Officer and, if appropriate the Club Welfare Officer is provided with the details of the concern as soon as possible so that any necessary action can be taken to safeguard all children in the sport.”

Key contacts

All contacts are available via telephone or email.

Cheshire Welfare Officer	Rachel Work	Rachel.work@totalgymnastics.co.uk	07841 029 063
Merseyside Welfare Officer	Susan Farndon	susan.farndon@totalgymnastics.co.uk	07825 551 746
Greater Manchester Welfare Officer	Jenny Chapman	Jenny.chapman@totalgymnastics.co.uk	07825 551 742
Essex Welfare Officer	Claire Alexander	Claire.alexander@totalgymnastics.co.uk	07805 892 974
British Gymnastics Ethics and Welfare	Gemma Welch	gemma.welch@british-gymnastics.org	0845 129 7129 ext 2346

TGA Academies ask that if you wish to know more about the Child Protection Policies please read the following documents on the British Gymnastics website.

- Health and safety documents <http://www.british-gymnastics.org/> >Ethics and Welfare>Downloads>Health, Safety and Welfare Documents>Health, safety and welfare policy. –
- Child protection <http://www.british-gymnastics.org/> >Ethics and Welfare>Downloads>Child Protection Policy Documents>Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy.