

# **CLUB BEHAVIOUR POLICY**

## **ATHLONE GYMNASTICS CLUB**

The club has been made aware of some issues about misbehaviour within the club. Athlone Gymnastics Club demands the highest standards of behaviour from all young gymnasts. It is the Club's policy to encourage and acknowledge high standards of behaviour. However, it is also the Club's policy not to tolerate unacceptable behaviour from any gymnast towards fellow gymnasts, coaches, officials, opponents, parents or any other Club members. This will apply to any situation in which a member is representing the Club which also includes while travelling to and from training, fun days and competition. All parents & gymnasts will have already received and signed the codes of conduct for gymnasts and parents as approved by Gymnastics Ireland. The Code of Conduct for Gymnasts includes the following points.

Gymnastics Ireland recognises the important role that young people play in our organisation. Every young gymnast should be encouraged to realise that they also have responsibilities to treat others with fairness and respect. A key element in a Coach relationship is the development of independence. Gymnasts must be encouraged to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance in training, in competition and in their social life.

### **Young Gymnasts should undertake to:**

- Participate fairly, do their best and enjoy themselves
- Represent themselves, their family and Club with pride and dignity
- Shake hands before and after events/competition irrespective of the result or performance
- Respect Officials and accept their decisions gracefully
- Respect fellow team members giving them support whether they do well or not so well
- Respect opponents and be modest in victory and gracious in defeat
- Improve and develop their skills
- Set high standards of FAIR PLAY for others to follow
- Adhere to proper standards of behaviour that avoids bringing Gymnastics Ireland into disrepute
- Let the Coach know when you are unavailable for training and competition
- Approach the Club Children's Officer with any concerns or questions you may have

### **Young Gymnasts should not**

- Cheat - always participate by the rules
- Use abusive language
- Shout at or argue with an official
- Spread rumours
- Bully or use bullying tactics to isolate another young person
- Tell lies about adults or other young people
- Take banned substances
- Harm team members, opponents or their property

### **Young people are entitled to:**

- Be safe and to feel safe
- Be happy, have fun and experience a sense of enjoyment and fulfilment.
- Be treated with respect and dignity
- Comment and make suggestions in a constructive manner
- Be afforded appropriate confidentiality
- Make a complaint appropriately and be listened to
- Be believed.
- Experience competition at a level at which they feel comfortable
- Get help against bullies
- Say No
- To protect their own bodies

The use of sanctions is an important part of maintaining proper Codes of Conduct. They are fair and will be progressively applied if specific offences are repeated. In the event that a coach or an adult helper feels a young participant's behaviour is unacceptable, the following disciplinary procedure will be followed by Athlone Gymnastics Club.

BEHAVIOURS	POSSIBLE SANCTIONS FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR (The sanctions below will be applied according to the severity of the offensive behaviour)
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<p><b>A. Minor Don'ts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Persistent talking &amp; disruption while Coaches are coaching.</li> <li>- Cheek or disrespect towards coaches or helpers.</li> <li>- 'Horseplay' which has not caused injury</li> <li>- Continuous non-compliance with instructions of a Coach or helper.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Verbal warning</li> <li>2. Taken aside and a 2nd verbal warning</li> <li>3. 'Sin-bin' for 5 minutes. Parents informed &amp; reminded of the Club Behaviour Policy.</li> </ol>
<p><b>B. Serious Don'ts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Offensive language or gestures towards another gymnast, Coach or others.</li> <li>- 'Horseplay' which has caused injury - accidental or otherwise.</li> <li>- Persistent non-compliance of instructions of a Coach or helper.</li> <li>- Cheating the rules.</li> <li>- Telling lies.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A formal warning with another Coach Present, (A sanction may be warranted).</li> <li>2. A formal warning with parent present with possible suspension from next training session or event.</li> </ol>
<p><b>C. Critical Don'ts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bullying - in any form, (verbal, physical etc).</li> <li>- Wilful damage to an individual or Club property</li> <li>- Theft of individuals or Club property.</li> <li>- Shouting and arguing with an Official.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A written warning</li> <li>2. Parents advised appropriate sanction being applied which may include expulsion from club.</li> </ol>

**Please take the time to communicate the above to your child. Thank you for your support and understanding in assisting the club in providing a safe and rewarding environment for all gymnasts.**