



Freedom RG

Social Media Policy

Update on 03/11/2021

Last updated on 03/11/2021

Freedom RG



This policy is for gymnasts, parents/guardians, coaches, officials, volunteers and helpers.

The use of social media, chat rooms, text messaging and email are now a normal part of life for many people and businesses, and they are used for communication, entertainment and self-expression.

To protect and safeguard our members and promote a positive image of our Club Freedom RG, we are committed to the safe, professional and legal use of social media.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure that the relationship between coaches, officials, volunteers, helpers, parents/guardians and gymnasts remain professional at all times.
- Protect gymnasts, coaches, parents/guardians and all people associated with our Club from allegations of inappropriate conduct and ensure they have clear guidelines for the use of social media and other communication methods.

Failure to adhere to this Social Media Policy will result in a disciplinary referral to the Safeguarding and Welfare Officer and may lead to exclusion from the Club and cancellation of membership.

Freedom RG shall not be hold responsible of any post or shared messages to any social media platforms that originated from their members.

Proudly Affiliated to:

**British
Gymnastics**





CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 18 YEARS OLD

Children and Young People under 18 years old must:

- Never post on any social media any remarks, photographs, or videos that are derogatory or inappropriate or could be disparaging or embarrassing to the Club, its staff, volunteers, other gymnasts or other gymnastics clubs.
- Never ask a coach, official, volunteer or helper to be your friend on a social networking site. They are in a position of trust and will be in breach of Club Guidelines and Code of Conduct if they accept the request.
- Always remember that anything that is said or shared via social media, chat rooms, text messages, emails or other electronic communication including photographs, pictures and videos may be shared with people other than those whom it was intended for. Once something is posted / sent it is no longer in your control.
- Never post or send photographs, comments or videos which may be hurtful, untrue or upsetting, as you may regret sharing later on.
- Never put pictures or names of other club members on personal sites or social media accounts, which directly or indirectly mention Freedom RG, unless you have pre-approval from the interested party.
- Never place a comment on the internet or via any other electronic communication that you would not say face to face to the individual concerned. To do so, you may not only be in breach of our Club and British Gymnastics Policy but also in breach of the law.



PARENTS / CARERS / GUARDIANS

Parents / Carers / Guardians must:

- Never communicate with a child, young person or protected adult under the age of 18 years old via social media, chat room or other electronic communication unless prior consent has been given by their parent, carer or guardian.
- Decline any friend request from a child, young person or protected adult under the age of 18 years old made via social media, chat room or other electronic communication unless prior consent has been given by their parent, carer or guardian.
- Never post any remarks, photographs, or videos that are derogatory or inappropriate or could be disparaging or embarrassing to Freedom RG, its staff, volunteers, gymnasts or other gymnastics clubs on any social media facility.
- Never put pictures or names of other club members on personal sites or social accounts, which directly or indirectly mention Freedom RG, unless you have pre-approval from the interested party.
- Never ask a coach, official, volunteer or helper to be your friend on a social networking site. They are in a position of trust and have a duty of care to your child and will therefore be in breach of Club Guidelines and Code of Conduct if they accept the request.
- Always remember that anything that is said or shared via social media, chat rooms, text messages, emails or other electronic communication including photographs, pictures and videos may be shared with people, other than for those whom it was intended for. Once something is posted / sent it is no longer in your control.
- Never post or send photographs, comments or videos which may be hurtful, untrue or upsetting.
- Never place a comment on the internet or via any other electronic communication that you would not say to the individual concerned. To do so, you may not only be in breach of our Club and British Gymnastics Policy but also in breach of the law.



COACHES / OFFICIALS / VOLUNTEERS / HELPERS

Coaches / Officials / Volunteers / Helpers are in a position of trust and responsibility therefore must:

- Never have any gymnast under 18 years old, or an individual over 18 years old for whom they have responsibility for, as a friend or contact on their personal phone, social media or other electronic communication facility.
- Never contact a gymnast under 18 years old or an individual over 18 years old for whom they have responsibility for, on their personal phone, social media or other electronic communication facility.
- Decline any friend request made by any gymnast under the age of 18 years old or an individual over the age of 18 years old for whom they have responsibility for.
- Never post any remarks, photographs, or videos that are derogatory or inappropriate or could be disparaging or embarrassing to Freedom RG, its staff, volunteers, gymnasts or other gymnastics clubs on any social media facility.
- Never put pictures or names of other club members on personal sites or social accounts, which directly or indirectly mention Freedom RG, unless you have pre-approval from the interested party.
- Never contact individual gymnasts directly, either by means of messaging or on social media. All communications should be made through parents/guardians/carers.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR MEMBERSHIP ENDS

When your membership (as a parent/guardian, gymnast, coach, officials or helpers/volunteers) with Freedom RG Club has come to an end, as an ex-member of our Freedom RG club you should comply with:

- Never post any remarks, photographs, or videos that are derogatory or inappropriate or could be disparaging or embarrassing to Freedom RG, its staff, volunteers, gymnasts or other gymnastics clubs on any social media facility.
- Never place a derogatory or inappropriate comment on internet or via any other electronic communication that mentions Freedom RG Club or any of its members. To do so, you may not only be in breach of our Club and British Gymnastics Policy but also in breach of the law.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN

As a user of social media, chat rooms and other electronic communication either as a child, young person or adult, you may at some time have a concern regarding what you have seen or what you have been told by another user. This may range from abusive or negative comments and cyber bullying to suspected grooming of sexual abuse or exploitation.

If you have a concern, please contact our Safeguarding Welfare Officer immediately.

The following is a list of agencies that you can contact for further information, advice or raise any concerns you may have anonymously:

- The Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP) Unit at www.ceop.gov.uk or by pressing the CEOP button on Facebook.
- Child line www.childline.or.uk
- UK Safer Internet: www.saferinternet.org.uk
- Internet Safety on www.thinkuknow.co.uk