

In addition to protecting children in the club, members have a responsibility to our club, its staff, officials, and other members to help maintain and encourage a positive image. This extends to the use of social media publication. Parents are encouraged to monitor their children's use of social media in order to protect them and guide them in its appropriate use. The purpose of this policy is:

- To ensure that relationships between coaches and gymnasts remain professional.
- To protect gymnasts, coaches and parents from allegations of inappropriate conduct.
- To ensure that there are clear guidelines for parents, coaches and gymnasts concerning the use of social media/text messaging
- To preserve the reputation and positive image of the club, its staff, volunteers and members

Matrix Gymnastics Academy strongly discourages parents from interacting with gymnasts other than their own children via social media/text message.

The following guidelines refer to any posts, photographs, video, status updates and any other item that can be published on social media which mentions or directs attention to Matrix Gymnastics Academy.

- Coaches, parents and gymnasts alike should avoid posting remarks, photographs/videos, disparaging comments or comments that could be perceived as such about the club, coaches, officials or other gymnasts. This applies to private text messaging as well as all social media and instant messaging services.
- Gymnasts and parents should avoid posting any remarks, photographs or video that could be disparaging or embarrassing to another gymnastics club, its members, coaches or officials.
- Gymnasts should avoid social chat with club coaches or officials via any social media, instant messaging or text service.
- Gymnasts or parents should inform the club if at any point they notice a contravention to these guidelines or the guidelines for coaches and officials.
- Parents/Gymnasts must not upload Photographs/Videos to any social media sites if they contain other gymnasts than their own child without prior consent from their parent/guardian.
- Parents/Gymnasts must not upload Photographs/Videos to any social media sites if they contain club coaches/officials/volunteers without their prior consent.

Please also note the following guidelines for Coaches and Officials:

- Coaches and officials will not talk to gymnasts via any instant messaging service.
- If you receive any messages/requests from Gymnasts by way of Social Networking/Chat/Text please do not respond to the child directly, please respond via their parents, or let the Club Welfare Officer know.
- Coaches and Officials should not text gymnasts in their care for any reason, except for cases where the express permission has been sought and given by the parent. Please always communicate through the parent.
- Matrix Gymnastics academy will only post appropriate pictures/videos/ information of gymnast's progress on our social media if their parents have given signed permission to do so.
- **Coaches and officials could face serious consequences if it is found that young people in their care have been exposed to inappropriate material/content via their social media pages.**