

## Safeguarding Children – Safe Environment Policy

### Duty of Care:

All clubs and gymnastics activity providers have a responsibility for the safety and welfare of gymnasts, coaches, volunteers, officials, visitors and others. This responsibility applies to all clubs, regardless of their size or structure and HBS Revolutions strongly operates this policy. There is a legal responsibility to ensure that participants are protected from harm whilst taking part in trampolining and gymnastics. This is legally termed as the 'duty of care' and is particularly significant when dealing with children.

When working with children, an adult who carries out a supervisory role would take on certain responsibilities whilst the child was in their care. This may include:

- Holding a responsibility for care and wellbeing during training.
- Safe dispersal after training.
- Providing first aid.
- Providing/consenting to emergency medical treatment.
- Supervision/chaperoning

### Team Management:

- In order to fulfil the 'duty of care', gymnastics activity providers must make sure that the following areas are properly covered.
- Safeguarding and welfare.
- Safe environment, including apparatus and equipment.
- Safe development of the individual through appropriate physical and psychological preparation and progressive skill development.
- Provision or suitable first aid support and emergency procedures.
- Exercising reasonable care at all times.

### Welfare Officers:

Although the responsibility for safeguarding falls on everyone, a crucial element in safeguarding is the designation of an individual who is responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people. All BG (British Gymnastics) clubs and gymnastics events are required to have a Welfare Officer to be responsible for:

- Responding to child protection and poor practice concerns.
- Providing support and advice in the implementation of procedures that safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Assisting the club to be more child focused in its activities, e.g. involving children in decision making processes.

Our HBS Revolutions Welfare Officers are:

Isobel Chick - 07966 264471

Katie Trott - 07710 423553

Joint email address: [hbswelfare@hitchinboys.co.uk](mailto:hbswelfare@hitchinboys.co.uk)

British Gymnastics Regional Welfare Officers are:

Catherine Wall (Safeguarding Officer South) - 007523 518 603

Email: [Catherine.wall@british-gymnastics.org](mailto:Catherine.wall@british-gymnastics.org)

Karly Good (Safeguarding Officer East) - 07908 666 545

Email: [east.rwo1@british-gymnastics.org](mailto:east.rwo1@british-gymnastics.org)

Provision of a safe environment:

- Clubs and organisations' must address the following environmental factors:
- Providing an open training environment.
- Ensuring there is a clear policy for use of changing rooms and toilets.
- Maintenance of apparatus, equipment and other club property, e.g. minibus
- Provision of first aid facilities
- Storage of personal and sensitive information.

Open Training Environment:

- BG will not support clubs who actively discourage parents from spectating by:
- Obscuring windows
- Refusing reasonable requests to view
- Asking parents to leave without due cause
- Justifying the prohibition of viewing on spurious health and safety grounds.

HBS Revolutions endeavours to create a culture of openness between the club and parents. This will include:

- Regular written and oral communication with parents.
- Providing regular feedback on a child's progress.
- Providing opportunities to discuss the child's progress and training regime at appropriate times.
- Providing the opportunity to raise concerns and receive feedback on the outcome.
- Encouraging parents to become involved in the club.
- Inviting parents to attend welfare briefings prior to an away event and AGM's
- Encouraging parents to attend events or keep in close contact with their child.