



Gymnastics In Ipswich

home of Pipers Vale Gymnastics Club



Communication with Coaches Under 18 Policy

Introduction

Gymnastics In Ipswich understands that in this modern age of social media people can contact others instantly. We have developed this policy in line with our Communication Policy to address a number of concerns regarding communication between our coaches who are under 18 and parents/ guardians/ carers.

Purpose

This Policy establishes guidelines for communication between parents/ guardians/ carers and coaches who are under the age of 18 at Pipers Vale Gymnastics Club (PVGC). It aims to ensure appropriate safeguarding measures are in place to protect both young employees and parents/ guardians/ carers.

Scope

This policy applies to all parents/ guardians/ carers, young coaches (under 18) and senior staff members within PVGC.

Policy Statement

- Parents/ guardians/ carers must not contact coaches under the age of 18 directly.
- Any communication between parents/ guardians/ carers and a coach under 18 must take place in a setting where a senior member of staff is also present.
- Acceptable forms of communication include:
 - Group chats (e.g. WhatsApp, Messenger) where a senior member is included.
 - Email communication where a senior staff member is CC'd.
 - Direct communication at the beginning or end of sessions, by agreement and with a senior member of staff present as necessary.
- Direct, one-on-one electronic communication between a parent/ guardian/ carer and a coach under 18 is not permitted under any circumstances.

Rationale

This policy is in place to:

- Ensure the safeguarding of minor employees.
- Maintain professional boundaries and accountability.
- Protect both young staff members and parents/ guardians/ carers from potential misunderstandings or inappropriate situations.

Compliance

- All staff and parents/ guardians/ carers are expected to adhere to this policy.
- Any breaches of this policy will be taken seriously and addressed in line with the Club's safeguarding and disciplinary procedures.

Related Policies

- Communication Policy for coaches and parents/ guardians/ carers
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

	Date of Review	Action
Date Established	April 2025	Established
Date of Revision		
Date of Revision		
Date of Revision		