

PARENTS'/SPECTATORS' CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Introduction

Dynamyx Gymnastics Club encourages good sportsmanship and behavior that is appropriate and respectful at all times. Therefore, Dynamyx Gymnastics Club believes that all people involved in sports need to advocate and model the fundamentally positive aspects of sports, which include but are not limited to; sporting and human excellence, fair play, honest competition and effort, self-discipline, integrity, personal growth and development.

Policy Statement

In an effort to make all sporting events a more enjoyable and rewarding experience for all participants, Dynamyx Gymnastics Club has implemented a Parents'/Spectators' Code of Conduct Policy. The Policy is designed to require parents/spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike atmosphere during all sporting events whether held at our club or during away competitions.

It should be noted that although coaches, officials and athletes within the clubs have their own mechanisms in place to deal with issues relating to unacceptable or disruptive behavior, Dynamyx Gymnastics Club expects all parties during a sporting event to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and abide by the Policy.

We are committed to:

- (a) investigating reported incidents of Unsportsmanlike conduct in an objective and timely manner;
- (b) taking necessary action; and
- (c) providing appropriate support for victims

Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that:

- Individuals are aware of and understand that acts deviating from the Parent / Spectator Code of Conduct Policy are considered a serious offence for which action will be imposed;
- Those subjected to or witnessing acts deviating from the Parent / Spectator Code of Conduct Policy are encouraged to access any assistance they may require in order to pursue a complaint; and
- Individuals are advised of available recourse if they are subjected to, or become aware of, situations involving deviation from the Parent / Spectators Code of Conduct Policy.

Definitions

“Facility” means all gymnastics clubs and recreational facilities.

“Parent” means a mother or father, a guardian, or a person with whom the child ordinarily resides who has demonstrated a settled intention to treat the child as a child of his or her family.

“Spectator” is defined as any person attending a Dynamyx Gymnastics Club sporting event, at home or away from the facility who is not participating directly in the event.

“Staff representative” means any person with managerial or administrative

responsibility for the club.

“Club representative” means any person officially associated with the attending athletes. This may be the Executive Director or an elected Board member.

“Official” means any person who supervises a sporting event to ensure that the competitors obey the rules.

General

The clubs’ executive representatives are responsible to ensure that Executive Director provides the athletes’ parents at the start of the season with a copy of the Parents’/Spectators’ Code of Conduct Policy and ensure both parents of the athlete(s), where applicable, sign the Code of Conduct Agreement.

Dynamyx Gymnastics Club will ensure that the expected behavior of all patrons is clearly posted at all club functions. This will remind all patrons of proper behaviour within our facility.

Parents’/Spectators’ Code of Conduct Agreement

Both parents, where applicable, must sign the Parents’/Spectators’ Code of Conduct Agreement (see Agreement attached)

The purpose of this agreement is to ensure that everyone is aware of the policy and the conduct expected while at our club or attending an away competition.

Unacceptable Behavior

Inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include but not limited to:

1. Physical violence or threats of physical violence;
2. Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time;
3. Taunting of athletes, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threatening gestures, abusive or demeaning language;
4. Throwing of any object in the spectators’ viewing area, or athletes’ competition area, where applicable, or on the playing surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

Right to Assistance

Any person who believes they have witnessed or been subjected to inappropriate behaviour has the right to access assistance in communicating their objections and, if warranted, in pursuing the complaint more formally.

Assistance can be sought through club management or the elected board of directors.

When incidents of violence or harassment occur, Dynamyx encourages immediate reporting and initiation of a formal investigation.

Making a Complaint

Steps Prior to Making an Informal Complaint

- The complainant is required to make his/her feelings known verbally to the alleged offender, directly or with the assistance of a third party. This step is designed to make the alleged offender aware that the behaviour or conduct is offensive and provides the offender the opportunity to cease such behaviour.
- The complainant is required to carefully record details of the incident including the date and time, nature of the behaviour and names of any persons who may have witnessed the behaviour.

Formal Complaint Reporting

- Filing a report is the first step of the process in a case of abuse, or the second step to be followed in the case of more subtle abuse when the action taken (verbal notification) is unsuccessful and the behaviour of the alleged offender persists.
- Formal complaints are to be submitted directly in writing to the Executive Director or her designate.

Investigation

- All complaints will be investigated and a written report compiled.
- No action shall be taken against an individual for making a complaint unless the complaint is made maliciously or without reasonable and probable grounds.
- Complaints made maliciously or without probable and reasonable grounds will subject the complainant to disciplinary action consistent with this policy.

Confidentiality

- All complaints will be treated with the strictest confidentiality. Details of an incident of violence or harassment will not be disclosed to any third party without prior consultation with the complainant.

Disciplinary Action

- The club is responsible for the enforcement of all aspects of this policy including the section on disciplinary action.
- Event Officials have the authority to stop an event where a parent(s)/spectator(s) is displaying inappropriate and/or disruptive behavior that interferes with other spectators or the activity. The

official(s) will identify the violator(s) to a club or an executive representative who is responsible for speaking to the individual and/or removing the disruptive individual from the spectator area.

Consequences of the parent(s)/spectator(s) disruptive behavior will result in the following action(s) being taken by a club or executive representative:

- 1. Physical abuse violations will result in an immediate and permanent dismissal from all club activities.**
- 2. Non-physical violations:**
 - a) First violation will result in a club or an executive representative speaking with the violator(s) and requesting compliance with the policy.
 - b) Second violation will result in an immediate ejection from the club and the club's Executive Director and/or Board of Directors will meet with the individual and communicate the importance of the policy and remind the individual of the fact that they signed a Code of Conduct Agreement and if one was not signed, get the individual to sign one.
 - c) Third violation will result in the individual being banned from all club activities.

Ten Commandments for Gymnastics Parents!

1. Do not try to impose your ambitions on your child. Gymnastics is his/her activity and your gymnast must progress at his/her own speed. One of the great things about gymnastics is that it does not matter whether you finish first or last, but rather the wonderful lessons each gymnast learns from striving to do his/her very best.
2. Be supportive. Encourage your son/daughter to participate and to strive to do their best. "Did you have fun? What did you learn today? Did you make a new friend?"
3. Be the parent, not the coach. Very special bonds should exist between you and your gymnast. The Coach's task is the technical part; yours is the love, support, encouragement, health and well being part. Trust your Coach and be a STRONG parent.
4. Acknowledge your child's fears. It is normal to have fears when learning new skills or going into your first competition. Assure your gymnast that this is normal and that the coach has many progressions for each new skill. Also explain that everyone must learn to compete well.
5. Be positive. Cheer and applaud at competitions. Think and say positive things about the experience; the learning that took place, the new friends, the coaching, the judging.
6. Teach goals other than always having to win. At one age group or level your child will be at the top of the heap; move up and he/she will be at the bottom; there are many uncontrollable factors. Doing his/her best at practice and at the meet is a much better goal. Besides the real competition is with him/herself and the concept of perfection, not against other gymnasts. The other gymnasts may become lifelong friends.
7. Do not expect your child to become an Olympian. There are over 60,000 gymnasts in our country and only 7 are chosen every four years to go to the Olympics. Shoot for a happy, confident, strong, flexible, coordinated, mentally alert, emotionally and physically fit young person.
8. Support your gym. Gymnastics clubs all seem to struggle for survival. Find ways to bring in new students, explore ideas for raising money for those new mats or bars. Give positive suggestions for improvement when you see something that no one else seems to notice.
9. Learn about health and nutrition. Gymnastics is one of the most demanding and difficult of all sports. No one has ever been too strong or too healthy or too much in shape. Help your child to understand the value of eating healthy foods, of getting proper rest, of being physically fit, and of being emotionally strong yet being considerate of others.
10. See the BIG picture. We often tend to see only our own little area and only at the present moment. Look at what is good for everyone all the time. This great sport is also great life training. The discipline of striving for perfection; the discipline of being physically, mentally and emotionally fit; the ability to make quick decisions; the knowledge of what one can and cannot do; the realism of the competitive aspect of sport; keeping a positive attitude; etc. are all BIG picture items. Enjoy!!!