Richmond Gymnastics Association
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DOCUMENT CONTROL

DOCUMENT AUTHOR

The author of the Social Media policy is the RGA Management Team

DOCUMENT LOCATION

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DOCUMENT HISTORY

The following versions of the document have been produced.

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V1.0	Baselined document (Final)	01/2018
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DOCUMENT APPROVALS

The following individuals have been identified as approvers of the Social Media policy.

Name	Role	Date
Salme Naylor	Director of Coaching	08/2026
Melanie Sanders	Operations Manager	08/2026
Tracey Brown	GfA Manager & welfare officer	08/2026
Katie Delport	Marketing Manager	08/2026
Chris Brockbank	Board member	08/2026

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The Association recognises that social networking sites can be a useful tool for judges, coaches and officials to share information.

However, there are a number of issues that could lead to both disciplinary and safeguarding concerns which stem from the improper or inappropriate use of such sites by its members.

In the overwhelming majority of cases, the benefits of the internet easily outweigh any drawbacks. Regrettably it is also true that certain sites will attract a number of adults with a highly inappropriate interest in children. There are other more insidious threats around too.

Guidance for Coaches, Judges, Officers in a position of trust and responsibility

RGA members in a position of trust and/or responsibility (coaches /judges) should not be in contact with young people through social networking sites.

Should a young person in the club request to become a named friend on your Social Networking Page or request that you become a named friend on the young person's Social Networking Page you should decline if any of the below apply:

- You are in a position of responsibility in respect of that young person.
- You hold a position of trust and responsibility in the club.
- Your contact with the young person is through RGA and the parent/guardian of the young person does not give their consent to such contact.

Social networking sites should never be used as a medium by which to abuse or criticise BG or RGA, RGA members or other clubs as to do so would be in breach of BG Standards of Conduct.

The publishing of a photograph or video footage on a social networking site is governed by the same requirements as any other media.

Coaches/Judges/Club officials who are under 18

If the parent of a young person in a position of responsibility aged 16/17 and the young person themselves requests to have contact with an adult club officer or coach for the purposes of sharing professional information relevant to their role, the club should:

- Gain written consent of the parent/guardian and young person to have such contact naming the individual adult and social networking site concerned
- The named adult must sign an agreement to keep the contact with the young person to the discussion of matters relevant to the young person's professional role in the club
- All such communications should be shared with an identified 3rd person.

If the young person or the adult is found to breach the above agreement, action will be taken by the club to address the concern.

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RGA members under the age of 18

- Do not ask your coach, judge, or club official to be your social networking site friend – they will refuse as that would breach good practice and the Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy.

- Use the internet positively and do not place yourself at risk. Have a look at www.ceop.gov.uk for some useful tips.

- Consider who you are inviting to be your friend and follow the good advice of the social networking sites to ensure you are talking to the person you believe you are talking to.

- Always remember that anything you say including photos, pictures and video clips posted on your site may be shared with people other than those for whom it was intended.

- Never post or send any photographs, videos or make comments that may be:
    - Hurtful, untrue and upsetting and you may regret sharing later on;
    - Used by other people in a way you did not intend or want.

- Do not put pictures of other club members on the site within the club setting.

- Always be aware that social networking sites are a method of communication like letter writing and the spoken word and are bound by the same laws and rules.

Members found to be abusing or working outside of these good practice guidelines, may be subject to disciplinary action or investigation by the Association as outlined in the Complaints & Disciplinary Procedures.

Raising Concerns

As a user of a social networking site, whether you are a young person or an adult, you may at some time have a concern about what you are seeing or being told about by another user.

You can raise concerns with the RGA Welfare officer Jenny Vos: welfare@richmondgymnastics.co.uk

BG has drawn up a list below of agencies that you can contact, anonymously if you wish, where you can raise such concerns.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk: the main UK Government website

www.ceop.police.uk: the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)

www.iwf.org.uk: the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)

www.nspcc.org.uk , www.nch.org.uk, www.barnardos.org.uk, and www.beatbullying.org

www.parentlineplus.org.uk

BG through the Ethics and Welfare Department on 0845 129 7 129 ext. 2347

Childline 0800 1111 or www.childline.org.uk

Stop It Now freephone 0808 1000 900 or www.stopitnow.org.uk

Your Local Police or Children's Services –their number appears in the phone book, or search online.

The RGA Social Media Policy will be regularly reviewed by the Trustees and updated as necessary.