

Parents, guardians and spectators Code of Conduct

Safeguarding

- MKTDA is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all our members. The Club believes it is important that members, coaches, and parents associated with the Club should, at all times show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, members are encouraged to be open at all times and share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the club with the Club's Welfare Officers.
- While in the gym every effort will be made by MKTDA to ensure the safety of all members. It is the responsibility of the parents / carers to ensure the safety of their child whilst in the entrance lobby before and after their session.
- Parents / carers should bring their child to the entrance lobby no more than 10 minutes before the start of their session and wait with them until they enter the gym. Members under the age of 16 should **not** be dropped off outside the building and left to make their own way in.
- Parents / carers should arrive promptly at the end of the session to collect their child. Children must not leave the gym without an adult or without permission from a coach.
- Parents / carers of new members should introduce themselves to the coach in charge to ensure members leave the gym with someone the coach recognises.
- Parents / carers should let the coach know if someone different will be collecting their child.
- Parents / carers are asked to update any change in contact details as soon as possible in writing or by email.

Watching training sessions

- Parents / carers are not permitted to enter the gym during training sessions. They may watch from the seating area during watching weeks.
- Any photos / recorded images taken must be for personal use and cannot be shared on social media without the consent of the parents of all gymnasts who feature.
- Parents / carers should **not** distract or try to coach their child during training or competitions.

Supporting your gymnast

We ask that parents / carers support their child's involvement with MKTDA and help them to enjoy their sport. But parents should never force their child to take part in sport if they don't want to.

- Please encourage your gymnast to read the Gymnast Code of Conduct and follow it.
- Please ensure your gymnast is fit to take part in the training session or competition and inform the club of any illness or injury which might affect their performance or mean they are unable to train / compete.
- Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for their session and has water to drink. We request that you make sure they do not bring items of value with them such as watches, phones or computers.
- Parents / carers should set a good example by recognising and promoting good sportsmanship and applauding the good performances of all.
- Parents / carers should never punish or belittle a child for poor performance or making a mistake.
- Parents / carers **MUST** use correct and proper language and behaviour at all times in the gym, at club events or events the club is attending.

Competitions

- The coaches are responsible for decisions regarding which competition your child will be entered for. They are familiar with the skill level, progress and individual needs of each gymnast.
- Competition fees should be paid no later than one week before the closing date for entries. Non-payment could result in your child not being entered into the competition.
- During competition, parents / carers are not permitted onto the competition floor (unless they are volunteering on the day).
- Parents / carers should not challenge competition officials judgements directly. Any concerns should be raised via the club coach.
- Parents / carers should support and value good / improved performance not just top place results.

Competition officials

- For all competitive events, the club has an obligation to provide officials. This includes judges, marshals and recorders. The more entries we have the more officials we must provide. We rely on the good will of parents to volunteer for an official's role at the competitions which their child is participating. This does not mean that parents will be required for all competitions and we try and ensure that these roles are not always covered by the same parents.
- MKTDA would welcome more parents / carers training to become judges in order that our increasing number of squad members can continue to compete. If you are interested in finding out more about this role and the training (which is currently online) please speak to your child's coach.
- If we are unable to provide sufficient officials we may need to limit the number of entries to competitions.

Payments and missed training sessions

- Parents / carers must ensure payment of training, competition and annual insurance fees are made promptly.
- Parents / carers are responsible for ensuring their child's British Gymnastics membership is renewed annually.
- Sessions missed due to Bank Holidays can be made up. These must be booked in advance.
- It may be possible to make up sessions missed during the summer holidays by attending Summer Camp sessions in August, these must be agreed with the Head Coach and pre-booked.
- It is not possible to make up other missed sessions.

Communication

- MKTDA will endeavour to establish good communications between the club and parents / carers.
- If parents/ carers have any concerns about any coaching / development matter they should speak to the coach at a mutually agreed time e.g. at the end of a training session, to ensure that the coach is not taken away from the delivery of coaching to other club members.
- If parents / carers wish to speak to the Head Coach about any other issue this can be arranged via email or phone call.

By enrolling your child in sessions/attending competitions, you are agreeing to abide by the code of conduct.

MKTDA reserve the right to suspend or ask a gymnast to leave the club if they or their parents / carers fail to follow the code of conduct.