



Bicester & District Gymnastics Club

BDGC 009 – Financial Inclusion Policy

Document Owner: Chairman
Document Approver: Committee

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1. Purpose

To set out how Bicester & District Gymnastics Club (BDGC) ensures that financial circumstances do not prevent any child or young person from participating in gymnastics at the club. This policy supports BDGC's commitment to being open to the whole community, including those on low or modest incomes, and underpins the club's status as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC)

2. Scope

This policy applies to all current and prospective members of BDGC and is publicly available. It covers standard club fees, the additional costs of participation, and the financial support arrangements available to families who would otherwise be unable to take part.

3. Our commitment

BDGC is committed to ensuring that no child is prevented from participating in gymnastics at the club because of their family's financial circumstances. We do this by:

- Keeping standard subscription fees at levels that reflect the cost of running the club, with no premium for profit.
- Operating a publicly available concession scheme for families on low or modest incomes.
- Working with local partners, including Cherwell District Council to fund places for children from underprivileged backgrounds.
- Reviewing our fee structure and concession arrangements annually to ensure they remain accessible.

4. Standard Fees

BDGC offers a two-week free trial to all new gymnasts before any fees are payable, so families can confirm the club is right for their child before any financial commitment.

The current standard fees at BDGC are as follows. All fees are billed monthly and based on 48 weeks of classes per year (the club closes for two weeks at Christmas, with members entitled to a further two weeks' holiday at their convenience).

Class	Monthly fee	Annual equivalent
Recreational (1 hour per week)	£45	£540
Mini Development (4 hours per week)	£80	£960
Development Squad (6 hours per week)	£90	£1,080
Senior Development Squad (8 hours per week)	£100	£1,200
Full Squad (9 hours per week)	£125	£1,500

All members are also required to hold annual IGA Gymnast Membership, which includes insurance, at £20 per year (paid each September, mandated by the Independent Gymnastics Association). BDGC does not charge a separate Junior Membership, joining fee, or registration fee.

5. Additional costs

In addition to standard fees, members may incur the following costs depending on the level at which they participate:

- Optional training from approximately £25, not compulsory.
- Competition leotard / kit (required for those competing): approximately £40-£109
- Competition entry fees (paid per event entered): typically, £25-40 per competition.
- Travel to competitions: variable, paid for by families directly.
- Badges/certificates from the proficiency scheme are included in session fees.

6. Concession arrangements

BDGC operates a concession scheme to ensure that families on low or modest incomes can fully participate in club activities at a total cost of no more than £520 per year, in line with CASC requirements.

6.1. Active Minds funded places

Through our partnership with Cherwell District Council, BDGC offers funded places for children from underprivileged backgrounds via the Active Minds programme. These places cover the full cost of session fees, gymnastics kit and IGA Gymnast Membership for eligible families, ensuring participation at no cost to the family beyond standard incidental items.

Eligibility is determined in accordance with the criteria set by Cherwell District Council, which include but are not limited to families in receipt of qualifying state benefits, families known to local services, and children referred via schools or community partners.

6.2. Bursary places

Where a family does not qualify for an Active Minds place but is on a low or modest income and would otherwise be unable to afford participation, BDGC offers a bursary that reduces the total annual cost of membership and participation to no more than £520 per year.

The bursary may include:

- Reduction of session fees
- Loan of competition kit where required
- Coverage of IGA registration

6.3. How to apply

Families wishing to apply for a concession should contact the Club Secretary or Welfare Officer in confidence. Applications are reviewed by the Treasurer and Chairperson, with input from the Welfare Officer where appropriate. No information about a family's application is shared with coaches or other members beyond what is necessary to administer the concession.

We recognise that asking for financial help can feel uncomfortable. Our process is designed to be straightforward, discreet, and respectful. No child will ever be made aware that their place is funded through a concession.

6.4. Publicity

This policy is publicly available and advertised in the following locations:

- The BDGC website (linked from the membership and joining pages)
- The membership application form
- The club noticeboard at Bicester Leisure Centre
- The club newsletter (referenced at least annually)

7. Confidentiality

All information shared by families in connection with a concession application is treated in strict confidence. Personal and financial information is held in accordance with BDGC's Privacy and Data Protection policy and is accessible only to those officers required to administer the concession.

8. Monitoring Compliance

The adoption of this policy is subject to monitoring and auditing. The outcomes from these reviews will inform and improve practices as part of BDGC's commitment to continual improvement.

9. Review

This Policy will be reviewed at least annually.

10. Amendment and Termination

This Policy can be amended, replaced, or terminated at any time at the sole discretion of BDGC. If you have any questions about whether you are reviewing the latest Policy, please confirm with the Owner of this document identified below.

Document Controls

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History

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