

Language Use in Coaching Policy

London Sport Academy

1. Purpose of the Policy

This policy outlines how languages may be used by coaches during training sessions and explains the circumstances in which a language other than English may be used.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure:

- the safety of all gymnasts,
- clear understanding of coaching instructions,
- transparency for parents and guardians,
- compliance with British Gymnastics standards,
- an inclusive training environment.

2. Primary Language of Coaching

2.1. All coaching at London Sport Academy is conducted in English.

This includes:

- exercise explanations,
- technical corrections,
- safety instructions,
- organisational communication,
- group interaction.

2.2. English is the official and primary working language of the club.

3. Use of Additional Languages

At times, a coach may briefly repeat an instruction or correction in another language.

This is permitted only in the following circumstances:

3.1. When a gymnast does not yet have sufficient English to fully understand an instruction.

The purpose is to ensure that the gymnast:

- understands what is being asked,
- can perform the exercise safely,
- avoids unnecessary risk of injury.

3.2. Any language that the gymnast understands may be used, including but not limited to:

- Russian
- Ukrainian
- Romanian
- Spanish
- Italian
- Arabic
- Farsi
- any other language required for clarity

3.3. The use of an additional language is not a sign of preference, favouritism or exclusion.

It is solely a tool used to support:

- safety,
- clarity,
- and effective coaching.

4. Equality and Inclusion Principles

The use of additional languages:

- does not breach the club's equality or inclusion policies,
- does not give advantage to any gymnast,
- does not exclude any gymnast from the coaching process.

London Sport Academy adheres fully to its Inclusion and Equality Policy and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

5. Responsibilities of Coaches

Coaches are required to:

- deliver all coaching primarily in English,
- ensure that instructions are understandable to all gymnasts,
- use an additional language only when necessary for clarity or safety,
- avoid extended conversations in another language unless directly coaching-related,
- maintain an inclusive and respectful environment for all gymnasts.

6. Responsibilities of Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians agree to:

- respect the multilingual environment of the club,
- understand that the use of other languages supports safety and clarity,
- refrain from interpreting the use of any additional language as discrimination or exclusion,
- raise any concerns through the official club Complaints and Grievance Procedure.

7. Links to Other Club Policies

This policy forms part of the London Sport Academy governance framework and should be read alongside:

- Parents/Guardians Code of Conduct
- Inclusion and Equality Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Complaints and Grievance Procedure

8. Conclusion

London Sport Academy is a multicultural club with gymnasts from a wide range of linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

While English is the primary language used in all coaching, the use of additional languages is sometimes necessary to ensure safety, clarity and effective learning.

The controlled and purposeful use of other languages is a recognised and appropriate practice in a diverse training environment.