

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

(Based on British Gymnastics Safeguarding Standards)

Version 1.0 | Effective from: 2025

Approved by: Club Director (Kristina Ondon Tukilush)

1. POLICY STATEMENT

London Sport Academy (“LSA”) is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and positive environment for all children and young people participating in gymnastics.

The club recognises its duty of care under:

- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)
- Equality Act 2010
- British Gymnastics Safeguarding Policies & Procedures

All staff, coaches, volunteers, gymnasts and parents share responsibility for safeguarding and protecting children.

This policy outlines how LSA implements British Gymnastics safeguarding standards within our club and how concerns must be reported.

2. ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This is a London Sport Academy policy.

It is based on, but not identical to, British Gymnastics Safeguarding Policy & Procedures.

BG documents provide the national framework.

This LSA policy provides the local club implementation.

This ensures:

- compliance with BG requirements
- clarity for gymnasts and parents
- clear internal responsibilities
- legally correct safeguarding practices

3. DEFINITIONS

Safeguarding

Protecting children from abuse, harm, neglect, exploitation or unsafe practices.

Child

Anyone under 18.

Designated Safeguarding Lead / Welfare Officer

Person responsible for managing concerns, reporting and implementing safeguarding practice.

For LSA, this is:

Welfare Officer:

Halina Yarashevich

 info.east.lsa@gmail.com

 07591826431

4. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 The Club (London Sport Academy)

LSA must:

- provide a safe environment
- implement safeguarding procedures compliant with BG
- train staff on safeguarding
- ensure safe recruitment (DBS checks, reference checks)
- respond promptly to concerns
- maintain confidentiality
- escalate concerns to British Gymnastics or authorities if necessary
- maintain accurate records

4.2 Welfare Officer (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

The Welfare Officer must:

- receive and record concerns
- assess risk
- follow BG safeguarding process
- escalate concerns to BG Safeguarding Team where required
- liaise with Director and external agencies
- maintain Safeguarding Log
- ensure club compliance with safeguarding training

4.3 Coaches & Staff

All coaches must:

- follow this policy and BG policies
- complete safeguarding training
- maintain professional boundaries
- avoid inappropriate physical contact
- report concerns immediately
- act in the best interests of children
- avoid unnecessary 1:1 situations
- maintain safe communication practices
- uphold Language Use in Coaching Policy

4.4 Parents/Guardians

Parents must:

- report concerns to the Welfare Officer
- communicate respectfully
- follow Complaints & Grievance Procedure
- avoid confronting other children or parents
- avoid sharing allegations on social media / WhatsApp
- respect the diversity of the club (cultural, linguistic, religious)
- understand that additional language use by coaches is permitted for safety (see Language Use in Coaching Policy)

4.5 Gymnasts

Gymnasts must:

- treat others with respect
- report anything that makes them uncomfortable
- behave safely and responsibly
- follow coach instructions
- avoid exclusion, teasing or harmful behaviour

5. TYPES OF ABUSE

Based on Working Together (2023) & BG safeguarding:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Bullying & cyberbullying
- Discriminatory abuse
- Online exploitation
- Poor practice by adults or peers

Any concern involving immediate danger → call police (999) and inform Welfare Officer.

6. REPORTING PROCEDURES

6.1 How to Report

Concerns must be reported immediately to:

LSA Welfare Officer

 info.east.lsa@gmail.com

 07591826431

If the concern involves the Welfare Officer → contact:

Club Director

Kristina Ondon Tukilush

 londonsportacademy@yahoo.co.uk

6.2 External Contacts (if needed)

British Gymnastics Safeguarding Team

 safeguarding@british-gymnastics.org

 0345 129 7129

Police (Emergency) – 999

Local Authority Children's Services – (London Borough relevant to training venue)

7. LSA INTERNAL PROCESS (CLUB LEVEL)

1. Concern received
2. Welfare Officer logs incident
3. Initial assessment of risk
4. Parents notified (unless this increases risk)
5. Action plan or escalation
6. Referral (if required)
 - British Gymnastics
 - Police
 - Social Services
7. Outcome recorded in Safeguarding Log
8. Monitoring period

8. CONFIDENTIALITY & DATA PROTECTION

- All safeguarding records are confidential and stored securely.
- Only individuals with a legitimate safeguarding role may access records.
- LSA follows UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

9. RELATED LSA POLICIES

This policy must be read together with:

- Parent Communication & Behaviour Policy
- Language Use in Coaching Policy
- Inclusion & Equality Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Parents/Guardians/Gymnasts Code of Conduct
- Complaints & Grievance Procedure

These policies reinforce safeguarding by supporting:

- safe communication
- anti-discrimination
- responsible parental behaviour
- respectful multilingual coaching practices
- safe environment for children

10. SAFE COACHING PRACTICE

Coaches must:

- avoid 1:1 isolation
- keep communication professional
- use additional languages only for safety/clarity (see Language Policy)
- avoid unnecessary physical contact
- never transport children alone (unless agreed and logged)
- avoid social media connections with gymnasts
- never engage in behaviour that could be misinterpreted

11. SAFER RECRUITMENT

LSA ensures:

- DBS checks for all staff
- reference checks
- safeguarding training
- clear job descriptions
- probation period monitoring
- code of conduct signed by staff

12. MONITORING & REVIEW

This policy is reviewed annually or sooner if:

- legislation changes
- BG policies are updated
- an incident highlights need for revision

13. CONTACT DETAILS

Welfare Officer

Halina Yarashevich

 info.east.lsa@gmail.com

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Club Director

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