

## Hawth Gymnastics Social Networking Policy – MEMBERS UNDER 18

It has come to Hawth Gymnastics (HG) attention that Social Networking sites are increasingly being used as methods of communication between members and sometimes coaches. After taking advice from our national governing body British Gymnastics it has been suggested that, ***'members in a position of trust should not be in contact with young people through social networking sites if they hold such a position in respect of that individual young person'***.

1. Do not ask your club coach or teacher to be your social networking site friend – they will refuse as that would be in breach of good coaching practice.
2. Use the internet positively and do not place yourself at risk. Have a look at [www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk) for some useful tips.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Never post or send any photographs, videos or make comments that may be: Hurtful, untrue and upsetting and you may regret sharing later on; or may be used by other people in a way you did not intend or want.
6. Do not put pictures of other club members on the site within the club setting as you may be in breach of the HG Photography Policy. ***If you do wish to upload such a picture you must get advice and consent of your parent, the other young person and their parent and a club officer*** before even considering uploading such a photo. This does not prevent you having pictures of your gymnastic friends on your site taken outside of the sporting arena but it is good advice to always ensure they and their parents are happy with any picture you have of them on your site.
7. Always be aware that social networking sites are a method of communication like letter writing and the spoken word. They are bound by the same laws and rules. Such technology is instant and this allows you as the user to react in the 'heat of the moment', where in the past you would have been required to write a letter which would have taken time and allowed for you to think again before sending. So never place a comment on the internet that you would not put in writing or say to the individual concerned as to do so may not only breach HG Policy but also the law.

***If you have any issues with the above and need anything to be clarified further, please contact our Welfare Officer.***