

Southampton Gymnastics Club

Squad Parent Code of Conduct – Addendum



This document is an addition to the Southampton Gymnastics Club Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct. It applies specifically to parents/guardians of gymnasts training in the Squad Programme and is to be read in conjunction with the General Code.

The standards below reflect the commitment, responsibility, and expectations that come with being part of a squad pathway. They are designed to ensure clarity, fairness, and the best environment for every gymnast to thrive.

1. Supporting the Squad Environment

- Parents are expected to respect that squad coaching is about the success of the whole group, the overall development and future of the squad programme as well as individual gymnasts.
- Coaching instructions, pairings, and training are decided based on professional judgment and must not be influenced by outside pressure.
- Supporting your child means backing the process, trusting the expertise of the coaching team, and reinforcing resilience, sportsmanship, and independence.
- Parents are expected to support the behavioural and training expectations outlined in the Gymnast Squad Code of Conduct, which is shared separately and agreed to by gymnasts and families.

2. Trusting the Process

- Squad gymnastics requires long-term planning, structured progressions, and at times, difficult decisions.
- Coaches will always act in line with British Gymnastics policies, club values, and what is in the best interest of each gymnast and the squad as a whole.
- The coach's decision is final regarding gymnastics decisions.

3. Pathways, Groupings and Partnerships

- The squad pathway is built around what is best for your child's progress, wellbeing, and long-term development.
- Pathway changes, groupings, and partnerships are considered carefully and with input from the whole lead coaching team.
- Gymnasts are encouraged to share their thoughts and goals, and coaches will always listen. However, decisions about pathways and progression will be guided by what is in the gymnast's best interests, balancing their input with professional judgement and long-term development.

4. Communication Standards

- Absences must be notified in writing to the child's lead coach. Coaches will determine whether sessions need to be made up and what impact absences may have on group work, partnerships, or competition entries.
- If your child will be late, please text the club's squad contact number: 07395 448120.
- Emotional and wellbeing needs must be shared with the lead coach, who will liaise with the Welfare Team where appropriate.

- Parents must respect the varied working hours of coaches and allow a few days for responses to non-urgent queries.
- Official communication will come only via club channels.
- Gymnasts are encouraged to share their thoughts and goals, and coaches will always listen. However, decisions about pathways and progression will be guided by what is in the gymnast's best interests, balancing their input with professional judgement and long-term development.

5. Behaviour Expectations – Serious Breaches

In addition to the General Code of Conduct, the following are considered serious breaches for squad parents:

a) Placing undue pressure on coaches to make decisions in favour of your child during or following a review period.

- Southampton Gymnastics Club does not tolerate harassment, intimidation, or bullying (emotional, physical, or verbal) between members, nor from parents towards staff.
- The club reserves the right to remove members with immediate effect if behaviour is deemed unjustifiably intimidating, threatening, or accusational.

b) Undermining or actively challenging a recommended pathway or change once it has been offered.

- If a parent attempts to block, undermine, or challenge a pathway decision in a way that disrupts the process or creates division, this will be treated as a serious breach of the Parent Code of Conduct.
- Breaches may result in disciplinary action, including possible removal from the squad programme.

6. Observation & Supporting from the Side-lines

We understand that watching your child train can be a source of pride and reassurance. However, guidance from youth sport and child development research highlights the importance of balanced viewing:

- Occasional observation can be beneficial, but watching every session from the viewing area may create pressure for your child and distraction for the group.
- Gymnasts may feel more self-conscious or anxious under constant observation, especially during corrections or when attempting new skills
- Coaches may also find it difficult to deliver effective sessions when side-line behaviours unintentionally cause distraction
- We welcome parents staying in the facility and using the meeting room and seating available in the waiting area – let's make it a warm area for all.
- Keep your viewing to 10 minutes so that the space can be shared amongst all parents wishing to view
- We kindly ask that parents do not signal or disturb their child whilst in training. This can distract the gymnast and their safety, along with others.

7. Agreement

By accepting this addendum, you confirm that:

1. You have read, understood, and agreed to the General Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct and this Squad Addendum.
2. You recognise that breaches of this addendum may lead to disciplinary action, including suspension or withdrawal of your child's place in the squad programme.

Please click on the following link to log into your Love Admin account to accept and agree to this Code of Conduct:

[Love Admin Login](#)