

Suspended Members

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does Scottish Gymnastics suspend members?

Under the Scottish Gymnastics Conduct in Sport Code, there may be circumstances whereby it is necessary to temporarily suspend members. You can read more in our [Conduct in Sport Code](#) which you'll find in the safeguarding section of the website under policies and procedures.

The suspension of Scottish Gymnastics membership is a neutral act carried out to safeguard the suspended member and those involved in an investigation. Whilst this neutral act is designed to protect and minimise the impact on all involved, we do recognise that a suspension of membership can be very distressing.

The decision to suspend a membership can be made by the chief executive officer or by the chair of the conduct in sport panel.

Why have I been suspended?

Members who are accused of serious offences where there is a police investigation are likely to face a temporary suspension. The decision to suspend a membership can also be taken for members who are being investigated by Scottish Gymnastics for serious breaches of our rules and policies including the [Code of Practice for Coaches and Officials](#).

There are several factors which can lead to Scottish Gymnastics taking the decision to temporarily suspend a membership, these include (but are not limited to)

- If children may be at risk
- If the suspended member requires protective measures
- If there is evidence to suggest a serious breach of rules and policies including the Code of Practice for Coaches and Officials.
- If there is a risk to the reputation of Scottish Gymnastics
- To protect the integrity of an investigation

In what way does suspension affect me, what will I be allowed to do?

If you are suspended, you are not allowed to work as a coach either paid or voluntary in any club registered with Scottish Gymnastics, nor take part in, or officiate at any event organised for or on behalf of Scottish Gymnastics. This includes online/virtual activity.

The decision to suspend your membership has been taken as a precautionary measure; no assumption of guilt applies, and it is not a disciplinary measure.

If you are employed by your club, you should refer to your employer's policy on suspension, which should be included within the disciplinary policy, as this could affect your pay.

Suspended member renewals process

A suspended member will not be permitted to renew their membership until the suspension has been lifted. A suspended member continues to be bound by the terms of their suspension regardless of their renewal status.

What happens now?

Scottish Gymnastics is committed to issuing and maintaining temporary suspensions only when it is necessary to do so, and to lifting suspensions or taking further action as soon as possible. This will usually be when a review or investigation by Scottish Gymnastics, or an external agency such as the police, has been completed. While the suspension is in place it will be reviewed regularly.

Who will be informed about my suspension?

In order to protect the integrity of an investigation and to safeguard those involved and the suspended member, Scottish Gymnastics will only share the information that membership is suspended, on a strict need to know basis. No additional information will be shared

As a Scottish Gymnastic member, you currently have dual membership with British Gymnastics, so this information will be shared with British Gymnastics, the club you belong to would be advised as would relevant Scottish Gymnastics staff members. No further information will be shared unless we are requested to do so by the statutory agencies.

How is my case managed?

The safeguarding manager would be the first point of contact for the suspended member throughout the case and would liaise with all parties involved in a complaint and, where appropriate, the statutory agencies.

On occasion Scottish Gymnastics may deem it necessary to engage independent investigators to carry out an investigation. If this is the case the safeguarding manager will continue to oversee the investigation however the independent investigator may be your point of contact.

How long will my suspension last?

This will vary on a case-by-case basis. If there is an investigation by the police or other statutory agency, this may have to be concluded prior to Scottish Gymnastics completing our own conduct in sport procedures, this decision will be taken on a case-by-case basis.

If our investigation reveals there is a case to answer, it will be referred to the conduct in sport panel for consideration, regardless of the outcome of an external investigation. In some cases, it may be agreed that there is no further action to take. If this is the case, your suspension will be lifted, and this will be communicated to you and to all relevant parties.

Scottish Gymnastics commits to providing regular updates to suspended members, even when there is no new information to share.

Why haven't I been told what the allegations against me are?

There may be occasions where we are unable to share the detail of any allegations made against you. This is, in many cases, a decision that is taken by the Police and is designed to ensure that the integrity of an investigation is not affected, to safeguarding you and to safeguarding the complainer.

If a conduct hearing is convened, as part of our conduct in sport procedures, you will be invited to a meeting, given an opportunity to hear the allegations, to answer any questions put to you and for you to provide your version of events regarding what has been alleged, normally once a police investigation has been completed.

Where can I access support?

The safeguarding manager is your first point of contact if you have any concerns with how your case is being managed.

As part of your Scottish Gymnastics membership, you have access to a free 24-hour telephone counselling service. The service can be accessed by calling 0117 934 2121. Any information shared will remain strictly confidential between DAS Law and the member.

If you are struggling, your GP should be able to offer you referrals to support services or treatment options. There are also several local and national charities who offer support services, or someone to talk to.

SAMH - Scottish Association for Mental Health: call 0344 800 0550

Samaritans: call 116 123 or email: jo@samaritans.org

Breathing Space: call 0800 83 85 87

MIND - (for better mental health): call 0208 215 2243 or email: info@mind.org.uk.

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