



Scottish Gymnastics Youth Forum (2019-2021)

Information for Parents

Why is Scottish Gymnastics creating this forum?

Gymnastics can be enjoyed from an early age. In fact, 80% of Scottish Gymnastics members are under the age of 18.

Our 12-year strategy, introduced in 2015, set out a clear direction for the organisation, changing how we deliver member services and are developing the sport in Scotland. This was after significant consultation with our membership and technical disciplines, but not the young people involved in our sport.

We want to establish a formal group to represent our younger membership and be the voice of children and young people in gymnastics in Scotland. The forum would meet with Scottish Gymnastics staff and stakeholder groups, giving their views on specific topics to inform the aims and values of our organisation.

Establishing this group is in line with the *Standards for Child Wellbeing and Protection in Sport*, under which we operate, which take a broader, more child-centred and rights-based approach to keep children safe in sport, with children and young people having a say and their views taken into account.

Vision:

Children and young people's views inform and influence the aims, values and development of Scottish Gymnastics.

Purpose and Role:

- Work as a collection of children and young people with Scottish Gymnastics staff to advance the strategic plan, developing our communications and programmes across key functional areas of the organisation
- Influence the wider sporting agenda through key partners and stakeholders and the importance of sport on the lives of young people
- Identify and develop the future leaders of our sport in Scotland
- Increase the profile and reputation of gymnastics in Scotland, the UK and beyond
- Provide an interactive platform for the Scottish Gymnastics staff team and our membership, to network and offer collaborative approaches to areas of work, share knowledge and expertise
- Provide learning and development opportunities for young people, developing key transferable skills for their future development
- Act as a key advisory group for staff, board sub-groups and Scottish Gymnastics' board of directors



Membership Representation and Recruitment:

The group will be made up of up to 12 children and young people (CYP) aged between 10 and 24 years who will be identified through a formal recruitment process. These will be two-year positions, from 2019 to 2021. As the group will be representative of our membership, we aim to recruit a minimum of one primary school-age person. The group would be represented as follows:

- Chair:** Samantha Hendrikson (Head of Performance & Education)
- Support:** Key staff – based on agenda led items

Thematic discussions:

Through the recruitment process, we would like the young people to identify where they feel they have a *'super strength'* to contribute to Scottish Gymnastics, in one or more of the following thematic areas:

- gymnastics pathways (i.e. participation, competitive, performance)
- coaching and judging
- clubs and safeguarding
- communications and social media

We will hold up to four meetings annually and each meeting will have a thematic/project focus based on areas of the strategic plan and new areas of activity moving into the next cycle of the strategy.

We ask that those appointed commit to attending a minimum of three of the four meetings in person. Video technology can be explored for meetings they can't attend in person.

The group would be the face and voice of the young people in our sport, as a sounding board to test new ideas and content. It is essential we have a range of experiences and gymnastics journeys within the group to represent our membership.

Meetings will take place quarterly, with dates communicated by the Chair and will rotate across the country, and held on weekends or holiday periods to minimise clashes with training, coaching, school, university and work commitments.



Recruitment Process:

Stage 1: Application

We are asking young people to send us a video which is as creative as possible and no longer than two minutes long, in their own words, covering the following:

- Tell us about your gymnastics story
- Why do you enjoy gymnastics?
- Why are you involved in gymnastics and what keeps you interested in the sport?
- How could Scottish Gymnastics improve gymnastics in Scotland?
- Why do you want to be part of the Gymnastics Youth Forum?
- In relation to the key focus areas of the forum, what is your 'super strength' which you feel you could bring to the forum and why?
- Describe yourself in five words

Videos should be sent to us at hr@scottishgymnastics.org via a free file sharing service, such as [wetransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com) or mailbigfile.com before 9am Friday 29 March. There is also an online [application form](#) which must be completed by 9am Friday 29 March contact info for a parent/guardian/carer if the applicant is under 18.

Stage. 2: Shortlisting

Scottish Gymnastics staff will carefully go through all submissions to shortlist those to go to interview stage.

Stage. 3: Interview

At interview stage there will be two parts:

- 1 Group task (one hour): the group will address **a topic provided on the day to discuss**. Two Scottish Gymnastics gymnast ambassadors will be on hand to help interact and facilitate discussions with the young people.
- 2 1:1 interview (maximum 20 minutes long)

Costs:

- Scottish Gymnastics will cover travel expenses (in line with our volunteer expenses policy) for all young people selected on the panel and will provide appropriate catering during meetings we hold
- Appointed young people will also be provided with leisurewear (t-shirt/hoody/bag) to represent and provide recognition of their value and input, and also spread awareness in club environments of their role with Scottish Gymnastics



2019-2020 Meeting dates

If selected to the forum, the following dates will require attendance:

- Meeting 1 Date: Saturday 1 June 2019
 Time: 10am – 4pm
 Venue: TBC
- Meeting 2 Date: Saturday 17 August 2019
 Time: 10am – 4pm
 Venue: TBC
- Meeting 3 Date: Saturday 2 November 2019
 Time: 10am – 4pm
 Venue: TBC
- Meeting 4 Date: Saturday 18 January 2020
 Time: 10am – 4pm
 Venue: TBC

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Please email sam.hendrikson@scottishgymnastics.org

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