

Club Guidance – Suspended Members

Document Control

Version	Status	Approval Date	Approved by (Role)	Next Review Date
V1.0	LIVE	04/08/2026	Governance & Safe Sport Director	04/08/2027

Change History

Version	Author	Summary of Changes	Date
V1.0		New document	04/08/2026

Introduction

For safeguarding matters, the Home Countries – British Gymnastics (BG), Scottish Gymnastics (SG) and Welsh Gymnastics (WG) – work collaboratively to promote consistency, clarity and the highest standards of practice across the sport.

Membership operates on a shared basis across the Home Countries. This means that individuals who are members of a Home Country governing body also hold a linked membership with British Gymnastics. As a result, members may engage in roles, activities and environments across different Home Country jurisdictions. To ensure a consistent and effective safeguarding approach, this guidance applies across all Home Country environments. It is intended to provide clear and aligned expectations, supporting clubs to understand and uphold safeguarding responsibilities wherever activity takes place.

This guidance is intended to provide information around what activities and interactions Members that are subject to an Interim Suspension (Suspended Members) MAY and MUST NOT undertake within BG/SG/WG Registered Clubs and Recognised Environments.

If there are any questions related to the information provided within this guidance, clarification should be sought by contacting the relevant Home Country support team –

- British Gymnastics: welfareandsafesport@british-gymnastics.org
- Scottish Gymnastics: safeguarding@scottishgymnastics.org
- Welsh Gymnastics: Safeguarding@welshgymnastics.org

Interim suspension

For clarity, an Interim Suspension is a protective measure, not a disciplinary sanction. It is put in place to safeguard all parties involved, including participants, clubs, and the individual concerned, while matters are assessed or investigated. An Interim Suspension does not imply any finding of fault or presumption of guilt. It is a neutral measure intended to manage risk and ensure that appropriate processes can be carried out fairly and without interference.

Where an individual is subject to an Interim Suspension (or expulsion) by any Home Country, this applies across all Home Countries. The expectations and restrictions set out in this guidance therefore apply across all gymnastics environments and activities, regardless of location.

Summary:



A Suspended Member, for the period their Interim Suspension is in place, must not take part in, influence, support, promote or access BG/SG/WG Recognised Activity or BG/SG/WG Recognised Environments in any capacity, whether paid or unpaid, in person or online, supervised or unsupervised. This also includes no involvement in any capacity in any of the environments governed by any and all Affiliated Associations, including Home Countries, Regional Associations and sanctioned Committees (i.e. Technical Committees, Event Organising Committees etc.).

Suspended Members MUST NOT:

- Coach (including trainee coaching or assistant coaching), judge, officiate or participate in any role relating to the delivery of gymnastics in a BG/SG/WG registered club or environment, whether supervised or not.
- Help informally or as an unqualified helper whether supervised or not.
- Take part in sessions in any role whether supervised or not.
- Influence or advise the club, its management, or its members, whether supervised or not.
- Provide safeguarding or welfare support whether supervised or not.
- Deliver, assess, verify or otherwise support any education, training or development activity, including acting as a tutor, educator, assessor, internal verifier, or delivering courses, assessments or CPD sessions, whether supervised or not. This includes giving advice, guidance, instruction, or mentoring (formal or informal) to registered members.
- Provide sport or wellbeing support, either paid or unpaid, whether supervised or not, including (but not limited to):
 - Choreography, dance, or artistry
 - Strength & conditioning or fitness training
 - Nutrition or wellbeing services
 - Sports psychology
 - Physiotherapy, medical or recovery services
- Manage, administer, or govern including holding management, committee or trustee roles, any roles of power and authority, or carry out admin or operational roles involving:
 - attendance at the club.
 - contact with members or staff, either physically or virtually.
 - access to member data.
 - promote or engage digitally including running or appear in club marketing.
 - post, moderate, or engage on club social media, messaging platforms, or online content.
- Attend events in any active role including competitions, camps, clinics, festivals (either club, regional or national level), business or community events.

If there are any specific variations to the terms of an Interim Suspension that BG/SG/WG have agreed to, the Suspended Member should provide evidence to the club before commencing any activity within or on behalf of the Registered Club.

Suspended Members MAY (under strict conditions):

For this section, “operational” means any time Recognised Activity is taking place or registered members/families are present.

A Suspended Member may:

- Own a club business or premises.
 - Only if ownership duties do not require attendance while the club is operational
- Run unrelated businesses from owned premises.
 - Only if not linked to gymnastics and no registered members/families are present
- Carry out maintenance work.
 - Only outside operational hours, with no member contact and no access to activity areas where members or their families are or could be present.
- Attend events as a parent/carer.



- Only with explicit permission from BG/SG/WG and also subsequent prior club permission, either of which may be conditional, event-specific or withdrawn.
- Provide off-site professional services (e.g. accountant)
 - Only if there is no club attendance, no contact with members and no access to member data.

Club Responsibilities

- Clubs must take reasonable and proportionate steps to prevent prohibited access or involvement. This may require risk assessments including removing access to club management systems, documentation, website, social media, and messaging platforms.
- When considering a Suspended Members request to attend any events, BG/SG/WG will consider any potential impact on the club, its staff and any other attendees, including participants and their families, and the club should also carefully consider those matters.
- If difficulties arise, contact BG/SG/WG immediately for support - do not try to manage complex situations alone.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- It remains the responsibility of the club to ensure any Suspended Members do not access or attend the club in any of the ways that are outlined in the 'MUST NOT' section of this document.
- If the club and/or its officers/coaches/participants are having difficulty in preventing attendance, they should contact the relevant Home Country support team on welfareandsafesport@british-gymnastics.org, safeguarding@scottishgymnastics.org or Safeguarding@welshgymnastics.org immediately to notify them of the circumstances, to enable BG/SG/WG to support the club appropriately.
- The Suspended Member should respect the decision of the Registered Club if applying to attend an event in the capacity of direct family member and refrain from engaging with officers and members of the club except where necessary for their attendance.
- The Suspended Member should respect the restrictions set out in this guidance and not put any registered members or their immediate families in difficult positions by attempting, either successfully or unsuccessfully, to contact, speak to or engage with them in any capacity, either physically or virtually. If such unwanted contact is made, the club or member should contact the relevant Home Country support team immediately to notify them of the circumstances, to enable BG/SG/WG to support the club or member appropriately.
- Where a Suspended Member has an external, non-club relationship with a registered member, they should ensure the engagement in that relationship remains outside of gymnastics and respects the boundaries set out in this guidance.

Early clarification is always preferable to managing issues retrospectively.

If in doubt - pause the activity and contact BG/SG/WG:

- British Gymnastics: welfareandsafesport@british-gymnastics.org
- Scottish Gymnastics: safeguarding@scottishgymnastics.org
- Welsh Gymnastics: Safeguarding@welshgymnastics.org

