

Guidance for Suspended Members

Document Control

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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 both members and 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.

Suspended Members MUST NOT:



Take part in any BG/SG/WG Recognised Activity in a BG/SG/WG Recognised Environment (see Interpretation section at the end of this document for definitions) including but not limited to:

- Coach in any capacity (including, trainee coaching, assistant coaching or supervising activity) whether supervised or not.
- Judge in any capacity whether supervised or not.
- Assist as an unqualified helper in any capacity whether supervised or not.
- Provide safeguarding provision in any capacity whether supervised or not.
- Provide chaperoning, 2nd supervising adult, general supervision in any capacity whether supervised or not.
- Provide advice, guidance and/or mentoring to any registered member that holds or is undertaking any BG/SG/WG recognised qualification, accreditation, or CPD.
- 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.
- Undertake any role, whether paid or voluntary, at any BG/SG/WG organised, recognised or sanctioned event, including but not limited to event delivery, competition management, floor management, marshalling, registration, or any other operational or support role, whether supervised or not.
- Provide Sport Support Services in any capacity whether supervised or not including but not limited to:
 - Choreography and associated provision of dance/artistry services
 - Strength & Conditioning (including any type of fitness/training specialists)
 - Nutritionists and other unregulated wellbeing practitioners (e.g. massage, therapists)
 - Sports psychology and associated psychological support service provision.
 - Physiotherapy and other regulated, associated physical health service providers (e.g. chiropractors etc.)
 - Other regulated medical practitioners including any associated health related service providers (e.g. injury recovery specialists, holistic therapies etc.)
- Carry out any managerial roles or roles of power and authority related to actively managing the club, its coaches, or participants such as, but not limited to: Operations Manager, Club Manager, committee roles, Trustee where the role requires them to attend the club and/or engage with members of the club in any capacity either physically or virtually, whether supervised or not.
- Carry out any administrative roles related to actively assisting the club, its coaches or participants (i.e. membership, event entry, DBS/Disclosure Scotland verifying, reception, health & safety, maintenance) where the role requires them to attend the club and/or engage with members of the club in any capacity either physically or virtually, whether supervised or not.
- Carry out any marketing roles related to the promotion or presence of the club in any digital platform where registered members are the intended or likely audience (i.e. social media, messaging platforms, video subscription services etc.). This includes being a member of any messaging platform group where registered members or their families are part of that group, unless the Suspended Member is acting solely in the capacity as a direct family member, with prior permission of the club.
- Participate in sessions in any capacity whether supervised or not.
- Attend, in any active capacity, any BG/SG/WG organised, recognised or sanctioned events including but not limited to festivals, camps, clinics, club competitions, national or regional competitions, business events, or national or regional community events.
- Attend any non-gymnastics club event, including social, fundraising, or similar event where registered members will be or are likely to be present.
- Carry out any formal roles within local, regional, or national technical or organisational committees.
- The Suspended Member should 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.

Variations to Suspension

- Unless explicitly confirmed in writing, the Interim Suspension applies in full and prohibits any involvement, in any capacity, within environments governed by BG/SG/WG and all Affiliated Organisations. This includes, but is not limited to, all Home Countries, Regional Associations and any sanctioned committees (e.g. Technical Committees, Event Organising Committees etc.)
- Where any specific variations to the terms of an Interim Suspension have been agreed by BG/SG/WG, the Suspended Member must provide written confirmation of those agreed variations to the club before undertaking any permitted activity within, or on behalf of, the club.
- In the event of any difference between this guidance and the terms set out in an individual suspension letter, the details provided within the suspension letter will take precedence.



Suspended Members MAY:

Continue with their operation, running or ownership of the business and/or premises that does not include taking part in any BG/SG/WG Recognised Activity in a BG/SG/WG Recognised Environment including but not limited to:

- Owning the business where the ownership and any associated duties DOES NOT require attendance in the same area that Recognised Activity, including the attendance of participants and their spectators, is operational.
- Owning the premises where the management of the premises and any associated duties DOES NOT require attendance whilst the club is operational.
- Running alternative, unrelated businesses from owned premises provided the other business activities are NOT related to the BG/SG/WG Recognised Environment and Recognised Activities, and DOES NOT require attendance in the area that recognised gymnastics activity is taking place or where registered members (including their immediate families) are likely to be present.
- Providing maintenance services within the premises provided the maintenance provision DOES NOT require attendance in the area that recognised gymnastics activity is taking place or where registered members (including their immediate families) are likely to be present.
- Carrying out any administrative roles related to actively assisting the club such as, but not limited to: accountant, business advisor, completing annual returns etc. Where the role DOES NOT require them to attend the club and/or engage with members of the club in any capacity either physically or virtually, whether supervised or not, and does not require access to individual member data or information in any way.

Ability to request attendance at events in the role of parent or spectator:

Where a suspended member wishes to attend a club, regional or national event of any type, this would be deemed to be a request to vary the terms of suspension and should be requested directly from the Lead Officer of the relevant organisation, setting out the details of the event and the reasons for the requested variation.

Where such a variation is agreed by BG/SG/WG, it would be limited to:

- Attendance at club events, where the Suspended Member is attending solely in the capacity as a direct family member. Attendance as a spectator must be limited to the time the participant is actively engaged in the event.
- Attendance at BG/SG/WG delivered, recognised or sanctioned events including festivals, county, regional or national competitions, where the Suspended Member is attending solely in the capacity as a direct family member of a participant. Attendance as a spectator must be limited to the time the participant is actively engaged in the event.

SUPPORT FOR SUSPENDED MEMBERS

BG/SG/WG Members that are subject to an Interim Suspension can access support in the following ways:

For British Gymnastics Suspensions:

- By contacting the Lead Officer that is assigned to their case. The Lead Officer will be able to provide updates on progress of the case and confirm the next steps and likely timescales for progress, including when suspension reviews are required.
- By contacting the National Welfare team, who will be able to provide general support but will not be able to provide details or updates related to the case.
- By contacting the Aviva Counselling service, who may be able to provide online or telephone counselling sessions to support the mental health of the member subject to an Interim Suspension. They will not have information relating to the case and so will only be able to provide specific wellbeing and mental health support to the member. To access the counselling service, please contact the relevant Safe Sport team welfareandsafesport@british-gymnastics.org

For Scottish Gymnastics Cases



- By contacting the Safe Sport Officer that is assigned to their case. The Safe Sport Officer will be able to provide updates on progress of the case and confirm the next steps and likely timescales for progress, including when suspension reviews are required.
- By contacting the Wellbeing & Safe Sport Team who will be able to provide general support but will not be able to provide details or updates related to the case.
- By contacting the Aviva Counselling Service, who may be able to provide online or telephone counselling sessions to support the mental health of the member subject to an Interim Suspension. They will not have information relating to the case and so will only be able to provide specific wellbeing and mental health support to the member. To access the counselling service, please contact the relevant Safe Sport team: safeguarding@scottishgymnastics.org

For Welsh Gymnastics Cases

- By contacting the Lead Officer that is assigned to their case. The Lead Officer will be able to provide updates on progress of the case and confirm the next steps and likely timescales for progress, including when suspension reviews are required.
- By contacting Welsh Gymnastics Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team, who will be able to provide general support and signpost to external agencies.
- By contacting the Markel Suite, who will arrange for telephone counselling sessions to support the mental health of the member subject to an Interim Suspension. They will not have information relating to the case and so will only be able to provide specific wellbeing and mental health support to the member. To access the counselling service, please contact the Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team Safeguarding@welshgymnastics.org

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Suspended Member

- It is the responsibility of the Suspended Member to comply fully with the terms of their Interim Suspension and to ensure they do not access, attend, or participate in any activity or environment that is restricted under this guidance.
- The Suspended Member should respect the decision of the BG/SG/WG if applying to attend an event in the capacity of a direct family member. If attendance is agreed, the Suspended Member should refrain from engaging with officers and members of the club except where necessary for their attendance. When considering a request to attend, BG/SG/WG will consider any potential impact on the club, its staff and any other attendees, including participants and their families.
- 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. The club is not expected to monitor matters outside of their environment but should report any concerns they become aware of to the relevant Safe Sport team in their Home Country.

Clubs

- 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. This may require risk assessments including removing access to club management systems, documentation, website, social media, and messaging platforms.
- If the club becomes aware of unwanted contact made by the Suspended Member to other registered member/s then they should contact the relevant Safe Sport team in their Home Country immediately to notify them of the circumstances, to enable BG/SG/WG to support the member appropriately.
- If the club and/or its officers/coaches/participants are having difficulty in preventing attendance, they should contact the relevant Safe Sport team in their Home Country immediately to notify them of the circumstances, to enable BG/SG/WG to support the club appropriately
 - British Gymnastics: welfareandsafesport@british-gymnastics.org
 - Scottish Gymnastics: safeguarding@scottishgymnastics.org
 - Welsh Gymnastics: Safeguarding@welshgymnastics.org
- The club is not expected to monitor matters outside of their environment but should report any concerns they become aware of to the relevant Safe Sport team in their Home Country.

Membership with other Organisations and Information Sharing



- If a Suspended Member chooses to apply for membership with, or access the services of, an alternative gymnastics provider, it is their responsibility to declare the existence of their Interim Suspension to that organisation.
- Where an alternative provider contacts BG/SG/WG to verify the membership status of a Suspended Member, the organisation will confirm the existence and status of the Interim Suspension, subject to appropriate verification of the request. Relevant information may be shared, in accordance with data protection legislation, to enable the alternative organisation to assess the individual's suitability for membership or access to their services.
- In certain circumstances, BG/SG/WG may proactively share information about an Interim Suspension with other organisations where this is considered necessary and proportionate to safeguard participants and others. Any such sharing will be undertaken in line with safeguarding responsibilities and applicable data protection legislation.

Interpretation

Suspended Member

A Suspended Member is anyone who is subject to an Interim Suspension, applied as a protective measure, not a disciplinary sanction by British Gymnastics (BG), Scottish Gymnastics (SG) or Welsh Gymnastics (WG).

REGISTERED CLUB RECOGNISED ACTIVITY:

Each Registered Club must ensure that any activity carried out within the Registered Club falls within the definition of Recognised Activity as defined by the insurers of BG/SG/WG and the Registered Clubs, as follows:

Registered Clubs

For the purposes of this guidance, a "Recognised Activity" of a Registered Club means:

- The delivery of BG/SG/WG disciplines and activities to members and non-members undertaken by a qualified BG/SG/WG coach or instructor.
- Training for and the participation in competitions and non-competitive participation activities.
- Training camps and holiday camps organised and/or run by the club.
- Public Gymnastics Displays by BG/SG/WG members.
- Gymnastics based parties, including birthday parties, when supervised by a BG/SG/WG registered coach.
- Social events and fund-raising events arranged by a Registered Club but excluding activities involving the participation in a BG/SG/WG discipline or activity by non- BG/SG/WG members but shall under no circumstances include any unsupervised Pay and Play or similar sessions.
- The delivery of the British Gymnastics Foundation (BGF) Love to Move programme to appropriate participants, either as members or non-members, undertaken by a coach or deliverer that holds the relevant training accreditation as defined by BGF.
- The delivery of non-traditional gymnastics related activities where specific agreement has been obtained directly from BG/SG/WG by the club and the activities specifically agreed by BG/SG/WG and the Insurer.
- The delivery of Holiday Clubs/Summer Camps to either BG/SG/WG registered members, participants registered to the Block Registration Scheme, or non- BG/SG/WG members for the following:
 - o Supervision and coaching of gymnastic activity.
 - o Supervision of low-risk, non-gymnastic activity within and around the club environment.
 - o Supervision of non-gymnastic activities away from the club delivered by a third-party provider.

Coaches

For the purposes of this guidance, a "Recognised Activity" of a BG/SG/WG registered Coach means:

- Delivery of any BG/SG/WG discipline or activity carried out in a BG/SG/WG Recognised Environment, providing that the activity falls within the remit of a coach's recognised training and qualifications.
- The delivery or supervision of a BG/SG/WG registered club-arranged event, party, or holiday camp.
- The delivery of the British Gymnastics Foundation (BGF) Love to Move programme, carried out in an environment deemed suitable by BGF for the delivery of such activities, where the coach has completed the relevant supplemental accreditation as defined by BGF.
- The delivery of non-traditional gymnastics related activities where specific agreement has been obtained directly from BG/SG/WG by the coach/club and the activities are within the knowledge and skills of the coach based on their qualification syllabi and specifically agreed by BG/SG/WG and the Insurer.



- The delivery of Holiday Club/Summer Camp activity to either BG/SG/WG registered members, participants registered to the Block Registration Scheme or non- BG/SG/WG members for the following:
 - o Supervision and coaching of gymnastic activity.
 - o Supervision of low-risk, non-gymnastic activity within and around the club environment.
 - o Supervision of non-gymnastic activities away from the club delivered by a third-party provider.

Instructors

For the purposes of this guidance, a “Recognised Activity” of a BG/SG/WG-registered Instructor means:

- Delivery of any BG/SG/WG discipline or activity carried out in a BG/SG/WG Recognised Environment, providing that the activity falls within the remit of an Instructor’s recognised training and qualifications.
- The delivery or supervision of a BG/SG/WG registered club-arranged event, party, or holiday camp.

Members

For the purposes of this guidance, a “Recognised Activity” of a BG/SG/WG Registered Member means:

- Participation in any BG/SG/WG discipline or activity carried out in a BG/SG/WG Recognised Environment under the coaching or supervision of a BG/SG/WG Coach.
- Participation in a training camp or holiday camp organised and/or run by a BG/SG/WG Registered Club
- Participation in Public Gymnastics Displays organised and/or run by a BG/SG/WG Registered Club
- Participation in Gymnastics based parties, including birthday parties, when supervised by a BG/SG/WG registered coach and organised and/or run by a BG/SG/WG Registered Club
- Participation in Social events and fund-raising events organised and/or run by a BG/SG/WG Registered Club
- Participation in non-traditional gymnastics related activities where specific agreement has been obtained directly from BG/SG/WG by the club/coach and the activities specifically agreed by BG/SG/WG and the Insurer.
- Participation in Holiday Club/Summer Camp activity for the following:
 - o Participation in gymnastic activity.
 - o Participation in low-risk, non-gymnastic activity within and around the club environment.

BG/SG/WG RECOGNISED ENVIRONMENT:

Coaches, Instructors and Members

For the purposes of this guidance, a Recognised Environment as defined by the insurers of BG/SG/WG is:

- A BG/SG/WG registered club or BG/SG/WG registered club-arranged event.
- A BG/SG/WG registered leisure centre in respect of coached sessions involving participants registered to BG/SG/WG.
- An event organised and/or run by BG/SG/WG or a BG/SG/WG affiliated organisation.
- A school gymnastics class, including extra-curricular gymnastics classes provided to pupils of the school by the school, either held at the school or hosted on behalf of the school within a BG/SG/WG Registered Club venue.
- An environment deemed suitable by British Gymnastics Foundation (BGF) for the delivery of the BGF Love to Move programme by BGF accredited deliverers involving appropriate non-member participants.

PRIVACY NOTICE – MEMBERSHIP:

- For details regarding how British Gymnastics process personal data of its members, please check the Privacy Notice for Membership [here](#).
- For details regarding how Scottish Gymnastics process personal data of its members, please check the Privacy Notice for Membership [here](#).
- For details regarding how Welsh Gymnastics process personal data of its members, please check the Privacy Notice for Membership [here](#).

