

Milton Keynes Gymnastics Photography & Imagery Policy

Milton Keynes Gymnastics values photography and video as a way to celebrate achievements and promote our sport. However, safeguarding and privacy are paramount. This policy ensures photography is managed safely and in line with British Gymnastics guidance and UK data protection law.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All members, staff, volunteers, parents, and visitors.
- All photography and filming during training sessions, events, and competitions organised by the club.

Key Principles

- Images must never put a child at risk or cause distress.
- No photography in changing rooms, toilets, or private areas.
- Live streaming is not permitted unless authorised by the club.
- Images must comply with UK GDPR and be stored securely.
- Consent for photography is obtained during registration – ideally parents will discuss this with their child before giving consent.
- Parents/carers can withdraw consent at any time by notifying the club in writing.

Guidelines

- Only personal/consumer-level equipment may be used by non-accredited individuals.
- No flash, tripods, or telephoto lenses (over 135mm).
- Images should not include full names or personal details.
- While some editing of images is acceptable, images taken of gymnasts should not be modified, merged or manipulated in a way which might cause embarrassment or distress to the subject or cause the final image to be inappropriate.
- Official photographers must be identifiable and follow this policy.
- Due consideration must be given to the secure storage of images. They should not be stored on any personal device or published on personal social media platforms.
- The dress of a child should be considered when using the photo:
 - If it is a posed shot for example taken during a medal presentation, try to ensure that the child is fully clothed in a tracksuit or similar attire.
 - If it is an action shot, try to use profile imagery and avoid full-length shots. Alternatively, use digital software to blur the child's facial features.
- Do not use images that can appear staged and potentially provocative.
- Avoid using images that appear to focus unnecessarily directly on the groin area in movements where legs are in a split position.

Social Media

- Images posted online must be appropriate and checked before publishing.
- No images of children subject to safeguarding or legal restrictions shall be published.
- Individual coaches should not post images of gymnasts on their own personal social media accounts.

Reporting Concerns

Report any concerns about photography to the Club Welfare Officer or Event Organiser immediately. The club may ask individuals to stop photographing, delete images, or leave the venue if rules are breached.

British Gymnastics should be informed of any inappropriate use of imagery on Gymnastics websites or any other form of media, which is not in keeping with this guidance. Anyone discovering a child's image that appears to be being used illegally online should report the matter to Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (UK) (CEOP), who provide a single point of contact for reporting abuse of children online.

Do's and Don'ts for Photography

Do:

- Take photos that celebrate gymnastics in a positive way.
- Use first names only when publishing images.
- Check that consent has been given before sharing images.
- Report any concerns about inappropriate photography.

Don't:

- Take photos in changing rooms, toilets, or private areas.
- Use flash, tripods, or professional equipment without accreditation.
- Post images that could embarrass or distress a gymnast.
- Share images without consent or on public platforms without safeguards.