**Code of conduct for Parents/Carers**

As a Club we are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all our Club members. We believe it is important that all club members, coaches, officials and parents/carers associated with the club should, always, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others, equipment and facilities. The club’s aim is for all members to enjoy themselves whilst learning in a safe environment.

This Code of Conduct applies to parents/carers both when in the gym and when attending any external competitions and events.

* Familiarise yourself with the Club’s rules and policies to ensure understanding.
* Encourage your child to read the Code of Conduct for Gymnasts and abide by its contents.
* Do not distract your child during a training session. If you need to speak with a coach or your child, please ensure that this is done at the beginning or at the end of a session.
* Discourage challenging/arguing with coaches/officials.
* Publicly accept coaches’/officials’ judgments.
* Respect fellow club members & opponents when representing the club at competitions.
* Help your child to recognise good sportsmanship and applauding the good performances of all.
* Please avoid any behaviour that could be perceived as intimidating. This includes threatening or bullying behaviour and the club or it’s coaches into disrepute.
* Never force your child take part in sport.
* Always ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the activity and has plenty of water. Squad gymnasts must wear a leotard (male and female).
* No earrings are to be worn or should be taped appropriately if they are not yet healed.
* Gymnast’s hair must be tied up in a bun or French plaits (where the length permits) for all sessions. This is a health and safety requirement. Gymnasts will not be able to participate in a session if their hair is not appropriately tied up.
* Keep the Club informed if your child is ill or unable to attend and session. Your child’s place maybe forfeited if they do not attend for 3 weeks, without informing the coach first.
* Fees are paid monthly on or before the 20th of every monthly for the following full month.
* If your child’s fees are not paid on time, you will be charged a £10 late fee & your child’s place will not be guaranteed and training will not take place until payment is made.
* Parents will need to register with British Gymnastics yearly on the 1st of each month, this is your child’s insurance whilst in the gym.
* We require one month’s notice if you will be leaving the Club.
* If our venue is closed for any reason out of our control you will not be charged for this session, but we will always try to accommodate you by offering alternative dates.
* If you decide to take your child out of the Club for any reason e.g. Holidays, illnesses whilst the club is still open, you will be charged for these sessions.
* Please establish good communications with the Club, coaches and officials by ensuring all communication (verbally or in writing) is appropriate and respectful.
* Share any concerns or complaints about any aspect of the Club with your child’s Head Coach, Director or Welfare Officer through the appropriate channels via email at hertfordshiregymnastics@gmail.com.
* Always use correct and proper language when in the vicinity of club members and parents/carers.
* Respect the coaches’ knowledge of the sport and any decisions that are made regarding your child’s progress.
* Do not request to discuss any other gymnasts other than your own child.
* Never punish or belittle a child for poor performance or making mistakes.
* Report any incidents directly to your child’s Head Coach, Director or Welfare Officer as soon as possible.
* Always collect your child promptly at the end of the session, if your child is going home with someone different or you know that you may be late, please inform a coach as soon as possible.
* No parents are allowed in the gym during sessions or competition floor unless invited to do so.

If you are unhappy with any aspect of the Club or with the performance or behaviour of gymnasts or coaches, please express this in one of the following ways:

* By speaking directly to your child’s coach after the session
* By speaking directly/writing to the Director of HGC, Nicola Munns
* By speaking directly/writing to the Club’s Welfare Officer, Stephanie Collier

**HGC does not tolerate any form of aggressive behaviour (verbal or physical) from parents/carers towards any member of the Club whilst on Club premises or whilst attending external events. This includes but is not limited to gymnasts, coaches, officials and other parents/carers. Any parent/carer who is found to be exhibiting these behaviours will be refused permission to enter the Club premises.**

**In exceptional circumstances, and to ensure the welfare of all members of the Club, it may be necessary for the Club to consider ceasing a gymnast’s membership with the Club because of unacceptable behaviour from their parents/carers.**