

GYMNASTICS AUSTRALIA TOGETHER WITH BENTLEIGH MCKINNON GYMNASTICS

Child Safety Policy

Gymnastics Australia and Bentleigh McKinnon Gymnastics have a zero tolerance approach to any form of child abuse. We support the rights of children and we will act immediately to ensure an environment is maintained where children and all participants feel safe, respected, valued and empowered at all times.

BMGC expects children and young people who participate in its activities to have a safe and happy experience. BMGC supports and respects children, young people, staff, volunteers and participants.

The aim of this Policy is to protect the safety of children in our care and prevent abuse occurring, and in the event that allegations are raised in relation to child abuse, to ensure that the allegations are properly addressed. All complaints are treated seriously and are fully investigated and handled with maximum confidentiality and discretion.

Child protection is a shared responsibility between BMGC, its employees, workers, contractors, associates, parents/guardians, coaches, spectators, volunteers and members of the gymnastics community. Everyone who participates in BMGC activities is responsible for the care and protection of children, and reporting information about child abuse.

BMGC supports the active participation of all children. It listens to their views, respects what they say and involves them when making decisions, where appropriate, especially about matters that will directly affect them (including their safety).

BMGC supports and encourages a person to make a report to the Police or DHHS, if they form a belief on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection, or they are concerned about the safety, health or wellbeing of a child.

Any person that makes a report in good faith in accordance with their reporting obligations (whether mandatory or discretionary) will be supported by BMGC, and will not be penalised by BMGC or making the report.

If a person is uncertain as to whether they should make a report to an external authority in relation to the safety of a child, they may speak to the BMGC Manager or BMGC MPIO for guidance and information. If in doubt, ask for assistance.