

COMMUNICATION POLICY

UPDATED JUNE 2026

For Club Coaches, Officials and Volunteers

This policy covers the use of communication devices and the manner in which coaches, officials and volunteers can communicate with children (under 16) and young people (aged 16-17).

- Mobile Phones should not be in the gym and should be in the designation box in the gym away from view. There is an exception in the case where the gym club phone is used as a club contact number and/or for emergencies. This should be the only phone used the gym except in the case of emergencies where personal mobile phones may be used. Coaches are only allowed to use Mobile Phones when they are on work and lunch breaks.
- It is inappropriate for adult members to communicate with gymnasts under the age of 18 years by:
 - Text message.
 - Through internet chat rooms/networking sites.
 - E-mail.
 - All communication by the above methods should be through the Bangor Gymnastics Club Phones, the Club Dojo Platform or Club Emails.
- Subject to parental consent, coaches can communicate with young people either by group
- E-mails/texts or by copying correspondence to either the Club Welfare Officer or a senior official, as well as the parent(s).
- Coaches should limit communications to training related issues.
- In the event of a gymnast showing a coach a text message, image or email that is considered to be inappropriate for a child to have, the coach must inform the Club Welfare Team immediately.
- If an adult coach/volunteer/club official wants to be in contact with a young person who is also a coach/volunteer/club official for purposes of sharing professional information relevant to their professional role on any social networking sites, they will need a parent/guardian to sign a consent form. All such communications on any social networking sites, should be shared with an identified 3rd person (e.g. the young person's parent/guardian or club welfare officer). If the young person or the adult is found to breach the above agreement, action must be taken by the club to address the concern and/or the breach referred to BG or the statutory agencies if appropriate.