SAFEGUARDING POLICY

HGC will work with children, parents and staff to ensure the rights and safety of children are paramount and to give them the very best start in life. Our safeguarding policy is based on three key elements. This policy should be viewed in conjunction with British Gymnastic Safeguarding & Protecting Children Policy which we adhere to.

This document can be viewed on [www.british-gymnastics.org.uk](http://www.british-gymnastics.org.uk/)

More recently The British Athletes Commission and NSPCC have joined forces to launch a helpline to support athletes amid ongoing allegations of abuse within British gymnastics.

The free helpline will be confidential and staffed by independent counsellors. The helpline is available from 8pm-10pm on weekdays and 9am-6pm on weekends, and can be contacted on 0800 056 0566.

**Element 1**

HGC is committed to building a ‘culture of safety’ in which children are protected from abuse and harm in all areas of its service delivery.

**Element 2**

HGC is committed to responding promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns of abuse that may occur, and to work with statutory agencies in accordance with the procedures that are set out in the BG safeguarding policy.

**Element 3**

HGC is committed to promoting awareness of child abuse issues throughout its training and learning programmes for coaches. It is also committed to empowering gymnasts by promoting their right to be strong, resilient and listened to.

* Concerns should be raised without delay to the Club Welfare Officer Jane Roper on janeroper@nhs.net
* The earlier concerns are reported, the easier it will be to take action.
* Anyone reporting a concern should provide as much information and detail as possible.