

**Social Media Policy**

Guidance for coaches, helpers and other officers in a position of trust and responsibility in respect of children in the dynamite Gymnastics Club.

1. Dynamite members in a position of trust and/or responsibility should not be in contact with young people under the age of 16 through social networking sites if they hold a position in respect of that individual young person.
2. Should a person under 16 in your club request to become friends on your social networking site you should decline if :
	* You are in a position of responsibility in respect of that child
	* You hold a position of trust and responsibility in the club.
3. The social network site should never be used as a medium by which to abuse or criticise Dynamite members or the Dynamite club and to do so may be in breach of the Dynamite Rules and Regulations.
4. The publishing of a photograph or video footage on a social networking site is governed by the same requirements as those contained in the Dynamite Photography Policy.



Guidance to coaches, helpers and other officers in a position of trust and responsibility who have children that train in the Dynamite Gymnastics Club.

The issue has been raised that parents are becoming members of social networking sites that their children sign up to for security reasons to ensure the wellbeing of their own child. This will give the parent access via their child’s site to all children listed as friends of their child. It would not be appropriate for the Dynamite club to prevent a parent who is also in a position of trust in his/her child’s club from using this form of protection for their child’s online activities. Therefore in such cases:

* + The individual can have gymnasts in the club on the site they are accessing providing the gymnasts under 16 years old are listed on the site as friends of the related child;
	+ The individual concerned should not have direct contact with those gymnasts through the social networking site;
	+ The individual should not accept such gymnasts on their home sites.



Guidance to Dynamite members under the age of 16.

1. Do not ask your club coach, helper or board member to be your social networking site friend – they will refuse as that would breach good practise.
2. Use the internet positively and do not place yourself at risk.
3. Consider who you are inviting to be your friend and follow the good advice of the social networking sites to ensure you are talking to the person you believe you are talking to.
4. Always consider that any communication, comments, photos and video clips posted on a social networking site may be shared with person other than those for whom it was intended.
5. Never share pictures of yourself or your friends that might reach other people that you do not wish them to see. Also never post or send any photographs, videos or make comments that may be
	* Hurtful, untrue and upsetting and you may regret sharing later on;
	* Used by other people in a way you did not intend to or want.
6. Do not put pictures of other club members on the site within the club setting as you may breach the Dynamite Photography Guidance. If you do wish to upload a picture you must get advice and consent of your parent, the other young person and their parent and a club officer before even considering uploading the photo.
7. Always be aware that social networking sites are a method of communication like letter writing and the spoken word. They are bound by the same laws and rules. Such technology is instant and this allows you as the user to react in the ‘heat of the moment’. Never place a comment on the internet that you would not put in writing.



Guidance to Parents of Dynamite Members .

There have been occasions where parents of Dynamite members have used social networking sites to criticise or verbally abuse Dynamite, its officers, coaches, helpers and gymnasts in an inappropriate and unacceptable manner. This has in some cases led the person who is subject of the verbal abuse to take action through Scottish Gymnastics and or Scottish Police.

Dynamite have produced a Parent’s code of conduct, which states that the parents are expected to; ‘ Behave responsibly as a spectator at events and competitions, treat gymnasts, coaches, committee members and parents of yours and other clubs with due respect and meet the Dynamite commitment to equality’. Parents should be aware that posting messages, comments or any other media on a social networking site that breaches the above requirement of a parent in the Dynamite club may breach the Dynamite Parent’s Code of Conduct.