



CHILD SAFETY COMMITMENT STATEMENT

Policy name: Child Safety Commitment Policy
Date of Issue: November 2022
Review date: January 2025
Policy Coverage: All Athletes

Controlling Body: Star-Mites Gym Sports Pty Ltd

CHILD SAFETY

At Star-Mites Gym Sports, we expect all children and young people participating in our activities to have a safe and happy experience. We are committed to taking all reasonable steps to ensure all athletes feel safe, respected and empowered. Star-Mites Gym Sports has a zero-tolerance policy for child abuse and neglect in any form.

COMMITMENT STATEMENT

Star-Mites Gym Sports is committed to protecting all children and young people who participate in activities at our centres. Since establishing Star-Mites Gym Sports in 1991, we have provided children and young people a safe space to train, thrive, gain valuable life skills and achieve personal goals.

Our stance is proactive. We take all reasonable steps to uphold an environment where all participants feel safe, empowered, and respected. We are committed to taking immediate action to maintain this environment.

This commitment encompasses the rights and well-being of all Star-Mites Gym Sports members and families as we work together to build and maintain a secure environment. We appreciate and acknowledge the valuable role played by these groups in providing positive experiences for participants within our organisation.

- Protect children and young people from all forms of abuse.
- Implement the Star-Mites Gym Sports Child Safe Policies and Procedures.
- Adhere to the National Integrity Framework and Gymnastics Australia's Guide to Child Safe Behaviours in Gymnastics.
- Work actively to create and maintain a culture of safety and proactivity within the Star-Mites Gym Sports organisation

- All staff who are 16 years and older have a "Working With Children's Check" verified by Star-Mites Gym Sports
- Child Safety training is a compulsory component of the ongoing professional training of our coaches and staff.
- A minimum of 1 Senior First Aid Officer is always on site

KEY CHILD SAFETY PERSONNEL Star-Mites
Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO):
Phone: Lauren Murray - Star-Mites lauren@starmites.com.au>
Email:

GYMNASTICS AUSTRALIA
Child Safety Line: 03 8698 9700
Email: childsafety@gymnastics.org.au
GYMNASTICS WA
Phone: 08 922 8939
Email: info@gymnasticswa.asn.au

General Behaviours Star-Mites Gym Sports staff should:

Treat all children equally regardless of gender, race, age, ability, sexual orientation, or other status.
Upholding an environment where all feel safe, respected, valued and protected from external threats.
Make sure children participating in gymnastics behave appropriately toward one another.
Not accept any invitations to attend private social functions at the request of an underage child who has participated or is participating in gymnastics.
Not seek unauthorised contact with children who are not family members outside of gymnastics classes.
Not develop any 'special' relationships that could be seen as favouritism.

Positive Guidance (Discipline) & Positive Coaching Techniques Star-Mites Gym Sports staff should:

Give children information about how to participate safely in gymnastics.
Encourage children to feel safe and to have positive relationships and friendships with each other.
Encourage children to 'have a say'.
Listening to the views of children and following up on their concerns
Give positive reinforcement.
Do not discipline a child with physical punishment.
Not discipline a child by any form of treatment that could be degrading, cruel, frightening or humiliating.
Ensuring that all receive equal attention and opportunities (no favouritism)

Use of Language, appropriate tone of voice Star-Mites Gym Sports staff should:

Language and tone of voice used in the presence of children should provide clear direction, boost their confidence, and encourage or affirm them.

Avoid language that is:

Discriminatory, racist or sexist
Derogatory, demeaning or negative
Intend to threaten or frighten.
Profane or sexual

Inappropriate Use of Electronic Devices and Social Media Star-Mites Gym Sports staff must:

Positively represent the club through any presence they have on the internet.
Always ensure electronic communications go directly to the parent/guardian (as opposed to the student - if they are under 18 years old).
Do not communicate privately with a child on social media or email.
Communicate only through official Star-Mites Gym Sports channels.
Not post photographs of children on personal social media accounts.
Children will not be requested to keep the communication a secret from their parents or others.
Do not use inappropriate language when communicating with a child.
Do not communicate anything that a reasonable observer could view as inappropriate.

Star-Mites Gym Sports staff must:

Only photograph children while involved in gymnastics and if they are appropriately dressed and posed.

Only photograph/video children with club-owned or approved devices or instructed to do otherwise by your branch manager.

Do not distribute images of children in Gymnastics to anyone outside the club.

Do not post any images of a child on your social media or elsewhere without parental permission.

Do not communicate anything that a reasonable observer could view as being of an inappropriate nature.

Physical Contact with Children Star-Mites Gym Sports staff should:

Spotting and Shaping is an essential part of gymnastics. It must be done safely.

That fits the needs of the child rather than the adult.

Do not allow any unnecessary physical contact with a child, including wrestling, adjusting a leotard, and sitting on them to assist with sit-ups or stretching.

Respect and respond to signs that a child is uncomfortable with physical contact.

Be aware of hand placement when touching a gymnast.

Avoid all contact with a child that involves any private areas of their body, such as the genitals, bottom, or breast area, unless it happens accidentally while spotting. If any accidental contact is made with a child whilst spotting, immediately apologise and let their parent/guardian and senior staff know at the end of the lesson.

Avoid any physical contact with a child that could be perceived by a reasonable observer as having an inappropriate connotation.

Use stretching techniques that require minimal physical contact.

Transporting Children Star-Mites Gym Sports staff should:

Staff are not to transport children in their vehicles unless permission is given by the parent/caregiver.

ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO POLICY

Recommended changes to this policy may be submitted to Star-Mites Gym Sports Pty Directors for consideration at any time. Should changes be accepted, the policy will be updated, dated and circulated to all relevant stakeholders.

CEO: Liz Gardiner

Date: 11th January 2024