

Policy for Device Usage

Following a safeguarding review, we have decided to ban the use of phones, tablets, laptops, and other similar devices in our training spaces, both for gymnasts and spectators.

This covers any device with recording potential (audio and/or video), with a screen capable of showing video/image content, or with speakers capable of playing audio content.

At the time of writing, British Gymnastics is in the process of updating their policies and procedures. Their Standards and Expectations document sets out expectations for gymnasts, parents/carers and other guests, and coaches

(<https://a.storyblok.com/f/83342/x/cca8dd9783/standards-and-expectations-v1-0-final-restr.pdf>). Our safeguarding review builds on this National Governing Body policy.

Gymnasts may still bring phones along to sessions, as long as these phones remain in gymnasts' bags/shoes/etc. during training hours. These phones can then still be accessed for emergency contact purposes, or for training purposes with the explicit instruction of a coach. These phones should be kept on mute/vibrate only, to minimise risk of distraction. (The BG Standards and Expectations document states that gymnasts must not "use your mobile phone whilst doing gymnastics including in the changing room, whilst getting a drink or in a break area, unless your coach has specifically asked you to use it to help with your development or celebrating your success".)

For **spectators**, devices should not be used when in our training spaces. In the Conference Hall, this includes anywhere around the mats **and** the balcony/viewing gallery; in the Summer Hall or Main Hall, this is **anywhere** in the hall. If you wish to use devices, you are welcome to find a space elsewhere in the leisure centre, such as the café.

Coaches will restrict their phone usage during working hours, especially during break times. Phones may still be in use for work purposes (e.g., for showing videos of skills, for administrative purposes, etc.), and we will adhere to best practice to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all participants. The Head Coach will always have a phone available for emergency contact purposes.

There are three main aspects to device usage that we want to address:

1. Devices should **NEVER** be used to film, photograph, or audio record any member of Kestrel without the explicit written permission of the Head Coach. Any photos or videos taken during training ensure that there is nobody in the background, and any recordings are done with the permission of the participant's parent/carer.
2. There is a wide age range of Kestrel gymnasts (and their siblings/friends who may spectate sessions), so content viewed by an adult or older gymnasts may not necessarily be suitable for our youngest members to come into accidental contact with. By restricting device usage, we can ensure appropriate safeguarding of all club members, with no-one likely to overhear or see material out of their control.

3. Devices can be distracting. We have occasionally noticed participants and their family/friends in the viewing gallery using devices without headphones, and this noise can distract both coaches and gymnasts during crucial moments. By removing devices from the training area, we minimise any safety risk or distraction during training.

Our Summer Display and Winter Show are exempt from this policy, as we have ensured that all participants (and their parents/carers) have given permission for recording. Please note that nothing should be shared to social media or AI without the explicit consent of everybody featured in the recording.

PLEASE REMEMBER: THIS POLICY IS IN PLACE TO ENSURE THE BEST POSSIBLE SAFETY AND WELFARE FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND THE COACHING STAFF THEMSELVES.

Kestrel Acrobatics and Tumbling (Gymnastics Club) has the discretion to update this policy at any time. When we do, we will revise the updated date at the bottom of this page. We encourage Users to frequently check this page for any changes. You acknowledge and agree that it is your responsibility to review this policy periodically and become aware of modifications. This statement was last updated on the 9th of October 2026.