



Code of Behaviour

(January 2021)

The Gymnastics New Zealand Code of Behaviour applies to anyone involved in the sport of gymnastics in New Zealand, whether they are an athlete, or in a paid or unpaid/voluntary capacity with Gymnastics New Zealand or an affiliated club or organisation.

- 1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every individual athlete as a human being.**
Treat everyone equally regardless of sex, disability, ethnic origin, or religion. Respect the talent, development stage, and goals of each athlete to reach their desired potential.
- 2. Protect athletes from all forms of abuse.**
Refrain from any form of verbal, physical, or emotional abuse towards athletes. Refrain from any form of sexual or racial harassment, whether verbal or physical. Do not harass, abuse, or discriminate against athletes based on their sex, marital status, sexual orientation, religious or ethical beliefs, race, colour, ethnic origins, employment status, disability, or distinguishing characteristics. Any physical contact with athletes should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the athlete's skill development. Be alert to any forms of abuse directed towards athletes from other sources while in your care.
You must raise any concerns you have regarding the treatment of any athlete by another coach, volunteer, parent, etc. in accordance with this code or any other relevant [policies and procedures](#) (e.g. Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy).
- 3. Provide a safe environment for training and competition.**
Adopt appropriate risk management strategies to ensure that the training and/or competition environment is safe. Ensure equipment and facilities meet safety standards. Ensure equipment, rules, training, and the environment are appropriate for the age, physical and emotional maturity, experience, and ability of the athletes. Show concern and caution toward sick and injured athletes. Allow further participation in training and competition only when appropriate. Encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required. Provide a modified training programme where appropriate. Maintain the same interest and support toward sick and injured athletes as you would to healthy athletes.
- 4. Make a commitment to providing a quality service for all athletes.**
Seek continual improvement through ongoing education, and other personal and professional development opportunities. Provide athletes with planned and structured input appropriate to their needs and goals. Seek advice and assistance from professionals when additional expertise is required. Maintain appropriate records.

5. Maintain a high standard of integrity

Operate within the rules of the sport and in the spirit of fair play, while encouraging athletes to do the same. Advocate a sporting environment free of drugs and other performance enhancing substances within the guidelines of the Drug Free Sport New Zealand and the World Anti-Doping Code. Do not disclose any confidential information relating to athletes without their prior written consent.

6. Be a positive role model for the sport and athletes and act in a way that projects a positive image.

All athletes are deserving of equal attention and opportunities. Ensure the athlete's time spent with you is a positive experience. Be fair, considerate, and honest with athletes. Encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle—refrain from smoking and drinking alcohol around athletes.

7. Professional responsibilities.

Display high standards in your language, manner, punctuality, preparation, and presentation. Display control, courtesy, respect, honesty, dignity, and professionalism to all involved within the sphere of sport—this includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, media, parents, and spectators. Encourage athletes to demonstrate the same qualities. Be professional and accept responsibility for your actions. You should not only refrain from initiating a sexual relationship with an athlete but should also discourage any attempt by an athlete to initiate a sexual relationship with you, explaining the ethical basis of your refusal. Accurately represent personal qualifications, experience, competence, and affiliations. Refrain from criticism of others.