

# Safe Sport



As a USAG member club, Gravity Gymnastics embraces the “Standards of Behavior” proposed by USAG in order to affirm our commitment to the welfare of gymnastics participants in our organization. Standards of behavior are clear expectations for how coaches, staff and volunteers interact with children. They allow for interactions that are warm, encouraging and appropriate, but prohibit dangerous, harmful or inappropriate interactions.

- **Elimination of Privacy:** Avoid being alone with a child or any group of children in a private setting (bathroom, office, vehicle, hotel, etc.) and avoid being alone with a child or any group of children in any place that is inappropriate to the coach-athlete relationship. When a one-on-one situation is necessary, such as private coaching lessons or conversations, conduct the activity within the view of earshot of another adult.
- **Establish Boundaries for Necessary Physical Contact:** Gymnastics creates opportunities for physical contact between a coach and an athlete. Physical contact is acceptable when it is reasonably intended to coach, teach or demonstrate a gymnastics skill or to prevent or lessen injury. However, care should be taken to ensure that such contact is not invasive of sensitive areas of the body.
- **Prohibit Electronic, Social and Out-of-Program Interactions:** Staff is prohibited from contacting athletes, including personal contact, email, instant messaging, text messaging, cellular/regular phone calls, social networking pages or other communication vehicles for any reason not related to club business, such as invitations to meals or family gatherings or requests for babysitting. When it comes to club-related communications, never communicate one-on-one with athletes outside the presence of others. Rather, club-related communications to all athletes should also be directed to the parents/guardian simultaneously.
- **Encourage Parental Monitoring:** Gravity Gymnastics encourages parents to become as active as reasonably possible in the activity/event and be alert for anything out of the ordinary (for example, an “unattached adult” – one who is not at the club’s program, activity or event with a specific child). Parents should report suspicious behaviors and respond immediately when reports are made. Parents’ questions and concerns are welcomed and encouraged.