

Sussex Welfare Report 2023

This year has been dominated by the publication of the Whyte Review. We hope that all Sussex Club Welfare Officers, Club Managers and Head Coaches have at least read the recommendations (pages 29 to 31). Reading deeper into the review it is critical of the way some Clubs treat gymnasts by inappropriate stretching, bullying and gymnasts being subjected to a culture of fear.

Can we remind Coaches that Jewelry should not be worn of any description, except plain band wedding rings by Coaches or Gymnasts. (Watches only under a sweat band)

All Club venues should have some kind of access to parents of welfare material for gymnasts and parents to be able to look at, including photos and qualifications of all coaching staff. We understand that not all Clubs have noticeboards, in which case you should have them on club Website.

All Clubs, please remember that BG policy states “Club welfare Officers **Cannot** be the Head Coach, related to or in a relationship with the Head Coach and also cannot be a key member of the Coaching Team (Newsletter 3rd March 2023)

We will continue to offer support to all Sussex Clubs and welcome feedback from Club Welfare Officers detailing the improvements to safeguarding that a club has implemented. Let's wait and see!

The other significant news in relation to welfare is the government has recently amended the sexual offences (2003) act. It is now illegal for an adult (over 18) in a position of trust e.g. sports Coach to enter into a sexual relationship with a 16 or 17 year old gymnast or Coach. We can see potential problems arising as a result of an existing relationship so please do get in contact with us to discuss how the change in law affects it. The link below provides more detail of these new changes and how they affect Sports Clubs.

[Understanding the implications of 'positions of trust' in sport \(CPSU briefing\) - NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit \(thecpsu.org.uk\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/protecting-children-in-sport/understanding-the-implications-of-positions-of-trust-in-sport-cpsu-briefing/)

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