

20 April 2009

Dear GNSW Club

Re: Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) Training

'Gymnastics NSW considers that the health, safety and well being of children takes priority over all other competing considerations, and that this is necessary to ensure the health safety and welfare of all members and to protect the image and reputation of the sport, the Association and its affiliate members'.

The passage above is the policy statement contained within the Gymnastics NSW Child Safe and Child Friendly Policy adopted in June 2008 to replace the previous 'Working with Children Policy' which had been in place since July 2006.

The passage affirms the ongoing commitment by Gymnastics NSW on behalf of NSW clubs to promote a sporting environment for members which is safe and free from harassment, discrimination and abuse.

Gymnastics NSW invites NSW clubs to share the collective responsibility for the protection, safety and welfare of children and protection of the sport as a whole and is confident that all clubs would agree that it is a positive reassurance of Gymnastics NSW's commitment to child protection to require clubs to have at least one delegate attend training, if they have not already had one do so, as an affiliation requirement in 2010.

Pleasingly approximately fifty clubs have had a member attend Member Protection Information Officer training. Provided the officer is still active within the club these clubs have already satisfied the new affiliation requirement. For the remaining 130 clubs that have not had a member attend MPIO training a calendar of courses will be published on the website and online flic flac shortly. Courses in the immediate future are promoted within this circular.

Gymnastics NSW is considerate of the impost that this may create upon clubs, particularly those in country areas, and as such we have made provision for the flexibility to deliver the course upon request in country areas. Gymnastics NSW will contact the Regional Supervisors shortly to discuss an opportunity to deliver the course within each region.

Gymnastics NSW hopes that you will appreciate that by sharing this collective responsibility that gymnastics in NSW positively affirms our sports commitment to the protection and welfare of our members.

As previously mentioned details about the course will be published on the website and via the online 'Flic Flac' however in the meantime if you have any questions regarding the new affiliation requirement please do not hesitate to contact Aaron via email at abloomfield@gymnsw.org.au or by telephone on 8116 4121.

Yours sincerely



Aaron Bloomfield
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Gymnastics NSW