



Competition Attire At Events For Gymnasts

Approval

Approved by	Owner	Dept	Date
Standards Committee	Event Director	Events	28 Jan 2021
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Document History

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1. Background

- 1.1. This policy sets out the over-arching principles and rules that are applied at Events organised by British Gymnastics, with regard to the Competition Attire worn by the Gymnasts taking part.
- 1.2. The existing rules are built on long-standing tradition and generally contained within the Code of Points of each discipline and are largely based on gender. Such gender based rules have been shown to lead to some participants feeling uncomfortable and in some cases has been cited as a reason for them leaving the sport.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The policy is designed to modernise the rules and make the Competition Attire that Gymnasts can wear at Events more inclusive and accessible to all who wish to participate, irrespective of any of the protected characteristics (ie age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, maternity and pregnancy, race, religion, sex and sexual orientation).
- 2.2. This policy also aims to balance the need for accessibility and inclusion with the underlying need to maintain the safety of the Gymnasts and the integrity of the judging of their performances.

3. Scope

- 3.1. This policy is applicable to national level Events, eg British Championships and also those Events organised at a regional level that lead to a national final, eg NDP/Grades type competitions.
- 3.2. These rules are applicable in all disciplines, including Gymnastics For All Events.
- 3.3. These rules do not apply to events organised in the UK by British Gymnastics on behalf of the FIG/European Gymnastics, where their rules are applied.
- 3.4. These rules do not apply to events where the participants are representing Great Britain, where other rules may apply.
- 3.5. Affiliate and member organisations should adopt these or similar rules and are encouraged to do so, in relation to limiting the potential barriers to participation and remaining actively inclusive wherever possible.

4. Policy Statements

4.1. General Principles

The underlying principles that should be adopted by Gymnasts are that their Competition Attire should:

- 4.1.1. be safe for the level of the skills that they are performing. All Competition Attire must be in accordance with the advice set out with the British Gymnastics Health & Safety Guidance;
 - 4.1.2. ensure that the integrity of the evaluation of their performance can be maintained;
 - 4.1.3. be in keeping with the ethical and cultural standards upheld within the sport.
- 4.2. where principles 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 are met, this policy supersedes any other rules/references that may be published in other discipline specific documents such as Codes of Points.
- 4.3. For the purposes of clarity, the gender specific rules in documents such as the Codes of Points, with the publication of this policy no longer apply specifically to each gender. All acceptable and permissible Competition Attire can be worn by any competitor, irrespective of gender identity. For example, shorts, leggings or gymnastic trousers or longs are acceptable Competition Attire in all disciplines, subject to them meeting the principles described in 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3.
- 4.4. Safety
- 4.4.1. Deviations from historically traditional forms of attire should be suitably assessed for the level of risk by the Lead Coach or Coach, with analysis focused on ensuring:
 - 4.4.1.1. the safety of the Gymnast;
 - 4.4.1.2. that the Competition Attire will not affect the judges' ability to accurately evaluate the Gymnast's performance and therefore not effect the fairness of the competition.
 - 4.4.2. Gymnasts may wear alternative Competition Attire in accordance with their particular faith, belief or religion (including head coverings), with the proviso that the Lead Coach or Coach has assessed the risk associated with this and has taken any suitable mitigating action(s), where applicable, to ensure the highest standards of safety are upheld.
- 4.5. Authority
- 4.5.1. It is the responsibility of a Lead Coach or Coach to consider all implications associated with the Competition Attire. If planned Competition Attire deviates significantly from convention, it is recommended that the Lead Coach or Coach contact the Event Organiser in advance of the Event to discuss the individual circumstances, to ensure that both parties agree that the proposed Competition Attire is acceptable.
 - 4.5.2. Whilst making every effort to reduce barriers and increase inclusion, British Gymnastics reserves the right to make the final determination of whether the Competition Attire to be worn by a Gymnast is acceptable, based upon the principles set out in 4.1.
 - 4.5.3. Where items of Competition Attire are deemed unacceptable, the Gymnast will be offered the opportunity to change this prior to the start of the Event, or they will be withdrawn from the Event.

4.6. Competition Attire Guidance – Competitive Events

- 4.6.1. For competitive Events, Gymnasts must wear a suitably supportive, safe and appropriate non-transparent leotard or unitard (one-piece leotard, of full length, shoulder to ankle).
- 4.6.2. Gymnasts may wear form fitting complete leg coverings/tights/gymnastics trousers/longs (see Appendix 1 for examples of acceptable attire).
- 4.6.3. Gymnasts may wear gymnastics shorts (refer to Appendix 1 for examples of acceptable attire).
- 4.6.4. Gymnasts may wear alternative Competition Attire in accordance with their particular faith, belief or religion (including head coverings) with the proviso that the Lead Coach or Coach has assessed the risk associated with this and has taken any suitable mitigating action(s), where applicable, to ensure the highest standards of safety are upheld.

4.7. Competition Attire Guidance – Non-Competitive Events

- 4.7.1. For non-competitive, Gymnastics for All Events, Gymnasts can wear Competition Attire in line with the requirements of each Event (which may not require a leotard).
- 4.7.2. For festival display gymnastics, Gymnasts can wear costumes and do not have to wear leotards as long as their Competition Attire is safe for the skills being performed, does not restrict movement or obscure vision and is in keeping with the ethical and cultural values of gymnastics.

4.8. Competition Attire Guidance – Other Considerations

- 4.8.1. Advertising on Competition Attire must adhere to the British Gymnastics Advertising on Clothing & Competition Attire at Events Policy.
- 4.8.2. When representing a Club or Region, the wearing of GBR or Home Country Competition Attire at some British Gymnastics Events is strictly forbidden. Refer to the discipline and event specific Competition Handbooks for clarification and exemptions.
- 4.8.3. Strapping and taping – a suitable colour of tape should be used, ie no bright colours or patterns.
- 4.8.4. The removal of leotards on the Field of Play is not allowed.

4.9. Infringements

- 4.9.1. In the event that clothing is worn that has not been authorised by the Competition Organiser that is deemed to be unsuitable, then penalties, as per the discipline specific Code of Points may be applied.

5. Definitions

5.1. Coach

- 5.1.1. is the Coach who is submitted in the online entry process and who is responsible for the Gymnast for the entire Event. This coach must have the relevant qualifications and British Gymnastics membership as defined in the eligibility section of the Competition Handbook. Refer to discipline specific Competition Handbook for further details.

5.2. Code of Points

- 5.2.1. The specific technical rules that are applicable to each discipline/Event.

5.3. Competition Attire

- 5.3.1. The singlet, leotard, unitard, shorts, leg covering, head covering etc worn by the Gymnasts during their performance (competition routine/display).

5.4. Events

- 5.4.1. Competitions or festival display type activities which are organised by or on behalf of British Gymnastics, where British Gymnastics membership and other specific rules are in force.

5.5. Field of Play

- 5.5.1. Location within the Event venue where the gymnasts perform their competition routine or display, usually in view of a spectating audience.

5.6. Gymnast

- 5.6.1. The person performing the routine (either competitive or non-competitive) within the Event. In the context of this policy, all of the Competition Attire requirements are applicable to all of those taking part, irrespective of their sex or gender-reassignment.

5.7. Lead Coach

- 5.7.1. The Coach taking overall responsibility for all the Gymnasts from their club/region. The Lead Coach must be present in the competition arena throughout the Event to take responsibility for their Coaches and Gymnasts. The Lead Coach must possess sufficient qualification to cover all the skills that any of their Gymnasts will be performing within the competition. Refer to discipline specific Competition Handbook for further details.

6. Roles & Responsibilities

6.1. Compliance, Monitoring & Review

6.1.1. The British Gymnastics Events Department, along with the discipline specific national Technical Committees will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the policy.

6.1.2. The policy will initially be reviewed after one year of implementation and thereafter, once every Olympic cycle, by the Events department in conjunction with:

- British Gymnastics Integrity Department
- British Gymnastics Technical Committees
- British Gymnastics athlete representatives

7. Interdependencies & Related Policies

7.1. Discipline Specific British Gymnastics National Competition Handbooks

7.2. Discipline Specific FIG/European Gymnastics and British Gymnastics Codes of Points

7.3. British Gymnastics Health & Safety Guidance

8. Impact Assessments

8.1. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken for this Policy

8.2. A Data Impact Assessment was not required for this Policy

9. Procedures

9.1. All the Lead Coaches and Coaches at British Gymnastics Events, along with their clubs and regions should make themselves aware of the policy and ensure that the Gymnasts adhere to these rules.

9.2. In the case of doubt about the application of this Policy, Lead Coach, Coaches or their clubs/regions should seek specific guidance from British Gymnastics Events Department prior to the start of the Event, to help prevent problems arising and sanctions being applicable.

10. Appendices

10.1. Appendix 1 – Examples of acceptable and un-acceptable Competition Attire

10.1.1. Acceptable Shorts



10.1.2. Unsuitable shorts



10.1.3. Acceptable longs / leg coverings



10.1.4. Unacceptable leg coverings



10.1.5. Suitable Unitards



10.1.6. Unsuitable unitards (for competition routines)



10.1.7. Suitable Head Coverings

These must be risk assessed & fit for purpose given all safety considerations



10.1.8. Unsuitable Head Coverings



End