

LEAD COACH PROCESS

Following the amendment to the Lead Coach Process for 2021 and 2022 the process will now revert back to the pre-pandemic requirements from 1st January 2023.

What is the Lead Coach Process?

At a British Gymnastics national event, a club can identify a “Lead” Coach. This enables a coach who has completed a coaching course, but not yet taken the assessment, to coach the skills within that higher syllabus on the competition floor, under the supervision of a higher qualified “Lead” Coach.

How is this changing?

It was agreed that until the end of 2022, coaches may coach skills at a maximum of one level higher than their current qualification under the guidance of a Lead Coach, even if they have not yet attended a course with a syllabus containing those skills.

From 1st January 2023 coaches must have completed that course and be working towards their assessment. This will apply to British Gymnastics national events and regional events that lead to a national final (where national rules apply)

All other requirements will remain the same, including the nominated Lead Coach being present in the competition venue and this process only being applicable to Level 2 and above coaches.

Responsibilities of those involved

Coaches: Coaches must have been working in the training environment on these skills under the direct supervision of a coach who is qualified at the correct level. All coaches should continue to conduct risk assessments prior to undertaking any skill and assess the appropriate level of skill and support needs of both the gymnast and the coach on the floor at the event.

Lead Coach: Gymnast safety must be at the forefront, and it is the Lead Coach’s responsibility to ensure that the coach they are supervising is competent.

Club: It is the club’s responsibility to ensure the nominated Lead Coach has the information required to carry out this role, and parents/carers are informed. No coach should feel pressurised to support a club when asked nor be held responsible if results and goals are not met whilst at an event.

How best to create a safe environment?

Clubs and coaches are encouraged to consider how best to create a safe environment that supports the gymnast, such as:

- The gymnast working with both the Lead Coach and their usual coach before the event.
- Providing the Lead Coach with details/videos of the gymnast's routines prior to the event.
- Informing the Lead Coach of skills where 'spotting' may be required for higher risk skills.
- The Lead Coach ensuring they have discussed any emotional/psychological support that's specific for that individual with all stakeholders.

How can you apply the Lead Coach process?

Should you need to utilise the Lead Coach process, please add the name of the "Lead Coach" on the online entry system for that competition.

More details may be found in the discipline specific handbook pages on the British Gymnastics website.

If you have any further queries about this process, do not hesitate to contact the events department: events@british-gymnastics.org