



## Coach requirements at British Gymnastics events - Guidance note

Insight from our community has revealed the challenges faced when providing the required coaches for British Gymnastics events.

Therefore, as part of the work to update the competition handbooks for 2019, our Events team have worked with the Technical Committees and Coach Education department, as well as listened to feedback from our community, to find a more flexible approach for coaches at events, whilst ensuring the continued safety of the gymnasts.

We hope that these new rules will make it easier for everyone to participate in our events, whilst not compromising safety, which remains our number one priority.

These rules will apply to events organised directly by British Gymnastics. Home Countries and English regions may wish to adopt these rules or use alternative rules for the specific events they organise. However, these rules are applicable where regional events lead to a national final e.g. Grades, NDPs etc.

The Technical Committee in each discipline will continue to be responsible for determining the minimum qualification required for each competition at national level events and specific details for each event can be found in the discipline's competition handbook, but general guidance on how these new rules will work can be found below:

### Coach

There will be no change to the process where the coach who will be at the event with a gymnast holds the qualification that covers all the skills of that gymnast. This coach can simply be added to the online entry in the usual way and would be a "Coach", as defined in the competition handbook.

### Lead Coach & Supervised Coach

There may be circumstances where the coach of the gymnast does not hold the qualification that covers all the skills of that gymnast is planning to perform at the event or where a coach with the relevant qualification isn't able to physically spot a move and relies on a lesser qualified coach to assist them.

In this case, if the coach who is on the floor with the gymnast has undertaken the full education course that encompasses the skills that their gymnast is going to compete, then they may do so under the supervision of a "Lead Coach", which will then make them a "Supervised Coach" as defined in the competition handbook. This is only valid where the gymnast is performing skills a maximum of one coaching level higher than that coach's current qualification.

In this case, a Lead Coach must be nominated during the online entry process and must be present in the competition arena, however they do not necessarily need to be at the apparatus with the gymnast. The Lead Coach must hold the qualification the covers all the skills being performed at the event by all the gymnasts under their supervision and they will take overall responsibility for the safety of the gymnasts.

For clarity, this responsibility of the Lead Coach extends to the legal responsibility from an insurance perspective and they need to be sure that the supervising coach at the event is suitably competent to maintain the safety of the gymnast.