

Annexure A: Responding to Risk of Abuse and Harm to Children and Young People

Under relevant state/territory laws, failure to report any reasonable suspicion or knowledge that a Child/Young Person is or is likely to be at risk of harm could result in criminal proceedings. This Annexure provides examples of the main actions that must be followed, however knowledge of the relevant state/territory reporting obligations is critical.

You **must** ACT.

As a person involved in Gymnastics you play a crucial role in protecting Children/Young People. You **must** follow the four actions set out below when responding to any Child Abuse allegations.

Action 1 - Responding

IF A CHILD/ YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK OF IMMEDIATE HARM, YOU MUST ENSURE THEIR SAFETY BY:

- Calling 000 for medical and/or police assistance to respond to urgent health or safety concerns;
- Administering first aid, if required;
- Separating at-risk Child/Young Person and others involved;
- Identifying an appropriate contact person for any on-going liaison with the Police.

IF THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE HARM, GO TO ACTION 2 BELOW.

Action 2 – Reporting

1. If you suspect, on reasonable grounds that a child/young person was, is, or is at risk of being abused and/or neglected, you must report it to the police and/or the relevant state/territory child protection agency, a list of which can be found [here](#).
2. If the alleged child abuse is occurring in a Relevant Organisation, it may also be documented on the report form found at [Make an Integrity Complaint or Report | Sport Integrity Australia](#).

Alternatively, Gymnastics Australia's Integrity team can be contacted via;

Email: integrity@gymnastics.org.au

Phone: (03) 8698 9700

[Raise a Concern Online](#)

Action 3 – Contact

You must contact the police and/or the relevant child protection agency to determine the information that may be shared with parents/carers, and who should lead this contact (i.e., police, child protection department or relevant organisation representative). This could include advice:

- not to contact the parents or carers in circumstances where they are alleged to have engaged in the abuse.
- to contact the parents/carers and provide agreed information as soon as possible.

Action 4 – Support

- Support should be provided to any Child/Young Person that has experienced abuse.
- It is important that the person providing support to the Child/Young Person does not attempt to provide support which is outside of the scope of their role.
- Support should include maintaining a calm open manner when listening to any allegations and disclosures, while avoiding seeking detailed information or asking leading questions.
- Information regarding allegations of Abuse need to be well documented and shared with Gymnastics Australia's Integrity team as outlined above in Action 2 - Reporting.
- Further support for the Child/Young Person, relevant Adults and others involved may be required, including a referral to wellbeing or healthcare professionals and or the development of a safety plan.