



Gymnast Placement and Progression Policy

Last amended: 06/04/11

Approved: 18/04/11, Committee

1. Background

- 1.1. Eastern Gymnastics Club has eight active programs across six gymsports:
 - Acrobatic Gymnastics
 - Adult Gymnastics
 - Kindergym
 - Gymfun
 - Gymstar
 - Men's Artistic Gymnastics (MAG) – National & State
 - Rhythmic Gymnastics
 - Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG)
- 1.2. This policy has been prepared to provide parents/guardians, gymnasts and coaches with a common reference that sets out the normal progression pathways available to gymnasts. It provides guidelines to be followed in placing new members and arranging movements within and between programs.

2. Purpose of Policy

- 2.1. This policy aims to ensure that:
 - a) The best interests of the gymnast are considered at all times.
 - b) Parents/guardians and gymnasts have access to clear information about pathways within and between the different programs offered at Eastern Gymnastics Club.
 - c) There is a strong culture of thorough training in all basic skills to maximise gymnasts' future choices in different programs.
 - d) There is excellent communication between all parties.
 - e) Consistent processes are followed.

3. Entry to Pathways (refer to chart)

- 3.1. Gymnasts in the age range 1-4 will be placed in Kindergym classes.
- 3.2. Gymnasts aged 5 years or over will normally be placed into recreational classes, appropriate for their age, skill level, maturity, previous experience and gymnastic interests.
- 3.3. All gymnasts may be observed or assessed from time to time and assessments by Program Coordinators may lead to recommendations for progressing to one or more competitive programs.
- 3.4. Parents/guardians or gymnasts may at any time express an interest in joining a different program in addition to, or in place of their current class.
- 3.5. Movements within and between programs are discussed in section 4 below.
- 3.6. Program Coordinators may hold try-out days to which all club members are invited.
- 3.7. The Club Coordinator should be kept informed at all times regarding recommendations for movement of gymnasts within and between programs.

4. Movement within and between programs

- 4.1. Coaches and Program Coordinators should always be watching for:
 - a) Gymnasts in recreational classes who display the potential for higher levels of achievement in development or competitive programs.
 - b) Gymnasts who are experiencing difficulty at their current level and may get more satisfaction in a different level or program.
 - c) Gymnasts who may show preference for an alternative program.
- 4.2. On identifying the possibility of a move *within* a program, the coach should discuss the merits of such a possibility with the relevant Program Coordinator who will decide what recommendation to make. It is the responsibility of the Program Coordinator to discuss the move with the parents/guardians and the gymnast.
- 4.3. On identifying the possibility of a move *between* programs, the relevant Program Coordinators should discuss what recommendation, if any, should be made. The Coordinator of the alternate/new program may observe or assess the gymnast and discuss with the current Program Coordinator the approach to the parents/guardians and the gymnast.
- 4.4. If a gymnast is recommended for any move:
 - a) Parents/guardians should be provided, in writing, with the aims, benefits, costs, training commitment, competitions (if relevant) and other expectations of the program(s) under consideration.

- b) Coaches and Coordinators will give advice as required but should avoid exerting any pressure on the parents/guardians or the gymnast and should only give opinions which they consider are in the best interests of the gymnast.
 - c) The final decision rests with the gymnast and their parents/guardians.
- 4.5. After discussion between the relevant Program Coordinator and the parents/guardians, gymnasts may be invited to participate in trial sessions to ensure their suitability, or to immediately enrol in the new class.

5. Variations

- 5.1. In some cases, unexpected vacancies within classes, groups and teams may arise.
- 5.2. In the case of an unexpected vacancy needing to be filled in a group or class in order for the group to successfully compete, a Program Coordinator may identify the required abilities and physical characteristics of a person who could fill the vacancy and then:
 - a) Look within the program at gymnasts at other levels who may be suitable;
 - b) Ask the other Program Coordinators if they have any gymnasts they might recommend and who are not central to the needs of their current program or class;
 - c) Advertise for an appropriate gymnast to fill the position.
- 5.3. If the vacancy is not filled, the Program Coordinator should speak to their Committee Program Representative to:
 - a) Explain the necessity to fill the vacancy and outline the steps already taken to attract candidates.
 - b) Discuss any suggestions or requests concerning identified gymnasts.
 - c) If necessary, request their assistance in meeting with the relevant Program Coordinator(s) to seek to reach an amicable solution.
- 5.4. If at any stage a gymnast is identified and it is decided to offer them the opportunity to fill the vacancy, the process described in 4.4 will still apply.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

6.1. Parents / Guardians

- a) Should make decisions on whether or not to accept offers to move within or between programs in the best interests of the gymnast according to the needs of the family.

6.2. Coaches

- a) Should ensure gymnasts develop to their full potential
- b) Should look for opportunities and make recommendations to Coordinators in the best interests of individual gymnasts
- c) Should refer any interest expressed in joining a different program to the relevant Program Coordinator or the Club Coordinator
- d) Should not make offers or discuss possibilities of program changes with parents/guardians or gymnasts and should at all times exercise discretion and tact.

6.3. Club Coordinator

- a) Is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy
- b) Should ensure staff are aware of their role in gymnast talent identification and development
- c) Is responsible for the availability, completeness, accuracy and even-handedness of the program information letters.
- d) Should be available to provide impartial advice to parents/guardians, gymnasts, coaches and Coordinators.

6.4. Program Coordinators

- a) Should ensure they develop their gymnasts to achieve their potential.
- b) Should always be forward looking when selecting gymnasts at a young age, and be mindful of their future possible progression pathways and the needs of other programs.
- c) Should discuss options with those who have expressed an interest in joining the program.
- d) Are responsible for making recommendations for entry into their program.

6.5. Committee Program Representatives

- a) Should be available to discuss issues with their Program Coordinator.
- b) Should act as mediators, if requested, during meetings of Program Coordinators.

In the case of a gymnast aged 18 or older, all references to parents/guardians may be ignored.

7. Pathways

