



Policy Name ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY AND TRAINING LOCATIONS		Date of Approval October 18, 2024	Activation Date October 21, 2024
Approved By Board of Directors	Linking To Individual Technical Operations Manuals Registration Handbook	Replacing Previous Version October 13, 2017	
Review Cycle Reviewed annually by the Technical Committee with recommendations to the Board of Directors			

1.0 Preamble

The safety and security of all Gymnastics BC members is of primary importance to Gymnastics BC and its Member Clubs. The Gymnastics BC insurance policy provides coverage to participants taking part in gymnastics related activities in a Member Club's facilities or other approved locations ONLY. All Gymnastics BC Member Clubs are required to adhere to the policies, procedures and guidelines as set out by Gymnastics BC.

Training by Gymnastics BC members at or in non-member clubs or unsanctioned locations is not subject to Gymnastics BC's policies, procedures and guidelines, nor is it covered by Gymnastics BC's insurance policy. As such, Gymnastics BC and its Member Clubs cannot adequately ensure the safety and security of its members in these circumstances.

2.0 Training Locations

Gymnastics BC registrants shall not conduct any part of their training on gymnastics apparatus in non-member clubs or unsanctioned locations without prior approval of Gymnastics BC. Any such participation is not sanctioned and not insured by Gymnastics BC.

2.1 Out-of-Province Participation

- 2.1.1 Gymnastics BC registrants are insured to participate in national training programs and competition activities provided they meet the established qualification and eligibility criteria for their discipline.
- 2.1.2 Gymnastics BC registrants wishing to participate in short-term training activities outside of British Columbia, that are not associated with a sanctioned event or program shall make application to Gymnastics BC for permission to train in the alternative location using the [designated form](#). Approval of such requests will be dependant on confirmation that the training location and/or club facility is affiliated with, and in good standing with, its provincial/territorial/national gymnastics federation/association.

3.0 Athlete Eligibility

All competitive and Interclub athletes participating in Gymnastics BC sanctioned events must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- 3.1 Be registered appropriately, and in good standing, with a Gymnastics BC Member Club.
- 3.2 Train no less than 75% of the time in sanctioned training locations of the BC Member Club with which they are registered.
- 3.3 Have their principal residence in and/or be residing in British Columbia.
- 3.4 An athlete can participate in the BC competitive system after having previously represented a different gymnastics provincial, territorial or national federation/association provided they no longer represent the previous gymnastics federation/association.

3.5 Eligibility to Represent British Columbia

- 3.5.1 Athletes wishing to represent British Columbia as a Team BC athlete must meet the Athlete Eligibility requirements outlined herein.
- 3.5.2 An athlete wishing to participate in Canadian Championships must be a Canadian Citizen or have Landed Immigrant Status, and meet all other eligibility requirements established by Gymnastics Canada.
- 3.5.3 An athlete wishing to participate in a Western Canadian Championships (Artistic) or Western Canada Cup (Trampoline) must meet the Athlete Eligibility requirements outlined herein and any qualification standards established by their respective discipline and/or the event protocols.

4.0 Training Location & Athlete Eligibility Exemptions

- 4.1 High School Gymnastics: Gymnastics BC member athletes may train and compete in their respective high school program and maintain their Gymnastics BC eligibility with the understanding that Gymnastics BC does not provide insurance coverage for such participation.
- 4.2 Post-Secondary School Gymnastics: Gymnastics BC member athletes may train at and/or represent an NCAA or other recognized post-secondary gymnastics program and maintain their Gymnastics BC eligibility.
- 4.3 Temporary Residents: Individuals who are not residents of British Columbia and who are residing in British Columbia on a temporary basis (e.g., exchange students, etc.) are eligible to register with a Gymnastics BC Member Club without requesting an exemption.
- 4.4 Any other request for exemptions to this policy shall be submitted using the designated [Athlete Eligibility Exemption Form](#) prior to registering the athlete for the season and no less than four (4) weeks prior to a competition.
 - 4.4.1 Authority to grant exemptions to this policy is granted to the Gymnastics BC Athlete Eligibility Committee which consists of no less than three (3) members with the following representation: one Gymnastics BC Board Director, one Technical Committee Chair, and the Gymnastics BC CEO or designate.
 - 4.4.2 No member of the Athlete Eligibility Committee shall have a conflict of interest or affiliation with the discipline for which the exemption is being considered.
 - 4.4.3 The Athlete Eligibility Committee will consult with the technical chair and/or technical staff of the discipline, as appropriate, to understand the potential impact of the request.
 - 4.4.4 Gymnastics BC staff will retain centralized records of Athlete Eligibility Committee decisions and their rationale. These records will be considered by the Athlete Eligibility Committee when considering a request, as appropriate.

5.0 Penalty

- 5.1 For any breach of this policy, the Gymnastics BC Member Club with which the athlete is registered will be fined \$2,500 per occurrence per registration season in which the policy breach occurs.
- 5.2 The offending athlete will be prohibited from participating in any Gymnastics BC sanctioned event or competition and will not be eligible for participation in Team BC events, competitions or funding opportunities for the duration of the competition season.

6.0 Communication of this Policy

It is strongly recommended that every Member Club provide their competitive and Interclub athletes with a copy of this policy.

It is also strongly recommended that every Club working with a local high school program provide a copy of this policy to the school coach and Athletic Director.