



<b>Policy Name</b> <b>PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY AND TRAINING LOCATIONS</b>		<b>Date of Approval</b> <b>March 6, 2026</b>	<b>Activation Date</b> <b>March 9, 2026</b>
Approved By Board of Directors	Linking To Individual Technical Operations Manuals Registration Handbook		Replacing Previous Version June 27, 2025
Review Cycle Reviewed annually by the Technical Committee with recommendations to the Board of Directors			

## Preamble

The safety and security of all Gymnastics BC Participants 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, standards, and guidelines as set out by Gymnastics BC.

Participating in gymnastics related activities at or in non-member clubs or unsanctioned locations is not subject to Gymnastics BC's policies, procedures, standards, 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 Participants in these circumstances.

This policy is administrative in nature and refers only to the eligibility of participants to acquire or maintain their registration status as a GymBC Participant, see definition below. GymBC Participants retain GymBC insurance while participating in sanctioned activities. All gymnastics activities that are outside the scope of this policy are not covered by the GymBC insurance program unless otherwise specified by GymBC, in writing, and through the required exemption process. Athlete eligibility as it pertains to participating in Team BC or Team Canada programs, or that of another gymnastics federation, are subject the rules, regulations and eligibility criteria established for the applicable program. The GymBC Eligibility Committee has no role or influence on eligibility decisions as it relates to athlete qualification or participation in club, Team BC or Team Canada programs.

## 1.0 Definitions

In accordance with Gymnastics BC Bylaws:

'Participant' means those Persons that are individual members of Organizations that have been accepted as Voting Members of Gymnastics BC (i.e., Member Clubs). Section 2.4 of the GymBC Bylaws provide more details. The term Participant may be used interchangeably with the term Registrant.

## 2.0 Training Locations

Participants 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 Participants are insured to participate in national training programs and national competition activities provided they meet the established qualification and eligibility criteria for their discipline.

- 2.1.2 Participants 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](#). Such requests can be approved for up to 12 consecutive weeks and will be subject to 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 Participant Eligibility

All competitive and Interclub Participants 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 Participant Eligibility requirements outlined herein and any qualification standards established by their respective discipline and/or the event protocols.
  - 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.

### 4.0 Exemptions to this Policy

- 4.1 **High School Gymnastics:** Participants 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 high school activities.
- 4.2 **Post-Secondary School Gymnastics:** Participants 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 [Participant 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 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 Eligibility Committee shall have a conflict of interest or affiliation with the discipline or Member Club for which the exemption is being considered.
  - 4.4.3 The Eligibility Committee will consult with the technical chair and/or technical staff of the affected discipline, as appropriate, to understand the potential impact of the request, as appropriate.

4.4.4 Gymnastics BC staff will retain centralized records of Eligibility Committee decisions and rationale. These records will be considered by the 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 Participant is registered will be fined \$2,500 per occurrence per registration season in which the policy breach occurs.

5.2 The offending Participant 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 Participants 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.