

GYMNASTICS FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA CHILD SAFE POLICY



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Date of Approval:	21st March 2021
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Introduction

The Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa (GFAS) is the official governing body for gymnastics in American Samoa.

Position Statement

GFAS is committed to protecting the safety and wellbeing of children.

We uphold the rights and obligations of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and are dedicated to protecting children from harm, exploitation and abuse. Through the identification and management of risks that may lead to harm of children, GFAS aims to provide the safest possible environments for any children with whom it works. We encourage child-safe practices within our organisation with the aim of children experiencing zero harm as a result of our programs.

1. Policy Overview

The Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa understands that it has a fundamental duty of care towards protecting children engaged within its programs and activities and is committed to the safety and protection of children from all forms of abuse and exploitation. This Child Safe Policy recognises that children can be extremely vulnerable, especially in situations of poverty and/or humanitarian crisis or conflict and need to be protected.

GFAS will use a risk management approach to minimise the likelihood of child abuse and provide clear and practical guidelines for staff and authorised representatives responding to child abuse and managing complaints.

This Policy has been developed to adhere to international standards such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the USA Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and SafeSport Code for the US Olympic and Paralympic Movement and the International Olympic Committee (IOC)'s Toolkit for Safeguarding Athletes from Harassment and Abuse in Sport. This Policy operates in conjunction with common and statute law and does not exclude or replace the rights and obligations of any individual under American Samoa Statutes including Code Annotated Child protection: title 45, chapters 01, 20 and Child welfare: title 45, chapters 02, 03. This Policy should be seen as a component of the broader ethical framework and Code of Conduct of GFAS. Disciplinary processes are a means to establish and maintain an ethical, efficient and effective organisation and should not be seen in isolation from the overall goals of the organisation.

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2. Purpose

This Child Safety Policy aims to achieve the following:

- To protect children engaged in The Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa's programs from all forms of harm, exploitation and abuse, by adopting a goal of children experiencing 'zero harm' as a result of our programs. This will be achieved by identifying and managing the risks associated with working with children, and ensuring that internal procedures are in place and known by staff for handling complaints related to child safety;
- To protect GFAS staff and representatives from undue suspicion, incorrect or malicious allegations of misconduct by having a clear and transparent reporting system; and
- To protect GFAS 's organisational integrity and reputation, as well as that of its partners, by deterring child sex offenders with a sound Child Safe Policy and related procedures.

This policy outlines

- definitions of child abuse and other relevant terms;
- child protection legislation, conventions and guidelines;
- GFAS's set of commitments to child safety;
GFAS's risk management approach to minimising the likelihood of child abuse and exploitation;
- GFAS's Code of Conduct governing interaction with children
- GFAS's practical reporting procedures and response mechanisms.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to:

GFAS activities inclusive of any staff member (voluntary, seconded or paid) working or located in on or offshore (including those attached to other organisations), contractors, sub-contractors, travelling board members, programme participants (ie. volunteers, scholarship holders, trainers, group leaders and facilitators) and/or any accompanying dependants and other family members.

4. Definitions

Child means every person below the age of 18.¹ This Policy uses the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child definition of a child, being any person under the age of 18, regardless of whether a nation's laws recognise adulthood earlier.

Child abuse is the physical, sexual, emotional mistreatment or neglect of a child resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.

Child protection is an activity or initiative designed to protect children from any form of harm, particularly harm arising from abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Physical abuse of a child is when a person purposefully injures or attempts to injure a child from an interaction or lack of interaction which is reasonably within the control of a person in a position of responsibility, power or trust over the child. This may take the form of slapping, punching, shaking, kicking, burning, shoving, grabbing or choosing not to assist a child when a situation is causing them physical pain. There may be a single incident or repeated incidents.

Emotional abuse of a child is any action that is not physical but that has a negative effect on the social, intellectual or emotional development of a child. Emotional abuse is categorised loosely as the chronic behavioural pattern directed at a child whereby a child's self-esteem and social competence is undermined or eroded over time. It can take the form of name-calling, threatening, belittling, ridiculing, intimidating, isolating, ignoring or other non-physical forms of hostile or rejecting treatment towards the child.

¹ As defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (United Nations, Article 1).

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Neglect of a child is the failure to provide the child with the basic necessities of life such as food, clothing, shelter, education, supervision emotional development and/or protection from foreseeable harm in the context of resources reasonably available to the family or caretakers of the child and to the extent that the child's health and/or development are at risk.

Sexual abuse of a child is when a person who is in a position of responsibility, trust or power over a child involves the child in sexual activity which is intended to gratify or satisfy the needs of the other person and which the child does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent. This can include contact acts (such as rape or sexualized touching) or non-contact acts (such as exposure to pornography or taking sexualized photographs of the child).

Domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and/or coercive behaviours conducted within the family environment or domestic (home) environment which can include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and/or economic coercion.

Child Exploitation is when a child is used in work or other activities for the benefit of others. This includes, but is not limited to, the **commercial sexual exploitation of children** whereby a child is sexually abused in return for cash or for kind and **child labour** whereby a child is forced to work or perform other acts to an extent detrimental to the child's physical, social or mental development.

Guiding Principles of this Policy

This Policy is based upon the following guiding principles:

- **Zero tolerance** of child abuse;
- Recognition and promotion of children's **best interests**;
- Sharing **responsibility** for child protection;
- Use of a **risk management** approach to prevent any form of child abuse; and
- **Report and respond** to all incidents of child abuse.

The Gymnastics Federation American Samoa's Commitments

GFAS is committed to implementing and maintaining child protection measures to the highest standard. These include:

- In all contracts involving GFAS, all parties agree to abide by the requirements of this Policy;
- Child protection risks are included in all project and activity risk assessments;
- Culturally specific issues relevant to child safety will be incorporated into project specific risk management strategies, training and response procedures;
- Preventative child protection measures are implemented to the highest standard;
- Comprehensive child-safe recruitment and screening processes are employed;
- Training in safeguarding children is regularly provided to relevant GFAS employees and representatives;
- A Child Safe Code of Conduct exists and is understood and signed, wherever applicable, by all GFAS employees and representatives that are bound by it;
- Clear and current reporting procedures exist and are known by GFAS employees and representatives;
- In adherence to the FIG Policy for Safeguarding and Protecting Participants in Gymnastics https://www.gymnastics.sport/site/pdf/safeguarding/20180927_Policy%20and%20Procedures_V14_with%20charts.pdf, to the extent to which the laws of American Samoa allow, GFAS will:
 - Advise the FIG of any disciplinary sanction imposed by GFAS relating to an incident that occurred at a FIG event that was dealt with by GFAS.
 - Inform the FIG of any temporary suspension or permanent exclusion of a person imposed by GFAS.
- National laws and processes and local resources are taken into account within reporting and response mechanisms;
- No person is permitted to work with children if they pose an unacceptable risk to children's safety or wellbeing;
- All employment contracts involving GFAS outline that GFAS has the right to dismiss, suspend or transfer to other duties personnel who breach the child safe code of conduct; and
- The highest levels of confidentiality and sensitivity are employed pending an official investigation of an incident.

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5. The Child Safe Code of Conduct

Acceptable Behaviours

Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa personnel shall:

- Treat children with respect regardless of race, colour, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status;
- Not use language or behaviour towards children that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning or culturally inappropriate;
- Not engage children under the age of 18 in any form of sexual intercourse or sexual activity, including paying for sexual services or acts;
- Wherever possible, ensure that another adult is present when working in the proximity of children;
- Not invite unaccompanied children into their home, unless they are at immediate risk or injury or in physical danger;
- Not sleep close to unsupervised children unless absolutely necessary, in which case they must obtain their supervisor's permission, and ensure that another adult is present if possible;
- Use any computers, mobile phones, video cameras, cameras, electronic communications and/or social media appropriately;
- Not use physical punishment on children
- Not hire children for domestic or other labour which is inappropriate given their age or developmental stage, which interferes with their time available for education and recreational activities, or which places them at significant risk of injury;
- Comply with all relevant American Samoa legislation, including labour laws in relation to child labour;
- Immediately report concerns or allegations of child exploitation and abuse and policy non-compliance in accordance with appropriate procedures;
- Immediately disclose all charges, convictions and other outcomes of an offence, which occurred before or occurs during their association with the Gymnastics Federation Of American Samoa that relate to child exploitation and abuse;
- Conduct themselves in a manner appropriate with their position representing GFAS in all their dealings with children;
- Immediately raise concerns regarding a child's safety or wellbeing in accordance with GFAS's Reporting Procedures and observe procedural fairness when engaged in decision-making;
- Be visible when working with children and, wherever possible, ensure that another adult is present when working in the proximity of children;
- Listen to children and allow them to be engaged in decisions that may affect them;
- Follow organisational policy and guidelines regarding the safety of children.

Unacceptable Behaviours

Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa personnel shall not:

- Use language or demonstrate behaviour towards children that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, demeaning, sexually provocative, or culturally insensitive;
- Engage children in any form of activity that is demeaning, offensive, sexually provocative, abusive or culturally inappropriate or insensitive;
- Engage children in any form of sexual activity or acts, including paying for sexual services or acts;
- Invite unaccompanied children into their home, unless they are at immediate risk of injury or in physical danger;
- Access child pornography/exploitation material through any medium; and never to exploit or harass children;
- Interact privately on social media or via electronic communication with a child;
- Sleep close to unsupervised children unless absolutely necessary, in which case they must obtain their supervisor's permission, and ensure that another adult is present if possible;
- Hire children for domestic or other labour which is inappropriate given their age or developmental stage, which interferes with their time available for education and recreational activities, or which places them at significant risk of injury;
- Exclude or favour a particular child or give gifts/presents to children to whom a service is provided to (other than the provision of awards);
- Touch a child in an inappropriate or culturally insensitive manner. Personnel in direct medical care positions are to follow American Samoan and/or overseas industry best practice guidelines.

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6. The Photograph Policy for Using Children's Images

When photographing or filming a child for work related purposes, GFAS personnel must:

- Assess and comply with local traditions or restrictions for reproducing personal images before photographing or filming a child;
- Obtain legitimate informed consent² from the child and a parent or guardian of the child. As part of this an explanation as to how the photograph or images will be used must be given before photographing or filming a child;
- Ensure photographs, films, videos and DVDs present children in a dignified and respectful manner and not in a vulnerable or submissive manner. Children should be adequately clothed and not in poses that could be seen as sexually suggestive;
- Ensure images are honest representations of the context and the facts;
- Ensure file label, meta data or text descriptions do not reveal identifying information about a child when sending images electronically or publishing in any form;
- Ensure images of children available for public use do not reveal any identifying information; and/or
- Use common sense and avoid actions or behaviours that could be construed as child exploitation and abuse.

7. Reporting and Incident Response

Reporting Child Abuse

Any suspicion or disclosure of child abuse in a GFAS activity must be immediately reported to the GFAS Child Safety Officer. All incidents will be reported and managed in accordance with the guidelines below and **Appendix 3 for the GFAS Procedure for Handling Allegations of Child Abuse. (Refer also to Appendix 2 The GFAS Child Protection Incident Reporting Sheet).**

Guidelines for responding to Child Abuse Allegations

1. The Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa takes all allegations of child abuse by GFAS personnel, seriously;
2. All allegations will be thoroughly investigated; and
3. Where an incident has been reported the following procedures will be followed:

For non-critical incident allegations

A non-critical allegation of child abuse is one which does not pose immediate risk to a child supposing the allegation was true. These incidents may well be critical in nature but the time frame for responding is not as immediate; an example is accessing child pornography.

1. The incident will be documented and investigated in accordance with **Appendix 3 the GFAS Procedure for Handling Allegations of Child Abuse;**
2. The incident will be investigated with full respect for the privacy of the accused and the alleged victim and information will be dispersed on a "need to know" basis with the primary concern being the rights and welfare of the people involved;
3. The accused person will be given an opportunity to express their views/opinions/version of facts;
4. The views of the alleged child victim will be considered in light of the documented evidence that children rarely lie about abuse; and
5. Where the incident is reasonably proven to have occurred, appropriate disciplinary measures will be taken, including, but not limited to:
 - Warning; and/or
 - Suspension; and/or
 - Dismissal.

The disciplinary measure will depend on the nature and severity of the offence and will be at the discretion of the GFAS Board and will be fully documented.

² Legitimate Informed Consent requires that the child and a parent or guardian of the child must be competent to make a voluntary decision about whether to permit themselves to be photographed or filmed / for images of themselves to be used by others. Personnel must educate the child and a parent or guardian of the child about how the photographs or images will be used.

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For critical allegations

A critical allegation is an allegation whereby there may be an immediate risk to the welfare of a child should the allegation be found true – an example is inappropriate sexual activity.

1. Where the allegation involves a violation of either the laws of the country in which the incident occurs or the laws of American Samoa, the incident will immediately be reported to appropriate authorities and the person will be suspended from employment pending an investigation;
2. The incident will be documented and investigated in accordance with **Appendix 3 the GFAS Procedure for Handling Allegations of Child Abuse**;
3. All efforts will be taken to ensure the confidentiality and rights of the accused person and information related to the incident will only be shared on a “need to know basis”;
4. If the incident involves a breach of the Code of Conduct (but is not a violation of national laws), the accused person may be suspended pending an investigation;
5. Where a breach of the Code of Conduct is found to have occurred, all circumstances will be considered and the appropriate action will be taken;
6. Where an allegation is found to be false or unfounded, all efforts will be taken to ensure the rights of the accused person are upheld;
7. Where allegations amount to a violation of laws of American Samoa, privacy will no longer be applicable unless deemed necessary to uphold the rights of the victim.
8. Where appropriate in investigations, GFAS will consider and take into account legal advice as well as advice from any responsible authorities.

8. Recruitment and Reference Checking

The Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa will not knowingly permit any person to be employed or engaged as a volunteer if they pose an unacceptable risk to children.

All job advertisements for The Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa will include the following message:

“The Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa is a child safe organisation and will ask all applicants to undergo our child safe recruitment procedures and sign our Child Safe Policy Statement of Commitment. All staff and volunteers must sign and agree to conform to the Child Safe Policy and Code of Conduct as a condition of employment/engagement with the organisation.”

In addition:

- All new GFAS personnel are required to provide an appropriate current police check (criminal record check). They must include police checks for overseas countries if they have worked or lived overseas for any period longer than one year in the last ten years.
- At least two verbal reference checks with former employers / referees will be conducted. Verbal referees cannot include partners, spouse and/or other relatives. Referees will be asked about the applicant’s suitability for the role to work with children and/or to have regular unsupervised contact with children. Referees will be asked whether they hold any concerns about the applicant, or if complaints were made about the applicant, in connection with working or having contact with children.
- The National Gymnastics Federation of any country in which an applicant has lived or worked for any period longer than one year in the last ten years will be contacted for references and information relevant to the engagement of the applicant.

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- GFAS will not engage personnel listed in the FIG Table of Suspensions or the subject of any FIG Disciplinary Decision listed at <https://www.gymnastics.sport/site/pages/governance-disc-decisions.php>
- New personnel will be required to provide written disclosure regarding whether they have been charged with child exploitation offences in the past.
- Applicants are required to provide documentation to prove their true identity.
- The interview process for candidates at GFAS will include behaviour based interview questions that relate directly to working with children to enquire about the applicant's attitude, experience and approach to working with children relevant to the post applied for. Where appropriate, questions may be taken from the list below:
- Have you worked/volunteered with children in a similar position before? What did you like about it? What did you find difficult?
- How have you handled children who did not want to participate in an activity?
- Do you mind being supervised?
- What motivates you/why do you want to work with children in this program?
- When do you think it is appropriate to spot a child doing a gymnastics skill?
- Can you suggest some strategies to protect the coach and child when spotting gymnastics skills?
- What would you do if a parent was late in arriving to collect their child?
- Describe a time when you had to manage a child whose behaviour you found challenging?
- Tell us about a time when you had to comfort a distressed child?

9. Child Safe Education and Training

Child Safe training, including topics such as awareness raising and reporting processes will be provided to all Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa personnel.

- All staff, volunteers and members of GFAS will be required to undertake an Oceania Gymnastics Union approved online Child Protection Training Course and provide the certificate as proof of completion.
- The topics covered in OGU approved online Child Protection Training Course would normally include:
 - What child abuse is
 - Your right and responsibilities under child protection laws
 - How the laws apply to sporting organisations, clubs, their employees and volunteers
 - When, where and how to report incidents
 - How to establish a welcoming and inclusive environment at your club or organisation

The GFAS Child Safety Officer is responsible for organising child safe training for GFAS.

All new GFAS personnel will receive:

- A Child Safe Policy induction by the GFAS Child Safety Officer. The induction shall include a discussion regarding the responsibility of GFAS and the individual, to build and maintain a child-safe organization, and appropriate behaviour when interacting with children or child-sensitive material.
- A copy of GFAS's Child Safe Policy and associated procedures.

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Declaration of Commitment

All staff and volunteers must commit to the policy by signing in the spaces provided in the table below at the same time as signing their employment contract (if applicable) with The Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa or at the time that they become involved in GFAS programs and activities. A copy of signed policies will be kept on file by GFAS according to their Privacy Policy and record keeping procedures. The declaration (and the entire policy if possible) should be translated for those who do not speak English. If personnel are not literate, they will need to be read the content.

By signing this document, I indicate my understanding and acceptance of the provisions outlined within the document. I understand my legal and ethical obligations as detailed within the document. I understand that a breach of this Policy and/or Code of Conduct may provide grounds for my employment with The Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa (GFAS) to be terminated. I also understand that a breach of this Policy and/or Code of Conduct could result in criminal prosecution.

I declare that:

- I have read and understand GFAS's Child Safe Policy.
- I will work within the procedures as laid out in GFAS's Child Safe Policy.
- I will report any suspected child abuse by others immediately
- I have not been accused or convicted of any offence involving physical or sexual abuse of children or young people.
- I understand that if a complaint is brought against me regarding the abuse of children whilst I am engaged in GFAS activities, the allegation will be thoroughly investigated in cooperation with the appropriate authorities.
- I understand that it is my responsibility as a person engaged by GFAS to avoid actions or behaviours that are abusive or exploitative of children or actions that could be construed as such.
- I authorise GFAS to undertake any necessary enquiries, including criminal record checks and reference checks as part of my appointment and recruitment process.
- I confirm my willingness to participate in GFAS training sessions on child safe guarding.

Date	Name	Position	Signature

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Statutory Declaration Of Criminal Record Form
- Appendix 2: Child Protection Incident Reporting Sheet
- Appendix 3: Procedure For Handling Allegations of Child Abuse
- Appendix 4: Child Safety Risk Register
- Appendix 5: Sample Contract With Staff Outlining Disciplinary Measures Should The Child Safe Code Of Conduct Be Breached

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Appendix 1: Statutory Declaration of Criminal Record Form

Statutory Declaration of Criminal Record Form

Applicant's Name:		Role applying for:	
Have you ever been charged or convicted of any offence?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please provide details:			

Please note: if you are applying for a position where you will have regular contact with children, (this may be frequent or infrequent), you are required to give details of **all** convictions or criminal offences and cautions, or pending prosecutions.

Have you ever been dismissed from employment or had any disciplinary action taken against you which may be related to work with a child/children under 18 years of age?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please provide details:		
Have you received any formal reprimands, final warnings, or cautions from the police?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please provide details:		
Is there any other information which may be relevant to your application e.g. pending prosecutions	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please provide details:		
Signature:	Date:	

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Appendix 2: Child Protection Incident Reporting Sheet

GYMNASTICS FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA CHILD PROTECTION INCIDENT REPORTING SHEET

Please fill out as many sections as possible with as much detail as you can. This form is confidential.

Location:
Your name:
Your position:
Child's name:
Age/date of birth:
Child's address (if known):
Name of Parents/guardians/carers and addresses (if known):
Date and time of incident:
Member of staff involved in incident (if any):
Place where incident occurred:
Your observations:
Details of Concern/ Suspicion/ Incident: Describe what happened: time, dates, names of person(s) involved, behaviour or physical signs observed, any other details:
Details of any conversation with the child:

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Action taken so far (if any):	
External agencies contacted (date and time)	
The GFAS Child Safety Officer:	Name and contact number: Details of advice received:
Police: Call 911 for emergencies Or for non-emergencies call: <div style="text-align: center;"> Faga'itua Sub Station - 622-7250 Central Station (Fagatogo) - 633-1111 Tafuna Sub Station - 699-1911 Leone Sub Station - 688-8800 Manu'a Sub Station (Ta'u) - 677-3525 </div> Yes/no	If yes – which station: Name and contact number: Details of advice received:
Department of Human and Social Services :	If yes – which one: Name and contact number: Details of advice received:
Other Local authority:	If yes – which authority: Name and contact number: Details of advice received:
Other:	Which organisation: Name and contact number: Details of advice received:
Signature: Print name: Date:	

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Appendix 3: Procedure for Handling Allegations of Child Abuse

If you believe a child is in immediate danger or a life-threatening situation, contact the Police immediately on 911.

We will treat any allegation of child abuse or neglect promptly, seriously and with a high degree of sensitivity.

All people working with GFAS in a paid or unpaid capacity have a duty to report any concerns to the appropriate authorities, following the steps outlined below.

Step 1: Receive the allegation

If a child or young person raises with you an allegation of child abuse or neglect that relates to them or to another child, it is important that you listen, stay calm and be supportive.

Do	Don't
Make sure you are clear about what the child has told you	Do not challenge or undermine the child
Reassure the child that what has occurred is not his or her fault	Do not seek detailed information, ask leading questions or offer an opinion.
Explain that other people may need to be told in order to stop what is happening.	Do not discuss the details with any person other than those detailed in these procedures.
Promptly and accurately record the discussion in writing.	Do not contact the alleged offender.

Step 2: Report the allegation

- Immediately report any allegation of child abuse or neglect, or any situation involving a child at risk of harm, to the police and/or the Department of Human and Social Services. You may need to make a report to both.
- Contact The GFAS Child Safety Officer who will assist in managing the situation
- Contact the Department of Human and Social Services or police for advice if there is **any** doubt about whether the allegation should be reported.
- If the allegation involves a person to whom this policy applies, then also report the allegation to the President of GFAS so that he or she can manage the situation.

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Step 3: Protect the child and manage the situation

- The President will assess the immediate risks to the child and take interim steps to ensure the child's safety and the safety of any other children. This may include redeploying the alleged offender to a position where there is no unsupervised contact with children, supervising the alleged offender or removing/suspending him or her until any investigations have been concluded. Legal advice should be sought before any interim steps are made if the person is in paid employment with GFAS.
- The President will consider what services may be most appropriate to support the child and his or her parent/s.
- The President will consider what support services may be appropriate for the alleged offender.
- The President will put in place measures to protect the child and the alleged offender from possible victimisation and gossip.

Step 4: Take internal action

- Up to three different investigations could be undertaken to examine allegations that are made against a person to whom this policy applies, including:
 - a criminal investigation (conducted by the police)
 - a child protection investigation (conducted by the Department of Human and Social Services)
 - a disciplinary or misconduct inquiry/investigation (conducted by GFAS).
- Regardless of the findings of the police and/or Department of Human and Social Services investigations, GFAS will assess the allegations to decide whether the alleged offender should return to his or her position, be dismissed, be banned or face any other disciplinary action.
- The President of GFAS will consider all information relevant to the matter – including any findings made by the police, the Department of Human and Social Services and/or court – and then set out a finding, recommending actions and the rationale for those actions.
- If disciplinary action is recommended, we will follow the procedures set out in Clause 7 of the Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa Child Safe Policy.
- We will provide the relevant government agency with a report of any disciplinary action we take, where this is required.

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Contact details for advice or to report an allegation of child abuse

If the threat to the child or parent is immediate:

- Police - Call 911 for emergencies
- Crisis Line 24 Hour 699-4211
- National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-422-4453
- American Samoa Department of Human and Social Services (684) 699-1300

If threat is not immediate or support is needed:

- Police - For non-emergencies call
Faga'itua Sub Station - 622-7250
Central Station (Fagatogo) - 633-1111
Tafuna Sub Station - 699-1911
Leone Sub Station - 688-8800
Manu'a Sub Station (Ta'u) - 677-3525
American Samoa Department of Human and Social Services (684) 699-1300

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Appendix 4: Child Protection Risk Register

Risk Register Owner	GYMNASTICS FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA BOARD
Approved by	GYMNASTICS FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA BOARD
Issue Date	21st March 2021
Review Date	March 2024

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<u>Activity Type</u>	<u>Risks to Children</u>	<u>Protocols/procedures to reduce risks to children</u>	<u>Who will be responsible for strategies/action taken? By when?</u>
Some gymnastics skills require coach assistance in the learning phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach could make inappropriate physical contact with children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of conduct explains what touching and coaching behaviour is acceptable • Coaches and gymnasts are educated about what touching an coaching behaviour is acceptable • Strict supervision rules include ensuring adults are not alone with children 	<input type="checkbox"/> Codes of conduct created <input type="checkbox"/> Supervision Rules created * To Be Reviewed Biennially - Ongoing Coach Training to be conducted
A child may not be collected after the gymnastics training session as planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult and child may be alone together • Child may be left alone inside or outside without staff being aware 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision rules explain collection requirements and who will look after children collected late • Ensure adequate adult/child ratios at all time for supervision • At least two adults should attend any child contact Activity 	<input type="checkbox"/> Supervision Rules created <input type="checkbox"/> Child Safe Policy created
Children may walk home late at night from activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child may be abducted • Child may be injured / hit by a car 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The members will be consulted to determine appropriate strategies to ensure children do not walk home late at night unaccompanied by an adult. • Timing of activities will be reviewed and adjusted • Staff who organise the activity must ensure participants have safe transportation 	<input type="checkbox"/> Supervision Rules created <input type="checkbox"/> Child Safe Policy created
A child may say that he/she does not want to go home with their parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child may be experiencing harm at home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask child for reason • If answer suggests harm to child from someone at home, report to relevant authorities • If not, discuss with parent 	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Safe Policy created - All

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<p>Toilets / changing rooms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children may change clothes where change rooms are unsupervised and open to the public • Toilets may be isolated / out of sight • Toilets may be public facilities that other people can access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a “curtained” area for changing if necessary • Encourage children to change / toilet prior to / after class with parents • Keep children in same-sex groups if necessary • Plan toilet breaks where children go in groups • Educate children to stay in a group and avoid speaking to strangers in the change room 	<p>- Coaches <input type="checkbox"/> Child Safe Policy created</p>
<p>Supervising a large group of children is challenging</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible adult may resort to violence/physical force, abusive, shaming, humiliating or other harmful discipline methods to control group • Group behaviour may get out of control and lead to risky behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate responsible adults in positive discipline strategies • Provide a support person for Leaders • Split large groups into more manageable sizes • Educate children about their rights and acceptable disciplinary methods • Work with children to brainstorm and then implement methods of discipline that are not abusive • Have a child friendly reporting system, eg. a letterbox that children can put suggestions/complaints into (either in words or in the form of a drawing). Create reporting cards for children to utilise (picture form for young children) 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Codes of conduct created <input type="checkbox"/> Supervision Rules created - Coaches <input type="checkbox"/> Child Safe Policy created</p>
<p>Venue may be open / difficult to supervise exits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children may wander away from the training area • Strangers may enter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules explain what area gymnasts can use at training • Rules are taught and reinforced with gymnasts (including through games) • Parents are encouraged to stay and assist with supervision of entries and exits • Smaller ratios of adults to children may be applied where necessary (and with younger age groups) 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Supervision Rules created <input type="checkbox"/> Child Safe Policy created</p>

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Gymnastics attire may be revealing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families from some cultures may be offended by attire and choose not to attend / continue attending gymnastics Photos may be taken of gymnasts and used inappropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow modifications to traditional gymnastics attire for competition where appropriate (and includes these allowances in policy) International standards for gymnastics attire are applied as a minimum Spectators are requested not to take photos without prior permission 	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Safe Policy created
Inappropriate person volunteers for supervision duty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer could make inappropriate physical contact with children / abuse children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care must be taken in recruitment selection Only allow people who have passed a rigorous screening process to supervise children 	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Safe Policy created
Volunteer takes an inappropriate interest in one child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer could make inappropriate physical contact with children / abuse children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer code of conduct and appropriate behaviour is reinforced to all volunteers Supervisor/manager etc to closely monitor situation Staff demonstrate to children that their concerns and opinions are listened to 	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Safe Policy created <input type="checkbox"/> Codes of conduct created
Gymnastics is a sport with risks involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child could be injured in an accident Coach could be injured leaving children unsupervised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All coaches are appropriately trained in gymnastics coaching A first aid trained coach, volunteer or staff member is available at all times Strict supervision rules are adhered to (including ensuring that more than one adult be present during training) 	- Ongoing First Aid & Coach Training to be conducted
Using gymnastics equipment involves risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment may fail, causing gymnast or coach to fall / injure themselves Gymnast may use equipment inappropriately and injure themselves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular equipment safety checks are conducted Coaches are trained in safe use of equipment Gymnasts are trained in safe use of equipment Strict supervision rules are adhered to MRC (Managing the Risks of Coaching) online training 	- Ongoing Coach Training to be conducted <input type="checkbox"/> Supervision Rules created - MRC online training provided to coaches

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<p>Competitive sport attracts / creates competitive coaches, parents and athletes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach may push gymnasts too hard • Gymnasts may display aggression to others • Parents may abuse coaches, other gymnasts or judges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codes of conduct outline expectations of coaches, judges, gymnasts, parents, volunteers etc. • A caring culture is developed in which respect for all individuals is valued • Staff and volunteers emphasise other aspects of sport such as enjoyment, team work, sportsmanship and skill development • Develop a selection policies for competitive teams 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Codes of conduct created</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Selection Policy for in-country teams to be developed by Head Coach</p>
<p>Some participants may have cultural differences to others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gymnasts may be teased or bullied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a culture, which is flexible and supportive of people from a diverse range of backgrounds • Focus on inclusion, team camaraderie and developing skills. 	<p>All</p>
<p>Some participants may have disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gymnasts may be teased or bullied • Gymnasts may choose not to attend training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find practical ways to include people of all abilities in the sport at a level of their choice whilst still maintaining the integrity of the activity • Provide a range of options (e.g., options that are only for people with disability and options that are for everyone, but happen to include people with disability with some modifications) • Staff and volunteers undertake MIG (Managing Inclusive Gymnastics) training 	<p>- MIG online training provided to coaches</p>
<p>Participants may come to training with illness, infectious disease or injury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury may be made worse • Others may catch illness / disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupational Health & Safety Policy developed • “make-up” sessions offered for those missed 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> OH&S Policy to be developed</p>

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Appendix 5: Sample Contract With Staff Outlining Disciplinary Measures Should The Child Safe Code Of Conduct Be Breached

GYMNASTICS FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

PERMANENT STAFF

INSERT EMPLOYEE NAME

INSERT EMPLOYEE ADDRESS

Dear INSERT NAME,

The Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa (GFAS) is very pleased to offer you a position with our organisation. Attached below are the terms and conditions of your employment.

Please read the following terms carefully. If you have any questions prior to signing this agreement, please contact the GFAS Secretary General at americansamoagymnastics@gmail.com

If you are in agreement with the terms of this contract, please sign it where indicated on the last page. A second copy is attached for your own records.

We look forward to working with you as part of our dedicated gymnastics team.

Yours sincerely

Secretary

Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa

GYMNASTICS FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA CHILD SAFE POLICY

GYMNASTICS FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - PERMANENT STAFF

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

THIS AGREEMENT IS MADE on **INSERT DATE** between:

The Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa (GFAS) and **INSERT EMPLOYEE NAME** of **INSERT EMPLOYEE ADDRESS** ("you").

1 Role

Your key responsibilities in the role of **INSERT POSITION TITLE** are outlined in the Position Description in Schedule "A" (**Key Responsibilities**), as amended from time to time in writing upon agreement by the GFAS.

The conditions of your employment are based on American Samoa Code Annotated Title 32 Labor Laws and any applicable industrial instrument/s.

2 Work Locations

The Gymnastics Federation of American Samoa (GFAS) does not currently have a fixed office site. You will be required to attend events and conduct activities at a variety of locations such as clubs and schools which will be held at various venues. You may be required to work from your home, or the home office of a GFAS board member.

3 Entire Agreement

This Agreement, including all Schedules and documents incorporated by reference, contains all the terms and conditions relating to your employment and supersedes any previous agreements or discussions that have taken place between us. Any amendment or variation will be valid only if it is in writing signed by both parties.

4 Requirements of Employment

It is a requirement of your employment that you:

- obtain a current police check;
- hold a current and valid driver licence

GFAS will reimburse you for any out-of-pocket expenses you may incur in complying with these requirements.

5 Commencement Date & Term

Your employment will commence from **INSERT DATE**.

6 Hours of Work

In this role, you will be required to work the following rostered days and hours.

INSERT ROSTER

Rostered hours may change due to operational reasons. In such case at least 7 days notice of a roster change will be provided where possible.

7 Meal Breaks

If your work on any day exceeds five continuous hours, you are required to take an unpaid meal break of 30-60 minutes.

GYMNASTICS FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - PERMANENT STAFF

8 Remuneration

You will receive remuneration of \$XXXX.

Your salary (net of tax and legislated and authorised deductions) will be paid monthly electronically into your nominated bank account.

Your salary will be reviewed annually as part of GFAS's normal salary review process. Any future salary adjustments will take into account:

- legislated minimum rates for your role;
- your age (junior employees only);
- your gymnastics and other qualifications;
- individual performance of your Key Responsibilities.

In addition to your salary, if applicable, GFAS will contribute to a National Superannuation Fund in accordance with the minimum requirements imposed by existing legislation.

9 Overtime & Penalty Rates

Your remuneration as cited above has been loaded to factor in authorised overtime and penalty rates that may apply to you under an industrial instrument (where applicable).

10 Allowances

You may be eligible to be paid allowances specified under an industrial instrument (where applicable).

Once you have completed more than 3 months continuous service with GFAS. You will be entitled to leave in accordance with the American Samoa Code Annotated Title 32 Labor Laws and any applicable industrial instrument/s. Your current leave entitlements are:

- 13 days per annum paid annual leave;
- 13 days per annum paid sick leave;
- Public holidays, Maternity / Paternity leave as per the Code Annotated.

The GFAS may at any time, request evidence of eligibility for taking such leave.

Your leave entitlement will be paid pro-rata based on your total (ordinary plus additional) hours averaged over a 12 month period.

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GYMNASTICS FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - PERMANENT STAFF

11 Leave

11.1 Annual Leave

As CIGF closes for a period each year over Christmas, all staff are required to take this period as annual leave. At least 28 days notice of the days of closure shall be provided in such case where possible.

11.2 Sick Leave

If you have to take sick leave, this must be communicated by phone to GFAS as soon as possible.

Certificates must be provided if the absence:

- the absence is 3 consecutive working days or longer;
- the absence falls on a Monday or a day following a public holiday;
- more than 4 days personal leave has been taken in a 12 month period; or
- if requested by GFAS

12 Uniform

At times, you will be expected to wear GFAS uniform. The following items will be supplied and replaced as required: **INSERT ITEMS WHICH THE CIGF WILL SUPPLY.**

You are required to provide your own **INSERT ITEMS WHICH THE EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO SUPPLY FOR EXAMPLE SHORTS** and appropriate footwear.

It is your responsibility to maintain your standard of presentation and you must be clean and tidy at all times.

As your role at times involves close contact with equipment and other people, you must not wear jewellery whilst conducting practical activities that could be caught, tangled or ripped.

13 Expenses

Where reasonable and documented out-of-pocket expenses are incurred by you in the course of your employment, the GFAS will reimburse you for such expenses by agreement if you have obtained prior approval.

14 Professional Development

14.1 Course Fees

Professional development fees may be paid by the GFAS in accordance with current GFAS policies as updated from time to time.

14.2 Attendance

Time taken to attend PD courses will be paid.

14.3 Travel

Travel expenses for attending courses will be reimbursed / paid by agreement if you have obtained prior approval.

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GYMNASTICS FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - PERMANENT STAFF

15 Remote / Distance Development Activities

15.1 Attendance

Your current salary has been loaded to compensate you for attendance at remote / distance development activities therefore no additional remuneration will be paid on these occasions.

15.2 Travel time

Your current salary has been loaded to compensate you for attendance at remote / distance development activities therefore no additional remuneration will be paid on these occasions.

15.3 Travel expenses

Travel expenses from your home to and from remote / distance development activities will be reimbursed.

15.4 Accommodation

Reasonable accommodation expenses relating to remote / distance development activities will be reimbursed.

15.5 Meals

Meal expenses relating to remote / distance development activities will be reimbursed.

16 Compliance with GFAS Codes of Conduct and Policies

Professional conduct of employees of GFAS is critical. Breaches of the Codes of Conduct or Policies, including GFAS's Child Safe Policy will be treated very seriously. Breaches may result in formal warnings or instant dismissal.

While GFAS policies apply to your employment with our organisation, such policies operate independently of this contract and do not form part of it.

GFAS and industry policies do not create any obligation on the part of the GFAS to you.

17 Termination of Employment

This agreement may be terminated at any time during its term by mutual consent or by either party giving the other written notice of termination as required by law.

However, if you fail to meet the requirements of your employment or in the case of serious misconduct, the GFAS reserves the right to terminate this agreement immediately.

Upon termination of your employment, the GFAS reserves the right to recover from you any outstanding or unpaid staff benefits (i.e. leave taken in advance).

18 Dispute Resolution

If any dispute arises between you and the GFAS in relation to this Agreement, please refer to the resolution procedure outlined in the GFAS Grievance Policy as updated from time to time.

GYMNASTICS FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA CHILD SAFE POLICY

GYMNASTICS FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - PERMANENT STAFF DECLARATION & ACCEPTANCE

I accept the terms of employment contained in this employment agreement and declare that:

I am legally entitled to work in American Samoa and/or have no legal restrictions on me undertaking employment with the GFAS.	Yes	No
I do not have a present or past physical or psychological condition or workers compensation claim that may impact on my ability to fulfil the inherent requirements of my role <u>or</u> any anticipated future roles with the GFAS.	Yes	No
I do not have a business or personal association or relationship with another organisation or potential organisation that may impact on my ability to fulfil the inherent requirements of my role <u>or</u> any anticipated future roles with the GFAS.	Yes	No
I have not been convicted of a criminal offence in the past 10 years that may impact on my ability to perform my role <u>or</u> any anticipated future roles with the GFAS.	Yes	No
I have not been convicted of unsafe driving practices in the past two years.	Yes	No
The curriculum vitae that I have submitted to GFAS is a true and accurate description of my work history, skills and qualifications.	Yes	No
I have current, valid and authorised formal qualifications, licences and membership required for this role as listed below.	Yes	No
I agree to the abovementioned GFAS recovering any monies owed by me due to administrative error, overpayment of entitlements or loan.	Yes	No
I understand that this offer of employment may be rescinded if I do not meet the above criteria.	Yes	No

INSERT INFORMATION FROM CV OR AS OTHERWISE ADVISED BY APPLICANT

Qualification/Licence/Membership	Institution	Date Completed/ Issued

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**GYMNASTICS FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SAMOA
EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - PERMANENT STAFF**

Name:

Signature:.....

Date:/...../.....

SCHEDULE A - POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Description to be attached