

GYMNASTICS AUSTRALIA CASE STUDY

Enabling Gymnastics Australia to Lead on Child Safety in Sport

The Oho platform supports Gymnastics Australia's robust accreditation process that is nationally aligned, continually monitored and simple to use, so they can continue to promote, develop, and grow gymnastics for the enjoyment of all.



Gymnastics Australia is the national governing body for gymnastics in Australia. With 92% of its participant base under 12, we partnered with Gymnastics Australia on a shared purpose: child safety.

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“The inspiring thing about working with Gymnastics Australia from the beginning is that they have a passion to transform sport and every sector that works with children.

That’s because Gymnastics Australia was facing the same risks that all organisations that work with children do. The question is, what are you going to do about it?”

– Claire Rogers, CEO, Oho.

- ✓ 600 affiliated clubs & organisations across Australia
- ✓ 92% of athletes are under 12 year old
- ✓ 226,115 registered athletes & members
- ✓ 10,695 Judges and Coaches

CONTEXT



Following the findings of systemic risk factors for child abuse and neglect, misconduct, bullying, abuse, sexual harassment and assault towards athletes reported in the Royal Commission and in line with the Australian Human Rights Commission's Independent Review, it became obvious that Gymnastics Australia needed to prioritise athlete safety and wellbeing.

“The reason for our strategic partnership with Oho was firstly a duty of care” describes Marney Shepherd, Digital & Data Manager at Gymnastics Australia “with 90% of our participant base under the age of 12, it became obvious that we needed to focus on child safety.”

RESULTS



- 13,981 hours saved (the equiv. of 1,747 days at FTE)
- 8,000 people being verified weekly by Oho
- 838,000 verifications in the last 3 years
- 628,493 verifications were performed by Oho in the past 12 months.
- 2 red flags detected
- 1012 expirations discovered

CHALLENGE



Gymnastics Australia manages a significant staff and volunteer base with over 600 affiliated clubs and organisations across the country. Accreditation checks and standards vary widely across states and territories, coordination created a massive administrative burden for Gymnastics Australia. Its clubs used a variety of systems while navigating complex legislative requirements with many unsure about their own obligations and risks. Manual accreditation checking processes meant long wait times and required continuous monitoring – introducing data gaps and process challenges that put child safety at risk.

Gymnastics Australia recognised their obligation to ensure that its clubs were safe for everyone. To achieve this, they needed a national accreditation monitoring system that was robust, continuously monitored, and easy to use.

IMPACT



The Gymnastics Australia and Oho strategic partnership has created ease in facilitating legislative obligations and has led to improvements in data quality, reduced errors, improved processing time, improved process efficiency, and reduced risk.

The partnership has also built industry and community confidence in the accreditation monitoring process, “since adopting the Oho solution, sport recognises gymnastics as a leader in child safety - our clubs can promote the steps they take to ensure the child is in a safe environment”.

“Gymnastics is leading the way for other sports in Australia and demonstrating what needs to be done to continually innovate in this space.”

Rhys Harrison, the General Manager, Integrity at Gymnastics Australia

APPROACH



We partnered with Gymnastics Australia because we met their integration ambitions and shared a common purpose: child safety.

"Gymnastics Australia saw what Oho offered as a key supporter and enabler of their goal" described Cameron Bedford, Chief Technology Officer of Oho, "their clubs and organisations nationwide were dealing with many variances across states and territories. Oho was the only organisation taking that work on in a holistic way. We formed a partnership on that vision, and it took courage and commitment because we were taking on a significant journey together."

With a significant number of people and clubs involved in their program, the key to supporting Gymnastics Australia was in creating confidence in the organisation and its processes around child safety.

Steps

- 1 Integration of the Gymnastics Australia accreditation system with the Oho platform.
- 2 Alignment of checks managed across states and territories.
- 3 Restructuring and automation of the accreditation process to enable continuous validation, rapid notification and expiry management.
- 4 Evidence of due diligence and facilitation of legislative requirements.

REFLECTIONS



"Oho has been fundamental to the success of Gymnastics Australia's strategy. Because you cannot position yourself as an organisation that takes child safety seriously without having a framework like this in place to protect the whole sport.

And it's had a real impact on the community. Our clubs promote the steps they take to ensure that children are in a safe environment. This has given us a real advantage in being recognised as having child safety as our priority, and encouraging that as an expectation across all organisations that work with children." - Rhys Harrison, the General Manager, Integrity at Gymnastics Australia

Oho: "This strategic partnership's success is owed to a shared purpose and drive to deliver significant positive impact for the sporting community. This partnership is a brilliant example of two organisations that have really seen and understood each other and worked together to create something amazing."

- Claire Rogers, CEO, Oho.

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**"IT'S OUR MISSION TO
MAKE COMPLEX SYSTEMS,
SIMPLE."**

- CLAIRE ROGERS, CEO, OHO

