



GYMNASTICS FOR ALL
ANITA MERRICK
Curriculum Vitae

Chairman of Technical Committee

Election of Technical Committee Chairman

CURRICULUM VITE

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| Discipline | GYMNASTICS for ALL |
| Name: | Anita Merrick |

Outline your previous experience and involvement in Gymnastics.

I became involved in gymnastics when my daughters joined Gemstones Gymnastics Club in 2010. The club required judges for competitions, so I signed up for the floor and vault judging course. There were no courses in London available, so I trekked up to Nottingham and really enjoyed my time talking to coaches from another part of the country about their experiences and challenges. As a result I regularly judge at the GfA competitions, as well as schools competitions and the mini Youth Games. To help develop my judging skills I took and passed the level 1 general gymnastics coaching qualification, following that up a year later by passing level 2. I now coach for the club on a voluntary basis, helping to cover classes when coaches are on leave or sick. I helped Gemstones gain GymMark by developing the constitution, the club expansion plan and other products to meet the criteria, including setting up the club website. I love going to national and international gymnastics competitions to continue to expand my knowledge and only wish I had the opportunity to go to Rio this summer.

Describe how your personality, experience and skill-set support your nomination as TC Chair

I am standing for Chair of the GfA because I believe in, and am an example of, the core principle that gymnastics is a sport for all people, from all backgrounds and walks of life. I have experienced life as a parent, coach and judge, so understand different perspectives and motivations. Having judged at various competitions, I value the skills different people can bring and the dedication they put in to making sure gymnasts have a positive experience. I enjoy meeting people and solving challenges, however large or small. In my professional career as a Civil Servant, I am Head of Employer Engagement and Communications for the Department for Work and Pension's Fuller Working Lives team which aims to improve the retention, retraining and recruitment of older workers. This involves a range of skills including management, organisation and negotiating. In previous roles, I specialised in communications, working for regional and national newspapers, Government press offices and in Public Relations. I am a good team player and take a proactive and creative approach to my work, managing risks to achieve positive outcomes. I believe I can translate many of my professional skills to that which will be thrown at me in one of the largest participation disciplines in the country, let alone London.

What does success look like at the end of your three year term in office? Outline how you would drive this discipline forward?

As chair, I would like to both consolidate and build on the fantastic work already done to develop competitions and training opportunities for gymnasts, coaches, judges and others across London. We have learned so much over recent years, so I'd like to see constructive use of this knowledge to develop competitions that continue to showcase the London brand and set the region as a leader in this field. I would like to develop both the capacity and capability of our judges by offering more training courses and opportunities to develop this skill set by drawing upon the experience and expertise we have available to us. I want to ensure every club has an opportunity to contribute to the growth of GfA and will act as both an ambassador and champion for our discipline. As such I'd like to take time to visit clubs and hear what you've got to say. Gymnastics has shown me it has the capacity to welcome and develop new people and I would love to have the opportunity to give something back to a community that has given me so much.