

College Affiliation

One of the most important first steps for any prospective gymnastics club is exploring **affiliation options with your college**. In this section of the New Club Starter Kit, we describe how to seek out affiliation with your school. We also include some email templates for reaching out to your school.

-- College Affiliation -----

While **it is not required for your club to be affiliated with a college or university in order to become a part of the NAIGC**, clubs who primarily cater to a collegiate population (undergraduate or graduate students over the age of 18), may want to consider becoming an official club through their University or College. Most colleges have student groups and athletic clubs that provide students with the opportunity to explore new hobbies, create friendships, and engage in leadership roles. Sometimes, clubs with college affiliation will have better access to resources to sustain their club, such as sources of funding or opportunities to recruit members through the college's events.

How each college organizes their student organizations varies significantly, so the best way to start your affiliation process is by **getting into contact with your student activities office or club sports department**. You'll probably be able to find the necessary contact information on the Internet, but if you're having trouble finding the right department, then contact your college's general information office and they should be able to point you in the right direction. Your college's student activities office should be able to provide you with information regarding criteria for becoming a student club and how to register your student club with the school.

Here is a sample email that you can send to your student activities department to start the process:

Hi [insert name/department here],

My name is [insert your name here] and I am interested in starting a gymnastics club at [insert school name here] and am inquiring about the new club registration process. As of now, I know of [insert number here] people who are interested in being members of the club, and we [have found/have not found] a gymnastics facility to host our practices in. I am interested in learning about what requirements there are to become a new club, if there are any funding opportunities available to student clubs that the gymnastics club would be eligible for, and if there is any other information or advice that you would deem pertinent at this time.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Best,

[sign off with your name]

-- What if my school won't support my club? -----

Unfortunately, not all colleges are gymnastics fans like we are. Sometimes, a college will say that they cannot support a gymnastics club. They may **require a minimum number of people to demonstrate an interest in the club** before they allow it to become a club, which means you would need to find other students who would be interested in gymnastics prior to becoming an official club. They may be concerned about the **school's liability for injury or damaged property**, which means that your club may need to consider getting insurance (which we recommend for all clubs). Some options that you can consider for insurance are [AAU](#) or [K&K Insurance](#), both of which offer insurance for gymnastics clubs. It isn't the end of the world if your club isn't school-affiliated. Plenty of NAIGC collegiate and community teams operate independently from a college by partnering directly with a local gym. Remember, you can always contact the NAIGC with questions about affiliation or if you're having trouble with your college by emailing info@naigc.org.