

Finding Practice Space

The most important first step for any prospective gymnastics club is finding a space to host your practices in. In this section of the New Club Starter Kit, we describe a general process for finding a gym space. We also include some email templates for reaching out to prospective partner gyms.

If you do not already have a gym in mind, then you can start by doing a Google search to look for any local gymnastics facilities near you. It will likely be the easiest if you can **find a gym that already has adult classes or has 'open gyms' that allow adults**. Normally, these 'open gyms' charge a flat fee to attend the event and use the gymnastics facilities during a set time. This is a great choice for a new club because it's a low-commitment way to determine if there is interest in your club. If your club is gaining traction, and if many people start attending the practices on a daily or weekly basis, then it may make sense to approach the owner of the gymnastics facilities to **see if your club can pay a set rate to use the facilities at a certain time**. Often, this will be cheaper than paying a flat fee every time your members use the gym. For some clubs, this option may not be the right choice from a financial or operational perspective. However, if your club is getting tight on space, needs more flexibility than the 'open gym' time, or would like to practice more days per week, then you may want to consider this option.

Other things to consider when thinking of what an ideal partnership would look like: Would you like coaches, and would the gym be able to provide coaches during your practices? Does the facility require your club to have your own insurance? How many times would you like to practice per week? How much are you able to pay for your facilities given your income and membership? Would you prefer to have your own private practice time for your club, or would you be willing to work out with other non-club-members during practice times?

Once you find a gymnastics facility that you're interested in reaching out to, and have decided on an ideal partnership plan between your club and this facility, here is a sample email template that you can send to the facility:

Hi [insert facility name here],

My name is [insert your name here] and I am interested in starting a gymnastics club at [insert school name here]. Our club is currently in the process of searching for an ideal facility to host our practices in and your facility came across as a promising option. As of now, I know of [insert number here] people who are interested in being members of the club. I would love to chat with you about a potential practice arrangement that would be mutually beneficial for both of our interests. If you have time to discuss some potential options, I can be reached at [insert phone number/email address here].

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Best,
[sign off with your name]