

Gymnastics New Zealand

Calendar of Events and Nationals Change

Proposal 2017

Introduction

With significant changes in New Zealand's sport funding direction, Gymnastics New Zealand and member clubs are operating in changing times. It is therefore more important than ever to ensure our activities are contributing to the growth and retention strategies set out in our current strategic plan. Long term success as an organisation is dependent upon developing new opportunities for members.

As a result of the above, and an explicit interest from the community, a review has been undertaken to look at how new opportunities, in particular events, could be accommodated in the calendar year. This has resulted in a proposal to change the current calendar with the most significant change being a shift of the gymnastic codes competitive season to earlier in the year and the National NZ Gymnastics Championships moved from October to the July school holidays.

This document provides an overview of the 'change of calendar' proposal, the opportunities that it opens up and the process for the community to provide feedback on the proposal.

Change of Calendar Opportunities

The current event calendar is dominated by the gymnastic codes' competitive season from March through to the National Championships in October and there is currently little space for new opportunities. It is also difficult to overlay new events in this time frame when club coach and judge resources and facility availability are also stretched.

The proposal identifies a number of benefits and opportunities as follows;

- *Club Sustainability* - As clubs grow they too are looking for opportunities to generate income and improve sustainability. The proposal opens up more opportunities for new programmes and associated events to be offered by clubs that might not currently host events, or that are looking to host more events.
- *New Facilities* - Many clubs are working towards improving their facilities or developing new facilities. Attracting funding for these projects requires clubs to show a need therefore, along with an increasing membership, hosting events also supports the justification for facility funding.
- *New Programmes* – There is increasing demand for local and national event opportunities particularly for the Gym For All membership. New programmes such as TeamGym and Gym For All tumbling are just two of the new opportunities currently in development. These programmes are targeted at growth and retention strategies for clubs and national event pathways make these programmes more attractive to potential participants.
- *New Events* – There are opportunities for a variety of events to be offered in the Gym For All and Competitive codes space.

There is interest in the Gym For All community to look at a national club format competition. This type of event would be an initiative to support retention of athletes in the competitive and Gym For All programmes. A national club event could include competitive and non-competitive athletes (to a certain level) who represent their club and get to experience a national event. Competing as teams across gym sport levels/steps/stages gives clubs something to offer many athletes who aspire to attend a national competition along with their club mates who attend nationals.

While event opportunities are the main focus of the proposal there are other areas that have been identified as benefiting from a change in the event calendar.

- *International calendar* – Several gym sport codes have identified that a change in the national calendar would support their athletes competing internationally. A national championships held earlier in the year could open up the latter part of the year for more international tour opportunities for high performance, participation and club teams.
- *Changes in code of points* – Four yearly changes in the code of points are communicated after the Olympic Games. This only allows 6 months to the start of the following year to incorporate any technical changes into our own codes. Bringing the competitive season forward would allow for an 18 month period to develop, consult and implement any changes.
- *Education* – More gymnastics code education courses and workshops could be delivered towards the end of the year and early the next year, which aligns with the beginning of training for the next season rather than just prior to the competition season.
- *Athlete development* - The October school holidays is available for potential athlete and coach camp opportunities during the skill development stage. January school holidays provide the time for athletes to work on refining routines ready for the competition season.

Change of Calendar Proposal

The following table shows the current and proposed event season with a change of the competitive season to earlier in the year.

	Current	Proposed
Jan		
February		Pre-season
March	TRA season starts	Competitive code season (qualifying events)
April		
May		
June	Senior and Junior Competitive code season	Elementary and/or Gym For All competitions
July		National Championships
August	Gym For All events	New event opportunities – Gym For All and competitive
September		
October	National GymSports Championships	National Clubs Competition/Carnival
		Skill development camps (club and national)
November	Gym For All Events	
December	Club Performances	Club Performances

Some points to note;

- Competitive athletes work on a continuous programme so, although there will be an initial adjustment period, there should not be a significant impact on the development of the athlete long term.
- Gym For All members work on a one year programme so event opportunities are required to be later in the year.
- Implementation of any change of the event calendar would take effect in 2019.

Process for Community Consultation

Phase 1 - 2017 NZ Gymnastics Championships – Presentation at SDC Forums

- MAG – Friday 6 October 2.00-3.00pm
- WAG – Saturday 7 October 3.00-4.00pm
- RG – Saturday 7 October 5.30-6.30pm
- AER – Saturday 7 October 3.00-4.00pm
- TRA –Thursday 12 October 7.45-9.00pm

Phase 2 - Post Championships – survey to all clubs

Phase 3 – Detailed proposal from initial feedback out for further community consultation

Phase 4 - Following these engagement opportunities, all feedback will be reviewed, with a decision made and communicated to clubs by 31 December 2017.