

Project 2020

Club Transition



The changes to the event calendar in 2020 open up all the calendars and present a range of new opportunities. Following are some examples of how clubs are preparing for the change and maximising new opportunities...

North Harbour Gymnastics

As soon as North Harbour Gymnastics knew that the transition to new calendars has been confirmed for 2020, the club started looking at how that would impact them across all areas of their operations and what they needed to do to accommodate those changes and utilise them to their best advantage.

The following is a list of the different actions the club has taken to date as part of their preparation:

1. Manager and Staff meetings have taken in place for both GFA and WAG/MAG regarding what the new calendar could look like for our programs. This has ensured that all staff are aware of the changes and have been able to be involved in shaping what programmes will look like moving forward.
2. 2020 Early Planning has started – the club has laid out what want to do per term, once the comp dates have been confirmed.
3. Staff are noting down all ideas and possible opportunities that they might be able to provide for our gymnasts and community once the calendar has settled. These will be revisited at each meeting to see what can be taken further.
4. The club has made their submission for WAG & MAG comps for 2020.
5. The Rec program have formed a programming team to keep the Rec side of the club up to date with all the possible changes, new programs, coaching and judging opportunities, coach education of XTND and over 16year old coaches.
6. The club introduced a gymnast wellness program at the end of 2018 which has now been extended to all coaches and parents. This includes holding growth mind set and Good Sports workshops in order to help everyone embrace the changes that will be coming.

Obviously all clubs are different in terms of their size, structure, programmes offered etc. However regardless of differences, all clubs can start looking at how the changes will impact them and what they will need to do to be ready. Time spent now will save time trying to get on top of things next year.

As a very wise gentleman once said:

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but building on the new" - Socrates

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Gymnastics Waitara, Taranaki

In 2018 Waitara Gymnastics hosted the Germany Gymnastics Federation Kader Team from TuS Chemnitz Altendorf Germany Centre of Excellence. This was an amazing opportunity for the club and its athletes to have a glimpse at how athletes at this level train, learn from their coaches and form new friendships. Waitara athletes and coaches will be travelling to Germany to visit the team in Term 4 2020. This is being seen as an exciting opportunity to keep the athletes engaged and motivated through the term in the lead up to the end of the year.

Future Gymnastics, Tauranga

Gabrielle is looking to capitalise on the fact that athlete routines will be ready earlier than usual enabling the older athletes to go on a club trip overseas during the summer holidays, something that has not been possible before.

Rimutaka Gymsports, Wellington

Not wanting to be caught on the hop, Rimutaka have taken a pro-active approach to their preparation for 2020. The club has looked carefully at what all the changes mean, who they will impact and determined how they will need to adapt as a club. Historically, the club invoiced monthly starting from February which had the potential to cause cash flow challenges in the future. They will now start invoicing in January ensuring that their cash flow lines up with when coaches and athletes are back in the gym.

A number of clubs have already started looking at leotards and are using the shift in calendar to consider changes including sleeveless leotards.

Staffing and summer holidays

This is an area that has been most commonly raised by clubs as a potential challenge. The number of clubs who have no one back operating during January has shrunk significantly over the past five years and many athletes are already back training or attending camps in January.

However, this might place a strain on clubs needing coaches to take summer holidays. Some of the suggestions and ideas that are already being planned and adopted by clubs around the country include:

- Attending summer camps – summer camps can form a key part of an athlete's return to training (and for many they already do). As well as improving athletes' skills, summer camps encourage coaches and athlete to connect across clubs and build stronger relationships, which is great for the sport.

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- Coach sharing – with only the higher level competitive athletes needing to be back at the gym in the earlier part of January, clubs are able to combine forces and run joint training sessions which enables clubs to use less coaching staff. One example given is for a club to provide the coach/es for the first two weeks in January, enabling coaches from the other club to take time off, and then swap enabling the first coaches to have the second half of January off.
- Taking time to look at exactly how many athletes need to be in the gym over the January period, what training they need to do and what coach support is required – this allows for resources to be used in the most effective manner.
- Communication is key – make sure that you find out what the clubs near to you are doing and talk with them about how you might be able to share resources. Your Gymnastics NZ Relationship Manager can put you in touch.
- Flexibility – while it is clear that higher level athletes will need to train during their summer holidays, without the constraints of school, there is no reason that the training week needs to look the same. Can trainings happen in the mornings when it is cooler for example?
- Engagement with parents – ensure that parents know well in advance what the changes will be and be clear about what the expectations are. This will also allow parents to share what their summer plans are so that training and family trips away can co-exist. While training needs to happen, the rigid structure of term time may need some flexibility applied.

For more information on what to be thinking about and the full support plan, please see:

- [Club Preparation Checklist](#)
- [Club Support Plan](#)