

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 19, 2021	STATUS: High
TO: Gymnastics Community	FROM: Chair – Gymnastics NZ
CC:	ATT:
RE: 2021 AGM Remit – Nationals Date	NOTE:

Dear members,

I trust this letter finds everyone fit and well and ready to attend what will be an amazing Nationals event. It will be great to have everyone together again, competing, renewing friendships, making new ones, and for some, attending their first ever National's competition. I will take this opportunity on behalf of the Board to wish you every success, however you measure that. Enjoy yourselves at what will be a fantastic event.

You will recall at our 2021 AGM a remit was submitted and passed, it read:

THAT the Board of Gymnastics NZ review its decision on a July Nationals date, through appropriate consultation with the membership, to move the date of the competitive Nationals Championships with a recommendation that the board reinstate the previous date. There are three elements to the remit:

- a) *The Board of Gymnastics NZ review its decision on a July Nationals date; and*
- b) *Through appropriate consultation with the membership, to move the date of the competitive Nationals Championships; with*
- c) *A recommendation that the board reinstate the previous date.*

I will reply to each of these in succession.

To prepare for its June 17th Board meeting, the board received and reviewed the papers and reports that had informed its original decision to move the Nationals date.

Review Decision:

At the June 17th meeting the board revisited the original decision, made in Feb 2018 to move the Nationals from Term 3 to Term 2 in 2020. The board reviewed all the information provided at the time of its decision. As four of the current board were not involved in the decision in Feb 2018, their involvement provided a



level of independent oversight of the rationale for and subsequent decision to move the Nationals date.

The board **unanimously** agreed that its original decision to move the Nationals date from Term 3 to Term 2 was correctly made with the information and considerations presented. With the passage of time and subsequent 2020 independent review recommendations, the appropriateness of the decision has been reinforced.

Consultation:

The board discussed the remits ‘consultative’ element while considering the implications and recommendations arising from the 2020 Independent Review and the influence these may have on any decision on the date of Nationals. The board agreed that while not expressly mentioned within the review, the date of nationals is not disconnected from many of the recommendations. Some of which will directly affect our thinking and planning regarding the national’s event, e.g., examining the age when gymnasts may be eligible for Nationals, and other competitive elements, recognising that over 80% of gymnasts are “recreational”, advise on training limits and training hours for young gymnasts.

While reflecting on what consultation may look like, the board assessed the consultation that occurred prior to its original decision. The consultative process leading to the original decision was extensive. The consultation included inputs from individuals, committees, clubs, and in person workshops providing a range of views and opinions. Once analysed, this data provided a rich and insightful view of the community’s views on the proposition.

The board reiterated its belief the original consultative process undertaken to inform the decision to move the nationals date was not only appropriate but extensive.

Considering the preceding discussion, the board agreed the ‘consultation’ process requested in the remit will form a part of the work undertaken and arising from the independent review which will be led by the Gymnastics NZ Steering Committee.

Moving the Date Back:

The last piece of the remit at the 2021 AGM asked that Gymnastics NZ reinstate the date for Nationals to the third term. As you will be aware, very few venues in



NZ can host an event with the specific equipment and code specific requirements that our sport requires. To make sure we get the required dates, access, etc., needed for our event while also securing one of the limited number of venues available, we must book venues 18-to-24 mths in advance.

The board was also advised that because of the limited number of venues and the need to secure these 18-24 months in advance, GNZ has entered contractual arrangements for the Nationals venues for the 2022 and 2023 years, for the Term 2 holidays. Advice indicates the penalties associated with breaking these contractual arrangements are prohibitive to change. Finally, moving the date of Nationals back to Term 3, before concluding the requested consultation, as per the remit. Would be to act in a way that those who proposed the remit and who oppose the current national's date suggested we did when making the original decision, by conducting insufficient consultation. We are confident this is not what those who proposed the remit sought.

It is the board's hope that all those who have an interest in the sport review and the placing of the National's date within this, will engage and provide input during the consultation process that will be provided. Thank you for taking the time to review the letter and the board's rationale surrounding its decisions on the remit passed at the 2021 AGM. I am available to discuss any element of this letter. Please contact me if you wish further clarification on any matter.

I wish you well for the forthcoming event.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Denis Mowbray FCG FGNZ
Chairman
Gymnastics NZ

