

## MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE:</b> December 12 2022	<b>STATUS:</b> High
<b>TO:</b> Member Clubs & Members	<b>FROM:</b> Gymnastics NZ Board Sub-Committee
<b>CC:</b>	<b>ATT:</b>
<b>RE: Nationals date review recommendation</b>	<b>NOTE:</b>

### NATIONALS DATE REVIEW – RECOMMENDATION

#### Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to provide a recommendation to the Gymnastics New Zealand (GNZ) community on the preferred Nationals date, based on the insights and analysis of the recent Nationals Date Review Survey.

#### Summary of approach

The Nationals Date Review survey was in field with the Gymnastics Community from 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The survey was emailed out to the entire GNZ database and shared on the GNZ social platforms. The survey captured a significant number of 953 respondents with a sample that was satisfactorily reflective of the Gymnastics New Zealand community split as identified in the Annual Review, 2018. **See Table A.**

In parallel to the survey in field, the research agency Honoco and Gymnastics New Zealand developed a weighting matrix that ranked the key impact factors of the placement of the Nationals date.

The rankings were applied to the 20 impact questions that were asked in the survey. The rankings were then converted to a percentage weighting for each impact factor. The top 3 weighted impact factors are 1) Mental health of athletes 2) Injury risk/load management for athletes 3) Athletic periodisation – peaking/resting windows.



The primary reason for this approach was to ensure that the analysis and recommendation process was considering the most important factors for our athletes and our entire community and not just a binary date preference. **See Table B for the rankings/weightings.**

Honoco have provided a [summary document](#) of the research insights and the resulting recommendation. Gymnastics New Zealand has considered the findings and makes the following recommendation.

### **Recommendation and rationale**

The recommendation is that the New Zealand Gymnastics Championships is held around the October school holiday period from 2024 onwards. GNZ will work through the specific dates and format for the competition and will be in touch again in 2023. The rationale behind the recommendation is as follows:

1. The decision-making framework used to evaluate the survey responses was made up of 50% date preference ('sentiment factors') and 50% impact factors (impacts of each date, weighted as per the impact weighting table). Meaning the responses were collated and evaluated on two key factors – preferred date and impacts of the proposed dates.
2. The decision-making framework evaluation is definitive. Term Three School Holidays - October is the leading choice for the GNZ community both in totality and split by different stakeholder segments and by region. **See Tables C and D and E.**
3. The second leading choice is equally unanimous with the October to December window scoring highest for each audience segment.

Overall, the ordering and preferences are aligned across the GNZ community in the aggregate.

### **Qualitative insights**

There were significant amounts of qualitative insights gathered from the survey's open-ended questions. These comments provide GNZ with a great deal of insight into the community sentiment and feedback.



The qualitative insights came from all segments of our community including our athletes. These athlete insights are invaluable and GNZ is committed to continuing to find effective ways to gather the athletes voice and insights about our sport and key decisions moving forward.

One key factor for consideration is the outcomes and work plans that will come from the Independent Review. These may or may not have an impact on any future Nationals structure and window however this will be considered separately as and when required.

As this Nationals Date Review survey has indicated there is a clear preference for October and the impacts of this date are the most favourable therefore this is the recommendation based on the current environment.

### **GfA event**

Those involved in GfA\* were asked about their desire for an annual GfA event and its ideal date placement. *Note that those involved only in GfA were not asked the NZ Gymnastics Championships questions.*

There was clear support for an annual GfA event, with 66.5% of respondents seeing the event as being important. The leading reason in support of this event was identified as providing recreational gymnasts something to work towards with 52.8% of respondents ranking this as the primary reason, they would like to see this event held.

The date placement for this event was much less definitive than what was observed for the prospective date of Nationals. Outside of the January to March window being seen as a clear negative choice, there was little consensus on when this event should be held.

Gymnastics New Zealand will work with the key stakeholders to provide a recommendation as to the format and the date of this GfA event and will communicate this in 2023 in preparation for a 2024 event.

### **Next steps**

We invite all our community to download and read the Honoco survey [findings and recommendation document](#).

We welcome all feedback on this recommendation and ask that your feedback be provided by email to [office@gymnasticsnz.com](mailto:office@gymnasticsnz.com). Feedback



closes 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. The decision will be finalised and communicated to the community in February 2023.

**Table A – sample size 2022 survey vs 2018 GNZ community population split**

Distribution Check	2018	2022
Volunteers	10.6%	12.0%
Coach	13.4%	13.0%
Judge	5.3%	10.1%
Parent/Athlete	70.7%	64.9%



**Table B. Decision making framework and impact weightings**

*\*NB the impact factors are not in order of ranking, the weighting determines the ranking*

**Sentiment Factors**

50%

Sentiment Factors	Weighting
Positivity sentiment (Likert scale)	50.0%
Ranking sentiment (Ranking value)	50.0%

**Impact Factors**

50%

Impact Factors	Weighting
Ability for clubs to effectively deliver other programmes	5.0%
Athletic periodisation - peaking/resting windows	7.2%
Clash with participating in other sports	3.0%
Clash with public holidays	2.8%
Coach, volunteer and judge availability	5.2%
Coach/Judge/Volunteer overload	5.8%
Competitive pathway and progression	5.8%
Conflict with schooling and exams	5.8%
Family/recreational time and life balance	4.8%
Financial pressure on clubs	3.6%
Focus on training and development for athletes	6.0%
Injury risk/load management for athletes	7.6%
Mental health of athletes	8.0%
International calendar alignment	4.4%
Opportunities for clubs to run fundraisers	2.0%
Retention/recruitment levels	6.0%
The competition qualifying period	6.4%
Training clashes with summer holidays	4.2%
Venue availability for events	3.4%
Weather, illness and other winter seasonal issues	3.4%



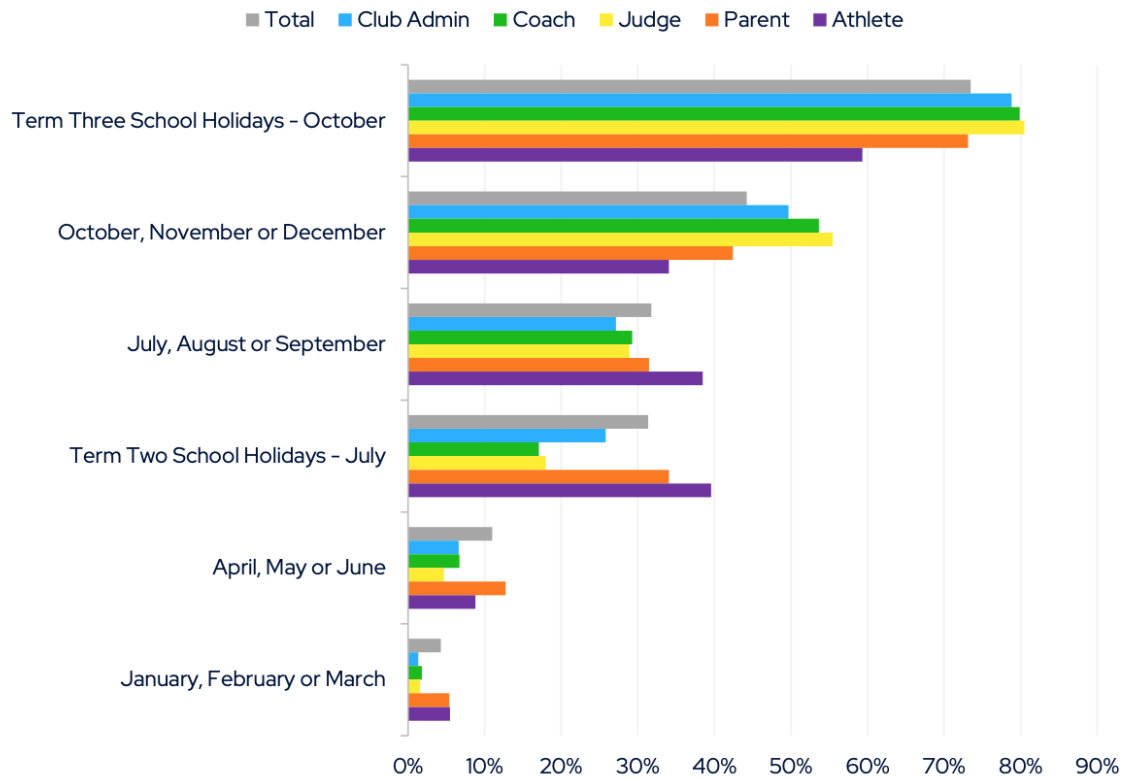
**Table C. Decision making framework evaluation**



	Evaluation Score					
	Total Audience	Club Admin	Coach	Judge	Parent	Athlete
January, February or March	19.7	29.8	22.9	24.5	18.0	24.9
April, May or June	22.9	30.5	27.7	29.3	22.4	28.6
July, August or September	38.5	41.6	43.8	43.6	35.9	39.8
October, November or December	48.7	53.0	52.4	53.4	47.3	40.1
Term Two School Holidays - July	32.2	37.6	33.3	34.0	31.2	37.5
Term Three School Holidays - October	56.4	60.8	60.6	60.7	54.8	47.4



**Table D. Audience split date preference.**



**Table E. Regional split for date sentiment**

