ECH 2020

In light of the global pandemic, the Local Organising Committee in liaison with the Danish Gymnastics Federation and the European TeamGym Technical Committee decided to reschedule the European Championships. The date has now changed from the 12-18th October 2020 to the 12-18th April 2021. As the age groups have been frozen for this event, the selected teams will remain as they are and will continue to prepare for the European Championships.

Ticket information can be found here: https://teamgym2020.com/tickets/

Performance Update

Throughout lockdown, the British Teams have been training hard at home to ensure they return in the best possible condition. Certainly, the collaboration between GB and personal coaches has been extremely encouraging and the work of the gymnasts; an inspiration. Credit is due to the clubs who have worked hard to provide remote support for all of their gymnasts towards this goal. Many thanks also to Enid who has been forwarding remote training ideas to clubs throughout lockdown. If anyone has not been receiving these please email Enid.Harrison@british-gymnastics.org to get on the TeamGym mailing list.

Planning to Restart

At present, we are NOT INSURED for any indoor sporting activity until the government gives permission for indoor sports to resume. However, when this does happen, we must be prepared and British Gymnastics are working to support clubs with their information resource called ‘the Way Forward’ https://www.british-gymnastics.org/step-forward

BG are continuing to add resources to this area of the website so please keep checking. The information is quite generic and non-descriptive by design. Each venue will be different and face their own challenges. Indeed, club officials are best placed to write the necessary risk assessments, as they know their venues and disciplines best. However, from a BG funded discipline meeting this week we have some additional tips:

➢ Consult coach education resources for your level of qualification for examples of progressions that do not rely upon coach support for the safe rebuilding of gymnastics skills without physical coach support.
➢ TeamGym (like many other disciplines) relies upon apparatus, which is continually contacted by both hands and feet (e.g. tracks and trampolines). In addition to regular cleaning it has also recommended to facilitate the cleaning of hands and feet upon entry to gymnastics halls.
➢ If in doubt about how to clean certain apparatus you might want to check the Way Forward plan and perhaps also contact the manufacturer.
Pay attention to COSH guidelines for cleaning, particularly if fogging machines are used. Also be prepared to do additional hovering if using fogging machines, as they have been known to bring down chalk and dust from higher areas.

2021-2025 (Paris Cycle)

Governance in gymnastics is organised into 4-year cycles in line with the Olympic Games. Even though the Tokyo Olympics has been postponed to 2021, preparations for the Paris cycle are already underway. This brings some big changes to how British Gymnastics Technical Committees are organised. Instead of a committee of seven, most Technical Committees will move to a committee of three. The exception being the Trampoline, DMT & Tumbling Committee because of the three disciplines they oversee. The new structure is currently intended to look as follows. Please note that the appointed TC (Paris cycle) will heavily influence the exact remit and structure of the sub groups.

Technical Committee meetings will be chaired by the NTCC and will include the two TC members and the BG Performance Manager. The TeamGym Talent Pathway Co-ordinator will also be included in a co-opted capacity. Effectively, the TC will become a smaller decision making unit, whilst the sub groups will be attend to specific portfolios of work. It is hoped that the expertise and experience of the current TeamGym TC will continue to feature within the subgroups if not the TC positions as well. Each sub group will have a chair. This position does not necessarily have to be one of the three TC members but a member of the TC would sit on each sub group for continuity.

In TC applicants, we are looking for:

- Team player
- Careful reader
- Diplomacy
- Respected in the discipline
- Knowledge of the code
- Leadership & decision making skills
- Ability and willingness to make the time.

Obviously, all of the time and experience needed to manage the discipline does not exist within three people. Therefore, we must ensure that we have the right spread of expertise across the Technical Committee and Sub Groups. As a non-binding expression of interest, if anyone has expertise they think could be useful across the Technical Committee and Sub Groups we would be interested to hear from you. Please complete the survey here https://forms.gle/Txe17wXjYVjrY6rn8

Future Events for TeamGym

With the inevitable disruption to all national events this year BG will not be holding Championships or recognising any British Champions in 2020. Currently the BG Events Department are exploring the possibility of holding an event the first week of December 2020 in Liverpool. The intention is to give gymnasts and clubs something to look forward to but not wishing to pressure any clubs to rush the preparation of gymnasts or teams. As such, this event would not resemble a British Championship and would adopt a more unique format. Although we cannot confirm any details at this time, it would be useful to get some feedback from clubs as to whether they might be interested in such an event (assuming a return to training over the summer). https://forms.gle/68oXX1P7HDYE4UWx9

Beyond the chaos of 2020, we hope to have a lot of exciting events in the future. These include:

March 2021 - British Qualifiers
April 2021 – European Championships in Copenhagen
July 2021 – British Championships In Liverpool (& possibly Mid European Qualifier)
November 2021 – Mid European Championships (TBC – possibly Italy)
March 2022 – British Qualifiers TBC
GBR Selection Event - TBA
July/August 2022 – British Championships TBC
September 2022 – European Championships in Luxembourg
You will notice the Mid European Championships as a new event. This is still in the planning phase but is based upon the Nordic Championships where Junior and Senior club teams qualify to represent their country. The event would welcome participation from all of the European countries with the exception of the Nordics who already have their own event. More details will follow as they become available.

You will also notice that the ECH for 2022 is a month earlier in September. This was to avoid clashing with a major event, it is intended that 2024 will return to an October date.

Good Luck with your preparations to return and keep a close eye on government updates and BG support material. Stay safe and keep up the good work.

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