

Issue No. 23 – September 2020

To all in our Gymnastics community

The WTC wish to extend their thoughts and good wishes to you during this very difficult time. It has been good to see so many of you on social media doing everything you can to continue to motivate your gymnasts.

In November 2019 the WTC commissioned a working group to look at the Challenge Cup. We are now able to publish the final document. The Challenge Cup now has two parts - the FIG Challenge Cup on full FIG rules at Espoir, Junior and Senior levels and the new Classic Challenge Championships on modified rules which will run as Gold, Silver and Bronze levels. I have taken the Introduction and the Framework of the Classic Challenge booklet to show the philosophy and aim of this new competition.

Both competitions will take place in November 2021 on the same weekend as the Bill McLoughlin. It is proposed that gymnasts wishing to take part in the Classic Challenge Championships will qualify through the Regions to a National Final. For the first year it will probably be through a specific number in each level from each Region. This will be confirmed at a later date.

The WTC still have a FIG Challenge Cup competition on full FIG rules scheduled for January 2021 to give gymnasts the opportunity to qualify for the British Championships in March 2021. Gymnasts that opt for FIG Challenge Cup will **not** be able to go back to the new Classic Challenge Championships in 2021.

Changes to the Challenge Cup

Introduction

For the past few years, WTC has been looking at ways to address the mandated reduction of gymnasts at the British Championships, yet also meet the demands of the vast increase in membership. In addition, keeping clubs in business, keeping gymnasts in the sport, and continuing to build tomorrow's coaches and judges has needed careful consideration. A working group was thereby commissioned towards the end of 2019, to take on this much needed body of work.

It can be stated that the current WAG competitive system in the UK is primarily based on FIG rules, but for all sorts of reasons most gymnasts cannot sustain or manage Bars, and/or cannot develop Vault beyond a certain point or make an international standard. The FIG Code is made for international level gymnasts. This then leaves a large majority of competitors needing a more realistic and less demanding way of competing and enjoying performing.

As a result, a new domestic "code of points" has been created to address these challenges, yet still allow for exceptional talent or late starters to emerge. This new code has been therefore created to address these and other challenges. The code is based largely on FIG rules and directives, yet much more choice and variety are highlighted.

Women's Artistic Technical Committee

This is a new competitive category that aims to keep these gymnasts in the sport, have a National Final Championship that they can strive for outside of the British Championships, and that values them in such a way that they consider becoming future judges and coaches. These aims can be met by increased variety for a more personal and suitable choice of a lower number of counting elements and compositional requirements, thereby reducing potential stress and injury. Considering the impacts of Covid-19, every effort has to be made to keep gymnasts in the sport, and so save the clubs. Our hope is that this code contributes to those efforts.

Framework

The traditional Challenge Cup is to be renamed to **"FIG Challenge Cup"**.

These new rules fall under the new **"Classic Challenge"** heading. An annual review with the WTC Working Group will occur to make any necessary changes.

The Classic Challenge is about inclusion, a level playing field, fair play philosophies, and is pro-choice. This category must not be deemed to be "lesser" or of a "lower class", and coaches, judges and gymnasts are discouraged from framing it that way.

The age groups are now named Bronze, Silver and Gold Levels.
The age ranges are Bronze 10-13 years, Silver 13-15 years, and Gold 16+.

COVID Update

Please be aware that for WAG there is still no spotting or landing in foam pits allowed except for the very small Olympic group. This group have had to sign a disclaimer to be able to have spotting for elements or routines. As soon as there is information from the Government, BG will issue an update on spotting and work into pits. We know this is not easy but it is to try to protect the spread of infection with the recent spikes. The last thing we want is for gyms to close down again.

The BG Events team are working hard to secure the venues for the National competitions in 2021. The dates we wanted are still in place, however due to many venues remaining closed it has been difficult to finalise all the venues. It is hoped that we can complete this process in the very near future. It is important for Regional TCs to be aware that we still have no protocol for COVID secure competitions.

If anyone has questions please reach out to the WTC via me maria.mcloughlin@british-gymnastics.org

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