



24th March 2021

**RE: World Age Group Competition, Baku, Azerbaijan
25-28th November 2021**

Dear gymnasts, parents and coaches

I hope that you and your families are keeping well during this challenging time. We are writing to inform you that following a period of consultation and reflection we have made the difficult decision to not enter gymnasts into the 11-12yr competition at the 2021 World Age Group Competitions scheduled for Baku (AZE) this November. We will endeavour to review this position on an annual basis.

This decision has been made with the welfare and well-being of gymnast's at the forefront of our thoughts and with particular consideration to the challenging year that has impacted this age range in particular so significantly.

We felt that by withdrawing from this event we will in turn help alleviate the associated pressures gymnasts may have felt and any excessive demands and stress they may have put upon themselves following such a prolonged period out of training. At this stage of a gymnasts journey it is important we focus on the best opportunities for them to develop and grow as people and as gymnasts.

This decision does now provide an opportunity for us to look to take them to other camps or competitions that may be more developmentally appropriate, a route that many other leading nations have previously chosen to take.

We understand this news will come as a disappointment, but hope you appreciate it has been taken in the best interest of the gymnasts who we will continue to fully support on their journey through the sport.

Best Regards

The Performance Team

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