

GymSports New Zealand

2007 Interim Year and 2008 & forward NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

REPORTS



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References are made to the Federation of International Gymnastics (FIG) document:

- *2007 Technical Regulations General Sections*
- *2007 Technical Regulations for each gym sport*
- *Publicity and Advertising Rules*

This report should be read in conjunction with the above publications which are available from GymSports New Zealand or the FIG website.

GymSports New Zealand (GSNZ)

2007 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

BACKGROUND

In October 2006 a Feasibility Study was commissioned in relation to GSNZ National Championships for all gymsports. A membership survey was included in the study brief.

The four principle outcomes of the National Championships Project are:

- Professional event organization
- Financial viability
- Entertainment value
- Raising the public profile of the gymsports

Stage #2 of the feasibility study will include financial forecasting of the preferred option(s).

Due to time constraints, related to venue availability and event organization the study brief defined that 2007 was to be treated as a one off interim arrangement.

In treating 2007 as such, this would also ensure that the feasibility study outcomes go through an extensive change management process of communication, organization planning, documenting of process and most importantly, provide a visionary vehicle for the future.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The feasibility of the following topics were researched, surveyed and assessed. These included but were not restricted too:
 - a. Venue availability
 - b. Equipment availability
 - c. Timing
 - d. Number of events
 - e. Mix/combination of gymsports
 - f. Juniors and seniors
 - g. Competition formats
 - h. Judges
 - i. Technical expertise
 - j. Event management expertise
 - k. Availability of volunteers
 - l. Multi media exposure
 - m. Entertainment value
 - n. Trampoline unification

2. The option of a combined national championship for all gymsports, in the same venue, is not a viable option for 2007 due to several barriers inclusive of venue and insufficient lead in time to organize an event of this magnitude. Therefore, all considerations for 2007 include more than one event and a split/combination of gymsports.

3. The viable options based on relevant factors are:
 - a. Either two (2) or three (3) events.
 - b. Either one (1), two (2) or three(3) cities.
 - c. Timing – will be determined by a. & b. and the availability of venues, equipment and volunteers. With two (2) or three (3) events there is a necessity to have different timings.
 - i. Boundaries - International meets that impact on NZ athletes and officials – August 8-18 World University Games; September 1-9 Artistic World Champs; September 19 – 23 Rhythmic World Champs; November 2-4 TRA World Champs. Date of travel upto 10 days prior to listed dates.
 - ii. Options considered -
 - MAG, WAG - 22 – 26 September (first 4 days of holidays); 26 – 30 September (mid holidays).
 - RG, TRA - 12 – 15 July (end holidays); 29 Sept – 2 October (mid holidays); 4-7 October (end holidays)
 - AER - 14 -15 July (end holidays); 25 – 26 August (non holidays); 22-23 September (first weekend holidays); 27 – 30 September (mid holidays); 4-7 October (end holidays).
 - d. Mix of gym sports – recommendation:
 - i. Event A - MAG & WAG Junior and Senior
 - ii. Event B - RG, TRA, AER
 - iii. Event C - Either TRA or AER or RG as a separate event
 - iv. The survey information included interest in hosting RG as a separate event, TRA as a separate event, WAG juniors and seniors as a separate event. There was no interest in hosting MAG or AER.
4. Events can be co-hosted between GSNZ and either RSC or Club. Support of the City is recommended.
5. Existing National Championships Manual and Trampoline Technical Manual organization to apply for 2007, with the following recommended exceptions:
 - a. GSNZ reserve the right to trial/implement any recommendations/options that are adopted for 2008> for example, competition formats, entry eligibility etc. It is recommended that the MAG & WAG new junior format be trialed in 2007 to provide an opportunity for the membership to experience this enhancement.
 - b. GSNZ reserve the right to bring forward any recommendations/options that have been presented from the membership via the Survey.
 - c. GSNZ and the co-hosts may negotiate liabilities and responsibilities in relation to finance, promotion, supply of equipment and key organization managers.
 - d. GSNZ are willing to discuss undertaking the responsibility for providing the results programme software, hardware, networking (if applicable), Results Manager and IT Manager.
 - e. GSNZ are willing to enter into discussions with the co-host organization regarding the provision of a Championship Director.
 - f. Entries for TRA, DMT, TUM to be processed according to GSNZ NCM regulations, that is – all entries processed through GymSport RSC's, maximum

- numbers per grade/level and a minimum age of 9 in the year of competition. These are status quo and in accordance with the preferences of the Survey.
- g. Eligibility for participation for TRA, DMT, TUM amended to comply with FIG regulations, "Ages – OPEN (Elite) minimum of 17 years in the year of competition, subject to the 17 year old NOT having participated in youth or junior (age group) competition in the same year. Age Groups (all) subject to NOT having competed in OPEN (Elite) competition in the same year." An athlete is not eligible to compete in both Age Group and Open(Elite) at the National Championships.
 - h. The NCM to be amended to exclude entries from overseas clubs. Entries from overseas organizations for National Championships to be restricted to Regions/States and Federations/Countries, unless specific invitations are issued by GSNZ to other organizations e.g. High Performance Centres.
 - i. The Award Ceremonies during the competition are timetabled into the general programme and that recommendation listed in the Report 13.c i – vi be implemented in 2007. The conducting of the Award Ceremonies was a topic that a large number of members were dissatisfied with in 2006 and it is recommended that the revised format be trialed at all National Championship events in 2007.
 - j. NCM be amended to delete the section on Judges for Artistic Junior National Championships and the section on Judges for Artistic Senior National Championships is amended by deleting the word 'senior'. This amendment will determine that all gymsports appoint judges for the National Championships on the basis of qualification and competency.

GSNZ RECOMMENDED ACTION SCHEDULE

1. Call internally for 2007 co-host organizations and follow up on information related to venues and hosts that was provided in the membership surveys.
2. Appoint co-hosts, negotiate finances, provision of organization managers and venues, appoint Technical Co-coordinators and other officials (as agreed with co-hosts) by December 2006.
3. Purchase Results Software that is net workable and update supported for Artistic and Rhythmic gymsports. The software and network to be tested at a minimum of two (2) Regional Championships during 2007.
4. Source funds to purchase an FIG specification AER competition floor base and top for availability from 2008> and arrange to hire the North Harbour RG sprung base and source a wooden top for use in 2007.
5. GSNZ and Trampoline Committee to implement the amendment to eligibility regulations – a competitor may not compete in both Age Group and Open competition in the same year.
6. Amend NCM to exclude entries from overseas clubs (refer to 5h).
7. Amend NCM to delete the section on Judges for Artistic Junior National Championships and the section on Judges for Artistic Senior National Championships are amended by deleting the word 'senior'.
8. Take into consideration the requirements of the Awards Ceremonies during training of the Results Team and the programming/timetabling of the events.
9. A provisional timetable/programme is required to be undertaken early 2007 when venues and the gymsport mix are known factors.
10. Implementation of recommendations listed in the report – 10. Technical Expertise, 11. Championship Director, 12. Volunteers, 13. Multi Media.

REPORT:

1. Venue Recommendations:

- a. Reference to FIG Technical Regulations for stadium requirements. Field of play size and separations can be reduced for National Championships as no podium is installed. No changes may be approved that increase risks in relation to safety (inclusive of ceiling heights). The equipment layout, safety borders and separations need to be taken into account when approving a smaller field of play.
- b. All venues should have the technical approval of the respective Technical Manager and overall approval of GSNZ CEO.
- c. Artistic - venue with a separate warm-up area is desirable, however for 2007, a venue with one field of play and adequate pre-warm up facilities should be acceptable provided that additional time is programmed to comply with the Awards Ceremony recommendations.
- d. RG, TRA, AER – the venue must provide separate warm-up facilities. These can be adjoining the field of play with temporary separations (e.g. above head height barriers or curtains). Spectator seating should be closed off from visible sight of the warm up floor space.
- e. Venue contract requirements in relation to public parking, catering, ticketing, merchandising, signage, service charges, hireage should be included in the initial venue approval application.
- f. If venue plans are not available for consideration in the approval process it will be necessary for a visual inspection visit to check air conditioning/heating, lighting and positions of lights in relation to equipment, power outlets for results and scoring systems, equipment layout, meeting rooms, drug testing rooms etc.
- g. Venue options - sports stadium; conference, convention, trade, entertainment centre; other sports centres/domes, indoor pavilions.
- h. Creative thinking in relation to TRA, RG, AER. There are ceiling height restrictions but no field of play installations required. A large indoor centre can be separated (temporary barriers) into several fields of play and warm up areas. For example split into four (4) to provide for TRA field of play and warm up area; RG field of play and warm up area which converts to AER by rolling up the RG competition carpet and installing wooden sections onto the RG/AER competition base floor.
- i. If AER national championships are conducted as a stand alone event, it is possible to hold these in a theatre type venue, however an FIG specification floor 12x12 is too large to be installed on a stage. The performance area for non group performances is 7x7 plus the safety surrounds which, ideally on a theatre stage should be 2m on all four sides.
- j. Survey responses to the question 'is there a suitable venue in your City' are available in the Survey 2007 Results.

2. Equipment

- a. Supplementary equipment list included to GSNZ NCM.
- b. Field of play and warm up area layout of equipment should have the technical approval of the respective Technical Manager and Control Judge of the event.
- c. Artistic – FIG specifications, including apparatus, landing mats, supplementary mats, beatboards, directional markings on vault landing and supplementary mats. Warm up and competition equipment must be the same brand.
 - i. Details of brand(s) of apparatus should be included in the Workplan.

- ii. Financial consideration should be given when hiring sets of equipment from Clubs. Insurance of borrowed equipment is essential.
- d. Trampoline – FIG specifications for trampolines, double mini trampoline and tumbling track, plus safety padding and matting.
- e. Rhythmic – FIG specification for floor sprung base and carpet top pad. Technical approval has been granted in the past for NZ National Championships to be conducted without the floor sprung base. The RG Technical Manager should be responsible for this decision taking into consideration the venue floor surface material.
 - i. It is desirable that the RG sprung floor base be hired from North Harbour and installed for all GSNZ National Championships.
- f. Aerobics - FIG specifications are desirable which include an AER sprung floor base with wooden top. As an interim measure for 2007 it is recommended that the RG base be hired and wooden sections sourced. For 2008> it is recommended that GSNZ source funds and purchase a FIG specification competition floor.

3. Timing

2007 - School Terms (Primary & Intermediate)			
Term 1	Wednesday 7 February	To	Thursday 5 April (84 half-days)
Term 2	Monday 23 April	To	Friday 29 June (96 half-days)
Term 3	Monday 16 July	To	Friday 21 September (100 half-days)
Term 4	Monday 8 October	To	Thursday 20 December (106 half-days) *
* Or Friday 21 December for schools that exercise one day's flexibility to close, or for schools in areas that celebrate their Anniversary Day in term time.			

2007 Public Holidays

Waitangi Day Tuesday 6 February
 Good Friday 6 April
 Easter Monday 9 April
 Easter Tuesday 10 April
 Anzac Day Wednesday 25 April
 Queen's Birthday Monday 4 June
 Labour Day Monday 22 October
 and the relevant Anniversary Day Holiday as listed below

International Events as scheduled in the HP Four Year Plans

- World University Games 8-18 August
- Artistic World Championships 1-9 September
- Rhythmic World Championships 19-23 September
- Trampoline World Championships 2-4 November

Date of departure up to 10 days prior and date of arrival in NZ approx 3 days after final date.

4. Number of events

As 2007 National Championships are being conducted on the NCM rules and regulations, there are limitations to the number of events that can be conducted within the current year regional and club competition programme.

- a. Known factor – it is not feasible to conduct a combined National Championship for MAG, WAG, RG, AER, TRA.
- b. The increased workload in relation a National Championship impacts on staff at GSNZ. Past experience has proven that conducting two national events within a two

or three week period places staff under considerable stress and has a negative impact on day to day customer service.

- c. Survey responses showed a preference for different events, different venues and different timings.
- d. The availability of venues, equipment and financial feasibility will be major deciding factors as to when and how many events can be conducted.

5. Mix/combination of gymsports

- a. **WAG Junior Levels and RG** – the maximum time that junior gymnasts should be on the field of play is 3 hours. For the past three years the junior artistic competition sessions have gone overtime due to the sharing of the music time with Rhythmic. The length of the RG routines is longer than the time spent in judging an artistic routine. From RG viewpoint, they are unable to operate with two judging panels, therefore the length of RG competition sessions are longer than is necessary or the norm at Regional Competitions. Therefore it is not in the best interests of either WAG or RG to continue to alternate WAG Juniors with RG.
- b. **MAG & WAG Artistic** - these two gymsports are a good mix and there are no prohibiting factors
- c. **RG & TRA** - these two gymsports are an internationally proven good mix providing that programming ensures that Synchro TRA are scheduled at a time when RG are not competing.
- d. **RG & MAG** – good mix, no sharing of music or apparatus.
- e. **WAG/MAG & TRA** – workable mix providing that programming ensures that Synchro TRA is scheduled at a time when WAG is not competing.
- f. **AER with RG or WAG** – not a workable mix as there are clashes with music, however AER sessions could operate either back to back or evenings through use creative programming.
- g. **AER & TRA** – these two gymsports are a workable mix.
- h. **AER & MAG** – these two gymsports are a workable mix.
- i. Survey preferences were for different events for each gymsport excluding MAG & WAG which were combined together as Artistic. Back to back events are an option and the Australian format of WAG, followed by MAG & RG is also a workable option. There was a strong preference for TRA to be a separate event.

6. Juniors and seniors

- a. The benefits of competing juniors and seniors, of the same gymsports, together at the same National Championships have been well documented in past forums and surveys. For the intent of this study no further research was undertaken on this topic.
- b. Financially there are savings in competing juniors and seniors of the same gymsport at the same event - the same venue, equipment, officials and judges are able to be used.
- c. Volunteers need to take annual leave to attend the National Championships. They are willing to do this for one event, but are not in favor of attendance at two national events.
- d. The Survey indicated an interest in hosting 2007 National Championships for WAG only. This possibility of this option financially would be dependant on the other event hosting combinations. It is probable that there would be a double up of expenses if Artistic gymsports were hosted in different Cities and different venues.

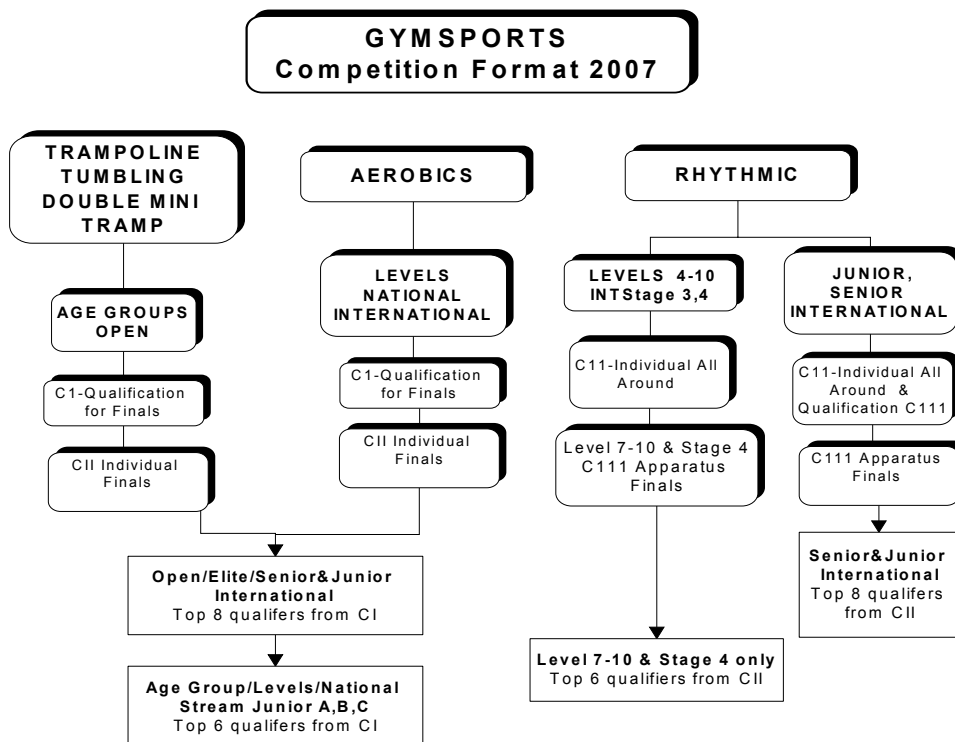
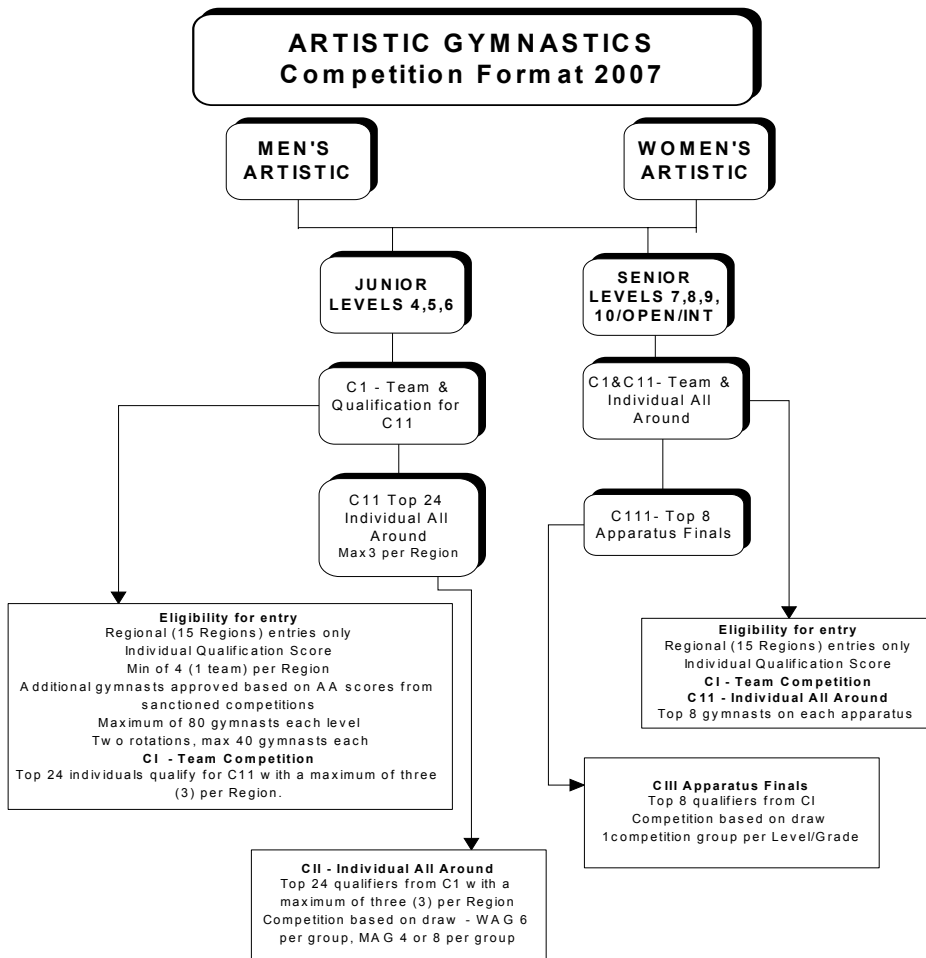
7. Recommended Combinations for 2007

- a. Event A WAG & MAG Juniors and Seniors
- b. Event B RG,TRA,AER
- c. Dependant on the factors in 4. either RG, TRA or AER could be considered as a separate event.

8. Competition formats

- a) Survey preferences for RG were the status quo, that is C111 Apparatus Finals for Junior and Senior International only. All other grades/levels compete a combined C11/111 – individual all around and apparatus competition.
- b) Survey preferences for TRA were status quo. Survey preferences for AER were the same as TRA which is a change for AER in the awarding of apparatus awards for levels grades.
- c) Survey preferences for MAG & WAG were the status quo. It is recommended that the revised format be trialed in 2007. The revised format is conducive to growth and development by increasing the number of junior gymnasts from a maximum of 60 to a maximum of 80 with C1 conducted in two rotations and the top 24 qualifiers competing in C11 for the individual all around titles. The competition sessions will be shorter with lower numbers and no byes, shorter warm-ups and no delays created through sharing of music time with RG.

Refer to Competition Format flow chart diagrams on next page



9. Judges

- a. The changes to the competition formats, in reference to the gymnast's qualification (more than one rotation for Artistic Juniors, Individual All Around and Apparatus Finals) deem it important that the highest ranked judges are appointed to the judging panels.
- b. The current NCM regulations are relevant for RG, AER. For MAG & WAG the senior regulations are relevant for Junior and Senior. These are based on qualifications and competency. They have no relation to which Region a judge resides.
- c. **Recommendation:**
 - i. NCM be amended to delete the section on Judges for Artistic Junior National Championships and the section on Judges for Artistic Senior National Championships is amended by deleting the word 'senior'.
 - ii. The result of these amendments will be that Judges for all gym sports are appointed by GSNZ based on the highest level of qualification and competency.

10. Technical expertise

- a. The current NCM regulations can be applied for 2007. Relevant regulations require the host RSC to ensure:
 - i. 5.3 "ongoing liaison with the Technical Managers about the Championships and any specific requirements such as the involvement of an overseas team".
 - ii. 5.15 b) "recommend to GSNZ the appointment of Local Technical Coordinators for each gym sport".
 - iii. 5.15 c) "appoint an organizing committee that consists of at least five (5) personnel, including the Local Technical Coordinators as representatives of the GSNZ Technical Managers".
- b. Refer to 10. iii for duties and responsibilities of Local Technical Coordinators.
- c. **Recommendations:**
 - i. The Local Technical Coordinators should not have other duties during the Championships. They should be 100% available to assist the Control Judge, with specific duties to oversee the Equipment and Results teams.
 - ii. The Local Technical Coordinators act as liaison between the Control Judges and the Championship Director in relation to management instructions for non-technical file of play operations (Announcer, Floor Manager, Awards, Marshall, Music, Media etc).

11. Event management expertise

- a. The current NCM regulations can be applied for 2007.
- b. Relevant regulations require the host RSC to:
 - i. 5.2 "appoint the Championships Director who shall have overall control of the non-technical aspects of the Championships". (Refer to Recommendations)
- c. Relevant regulations require GSNZ to:
 - i. 6.2 "appoint through its Technical Committees the Control and Panel Judges for the Championships".
 - ii. 6.7 "the GSNZ Control Judges shall control the technical direction of the competitions. They shall closely collaborate with the Championships Director and supervise the work of the Judges".
 - iii. 6.8 "The local Technical Coordinators work under the direction of the GSNZ Control Judges and shall assist in the supervision of all technical personnel involved in the competition, namely the Equipment Officer, Results Officer (scoring office)."

- d. **Recommendations:**
- i. During competition sessions the Championship Director must be available at all times at the Control Table.
 - ii. During competition sessions and immediately following sessions the Championship Director will be in continual communication with the Control Judges, via the Local Technical Coordinators who will act as liaison between the Control Judges and the Championship Director in relation to the management of non-technical file of play operations (Announcer, Floor Manager, Awards, Marshall, Music, Media etc).
 - iii. Pre- Volunteer training is undertaken with each team leader/coordinator and the team of volunteers.
 - iv. GSNZ appoint the Championship Director for each of the 2007 National Championships and that the Organising Committee(s) appoint a Chairperson of the Organising Committee.

12. Availability of volunteers

- a. The appointment, training, outfitting and supervision of the teams of volunteers if the responsibility of the host organization with the exception of the in competition supervision of the Technical teams – Equipment and Results. (Refer Technical Expertise).
- b. The timing of the Championships will impact on the availability of volunteers.
- c. Work rosters for each team of volunteers should be flexible and take into consideration other personal commitments of the volunteer.
- d. Training of each team of volunteers should be undertaken prior to the championships.
- e. Organisational planning should take into consideration the many volunteers are undertaking duties outside their norm. For example, venue security – ensure the designated areas on the accreditation passes are clearly readable from a distance.
- f. The Venue Manager (Organising Committee) is responsible for ensuring that the involvement in the Championships is a pleasant experience for all teams of volunteers who are under his/her management.
- g. **Recommendations:**
 - i. All volunteers should be clearly identifiable and uniformly dressed. This relates in particular to:
 - Outside the field of play – Security, Marshall's, Training/Warm up Gym, Front of House and Competition Office staff.
 - Inside the field of play – Results and Equipment teams, (results includes secretaries, data input operators, manual recorders, score displayers), music operators, announcers, marshals, award coordinators.

13. Multi media exposure

h. **Print media**

- i. Either GSNZ or the Organising Committee prearrange for the Media Liaison Officer to undertake pre-championships media releases and provide facilities for the Officer to work during the Championships.
- ii. Daily feeding of results to the media.
- iii. Arrangements for media interviews both pre and during the Championships.
- iv. Liaison with the Championship Director for media access to the field of play.

i. **Television**

- i. The appointed Media Liaison Officer is responsible for liaison with the Championship Director for media access and positioning on the field of play.
- ii. Pre-arranged sports news crews with all channels.
- iii. If a television production is undertaken, there should be pre-championships liaison and input from the Championship Director.

j. **Profiles**

- i. International athlete profiles and photographs for downloading made available on GSNZ website.

k. **GSNZ Website**

- i. The appointed Media Liaison Officer is responsible for updating the GSNZ website with results and news a minimum of three times per day during the period of the Championships.

l. **Recommendation:**

- i. GSNZ develop a job description for the Media Liaison Officer.
- ii. GSNZ appoint the Media Liaison Officer for the 2007 Championships.

14. Entertainment Value

- a. Overall entertainment to be studied in 2008>
- b. **Preservation of National Championships honor and prestige** - Entries from overseas organizations for National Championships to be restricted to Regions/States and Federations/Countries, unless specific invitations are issued by GSNZ to other organizations, for example, High Performance Centres.
 - i. New Zealand Clubs may not enter direct to the National Championships and it is considered the same regulation should be applied to other Federations/Countries.
- c. **Award ceremonies** are an important section of the Championships and the ceremonies need to be produced as part of the overall programme of events taking into consideration the following process which is the norm at gymnastics event in other Federations and international events:
 - i. The results team are required to have reports signed, award reports distributed, certificates printed within 15 minutes of the completion of each event.
 - ii. Athletes are marched from the floor at the completion of competition and assembled in the warm up gymnasium or assembly area. They are held in this area until the results are determined and the winners assembled for Award Ceremony march on. Athletes who are not required for the ceremony can be assembled on the competition floor OR released to the spectator area to watch and provide support for the ceremony.
 - iii. The ceremony should be held on the field of play. A script for the ceremony should be provided for the announcer including the acknowledgement of sponsors etc.

- iv. The award winners are marched from the field of play at completion of the awards and taken to the media interview area.
- v. Timetabling of the Awards Ceremony should be within 20 minutes of the completion of the competition session.
- vi. Warm up for the following competition session should be held on the warm up apparatus, in the warm up gymnasium. There should be no warm-ups or other activity on the competition field of play during the Awards Ceremonies.
- vii. There are no issues with vi for AER, TRA, RG as there are always separate warm up facilities. There is an issue for Artistic when there is no separate warm up facility provided.
- d. **Survey responses** indicated a general dissatisfaction with the timing, environment and 'hype' of the ceremonies in 2006.
- e. **Recommendation for 2007:** It is recommended that Award Ceremonies during the competition be programmed into the general programme and that all i – vi be implemented in 2007. If there are no venue separate warm up facilities for Artistic, the timetable to be extended to ensure that there is 45 minutes between the end of competition and the start of warm up for the following session.

15. Trampoline Unification

- a. **Current position**
 - i. Eligibility of entries – entries are accepted from Trampoline Regions/Areas and Clubs.
 - ii. Eligibility of athletes – athletes may enter in their respective age group **and** Open/Elite for each discipline TRA, DMT, TUM.
 - iii. There appears to be no distinction in regards to the entry fee for athletes who contest two national titles to those who contest one national title.
- b. **FIG Regulations**
 - i. FIG Technical Regulation for TRA does not allow an athlete to participate in two different grades. This is consistent throughout all gymnastics.
 - Open Grade – 17 years of age in the year of competition, subject to the 17 year old NOT having participated in youth or junior international competition in the same year.
 - Youth – Age Group – 13 -17 years of age in the year of competition, subject to not having participated in Open World Championships, World Cup or Continental Championship in the same year.
 - ii. Translated to a National Organisation (GSNZ) these regulations would be applied as follows for Club, Regional and National Championships/Competitions throughout NZ:
 - OPEN (Elite) minimum of 17 years in the year of competition, subject to the 17 year old NOT having participated in youth or junior (age group) competition in the same year.
 - Age Group – 17 year old subject to NOT having competed in OPEN (Elite) competition in the same year.

c. Development of talented athletes:

- i. Discussions related to the implementation of 15.b.ii in New Zealand will include the question “How do we develop our talented young athletes if they have to compete in their own age group?”.
- ii. Age Group athletes - the recommendation **does not** restrict the athlete to competing in their own age group. For extension purposes a 10 year old could compete in the 15 – 17 age group category.
- iii. The recommendation **does** prevent an athlete 16 years and younger from competing in the Open/Elite Grade. If there are sufficient athletes in the international development category, as inferred in the FIG Regulation a new grade could be added “Junior International/Elite/Junior Open”.

d. Recommendation:

- i. 2007 National Championships entries for TRA, DMT, TUM to be processed through GSNZ RSC's.
- ii. 2007 athletes may enter into one category/grade only for each discipline:
 - OPEN (Elite) minimum of 17 years in the year of competition, subject to the 17 year old NOT having participated in youth or junior (age group) competition in the same year.
 - Age Group 17 year old subject to NOT having competed in OPEN (Elite) competition in the same year.

GymSports New Zealand (GSNZ)

2008 & forward NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

BACKGROUND

In October 2006 an Options Feasibility project was commissioned in relation to GSNZ National Championships for all gymsports.

The five principle outcomes of the National Championships Project are:

- **Recognise and honor the 'best' in our sport**
- **Professional event organization**
- **Financial viability**
- **Entertainment value**
- **Raising the public profile of the gymsports**

Stage #2 of the project will include financial forecasting of the preferred option.

Following GSNZ decisions on the future organizational plan for the National Championships the information will be included in a GSNZ Events Manual.

In October 2006 a Membership Stakeholder Survey was conducted. Membership forward thinking visualizations and concepts are included in this document.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. To achieve the stated outcomes there are known **'MUST BE'S'** that have not been considered options in this study. These are:
 - i. **THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR ALL GYMSPORTS ARE CONSIDERED A 'MULTI SPORT' EVENT, HOSTED IN THE SAME CITY AT THE SAME TIME.**
 - ii. **CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE TO THE EXISTING EVENT MARKETING, ORGANISATION, PRODUCTION AND COMPETITION FORMATS.**
2. Options are listed within the main body of the report under the applicable sub-topic.
3. Recommendations are listed within the main body of the report under the applicable sub-topic.

REPORT

Introduction

1. WORLD CLASS EVENTS

- a. **What are the required outcomes of National Championship Events:**
 - i. Provide an opportunity for members to be recognized and honored as “the best’ in New Zealand at their individual and/or team level of competence and ability.
 - ii. Provide an opportunity to showcase our sport and raise the public profile to attract the attention of potential members, public, media and sponsors.
 - iii. Produce a world class, professionally organized event that has entertainment value to the public and is television and media ‘friendly’.
 - iv. Produce a financially viable event that generates surplus profit to fund the total expenses and overheads including resources and marketing, and provide a return on investment for all parties (GSNZ, hosts, contractors, vendors).

2. WHERE ARE WE NOW?

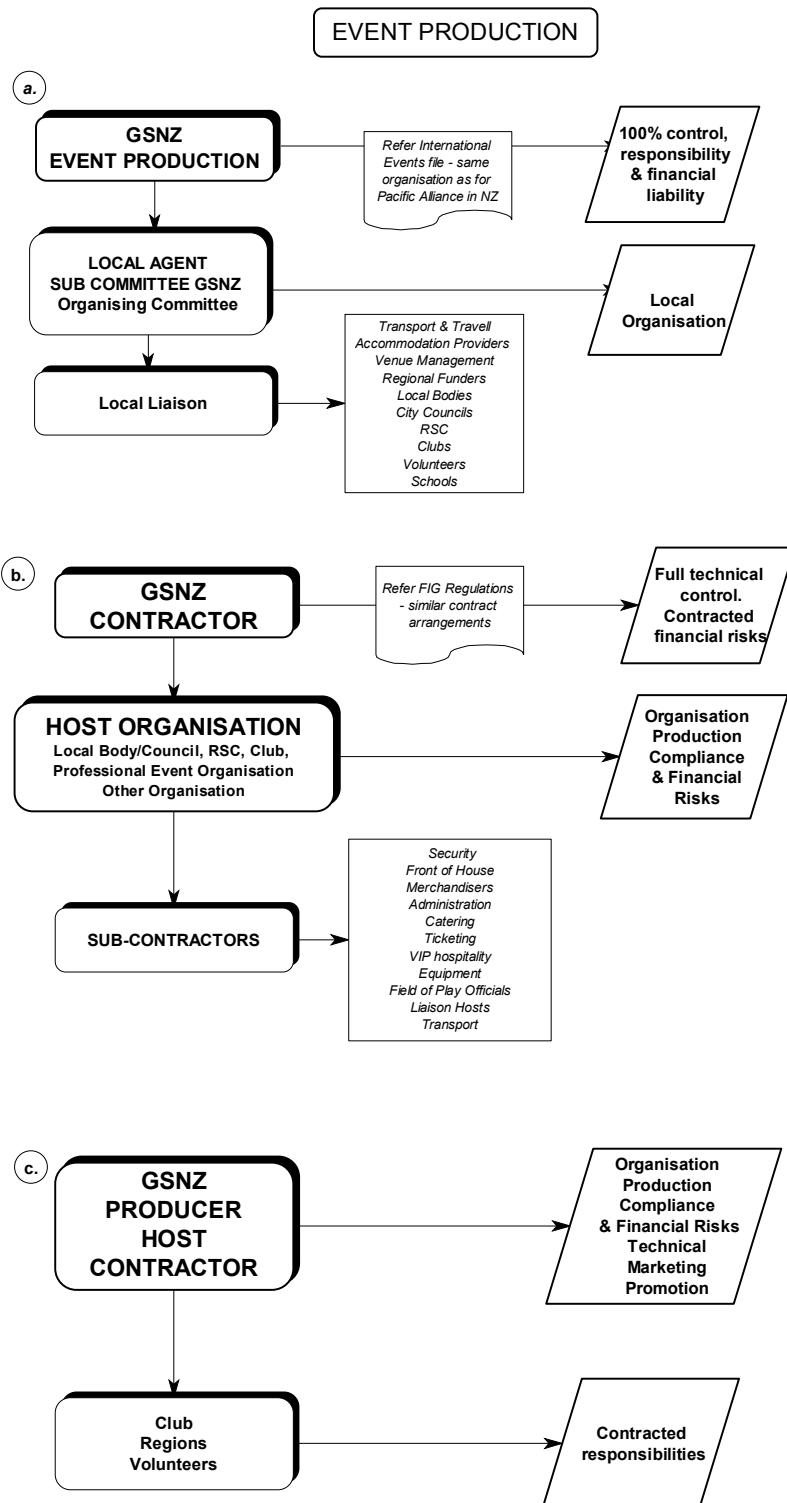
- a. At the current time only 1.a.i is being achieved.
- b. Progress has been made in recent years to upgrade the major gymnsport events and these changes have proven that the sport is capable of achieving the outcomes in 1.a. ii. iii. iv.
- c. The 2006 membership survey returns clearly indicate that there is minimal interest from gymnastic members to host combined National Championships from the year 2008 and onwards. The member’s preference was for separate gymnsport events and status quo on organizational and format topics.
- d. The National Championships project was commissioned to provide options for future development and vision in relation to the conducting of the National Championships.

3. WHERE DO WE NEED TO GO?

- a. Change is a necessary ingredient for the achievement of the five principle outcomes of the project.
- b. To achieve the stated outcomes there are known ‘MUST BE’S’ that have not been considered options in this study. These are:
 - i. **THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR ALL GYMSPORTS ARE CONSIDERED A ‘MULTI SPORT’ EVENT, HOSTED IN THE SAME CITY AT THE SAME TIME.**
 - ii. **CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE TO THE EXISTING EVENT MARKETING, ORGANISATION, PRODUCTION AND COMPETITION FORMATS.**

4. EVENT PRODUCTION

- a. GSNZ produce the event and establish a local organizing sub-committee reporting to GSNZ.
 - b. GSNZ call for bids from organization(s) (internal and external of gymnastics) to host the event under contract to GSNZ.
 - c. GSNZ produce and host the event - contract local Clubs, Regions and Volunteer base.
- **Reference:** FIG 2007 Technical Regulations, Regulation 4, 4.1- 4.11, pages 13 – 26, **ORGANISATION OF COMPETITIONS.**



- d. **Term in same City** – based on the required outcomes and to gain the maximum return on investment the minimum term is two (2) years and the preferred option term is three (3) years with the same organization held in the same City. For the first term operated under a new system the parties may agree to a one (1) year with a right of renewal for a further two (2) years.
- e. **Advance timing** – In order to affect the maximum benefits it is considered that the City, Venue(s) and Event Production format should be to be in effect three (3) years in advance.

5. EVENT BIDDING

Event Production options a. and c. do not require GSNZ to call for bids to host the National Championships. In these options GSNZ undertake responsibility for all organizational responsibilities and appoint either - a. a sub-committee organizing committee, or b. contract parties to undertake organizational tasks. The Venue(s) determinations will take place prior to a. and c. being effective.

Option c. requires GSNZ to call for bids for a Host Organiser:

- a. **Calling for bids** – Information included in the ‘selling the benefits’ document from GSNZ calling for bids from organizations includes, but is not restricted too:
 - i. **Term of Contract** - on the basis of the required outcomes and to gain the maximum return on investment the minimum term is two (2) years and the preferred option term of contract is three (3) years. For the first term operated under a new system the parties may agree to a one (1) year with a right of renewal for a further two (2) years.
 - ii. **Venue(s)** – Required specifications for the venue(s) inclusive of:
 - Field of play specifications including dimensions, height, lighting, air conditioning, temperature, floor surfaces, spectator separations, spectator seating. FIG Technical Regulations can be modified as GSNZ National Regulations. *Refer to FIG 07 Technical Regulations, Regulation 4. 4.11.2 The competition hall and 4.11.6 Training Facilities.*
 - Training and Warm up facilities.
 - Meeting Rooms.
 - Anti doping testing facilities (*Attach diagram of preferred facilities*).
 - Artistic apparatus floor plates.
 - iii. **Timing of year:-**
 - **Option 1** – members survey preference for the existing timing of school holidays in September.

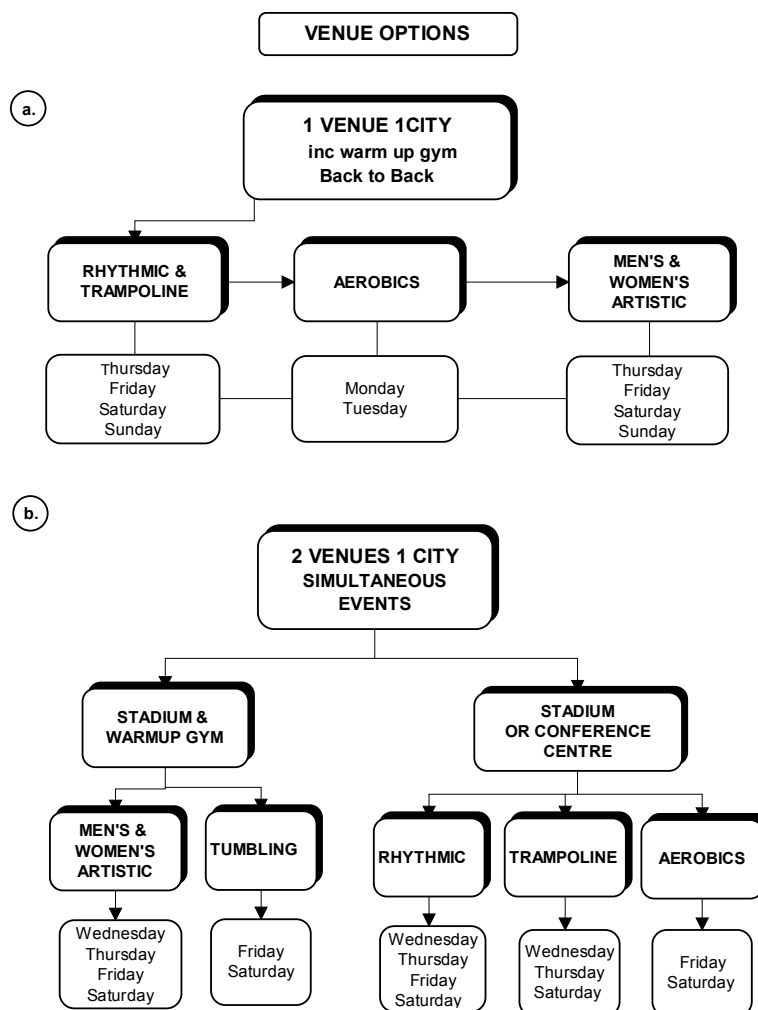
2008 - PRIMARY AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS			
Term 1	Thursday 7 February	To	Friday 18 April (98 half-days)
Term 2	Monday 28 April	To	Friday 4 July (98 half-days)
Term 3	Monday 21 July	To	Friday 26 September (100 half-days)
Term 4	Monday 13 October	To	Friday 19 December (98 half-days) *
* Or to a day in December which ensures that the school has been open for instruction for 394 half-days in 2008.			

2009 - PRIMARY AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS			
Term 1	Monday 2 February	To	Thursday 9 April (96 half-days)
Term 2	Monday 27 April	To	Friday 3 July (98 half-days)
Term 3	Monday 20 July	To	Friday 25 September (100 half-days)
Term 4	Monday 12 October	To	Friday 18 December (98 half-days)

- **Option 2** – flexible within three (3) year blocks taking into consideration the boundaries of the regional competition season and the length of lead in time to make changes to the domestic competition season.
- **Option 3** – change the domestic competition season to have compatibility with the international calendar and conduct qualification regional championships in autumn when stadiums are warmer and there is less competition with winter team sports for venue space, spectators and publicity.

AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY
National Schools								Comp Season	Comp Season	Comp Season	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

iv. Gymsport mix options and Venues:



v. **Logistical information:**

- Number of competitors (in target age groups – market influences)
- Number of officials, male/female and target age groups
- Number of officials, volunteers/workers, male/female and target age groups
- Projected number of parents (*source information from RSCs based on 2006 National Championships*)
- Projected number of spectators for qualification rounds and finals (non-parents)
- Total personnel 'in town' for the event, for x number of days (*accommodation, sightseeing, restaurants, shopping benefits*)
- Number of mini buses estimated for teams (*RSCs source of data*)
- Number and type of functions to be hosted
- Catering requirements – public outlets, officials/volunteers meals, function catering

vi. **Accommodation** – Anticipated number of beds per night x number of nights; type of preferred accommodation (*RSCs source of data*). Option on negotiating host hotel and package requirements (*sponsorship*).

vii. **Travel** – Anticipated number of airline travelers - use of public transport, vehicle rentals

viii. **City Benefits** - sell the economic benefits of the event to the potential bidder – Local Authority/City/Event Organisation/Gymnastics Organisation.

ix. **Responsibilities of Organiser/Host and responsibilities of GSNZ** – an outline of the key responsibilities of the host organizer. *Refer to FIG 07 Technical Regulations, Regulation 4. 4.5 Organiser; 4.7 Direction of the Competition; 4.11 Principal tasks of the Organiser – these can be used as a template and modified to GSNZ requirements and terms of Contract.*

b. Presentation of Bids:

i. The bid presentation and documents presented to GSNZ should contain all information required to make the best decision.

ii. A technical and operational visual inspection of the venue(s) is recommended prior to commitment.

iii. The following information should be included in the bid documents and available at the presentation:

- Plans of the proposed venue including proposed field of play and training/warm up facilities, overall layout of each level including clearly defined meeting rooms, rest room facilities for competitors and public, concourse, public facilities, merchandising areas, seating plan, Corporate Boxes/VIP room.
- Placement of lighting and lux, air conditioning, heating, ceiling heights in all areas of field of play, position of artistic floor plates (if installed), seating numbers in each block. PA address system,

sound system on field of play, any visual display equipment available.

- Television access, audio visual installations, IT network, power point access on field of play.
- Cost of hire, pack in and pack out hire, penalties, additional costs, ticketing, parking, catering, and food outlets, merchandising licenses, signage restraints and any other terms of lease or sub-contracted out aspects. Copy of the venue lease agreement.
- Security provided/available.
- Travel distances between airport, accommodation, shopping centre and venue.
- Recommended accommodation and restaurant options (host hotel or individual hotel/motel availability).

6. EVENT HOSTING

a. GSNZ Responsibilities

- i. Overall control and direction of the event.
- ii. Technical direction of the competitions. *Refer to FIG 07 Technical Regulations, Regulation 4, 4.1, 4.4, 4.7, 4.9, 4.10*
- iii. GSNZ NCM (2005 version) had been modified based on the FIG template. 6.8 “The local Technical Co-coordinators work under the direction of the GSNZ Control Judges and shall assist in the supervision of all technical personnel involved in the competition, namely the Equipment Officer and Results Officer (Scoring Office)”.
- iv. The FIG directives are not followed in relation to the role of the GSNZ Technical Committee’s (all Technical Committee members are not Expert Judges). Currently all responsibility is on the Control Judge. Options for these roles are:
 - **Option 1** – A competition/control jury for each gymnsport consisting of the Technical Manager, Control Judge, one other brevet judge. The local technical co-coordinator to report to the Technical Manager. These persons do not undertake other duties (coaching, judging etc) and must remain in Control for the duration of all competition sessions. The overseeing of the technical aspects of the competition can then be split – for example Judges, Scoring Office, Field of Play including Equipment team and liaison with the Championship Director.
 - **Option 2** - A competition/control jury as detailed in Option 1, consisting of the Technical Manager, Control Judge and Championship Director. This option is recommended when two or more gymnsports are competing simultaneously.

v. Principal Officers - recommendations:

- The appointments of the Principal Officers can be a recommendation from the Host/Organiser (depending of the organization structure) but the appointments should be made by GSNZ following verification of the capabilities and skills of the appointee.
- **Championship Director** is responsible for directing the event both internal and external of the field of play. Other than those mentioned below he/she is responsible for the Managers/Officers of each section of the overall organization and works in close liaison with the Technical Managers and Local Technical Co-coordinators.
- **Local Technical Co-coordinator** works under the direction of the Technical Manager. He/she supervises all the personnel involved on the field of play (competition floor) and works in close liaison with the Championship Director.
- **Head of Personnel for Equipment** (Equipment Manager/Officer) who is a subordinate to the Local Technical Co-coordinator. He/she is responsible for the setting-up, maintenance and condition of the apparatus and landing matting.
- **Head of Personnel for the Scoring Office** (Scoring/Results Manager/Officer) who is a subordinate to the Local Technical Director, but works in direct liaison with the Technical Manager. He/she is responsible for supervising the scoring arrangements and the dissemination of scores to all concerned.

vi. Other Recommendations:

- The Principal Officers, other than the Local Technical Co-coordinators are trained and contracted temporary (casual) employees of GSNZ for a minimum of 3 years to provide a consist and efficient team working environment.
- That GSNZ assume responsibility for the purchase and supply of a Results/Scoring system (hardware and software) for each gymnsport.

b. Event Organising Committee

- i. The responsibilities of the Organising Committee (OC) will be dependant on the Event Production organization structure – *Refer to a. b. c.)*
- ii. The FIG principal tasks of the Organiser and directives on lines of authority could be used as a template and modified to meet the requirements of GSNZ and terms of Contract. *Refer to FIG 07 Technical Regulations, Regulation 4. 4.5 Organiser; 4.7 Direction of the Competition; 4.11 Principal tasks of the Organiser – these can be used as a template and modified to GSNZ requirements and terms of Contract.*
- iii. This information to be included in the GSNZ Event Manual.

c. Sponsorship

i. Opportunities

- Naming rights for 'multisport' event
- Sub-naming rights for individual gym sports
- Sub-sponsors for each event, for example, RG Level 8 Individual All Around Championship; MAG Level 10 Rings Apparatus Final
- TV Special
- Equipment Sponsor – (*Reference Gymnastics Australia/Acromat full sets of equipment supplied at each event plus Equipment Team staff*).
- Results/Scoring Programme Sponsor – (*Reference FIG/Longines, supply of hardware, software, IT team and ongoing software enhancements and updates*).
- Goods in kind
- Function sponsor
- Judges sponsor (uniform – refer FIG Publicity & Advertising Rules for specifications)
- Regional sponsors

ii. Overview of exposure opportunities (examples only)

- Signage in field of play (*Refer FIG Publicity & Advertising Rules which contain specifications and regulations for all signage/advertising in relation to apparatus, field of play signage, clothing/uniforms*)
 - Signage boards in the competition arena
 - Signage/advertising on apparatus
 - Signage/advertising on apparel
 - Signage/advertising on competitors competition numbers
 - Signage/advertising on awards podium
- Signage footer on Results Reports
- Signage on score display boards
- Event programme advertising
- Television and print media exposure – interviews, documentaries, appearances, print media articles.
- Event posters displayed in host City commercial sites.
- Static or live displays in host City shopping centre.
- Gymnast/athlete appearances at sponsor's events/promotions.

iii. Partnerships – maximize returns to both parties

- Local Authority/City Council – *refer to benefits to city, Event Bidding*.
- Official hotel chain of the multisport event – partnership % of room rates paid as cash sponsorship and/or goods in kind (Final Function).
- Air travel – 'bums on seats'.
- TV Special – cash payment to pay for production costs/exposure signage, logo, name on television screenings.
- Shopping centre – shopping spend of 'visitors to City'.
- Night club or bar – officials socializing choice.

- Gymnastics Equipment supplier, supply of equipment, human resources to under position of Head of Equipment personnel and members of equipment team - free advertising and television exposure via manufacturers name and logo on apparatus and landing mats.

d. Television

- i. Refer to 8. Entertainment – Television*

e. Risk Management Plan

i. Insurance

- Public Liability – policy in place with GSNZ
- Equipment loss or damage – check if the owner of the equipment has a policy that covers transportation and loan or hire. If not covered either GSNZ or Organisers will need to take out material damage and loss cover.
- Event employees and appointed volunteers personal liability cover.

ii. Legal Issues, Health & Safety –

- Event environment including the field of play and outer venue perimeters are a place of work.
- Legislative and legal responsibilities including Health & Safety in the workplace issues will be cover in the GSNZ Events Manual.

iii. Financial Management

- Responsibilities and liabilities for financial matters will be clarified in the GSNZ Events Manual and in the Contracts between parties.
- The areas of responsibility cannot be determined until the Event Production and Organisation structure has been determined.

iv Risk Management Plan

- A Risk Management Plan should be a requirement of the Organising Committee.

7. EVENT ORGANISATION

a. Entry eligibility

i. Age –

- **Option 1** – retain the current policy of a minimum age of 9 in the year of competition applicable for all gymnsports (including Trampoline). That is, the minimum age of the gymnast to compete in the National Championships is 8 provided that their birthday is in the current calendar year and they will turn 9 between the date of the event and the end of the year.
- **Option 2** – retain the current policy of a minimum age of 9 in the year of competition applicable for all gymnsports. In extenuating circumstances an RSC may make application to the respective Technical Committee for dispensation to compete. This gymnast must have achieved the qualification criteria. The extenuating circumstance could be to provide the RSC with an artistic team in a particular level; provide an RSC with sole representation in a

particular level/grade; provide the gymnast with an opportunity gain competition experience based on potential to represent NZL in the following two years.

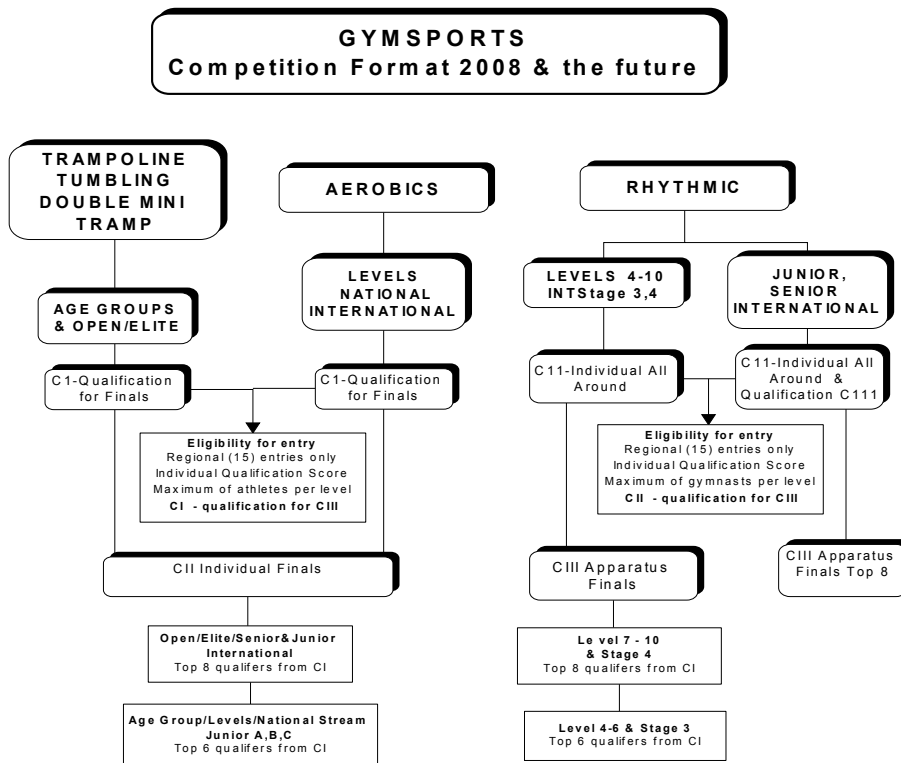
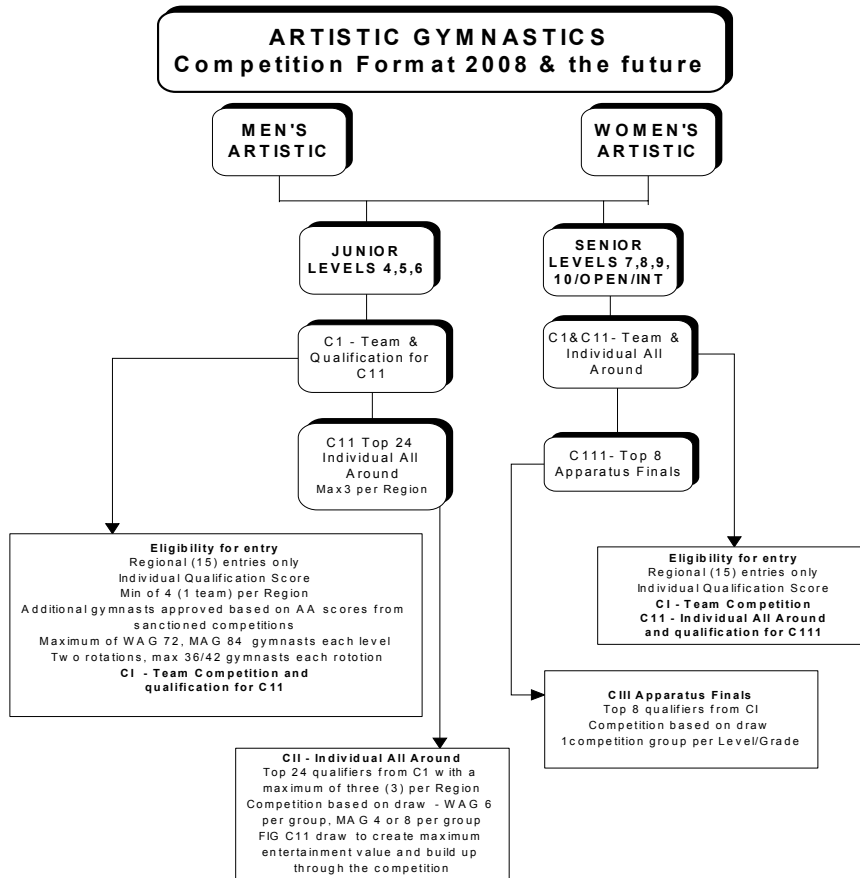
- **Option 3** - no minimum age for eligibility.
- ii. **Membership** – all gymnasts/athletes must be individual members of a GymSport Club which is affiliated to a GSNZ Region as evidenced by GSNZ membership data base.
- iii. **Regions only** - Entries for National Championships are filed with GSNZ via a Region.
- iv. **Qualification** – The respective Technical Committees shall establish a minimum qualification score which must be achieved at sanctioned event in the same calendar year. Evidence of the qualification scores must be filed with the entries.
- v. **Maximum number per level/grade – based** on the format, time and entertainment value of each competition.
- WAG Juniors C1 maximum of 36 per rotation of a maximum of 2 = 72; C11 24 with a maximum of 3 per Region.
 - MAG Juniors C1 maximum of 48 per rotation of 2; C11 24 with a maximum of 3 per region.
 - WAG Seniors C1 maximum of 36 (4 groups) or 45 (5 groups); C111 maximum of 8.
 - MAG Seniors C1 maximum of 27 (3 groups) or 48 (6 groups); C111 maximum of 8.
 - RG – to be determined based on the time to compete each session
 - TRA - to be determined taking into consideration FIG maximums for each rotation.
 - AER - to be determined.
- vi. **One level/grade per competitor**
- Gymnasts/athletes may only compete in one grade/level in the same year in the same gymsport.
 - A gymnast/athlete may not compete in both Age Group and Open/International/Elite competition.
 - This ruling is currently in place for WAG, MAG, AER, and RG.
 - Refer to 2007 Report for the recommended wording in relation to changes to GSNZ Regulations and TRA Technical Handbook. This will bring TRA into line with FIG regulations and the other gymsports in NZ.
- vii. **International entries**
- Entries from overseas organizations are restricted to Regions/States and Federations/Countries, unless specific invitations are issued by GSNZ to other organizations, e.g. High Performance Centers.
 - Entries from overseas organizations must be sanctioned by the Federation to whom the organization is affiliated.

- NZ Clubs may not enter direct to the National Championships and it is recommended that the same regulation should be applied to guest entrants. This will assist in the preservation of the honor, prestige and public profile of the National Championship.

b. On line entry processing







- i. On line entry processing is the end outcome of the GSNZ planned project to implement a national data base which will be secure and accessible by RSCs and Clubs for the affiliation of members.
- ii. As members details will be in the data base, the use of this tool for on line processing of entries for all competitions is a natural progression.
- iii. Online processing of entries for national championship events will create a window of opportunity for a more efficient and timely creation of the documents required for confirmation of the programme of events, Workplan, Event Programme. The saving is estimated to be 5 days x 2 resources. Current tasks undertaken manually that will not be required are checking of affiliations, checking of eligibility (ages and qualification scores), re-input of all entry data into a spreadsheet, manual checking of the data and corrections.

c. Competition formats to create entertainment value







- i. The flow chart details the recommended competition format for all gymsports.
- ii. The competition format has been developed to meet the needs of competitors, spectators, media and GSNZ.
- iii. The first round of competition is either a either a qualification round only (AER & TRA), or a mix of qualification, team (artistic), individual all around (RG juniors). The number of participants is controlled via a maximum number for each competition session which will result in a more entertaining event for the spectators and provide shorter competition sessions for junior gymnasts.
- iv. The second rounds of competition are formatted to 'show' our best gymnasts, for spectator interest and to provide an opportunity for GSNZ to use the event as television productions.
 - **The draw for the artistic junior's** individual all around of the top 24 gymnast's places the top 6 qualifiers in the same group with the first three ranked qualifiers competing last at the end of the competition. This format has been trialed and used by FIG to create excitement and buildup throughout the session. In many cases the title is hanging on a thread waiting for the final three routines to be scored. The format also makes for ease in television filming as the camera crew can focus on the one group, plus any outside individuals who come through during the competition session.

Male gymnasts

Rotation						
1	5, 4, 3 2, 1, 6	11, 10, 9 8, 7, 12	17, 16, 15 14, 13, 18	23, 22, 21 20, 19, 24		
2		4, 3, 2 1, 6, 5	10, 9, 8 7, 12, 11	16, 15, 14 13, 18, 17	22, 21, 20 19, 24, 23	
3			3, 2, 1 6, 5, 4	9, 8, 7 12, 11, 10	15, 14, 13 18, 17, 16	21, 20, 19 24, 23, 22
4	20, 19, 24, 23, 22, 21			2, 1, 6 5, 4, 3	8, 7, 12 11, 10, 9	14, 13, 18 17, 16, 15
5	13, 18, 17 16, 15, 14	19, 24, 23, 22, 21, 20			1, 6, 5 4, 3, 2	7, 12, 11 10, 9, 8
6	12, 11, 10 9, 8, 7	18, 17, 16 15, 14, 13	24, 23, 22 21, 20, 19			6, 5, 4 3, 2, 1

Female gymnasts

C-II WAG				
Rotation 1	3,2,1, 6,5,4	9, 8,7, 12,11,10	15,14,13, 18,17,16	21,20,19, 24,23,22
Rotation 2	20,19,24 23,22,21	2,1,6 5,4,3	8,7,12, 11,10,9	14,13,18, 17,16,15
Rotation 3	13,18,17 16,15,14	19,24,23, 22,21,20	1,6,5 4,3,2	7,12,11, 10,9,8
Rotation 4	12,11,10,9 ,8,7	18,17,16, 15,14,13	24,23,22, 21,20,19	6,5,4, 3,2,1

- **Apparatus Finals FIG format - MAG, WAG, RG and AER** drawing of lots. TRA order of merit with the lowest ranked qualifier from the qualification round competing first and the highest ranked qualifier competing last.
- **GSNZ Apparatus finals** draws:
 - a. **Option 1** - random draw as is the current status quo
 - b. **Option 2** - compete in 'upside down' qualification ranked order – the lowest ranked qualifier competes first and the highest ranked qualifier competes last. This format provides for buildup and excitement throughout the final peaking in the final performance of the 'expected winner'.

d. **Equipment/Apparatus**

- i. For the safety and well being of all competitors and to minimize the legal risks for the Organisers and key officials it is recommended that FIG Apparatus Norms and safety regulations be applied for all gym sports.
- ii. If modifications are required for junior events, or dispensations are granted for non-compliance of FIG specifications it is recommended that these are documented in a GNSZ National Standards document.
- iii. Dispensations granted should not increase the risks of accident or injury and place officials in a position of risk.
- iv. The FIG Technical Regulations specify that apparatus and landing mats for training/warm up must be identical to that used in the competition venue.
 - *Reference FIG Apparatus Norms*
 - *Reference FIG Technical Regulations for the respective gym sport.*
- v. **AER Recommendation:** That GSNZ purchase a FIG specification Aerobics floor (Refer to 2007 report).
- vi. **RG Recommendation:** That identical carpet topper pads are used for warm up and competition. The requirements are a FIG specification for floor sprung base and carpet top pad. Technical approval has been granted in the past for NZ National Championships to be conducted without the floor sprung base. The RG Technical Manager should be responsible for this decision taking into consideration the venue floor surface material. It is desirable that the RG sprung floor base be hired from North Harbour and installed for all GSNZ National Championships.
- vii. **TRA Recommendation:** That FIG specification in relation to equipment, including end frames, safety padding and matting are adhered for both the warm up and competition areas. Refer to Artistic recommendation on hire of equipment from Clubs/Owners.
- viii. **Artistic Recommendation:** Two full sets of identical equipment is required if the venue has a separate warm up gymnasium (desirable). One full set of equipment is required if the venue has one set up gymnasium. The 'begging, borrowing and transporting' of equipment to bring together for a National Championship is a huge undertaking and involves a considerable amount of manpower in addition to the pack up and pack down phases. It is recommended that this equipment is hired at commercial rates from Clubs/Owners, the hire fee taking into consideration the wear and tear and loss of the use of the equipment and possible income from other activities for the duration of the hire period.

e. **Stadium/Venue field of play layout of apparatus/equipment**

- i. This is a challenging task often achieved without safety considerations being taken into account, particularly in a multi sport event in the same venue.
- ii. The field of play layout of apparatus/equipment should be undertaken **prior** to the approval of the venue, inclusive of Judges tables and seating, gymnasts seating (artistic), Scoring Office and Control seating, television/media walkways and safety spacing between apparatus and spectators. This task is the responsibility of the Event Equipment Manager, Event Control Judges and the overall responsibility of the Technical Managers and Championship Director.

- iii. Signage – the *FIG Publicity and Advertising Rules* can be used as a guideline for placement and sizes.
- iv. The layout plans of the field of play should be included as an Appendix in the Workplan.

f. **Results software. Hardware, Management**

- i. Recommended that GSNZ assume responsibility for providing all scoring and results hardware and software inclusive of the score display boards for each artistic apparatus and other gymnsport events, required to operate a networked online scoring and display system.
- ii. That the results software purchase includes a multiuse license that can be accessed for use by all Regions and Clubs who conduct competitions throughout New Zealand.
- iii. Refer to 6.v. Principal Officials – “Head of Personnel for the Scoring Office (Scoring/Results Manager/Officer) who is a subordinate to the Local Technical Director, but works in direct liaison with the Technical Manager. He/she is responsible for supervising the scoring arrangements and the dissemination of scores to all concerned”.

g. **Key officials**

i. **Build up relationship and retain experience and services**

Based on the experience of other Gymnastic Federations the most successful events are those in which the Principal Officers are appointed as either employees or volunteers and undertake long serving service in their roles of expertise. This consistency provides for a competition management team who work together to produce World Class Events.

ii. **Professional contract recommendation**

GSNZ recruit and contract temporary (casual) employees for a fixed term per annum, and availability for a minimum of 3 years to provide a consist and efficient team working environment for the production of the National Championships. In addition, a mentoring/training succession plan is in place to provide consistency of performance over a long period of time.

- iii. The costs incurred in key officials (human resources) should be a recoverable overhead from the event.

h. **Judges**

i. **Appointments**

- The regulations for the appointments of judges should be the same for all gymnsports.
- The changes to the competition formats, in reference to the gymnast’s qualification for Individual All Around or Apparatus Finals deem it important that the highest ranked and experienced judges are appointed to the judging panels. This is relevant in particular to Artistic where there are two rotations of CI for the team competition and qualification for CII Individual All Around. FIG use this format at World Championships with the same judges panels in place for all rotation.

- The current NCM regulations are relevant for RG, AER. For MAG & WAG the senior regulations are relevant for artistic junior and senior levels of competition. The appointments are based on qualifications and competency. They have no relation to the Region in which a judge resides or is affiliated.
- Implementation of the existing senior regulations for artistic will ensure there is no repeat of the 2006 situation where appointments were made on a 'revised' format and judges were repeatedly overhead to state "I am here to judge for my region" or "I am my region judge this year". Survey membership comments were made in relation to the influence of judges on the outcomes of national titles at the 2006 artistic championships. National Championship Judges must remain unbiased and not be subject to influence from regions.
- **Recommendation:**
 - a. NCM be amended to delete the section on Judges for Artistic Junior National Championships and the section on Judges for Artistic Senior National Championships is amended by deleting the word 'senior'.
 - b. The result of these amendments will be that Judges for all gymsports are appointed by GSNZ based on the highest level of qualification and competency.

ii. **Payment travel and accommodation costs**

- The options available for payment and recovery of these costs are:
 - a. Retention of the existing equalization scheme which GSNZ arrange and pay for air/car travel of the appointed judges and recovers the costs on an equalized basis from Regions based on a set percentage and the balance based on the number of gymnasts participating. The recovery of accommodation @ \$40 per day is also equalized amongst the Regions and redistributed to the judges via the RSC to which they are affiliated.
 - b. GSNZ arrange and pay for air/car travel of the appointed judges and the costs of travel and an accommodation allowance paid to each appointed judge are budgeted for and recovered from the event.
 - c. Appointed judges arrange and pay 100% of their own costs to attend the event and the costs are recovered from the contract payment rates per session (*refer iii below*).

iii. **Payments per session**

- Research indicates that there is a wide and variable payment system in place throughout NZ in relation regional and club competitions and to payments for a Control Judge and payment/gifts/vouchers to panel judges.
- There appears to be two differing terms of payment – per session and per day with a majority of panel judges paid per session and the Control Judge per day.
- Payments to the Control Judge take into consideration travel, accommodation, pre-event planning and technical assistance to the

organizing committee, control jury and competition management during the event.

- Payment for the services of Judges varies throughout the World. There is a growing trend to make a token payment per session. There is also a reluctance demonstrated against payment to this sector. The USA have led the field in this area and due to their college system judging gymnastics is a viable career choice for those judges who are in demand.
- An Australian State makes variable payments per session based on the level of accreditation. For example a FIG Brevet judge will receive \$A35 per session, which averages out to \$A105 per day. The State does not pay for the judges ongoing costs of re-qualification, attendance at competitions (national and international). Those judges who are at the 'top of the ladder' retain national federation funding.
- The RSCs in NZ who pay 100% of their judge's costs may find the above process less costly than their current outlay over a four year period.
- **Recommendation:**
 - a. That GSNZ instigate a payment system for judges at national events and recommend a standardised system be implemented throughout NZ for all regional and club events.
 - b. That travel and accommodation continue to be funded for appointed judges and a payment per session be made over and above travel and accommodation.
 - c. The per session rates to be established based on level of competency – Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, FIG Brevet and Control Judge.
 - d. The per session rates to be determined by GSNZ. These rates to be established as guidelines for regions and clubs to allow the current practice of petrol or gift vouchers to be used for travel reimbursement of costs. Cash payments made over and above reimbursement of costs incurred will be taxable.
 - e. **Example for regional or club events** – Level 1 & 2 minimum of 2 sessions \$10.00, thereafter \$2.50 per session; Level 3 minimum of two sessions \$10.00 thereafter \$3.00 per session; FIG Brevet minimum of one session \$10.00, thereafter \$5.00 per session. Payments may be made as gifts, vouchers or cash. Control judge \$50 per day plus travel and accommodation costs.
 - f. **Example for national events** - per session Level 2 \$5.00 per session; Level 3 \$10.00 per session, FIG Brevet \$15.00 per session. Control judge daily rate of \$80.00 or \$20.00 per session if control duties are shared.

i. **Media Officer**

- **Print media**

GSNZ arrange for the contracted/appointed Media Liaison Officer to undertake pre-championships media releases and provide facilities for the Officer to work during the Championships. Duties include daily feeding of results to the media, arrangements for media interviews both pre and during the Championships, liaison with the Championship Director for media access to the field of play.

- **Television**

- c. The appointed Media Liaison Officer is responsible for liaison with the Championship Director for media access and positioning on the field of play.
- d. Pre-arranged sports news crews with all channels.
- e. If a television production is undertaken, arrange for pre-championships liaison and input from the Championship Director.
 - **Profiles** - International athlete profiles and photographs for downloading made available on GSNZ website.
 - **GSNZ Website** - The appointed Media Liaison Officer is responsible for updating the GSNZ website with results and news a minimum of three times per day during the period of the Championships.

j. **Volunteer officials**

i. **Appointment**

- Appointment of Principal Officers is detailed in 6.v.
- The appointment choice of Key Officials in respect to all other position of team management and leadership is an important task of the organizers. Ongoing availability and volunteer service are desirable, not only for the three (3) years of the event in the same city, but for possible appointment to events in other cities.

ii. **Training**

- All volunteers, key officials and team players require training. They may not need training in their own field of expertise but they will need updating on the changes and requirements in relation to the conducting of the event.
- As the sport moves into a professional event management arena it is feasible that many of our event volunteers will be appointed from outside the sport – never assume that a volunteer knows ‘gymnastics jargon’.
- The Workplan is the ‘bible’ for all officials and the team leaders/managers need to ensure that all volunteers have the information, schedules and flowcharts to undertake their required tasks and are aware of the implications in relation to other sections.
- Flowcharts outlining the lines of communication and distribution of documents and reports assist in making the work behind the scenes seamless and efficient.

iii. **Volunteer ‘employees’ – treat with respect**

- Treat all volunteers as employees. An event is a ‘place of work’ and workers, both paid and unpaid, are entitled to the same conditions of employment.

- The current practice of providing volunteers with food vouchers for meals whilst they are on duty generated many comments in the membership survey, mainly in conjunction with two aspects
 - a. Backup personnel on duty to allow volunteers to take their snack or meal break scheduled times.
 - b. Standing in a queue at the public food outlets is a huge NO.
- **Recommendation:** - Continue the practice of issuing volunteers with food vouchers in acknowledgement of valued service; arrange a schedule of break times which includes a replacement person to take over the duties; arrange with caterers for a separate service area/counter for the volunteers at specific times of the day; set aside a relaxation room for volunteers to socialize, eat their food, and provide hospitality in the form of free tea, coffee, water and perhaps fresh fruit or snack bars. Alternative is to provide a pre-packed boxed lunch for the volunteer to collect in exchange for the food voucher.

iv. Availability and Recognition of volunteers

- The appointment, training, outfitting and supervision of the teams of volunteers is the responsibility of the host organization with the exception of the in competition supervision of the Technical teams – Equipment and Results. (Refer Technical Expertise).
- Work rosters for each team of volunteers should be flexible and take into consideration other personal commitments of the volunteer.
- Organisational planning should take into consideration the many volunteers are undertaking duties outside their norm. For example, venue security – ensure the designated areas on the accreditation passes are clearly readable from a distance.
- **Recommendations:**
All volunteers should be clearly identifiable and uniformly dressed. This relates in particular to:
 - Outside the field of play – Security, Marshall's, Training/Warm up Gym, Front of House and Competition Office staff.
 - Inside the field of play – Results and Equipment teams, (results includes secretaries, data input operators, manual recorders, score displayers), music operators, announcers, marshals, award coordinators.

k. Conferences, Forums, Functions

- i. Conferences, forums and other activities or meetings should be taken into consideration in the programming phase of planning.
- ii. Whilst acknowledged that 'in competition' coaches and officials are not totally focused on external aspects of the sport, the opportunity to maximize communication and feedback to and from a broad group of members cannot be ignored.
- iii. Social functions (invite only) are popular, for example the presentation of the bids for the national championships event for the following and post three years; an update on the organization for the following year event; sponsors functions.

I. **Award Ceremonies**

Award ceremonies are an important section of the Championships and need to be produced as part of the overall programme of events taking into consideration the following process which is the norm at gymnastics event in other Federations and international events:

- i. The results team are required to have reports signed, award reports distributed, certificates printed within 15 minutes of the completion of each event.
- ii. Athletes are marched from the floor at the completion of competition and assembled in the warm up gymnasium or assembly area. They are held in this area until the results are determined and the winners assembled for Award Ceremony march on. Athletes who are not required for the ceremony can be assembled on the perimeter of the competition floor OR released to the spectator area to watch and provide support for the ceremony.
- iii. The ceremony should be held on the field of play. A script for the ceremony should be provided for the announcer including the acknowledgement of sponsors etc.
- iv. Presenters for each award ceremony should be pre-arranged and if possible ex. NZ representative gymnasts/athletes acknowledged by invitation to present awards.
- v. The award winners are marched from the field of play at completion of the awards and taken to the media interview area.
- vi. Timetabling of the Awards Ceremony should be within 15 minutes of the completion of the competition session.
- vii. Warm up for the following competition session should be held on the warm up apparatus, in the warm up gymnasium. There should be **no warm-ups or other activity on the competition field of play** during the Awards Ceremonies.
- viii. There are no issues with vi for AER, TRA, and RG as there are always separate warm up facilities. There is an issue for Artistic when there is no separate warm up facility provided.
- ix. Membership survey responses indicated a general dissatisfaction with the timing, environment and 'hype' of the ceremonies.
- x. **Recommendation:** Recommended that Award Ceremonies during the competition be programmed into the general programme and that all i – vi be implemented. If there are no venue separate warm up facilities for Artistic, the timetable to be extended to ensure that there is 40 minutes between the end of competition and the start of apparatus warm up for the following session. This may extend the event for an additional day.

m. **Final Function, major Awards and Closing ceremony**

- i. If the event is in the same city, same time, different venues it will possible to host a combined final function, available for all participants who wish to attend. Recommended that tickets are widely available and pre-sold for event officials, volunteers, parents, supporters, juniors. The cost of the ticket for senior gymnasts/athletes is included in the entry fee (compulsory).
- ii. If the event is in the same city, same venue, back to back times it will not be possible to host a combined final function. Dependant on timetabling it

should be feasible to host two final functions for varying combinations. (*Refer to competition formats*).

- iii. The membership surveys indicate a preference for a less formal meal, formal awards ceremonies for the key awards, less expensive bar drinks, great music, time to mix and mingle and plenty of dancing.

n. **Plan of Work**

- i. The plan of work. Commonly known as the Workplan is a comprehensive document. There are no recommendations for a change to the content.
- ii. Recommended that the overall responsibility for the Workplan is the Championship Director. Specific responsibilities for sections of data to be allocated to key officials and GSNZ staff.
- iii. Distribution of the Workplan:
 - Draft programme of events – 6 months pre-event
 - Final programme of event – ten days following close of entries
 - Draws and competition schedules – two weeks pre-event, available on website only.
 - Full Workplan – one week pre-event available on website only.
 - Printed copies of Workplan distributed to Regions at the Orientation Meeting prior to the start of competition. An explanation of all changes for the current year to be presented at the Orientation Meeting.
 - Printed copies of the Workplan should be provided to principal and key officials and relevant sections to judges and volunteers to assist them to undertake their duties.

o. **Documentation Distribution flowcharts**

- i. The flowcharts currently in use will require updating after the Event Production and Organisation structure has been defined.

8. **EVENT ENTERTAINMENT VALUE**

a. **Television**

i. **Production based on an event rotation – Apparatus Finals**

- Refer to 2004 TV production of Artistic Apparatus Finals and additional footage of RG interspersed. Report on Sky TV screenings (7x 1 hour programme) and audience demographics are available on file at GSNZ.
- Production costs in 2004 were less than \$10,000. Post production and voice over was undertaken in a studio with GSNZ input and commentary. Sponsorship was sourced to cover the production costs.
- Plans were in place with Sky TV and the production company to shoot the same type of programme in 2005, the change being a live shoot with voice over during production. This type of production could have been used for live feed coverage in the venue.
- Artistic gymnastics is not simple to shoot, whereas AER, RG and TRA are easier, with fewer cameras and minimal crew. Artistic is easier in Apparatus Finals where there is only one performance at any one time, replays and slow-mo's are slotted in whilst the judging is in process, the score board is shot with the final score and the next

competitor starts. Announcer, music operator and judges take direction on movement of gymnasts from and Event Official who is in radio contact with the Television Producer and the Outside Broadcast vehicle.

- **Lights** - the lighting lux and positioning of lights in the venue are critical. Lighting is part of the venue specifications. For the safety of the gymnasts/athletes the lighting level must be the same in warm up as it will be in competition. The cost of turning the lighting up for the television production should be included in the event budget.
- The repositioning of portable signage maybe necessary during the shoot to gain maximum exposure for the event and television production sponsors.
- Field of play control of all movements is important to create a 'clean' look. For example, gymnasts roaming around, bags lying around, coaches lounging around, non-uniformed officials walking around– these all add to an 'unclean' look.
- Broadcast rights for floor music – all music CD's must be labeled with the required information in relation to broadcasting of the music.
- The layout of the apparatus in relation to the spaces between fixtures and landing mats should take into consideration the keying viewing angles for the cameraman.

ii. **Production of an event produced for television (not part of official national event)**

- The ideal television production is an event produced specifically for television entertainment to gain exposure and raise the public profile of the sport. To minimize costs this could take place on the day prior to the first day of the National Championships, or could take place at a time of the year conducive to peak performances from the gymnasts/athletes.
- The ideal format would be for one performance to be shot at a time; however multi gymsports could be utilized. The size of the venue would determine how many sets of equipment for the different gymsports could be installed. Venue specifications are the same as for a competition event. The public seating, layout of the apparatus, camera angles need to be taken into consideration to ensure there is a compact crowd of spectators seated close to the action.
- Examples of events:
 - a. **Gala** – demonstration performances and displays encompassing all gymsports. Positive – exposure for all gymsports. Negative – no competitive quality to build up excitement and expectations accumulating in a highpoint finish; resource hungry planning to produce a high quality event that will enthrall and hold viewers attention.
 - b. **Multi Sport Challenge** – national region team or club challenge; 6 regions or clubs; WAG, MAG, RG, AER, TUM, TRA; region/club to compete in a minimum of three gymsports; top 12 performances accumulate for the team challenge.

- c. **Two Gymsport Challenge** – national club teams; any two gymsports; minimum and maximum number of juniors and seniors; top 12 performances accumulate for the team challenge points.
- d. **Entertainment event** – similar to USA television events (Rock n Roll Special). Gymnasts/athletes compete in character (dress up) and 'PERFORM' entertaining and high quality routines that project a 'WOW' factor to the viewers. Fun competition cumulating in a winner.

iii. TV news exposure

- In addition to a scheduled television production, TV news channels screen brief segments on the sports news. Regular spots assist greatly in raising the public profile of the sport.

iv. Pre-build up opportunities

- Currently pre-build up opportunities are arranged prior to Commonwealth Games only. Recommended that these are put in place for National Championships each year. Ideal time to commence immediately post Commonwealth Games with a follow through on same gymnasts.
- Gymnast/athlete interviews on documentaries, sports programmes and current affairs.
- Emphasis on local print media in the host City.
- Interview with gymnasts/athletes during the first days of the event (attract ticket sales) – radio and TV.
- Giveaway event tickets through a radio promotion.
- Promotion through local schools in conjunction with a mega club who operates a schools gymnastics programme.
- Blocks of seating in the qualification sessions reserved for groups of school children. If they enjoy the experience they may talk their family into attending a finals session.

v. In house video screening

- Either television footage or the official video footage can be fed live into the gymnasts warm up/training gymnasium, the gymnasts marshalling room and the venue concourse for public viewing whilst at merchandising, catering or refreshment booths.

b. Public and Parent spectators

i. Announcements

- Historically Announcers at National Championship events serve the needs of the competition with minimal focus on the spectators. If we wish to attract the general public to our events we must educate them on the sport and provide information such as running scores throughout the session to build up the expectations and excitement of the competition.
- Announcements to open each session should include acknowledgement to sponsors, venue housekeeping topics and

information on the session including any changes to the programme (awards ceremonies, media interviews).

- There is an assumption that 'parent' spectators know what is happening. It should be assumed that ALL spectators need to understand our sport. Announcements can be used for education and understanding of 'what is happening on the field of play'.
- In all events each gymnast/athlete and artistic floor gymnast in CI and CII should be announced – COMPETITION NUMBER, NAME, REGION. The announcement of the competition number is important for the spectators to follow the scoring process and identify the gymnast with their number on the score display units (ideally names and numbers should be displayed).
- In CIII Apparatus Finals and CII All Around Finals all gymnasts should be announced by COMPETITION NUMBER, NAME, and REGION. Also, if time permits, the score from the previous gymnast.
- In CI and CII the team and individual all around running totals should be displayed on a large screen OR announced during the change of rotation.

ii. Commentary

- Unfortunately, for safety reasons, it is not possible to have a running commentary via the public address system.
- **"In house radio station"** - merchandising of cheap (\$10.00) battery operated radio receivers and ear phones to the public spectators and the operation of an in house radio station to provide live commentary, interviews and information. This system has been successfully implemented at major international events.

c. **Competition presentation/production** - refer to competition formats to attempt to enhance entertainment value and add suspense to the competition session building up to a climax finale.

d. Display of scores

- i. World best electronic score display units are directly connected to the scoring system. At each apparatus/event the information displayed is gymnast/athlete competition number, name, Federation, apparatus/event, A/difficulty score, B deductions for each judge, B score and FINAL SCORE.
- ii. World best venue display boards can show television or video live performances, scores of all apparatus/events and running totals for team and individual all around score.
- iii. NZ electronic display boards or manual display boards show the gymnast/athlete competition number and final score.
- iv. **Recommended** that GSNZ work towards a future target of electronic floor scoreboards directly connected to the scoring system to display competition number, gymnast/athlete name, A/difficulty score, B score and final score. Venue screens to display the same information, plus running totals for individual all around and teams.

e. **Sponsors hospitality**

- i. Hospitality at the event can be used to attract new sponsors and retain existing sponsors and supporters.
- ii. GymSports are in competition with all other sports for the sponsorship dollar. Sponsors have a right to expect the same level of hospitality that they would receive from other sports.
 - Make them feel important! Hosted at all times by CEO or Chairman.
 - Season VIP tickets – not just one or two but sufficient to provide the sponsor with tickets to reward their staff.
 - Hospitality room – in addition to refreshments ensure there is a 'gymnastics person' available to talk our sports. If the room is not a corporate box ensure there is television/video live feed into the room and VIP seats available in the 'best' seats in the house.
 - If VIP's have family in attendance arrange for children to meet gymnasts/athletes.