

**MINUTES FROM THE RG SPORTS PROGRAM TECHNICAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10 JULY 2007 AT 3.00PM IN ADELAIDE AT
THE MARION LEISURE AND FITNESS CENTRE**

1. Present: Joan Duquemin (VIC), Stephanie Schahinger (SA), Caroline Schahinger (SA), Karyn Murray (WA), Krasi Yurukova (WA), Karen Gilgallon (WA), Simone Allen (WA), Leah Gaye (WA), Margaret Lanz (VIC), Vanessa Kelly (WA), Rachel Smyth, Sharyn Kemp (VIC), Gina Peluso (QLD), Robyn Pride (NSW), Carol Lane (NSW), Teresa Evans (NTD) and Karon Williams (NPM).
Apologies: Meryl Papas (QLD) and Jenny Whitworth (QLD)

2. Minutes from the previous meeting held 20th May 2006 – the minutes were accepted as correct. Moved by Carol Lane seconded by Karyn Murray.
Motions from the minutes:
Motion 1 – 2006 Selection Policy – to include under Article II Selection Committee the following wording:-
Should any person on the RG Selection Committee have a conflict of interest in the selection process then that person will step down and be replaced by a Gymnastics Australia nominated person.
The Selection Policy has been amended to reflect this change.

Motion 2 – To change the RG competition rules relating to the number of gymnasts that qualify to compete in the Apparatus Finals based on the number of entries
 - Less than 12 entries in a division = 4 in a final
 - 13-25 entries = 6 in a final
 - >25 entries = 8 in a final*The RG Competition Rules have been amended to reflect this change.*

Motion 3 – The SPTA Meeting to be scheduled so as not to conflict with podium training or competition warm-up. This is to ensure maximum attendance by coaches, judges, state representatives and National SMC members.
All meetings at the 2007 National Championships have been scheduled before the start of competition.

3. Voting Delegates
The following voting delegates were identified:
NSW – Carol Lane
VIC – Joan Duquemin
QLD – Gina Peluso
SA – Stephanie Schahinger
WA – Karyn Murray

4. National Technical Director's Report
See attached.

5. National Judging Coordinators Report
No report received from Ellena Papas.
6. State Reports
WA – refer to attachment
QLD – refer to attachment
VIC – refer to attachment
NSW – refer to attachment
SA – verbal report given at the meeting
7. General Business
 - 7.1 2007 – 2009 National Program Manual
Karon Williams thanked the NPM Review Committee for their work in reviewing and rewriting the manual. Special thanks to Bridget Thompson for chairing the committee and in particular her work in the layout and design of the manual. The document is easy to read and has been reduced in size compared to the previous manual.
 - 7.2 NPM Review Committee – Call for Nominations
Karon Williams noted that while the current NPM will be used until 2009 it is important to form a review committee to start work on the 2010 – 2013 manual to be released in 2009. The review and rewrite is a lengthy process and it is important to start work in 2008. Karon called for nominations from each state.
SA Lynae Inkster
VIC Emma Taylor
NSW Robyn Pride
QLD Vanessa Polglase-Beck
WA Simone Allen
Chair Teresa Evans

Each state was given the opportunity to voice their concerns and put forward recommendations for change in the NPM.

Action: Each state RG SMC is to meet to discuss the NPM and put forward recommendations for change to Teresa Evans. Teresa will compile a list of changes and email them to the state representatives. A teleconference meeting will be held to discuss the changes.

7.3 RG Selection Policy

Karon Williams informed the meeting that the EMC had met on Monday 9 July 2007. The Senior and Junior National Squad qualifying scores were discussed and it was decided that the Senior All Around qualifying score will be 50.00 points and the Junior All Around qualifying score will be 44.00 points. The EMC will review the scores again in December 2007.

7.4 International Tour Sanctioning Procedures

State RG SMCs are reminded that any state club/program that intends to travel overseas to compete at an international RG competition must seek

sanction from their State SMC who in turn will inform the State Association. Sanction must also be requested from the RG National SMC to ensure that there is no conflict with an Australian Team competing at the same event. Clubs/programs will be required to follow the RG Club/Program Tour Guidelines that will be sent to them by the National Program Manager when they request sanction to attend an event.

- 7.5 Proposed Ranking System for Senior and Junior International Gymnasts
Karyn Murray (WA RG Technical Director) addressed the meeting on a proposed ranking system for senior and junior gymnasts. Karyn included a power point presentation that covered the key points of the proposal. The State RG SMCs were not given the opportunity to read the proposal prior to attending the SPTA meeting so it was agreed that a copy of the power point presentation will be sent to the State RG SMC for them to provide feedback on the proposal to the National SMC.

Margaret Lanz indicated that a similar plan had been introduced some time ago and was unsuccessful because it still came down to the fact that only gymnasts that could afford to attend allocated events could go.

Action: Karyn Murray to email the power point presentation to Karon Williams.

Action: Karon Williams to email the power point presentation to the State RG SMCs for feedback.

- 7.6 State Judging Coordinators Meeting Proposals

- 7.7 State Coaching Coordinators Meeting Proposals
No proposals presented.

- 7.8 2008 NZ National Championships Levels Tour Proposal
Karon Williams informed the meeting that GA had received a letter regarding the 2007 NZ National Championships from Catherine Clark who is new Chief Executive at New Zealand Gymnastics . NZ will now only accept entries from an Australian team. If there is no Australian team selected to compete at the event, NZ will accept entries from state associations. NZ will no longer accept entries from Australian clubs.

The National SMC proposes to introduce a Levels Tour (Level 7-10) to compete at the 2008 NZL National Championships. The top 3 or 4 gymnasts in each division will be selected to represent Australia at this event. This proposal was received favourably by those present at the meeting.

Action: Karon Williams will contact NZ Gymnastics and Carolyn Barrett (NZ RG Technical Director) to inform them of this decision. Karon Williams will plan and organise this tour.

8. Next Meeting: 2008 RG National Championships
Meeting Closed 5.00pm

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR - ANNUAL REPORT 2006/7

SMC

The SMC has been busy with many tasks set them this year. A big thank you to my fellow members of the SMC, Nicole, Jo and Ellena and to our program manager Karon Williams for their many hours of hard work in the service of our sport. In March of this year however it became evident that Ellena our Judging Coordinator was having trouble fitting in her career and the volunteer work required of her, so I have undertaken to take over her duties for the time being. Unfortunately the illness of her mother has prevented her from being at these championships.

RESOURCES

NPM MANUAL

The formation of a Levels Review Committee at last year's Nationals culminated in a relaunch of a new look Levels Manual in January 2007. Particular thanks to Bridget and her committee for an outstanding job.

INTERNATIONAL CODE

As for the International Stream, changes from the FIG committee once again altered the playing field for our gymnasts, coaches and judges with a new FIG 2007 code. We must congratulate them all for their patience and diligence to learn the changes and to implement them with such enthusiasm.

JUDGING COURSES

All judging courses are now finished, 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B and Level 3. Thanks go to Helen Colagiuri for her assistance with this work. Her unstinting effort for our sport and her expertise is much appreciated.

NEW LEVELS COMMITTEE

It is proposed at this National Championships to form a new Levels Committee with the view of the new code which will be issued in 2010. This committee will also oversee any minor changes to the present NPM caused by changes in the FIG arena.

EVENTS

National Championships held in Sydney during May last year was an exciting event and with visitors from New Zealand once again being our guests. We have enjoyed the company of the other disciplines and the break away proposed for 2007 is something that needs to be viewed as an opportunity to showcase our discipline with enthusiasm and expertise.

National Clubs Championships were once again held in Melbourne and we thank the Organisers for their assistance for a smooth running event. A change of venue in 2007 to Perth has everybody excited.

AYOF was particularly successful this year with a win by the Green Team.

Thanks go to all the gymnasts, their coaches, the judges and volunteers who helped out at the competition.

Many National Squad members ventured overseas in the latter part of 2006 and the start of 2007 with the aim of experience and I thank the coaches and judges who were willing to expend their own money to assist them in their goals. In particular I would like to thank Robyn Pride and Meryl Papas for their assistance to our National Squad members this year.

With the end of 2006 came a flurry of retirements of National Squad gymnasts. Seniors - Amy Khera and Amanda Lee See.

Juniors - Shelley Williams, Emma McCarthy, Olivia Milnes, Danielle Papadothomakos and Tanya Vulin.

Although a loss from our sport I thank them for their participation and I wish them well in their future endeavours.

I thank the State SMC's for their efforts in helping organise trials and events and general cooperation to make things happen throughout Australia, the National sub-committees for their ongoing work and last but no least the staff at Gymnastics Australia for the hard work, assistance and guidance at all times.

QUEENSLAND RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS 2006 REPORT

2006 has been a rewarding year with many successes in the competition arena for Queensland. Rhythmic Gymnastics has been united with positive feedback and communication between all clubs.

In 2006 there were two delegates sharing the duties on the SMC as Chairpersons, Meryl Papas and Jenny Whitworth. Although this has been a very successful working relationship with only two members, it has been difficult to move forward with RG in Queensland. In 2007 we welcomed a third SMC member as Judging Coordinator, Gina Peluso. The addition has assisted us greatly in the sharing of the SMC duties.

EDUCATION COACHES & JUDGES

The education process of our judges in 2006 was fairly non-existent due to the changes in the writing of the courses. This changed in early 2007 year with course being run in Level 1a, 1b. Many gymnasts in the Elite and Level 7-10 area are now judging the lower levels which is promising for our future.

Courses in education were also offered at the Congress in January. These were well attended and proved to be of great value with the release of the new code. All current clubs participated in these courses and it was also very encouraging to see new or existing clubs looking to start Rhythmic Gymnastics.

EVENTS/COMPETITIONS

The 2006 competition year started off successfully with all clubs working together to run events. A decision was made by the SMC and GQ to run Rhythmic competitions other than State Championships as Club Invitational Events. Clubs were asked to host events and these were run successfully. The reasons behind this change were as follows:

1. To increase club participation at events
2. Opportunities to develop Rhythmic Gymnastics further within Clubs
3. Taking the sport out of the Brisbane Region and exposing to other regions
4. Reducing the costs for the running of events
5. Reducing the costs for gymnasts to compete.

Most of the above was achieved however there still needs to be a lot of work in the lower level area to reverse the declining participation numbers.

QLD RESULTS 2006

Queensland was represented strongly at Nationals 2006. This resulted in some outstanding results for the state -

Level 7 Team	1 st Overall
Level 7 Individual	1 st Overall
Level 8 Team	1 st Overall
Level 8 Individual	1 st Overall
Level 9 Team	1 st Overall
Level 9 Individual	3 rd Overall

Stage 4 Team	3 rd Overall
Junior Elite Team	2 nd Overall
Junior Individual	3 rd Overall
Senior Elite Team	1 st Overall
Senior Elite Individual	2 nd Overall

MEMBERSHIP

Statistics for membership in Rhythmic 2006 are as follows.

Clubs	10 (2005 = 12)
Members	181 (191)
Coaches	36 (30)
Judges	22 (25)
Total QLD Membership	- 27,129 (25,030)
Technical Membership	- 721 (681)

It is interesting to note that that we have increased our coaches but not our gymnast numbers in Rhythmic Gymnastics. We must also ensure that our club administrators are registering our gymnasts correctly on the database as Rhythmic Gymnasts.

CONCLUSION

It has been a challenging but rewarding year with many positive signs of cohesiveness in the Rhythmic community. Good communication between SMC members and the clubs is vital for our sport to develop further.

2007 is a year that as a group we can build on what we have achieved to date. I look forward to working with a cohesive discipline in the 2007 competitive year.

Jenny Whitworth
RG SMC Chairperson

Victorian RG Report 2007

- National Classic Clubs competition was again a great success in 2006, with Aussie All Stars as a precursor. With GV and many volunteers it was a memorable event. Aussie All Stars will continue as an invitational event for Levels 4-6.
- Victorian RG SMC is moving ahead with specific roles for most members, Club Liaison – Emma Taylor, Communications – Margaret Lanz, Registrar – Ellen McDonald, are some of the specialist positions in addition to TD, JC, CC and Events.
- Emphasis on the Victorian RG four year plan with board member Julie Saarl attending some monthly meetings.
- With the closure of the Victorian HPC there are now 3 clubs training elite gymnasts in Victoria. Prahran, Ruyton and Glen Iris. These clubs are supported by GV and the RG SMC.
- Sandra Button continues to organise judging panels for NAT's – Trials and State Championships. Recruiting and educating is an ongoing challenge.
- With Tiffany Kelly as coaching coordinator, the recruitment and education of RG coaches continue – aided by funding from the Lesley White bequest.
- Many thanks to Bridget Thompson for her innovative and unending assistance with producing a revised edition of the National Program Manual.
- Gymnastics Victoria RG Awards in 2007 were:-

Elite Gymnast	Amy Khera
Rising Star Award	Stephanie Lee
Coach of the Year	Lisa Bradley

All award winners were presented and congratulated at the Awards Night.
- With so many committed volunteers the sport of Rhythmic Gymnastics will continue to flourish in Victoria. Every SMC member has made a contribution to RG. Special thanks to Sharyn, Sandra, Margaret, Emma, Ellen, Tiffany, Sue, Bec, Jane, Lisa and the GV Board.
- The RG community was devastated by the tragic loss of Hannake Still in June 2007. The Victorian SMC is planning to provide a perpetual trophy to honour the memory of Hannake who was always there to help.

Joan Duquemin

NSW RG SMC ANNUAL REPORT NATIONALS - JULY 2007

New South Wales was more than a little pleased to finally receive the authorised 1A / 1B Judging Package in early 2007. Unfortunately this did not assist us with the qualifying of Level 2 Judges who were needed at the beginning of the Rhythmic Gymnastics competition year. State Trials and Championships for L7-10, Stages and Elite proved to be a very busy time for some 10 Judges who made up the core of every judging panel for the 81 gymnasts who competed in these events. We also found that 1B's with several years experience were willing to be included on these panels, but our 1A's except for a few, lacked the confidence to tackle execution in these higher levels.

New South Wales has now held three judging courses in 2007 for 1A and 1B judges which will assist our judging numbers to grow. More importantly, with the recent approval of all the Level 2 Judges we will be able to progress 1's and 2A's in the near future. Three of our 2B Judges will sit the Level 3 Course at Nationals. It has been a long time coming, but at last our judging numbers are moving the right way. Our Brevet Judge, Elisa Duffin, who with her family will become a temporary resident of China, will be missed during the next 2 years.

New South Wales leading gymnast, Kimberly Mason, and her Coach, Nicole Higham, have been busy both overseas and at home during 2006/2007 preparing for trials which will be held at Nationals for our Senior Elites. New South Wales RG SMC offer support to this dedicated pair in any way we can. We therefore ask that full consideration be given to supplying our Senior Elites with the most qualified Judging Panel we can muster.

Rhythmics in New South Wales has a new life member. Virginia Elliott was a very worthy recipient of this honour at our State Awards 2007. As a true 'Independent', Virginia has earned the respect of the Rhythmic Gymnastics Community during her service of more than twenty years. She is our 5th Life Member.

Presently we have thirty clubs throughout our State with registered RG gymnasts. Sixteen of these clubs are outside the metropolitan area and the distance between the most northern and southern club is approximately fifteen road hours. We feel it is important to keep all clubs informed and we value their input into RG, whether they have Level 1's or Senior Elites. Maintaining and growing our numbers is important to our SMC and this is not always helped by what seems to be almost daily changes. The last two years our NPMs have caused a lot of headaches with our quest to try and keep all clubs informed, no matter where they are situated. As we have all found out with the NPM, numbers one two and three for this cycle, the written word leaves a lot to be desired as we all scramble for someone to confirm what some direction truly means.

We participated in the last production of the NPM which was decided should be undertaken at the last SPTA meeting, but we were not happy with the process. Being told of a telephone conference two days prior, when you have not received the information to be discussed is not enough time to include others in our state to have input. Even though we were asked to make comment if we felt, as a State, that the process of producing the new NPM was at all flawed, we are not sure that it was at all appreciated when we did.

Deadlines were continually not met and a few changes as stated became a massive change. The multiples Manual, which was not discussed at all at the SPTA meeting, was also thrown into the mix. Finally at the end of January a new NPM was in print and even though New South Wales was not entirely happy with the process, we were happy to accept that this document was a decision of the majority of the States and not necessarily a manual that suited the state with the largest number of clubs and gymnasts. Our bigger concern was to have an approved judging package, as we had been unable to advance, or introduce judges.

As before, New South Wales is happy to take part in whatever the majority of the RG Community decides upon, but we will not change our process of calling on our wider community to assist our representative to make a contribution on our behalf. We also would expect that any such Committee would adhere to the guidelines stated at the SPTA meeting and not make any surprise additions. Our concern should be that Rhythmics grows stronger in Australia and not what might be better for our own state.

We look forward to working with all other states during 2007/2008 with the object of promoting our sport in Australia.

Carol Lane
July, 2007

WA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS 2006/2007

Growth of RG

2006/2007 in Western Australia has shown some substantial growth in the elite area of the discipline. This is as a result of the strong talent identification programme which is successfully operating in the WA High Performance area. Numbers have now reached 35. In the levels area, consistent growth is also occurring. We currently have strong numbers in Levels 4 and 5 and numbers in 1-3 are consistent with last year. Numbers are being aided by the General Gymnastics Committee in Western Australia. They have been organising displays at various town councils and shires to promote all gymnastics disciplines and this has produced most encouraging numbers in all areas and particularly for RG.

Coaching numbers are slowly increasing with a total of 14 registered coaches in Western Australia which includes 3 Level Two, approximately 4 Level One coaches who have commenced their Level 2 and 7 coaches in training. We will be running a Level 2 Rhythmic Specific in November 2007.

Judging numbers have been affected quite severely by the lack of judging education in 2006 and primarily Western Australia has struggled to fill panels for Level 7-10 and elite trials in 2007. We have, however, accredited 5 level 1a Judges; we have another 5 in training and 4 Level 1b judges as a result of the release of courses in 2007. Several of our 1a judges have found it extremely challenging to be expected to be able to judge from Level 1-9 on execution, particularly if they do not have a rhythmic gymnastic background.

Elite

The RG HPC produced some outstanding results at the end of 2006 and during the first half of 2007. In September 2006 Western Australia hosted their State Championships where they invited the Serdang Angels RG Club from Malaysia to attend this event. This competition provided good preparation, particularly for our Juniors, and at the same time created a good relationship with this club from Malaysia. Gymnasts in Senior and Junior International from the RG HPC have produced outstanding results at the following events:-

Lemesia International Tournament – Lemesia, Cyprus October 2006

Angel Cup – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia November 2006

AYOF – Sydney, January 2007-08-21 Baltic Cup – Gdansk, Poland May 2007-08-21 Grand Prix Brno – Brno, Czech Republic May 2007-08-21

Levels

The State Championships were held in September 2006 where all Levels were well supported. It was also pleasing to see the Serdang Rhythmic Angels from Malaysia who brought levels gymnasts to this event.

On the recreational side of the discipline, our Optioanl Spectacular Event was well supported in November 2006 and my thanks go to Peel Dynamic Gym Sports for hosting this event in Mandurah.

With the introduction of the revised National Programme Manual in January 2007 coaches were faced with implementing the new artistry bonuses into routines. The understanding of this was made substantially easier with our Coaching Coordinator, Krasimira Yurukova, running a specific workshop to assist coaches in their understanding and then reflecting the correct information on the respective judging sheets. This was an invaluable workshop for both coaches and judges, however, the discrepancies between the FIG Code and the NPM with regards to the artistry bonuses have been challenging. Our state has made serious recommendations to the National SMC for changes to be implemented to ensure levels gymnasts have more choice and opportunity to progress with their development.

Finally, on behalf of the Sports Management Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all coaches, judges and volunteers who tirelessly give to the discipline and in particular the members of our Sports Management Committee in Western Australia.

Karyn Murray
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR