

Beekbergen, The Netherlands

5 February, 2021

Dear Mr. Watanabe, Mr. Buompane,

As you know this summer former and present gymnasts around the world raised their voices for a better future for our sport after the documentary Athlete A was broadcasted on Netflix.

The FIG and the Ethics Foundation organized an online e-conference on safe sports in October 2020. After this successful e-conference a group of like-minded federations continued to engage with each other in an informal manner to discuss recent experiences, changing views and share ideas for future plans. We hope that by communicating closely in these crucial matters we foster an environment whereby we can learn from the best practice developments occurring in each of our countries to ensure positive cultural change in our sport where needed. There is a very positive momentum within the growing group which consists of NFs willing to collaborate on an international level.

Several countries are already engaged in research and/or development programmes in this area. These initiatives are aimed at ensuring that going forward we learn from the past to provide a safe, secure and enjoyable experience of our sport for all of our members covering club to national/international level and participation to performance pathways. We expect much progress from many of these NF initiatives throughout this year.

Crucial to the success of any meaningful long-term development in this area is a partnership approach with the FIG as our world governing body and the global leaders of our sport. While we can learn from each other in an informal manner we believe it is crucial for the FIG to coordinate involvement and information sharing on a global level.

One of the suggestions/requests from the safe sport e-conference was that the FIG form a working group to map out a strategy and framework to start the progress of development/change in this crucial area. The composition of such a working group is crucial to any potential success and we believe it should be constituted with key FIG officials & staff with relevant expertise who are motivated to progress the matter. It is also crucial in this process that the voice of the gymnasts is at the center of all we do, while also ensuring independent input from key experts from a variety of areas (cultural change management, science, media, sponsors etc...). The nations that have been involved in the informal discussions to date are more than willing to be fully engaged with the proposed FIG working group in this ambitious process.

We believe that we now have a great opportunity with the research being conducted in the Netherlands, New Zealand, Great Britain, Belgium, Switzerland and other countries. We believe the outcomes from such research can be used as a starting point for a science-based approach from the working group in relation to

what we can change in the interests of the positive future development of our sport(s). We expect the first reports to be published in February/March of 2021.

We ask the FIG to take the key role as leader in the international gymnastics community for this area and would greatly appreciate a response to this request at your earliest convenience. We remain ready and willing to assist in any way we can.

On behalf of all countries included below, yours sincerely,

Monique Kempff  
President Royal Dutch Gymnastics Federation (KNGU)

NED *Monique Kempff* President



AUS *Kitty Chiller AM* Chief Executive Officer



BEL *Jacqueline Herbrand*  
*Peter Frederickx* Co-presidents Royal Belgian Gymnastics Federation



CAN *Jeffrey Thomson* Chairman



DEN *Ditte Okholm-Naut* Secretary General



FIN *Maria Laakso* Executive Vice President



GER *Michaela Röhrbein* Secretary General



IRL *Mr. Ciaran Gallagher* Chief Executive Officer



ISL *Sólveig Jónsdóttir* Secretary General



NZL *Dr Denis Mowbray* Chairman



NOR *Mr. Torgeir R. Pedersen* President



SWE

*Anna Iwarsson*

President



USA

*Kim Kranz, PT, DScPT, SCS*

Chief of Athlete  
Wellness

