

## **Gymnastics NZ – Abuse Investigations and Independent Review**

Gymnastics NZ has recently been made aware of a number of distressing and concerning allegations of abuse within our sport - both current and historical. We acknowledge these complaints, and deeply regret, and apologise for any harm caused to athletes.

Following these allegations, Gymnastics NZ, in conjunction with Sport NZ, has worked hard to ensure an independent, confidential and more streamlined complaints process is put in place. Responding to complaints quickly, assessing them, where necessary investigating them and taking appropriate action is our top priority.

This can now be done via two mechanisms available on the Gymnastics NZ website.

### ***The Interim Complaints Mechanism (ICM)***

This is an independent mechanism, separate from both Sport NZ and Gymnastics NZ. Any information sent through this mechanism will only go to the *ICM*. Information is only shared by the *ICM* (with Gymnastics NZ and/or Sport NZ) with consent. All complaints from athletes, participants or associated parties, past and present, involved in any level of gymnastics, can be sent directly to the *ICM*, in confidence.

The *ICM* legal team will independently assess each complaint individually and each case will be prioritised based on the facts of the case.

When complaints are received, the *ICM* legal team will:

- Provide prompt acknowledgement and assistance to those who need it
- Assess the nature and seriousness of the complaint
- Establish what the complainant wants or needs in relation to the process and its outcomes
- Recommend investigation and/or facilitation or other resolution actions to Gymnastics NZ
- Identify themes arising from the nature of the complaints to share with Gymnastics NZ's independent reviewer.

\*More information regarding the *ICM* can be found once clicking through the mechanism on the Gymnastics NZ home page.

### **The Safe Sport Mechanism**

This is a Gymnastics NZ email where any information regarding any level of gymnastics can be sent. This need not necessarily be a complaint, and could include experiences, suggestions, or recollections of gymnastic participation, both negative and positive. In using this email, [safesport@gymnasticsnz.com](mailto:safesport@gymnasticsnz.com), the sender is consenting to the information also being delivered directly to the *ICM*.

This function can also be found on the [Gymnastics NZ website](#).

### *Independent Review*

Sitting alongside these investigations, but operating independently, will be a wider review in to the sport of gymnastics in NZ. This review will be conducted by respected sport integrity expert, David Howman. This review, whilst independent, will link with both the Sport NZ - Interim Complaints Mechanism and the Gymnastics NZ - SafeSport mechanism to ensure all aspects of the sport are examined in light of the revelations. A link to the announcement can be found [here](#).