



## Western Cape Gymnastics Association

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NPO Registration: 142 – 856 NPO

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Dear All Western Cape Clubs

I would like to wish all of you all the best for 2015. May this year be the most prosperous, positive and fantastic year you have ever had. If anyone else's year has started like mine, then you know that this year is going to be busy, yet wonderfully positive with lots of great opportunities.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to **welcome Megan and Riaan** to the Western Cape administration team in Registrations and Education and Training respectively. I know we will be in good hands and we will continue to grow and develop with their assistance. Thank you to Karl who moved out of these positions, your assistance was paramount in our smooth transition last year.

I'd also like to thank everyone in Western Cape who worked so well together last year which allowed us to have a smooth transition into our new structure. Thank you for your patience in a very challenging year, we all learnt a lot and some adjustments have already been made from lessons learnt. Thank you to all the clubs who attended the **planning meeting** last year to assist us with some tough decisions and plans for the future, as well as everyone who attended the **meeting with SAGF** two weekends ago. I'd also especially like to thank every member of Western Cape that volunteered or worked at **Gym Games** last year. We set the goal for ourselves to host the best Gym Games ever and I can promise you that we did. And it was only because of excellent TEAMWORK – between Western Cape and SAGF and all the clubs and members getting involved. Thank you to everyone.

It is important to understand our goals for the year and although we have not had a Board meeting yet to add to the below, I am sure we can all identify with the below goals for Western Cape for this year. If we all ascribe to them, we can make them achievable, just like we did last year. I would like us to focus on the following key areas this year:

1. **Continue the growth of Gymnastics in the Province** – growth in the Central Karoo District, as well as growth in every other District, with a special focus on recreational gymnastics and schools gymnastics.
2. **Improve the standard of Gymnastics in the Province**, especially at the National and International level by following **WESTERN CAPE FEIST**. FEIST is an acronym that Eugene came up with at the HP meeting which stands for Funding, Education, Identification, Squads and Training Facility. This what we would like to focus on improving in the Western Cape in order to achieve our goal.
3. **Host the best HP Nationals ever.**

If together, we can all assist in the above, we will be able to achieve our goals.

Next I will be addressing a few keys issues. I do ask that you all take the time to read through them as they do affect almost every single club and District.

President: Anne Vermaak, Vice President: Eugene De Villiers

Committee: Melvin Edwards, Angelique Portelli, Salaahma Davids, Karl Schneeberger, Christo Swanepoel  
The Western Cape Gymnastics Association is affiliated to the South African Gymnastics Federation (SAGF)  
and the Western Cape Provincial Sport Confederation (WCPSC)



## **SAGF REGISTRATION AND THE NEW SYSTEM**

As you should know SAGF is introducing a new system. Whilst some might be frustrated that we have not seen the system yet, or may have doubts with regards to the systems capabilities, I have been assured by Megan that it is a great system. Like any change there are going to be some bugs to work out, and Megan and Riaan are working on the system closely with Mark pointing out any challenges they find before rolling the system out to the rest of us. However, I am told that the payment method is going to be far easier and user friendly. So, please rest assured that we are in capable hands and Megan will help guide us through the process.

HOWEVER, I would like to warn everyone: DON'T WAIT FOR THE LAST MINUTE to register when the system comes out. Megan will never cope with every club's queries all frantically at the last minute. Let's be proactive and get cracking on our registrations (especially those on the system already) and loading our new gymnasts with enough time to allow for any challenges that may crop up.

Please also be aware that as the payment no longer comes through Western Cape, we cannot assist you with any late registration, penalties and late payments. To date we have always set the date of registration a couple weeks earlier than we have had to submit to SAGF and Karl was overwhelmed in those last two weeks by continuous "late" registrations and last minute work. This was still possible as we had this leed-time. THIS IS NOT THE CASE FROM NOW ON. So please ensure you stick to the deadlines given to you.

Some of you may also be aware that there are other Provinces who have been objecting to this new system. WCGA has received copies of some of these complaints which we have purposefully not passed onto you, our clubs. The main objection seems to be that from this year each club must pay SAGF directly for all the various registrations and SAGF will pay the Province their portion (the club obviously keeps their portion before making payment to SAGF – well it will be automatically calculated on the system). Whilst other Provinces may have a problems with this and mostly regarding a concern in cash flow, WCGA does not have this concern. We are confident that Carol can manage our cash flow and we have been promised by SAGF to receive weekly payment until the end of March. This system also lowers the amount of administration that Carol has to do for the book substantially, as she does not have to record every single registration deposit, nor follow up with all the clubs who don't reference their deposits.

For those who are interested, the reason the decision was made to pay SAGF directly, was because ultimately each member will be able to pay for their individual membership with their credit card if they wish. This requires entities to be a vendor. If we followed the "old" system of paying the Provinces and then the Provinces paying SAGF we would require 10 vending licences vs now only 1. This means no additional cost is added to the registrations of the gymnasts.

However, I can see this is going to be an overwhelming task for Mark at SAGF to head up, so I ask that we really assist in this matter. Please ensure the following:

- **That you register on time – if not early!**
- **That you reference your payments correctly**
- **That you cc Megan into all required correspondence so she can assist in following up with Mark – ie proofs of payments and any other documentation required when registering.**

In order to achieve goal no 1, please make sure that once again you **register every single gymnast in your club, institution, preschool and school**. A significant increase in funding was received by each District and our incredible growth and the fact that we could show the numbers in gymnastics did contribute to this. Plus, the resolutions we put forward at the SAGF AGM were assisted to be passed because we did hold so many votes. This year is the election of the SAGF Board, so if we want to

have a powerful say in who governs our sport at Board level, we require each and every club to register every single member by first registration date! The reverse is obviously also true – if we show a significant decline, it will have a negative impact on the Sports Councils and Provincial Government who we have worked so hard to market ourselves to. The success of this is all up to your assistance and co-operation! I know we can keep it up!

### **EVAC 24 INSURANCE**

For those who were aware, SAGF were securing an individual insurance for all registered members and even their family members for as little as R12 a month. This was an incredible deal and I know most people in WCGA were very excited about this. At the SAGF AGM it was agreed that the insurance would be compulsory for all competitive gymnasts (ie category A & C gymnasts) and it would be optional for category B & D gymnasts. This was agreed to by every Province in the meeting.

However, after the AGM, various Provinces started making accusations towards the agent company providing the insurance. SAGF therefore took the decision to halt the process to investigate these allegations. Unfortunately that means the insurance is on hold, and we eagerly await an outcome to this matter and for an insurance to be granted to us to take up, as I am sure we are all aware of the benefits this has for our gymnasts, especially after we have had two major incidences in Western Cape where the families of these gymnasts would have been assisted far more with a type of insurance in place.

I will update everyone once we have more information. Once again we are not sending the individual correspondences or accusations, this is not your core focus!

### **RUMOURS ABOUT ME**

It has been brought to my attention by some members of WCGA that there is an individual in SAGF who is going around spreading the following rumours about me:

1. That I received an amount of R40 000 from SAGF as payment for the organization of Gym Games 2014
2. That I will be standing or applying for the position of CEO of SAGF
3. That I told you clubs to cheat on your registrations and that WCGA cheated on their Category D registrations.

All of the above statements are complete and utter lies.

I don't think that I need to explain very much about Statement 3, you all received my correspondence regarding registrations last year – WCGA merely registered every member in every discipline they are doing. The high number of category B & D registrations is a testament to this. Thank you that all our MOD Centres, Schools and clubs working in schools for doing the correct this and registering correctly. However, WCGA did not make up nor cheat in any of its registrations, we merely registered everyone, which has never been done before.

As for the allegation of standing / applying for the position of CEO of SAGF, this is absolute nonsense. I have absolutely no desire or wish to stand for this position. I have more than enough work in my own business and exciting plans for the future in it that I have absolutely no desire (no actual time even if I wanted to). Maybe 7 years ago when I worked in SAGF this could have been a blip on my

radar, however with not only my business, but my position in Western Cape and responsibility to you, I have absolutely no desires nor has it every entered my head to be in that position.

With regards to the first statement, this is also an absolute, blatant lie. The only R40 000 payment I am aware of is two payments of R20 000 that were made by Cape Town Gymnastics and Winelands Gymnastics towards the cost of security at Gym Games. These two Districts each received R20 000 towards the hosting of Gym Games from DCAS. This meant that SAGF paid R40 000 less in expenses due to this funding. Both Winelands and Cape Town Gymnastics report back to DCAS regarding the expenditure of this funding.

Further, I really had nothing much to do with Gym Games - I served as a volunteer at Rope Skipping - doing grouping, floor competition management and generally just helping for two days for which I received no payment. I did not receive one cent from SAGF for Gym Games, nor anything else the entire year. The rest of the time I just visited the Games, looked after the VIPs from the City, DCAS, the Sports Council etc at the Opening Ceremony.

I find it most disturbing that these rumours are circulating around the SAGF fraternity about me and I felt it necessary to inform you of them. I ask that if you are approached by anyone or asked to verify anything about anything to do with me, to please refer that individual directly to me. As you now have the facts from me, you are also most welcome to give that person the correct facts, however I would really appreciate that if anyone has any concerns, issues or anything that has to do with me, that you contact me directly and raise these issues, or ask the questions (I will answer them honestly), but to do it directly with me and not behind my back. Blatant lies are malicious and can have detrimental consequences. I would appreciate your assistance to direct anyone who wants to know anything about me to me.

### **HP NATIONALS**

To end on a positive note, WCGA is hosting Artistic HP Nationals on 5-6 June 2015. We want to make this the best HP Nationals ever and show all our HP gymnasts from around the country that we in WCGA acknowledge all their hard work and sacrifice they give in their lives towards representing their country on the International stage. In order to do this, we need everyone's assistance. We are going to be looking at selling out the venue before the time to ensure these gymnasts have a venue full of support (most especially our WCGA gymnasts!) We will be organising an Opening Ceremony, plus photos and autograph opportunities, famous celebrity announcers, television coverage etc. We would like to encourage anyone with any other marketing ideas to please contact us.

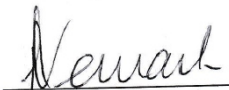
However, just because you may not do high performance Artistic Gymnastics nor maybe Artistic in anyway, does not mean you cannot support this event. Please advertise it to your gymnasts to attend, please volunteer at the event (we want to try make it as close to international standard as possible), please showcase your discipline in the Opening Ceremony, there are so many ways to be involved. We want to showcase all disciplines in the Opening Ceremony and the trials for the Down Syndrome World Championships team from RSA will also be at the event. This is going to be perfect place to showcase WCGA gymnastics to our Sports Councils, DCAS and all the influential people in the WCGA – let's put on a great event.

This also leads to the WESTERN CAPE FEIST – we will be working towards improving all the aspects that make up FEIST in all the disciplines, and most especially with the goal of finding a dedicated facility to put up ALL of Cape Town's equipment to service ALL the discipline, including a pit. I have already been talking to members on the Sports Council for assistance and I know the clubs had a meeting and individuals are also assisting with personal contacts. Remember that HP Nationals is also a great showcase for why DCAS, the Sports Councils, Corporate Sponsors and anyone we may

require to make this goal a reality, and this affects every discipline – ACRO, RHY, TRA, and TU because you can all improve by either the utilisation of the equipment being set up or the use of a training pit.

Once again, if we all work together on every single goal, I know we will achieve them! Let's do this together in 2015!!

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Vermaak", written over a horizontal line.

Anne Vermaak,

President, Western Cape Gymnastics Association