



May 12, 2020

Dear Governor Wolf and Secretary Levine,

Thank you for your tireless and diligent work on behalf of the citizens of Pennsylvania during this extraordinarily difficult and complicated time.

I am writing on behalf of more than one hundred gymnastics schools throughout the commonwealth. Collectively, we serve thousands of athletes and employ hundreds of coaches, instructors and support staff.

In case you are not familiar with the sport of gymnastics and how our organizations operate, I'd like to share some characteristics that distinguish our industry from others that you might mistakenly lump us in with, such as indoor recreation, health and wellness facilities and personal care services and other organized youth sports/activities:

- Pre-registered participants – Classes and practices are not open to the public or “walk-ins”. Athletes must preregister. Access to our facilities is strictly controlled to minimize risk and maximize safety for customers and employees.
- Organized, structured classes and practices – In the interest of safety and efficiency, classes and practices operate according to lesson plans and schedules. Movement throughout our facilities and use of equipment is planned and controlled.
- Low ratios are the norm – In the interest of athlete safety, we adhere to strict athlete/instructor ratios so each athlete can be supervised and participate safely. Ratios are based on well-established best practices for safety. They vary based on age and skill level.
- Gymnastics is an individual sport – Due to the nature of the sport, contact between athletes is extremely limited and nonessential (common examples are high fives, fist bumps, a pat on the back). Lesson plans can easily be adjusted to prohibit and eliminate all contact between athletes.
- “Spotting” – The term “spot” refers to the practice of a coach physically assisting an athlete to safely complete a skill. The amount of spotting required can range from cueing an athlete to completely carrying the athlete through the motion. Spotting is relatively common in gymnastics due to the level of difficulty of the sport and to ensure athlete safety. Lesson plans can easily be adjusted or scaled down to eliminate contact between athletes and coaches.
- Facility size – Gymnastics training facilities are generally large and open. This type of structure lends itself to adherence with guidance from the CDC and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on minimizing and mitigating risk of infection, as well as social distancing.

- Cleaning and disinfection – Due to the nature of our industry, we had robust cleaning and disinfection programs in place prior to COVID-19. We are prepared to expand and enhance our existing programs to comply with guidance from the CDC and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Through no fault of their own, many owners are facing the prospect of closing permanently due to a significant or complete loss of revenue compounded by relatively high fixed costs (rent/mortgage for a large facility, insurance, utilities, etc.) Athletes and coaches are reeling from the unexpected interruption to their regular meet season, cancellation of postseason and subsequent suspension of in-person classes and activities beginning in mid-March.

As a community, we believe we can safely reopen and comply with guidance in the “Yellow Phase” of the Governor Wolf’s *Plan for Pennsylvania*. Our collective belief is reinforced by vocal support from countless athletes and parents who are confident in our ability to resume activities gradually and safely.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible. Feel free to contact me at 215-364-7878 or pausag155@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to discuss our request in more detail. You are welcome to visit any of the facilities listed below if that will help inform your decision.

Respectfully,
Donna Guenther
USA Gymnastics Pennsylvania State Chair
Owner, Somerton School of Gymnastics, Feasterville, PA

On behalf of:

Central Bucks Gymnastics and Dance, Doylestown, PA

Spirit Gymnastics

Wilson School of Gymnastics and Dance

Skyline Gymnastics

Silvia’s Gymnastics

Erie Gymnastics

Hanover Gymnastics

Gym time

Greenville Gymnastics

Berks Gymnastics

G2 Gymnastics

The Gymnastics Zone

Berks East Gymnastics

Off Limits

Balance Gymnastics and Wellness Center

Shooting Starz

Donachy Gymnastics

Co-Op gymnastics

Kids Co-op gymnastics and development center
Phoenix Force Gymnastics
John Pancott Gymnastics
Main Line Gymnastics
Aerial Gymnastics
Gymnastic Center of Hershey Training Center
Lakettes and Lakers Gymnastics
Arcadia
GymOlympic
Roth's Crosspoint
LTD Academy
Gravity Forge
Northeast Gymnastics
Perry Juniata Gymnastics
Philly InMovement Gymnastics
Prime Athletics Center, LLC
Stallone Gymnastics
Precision Athletic Center
Falcon Gymnastics
Ches-Co Gymnastics
Turner's Gymnastics
Parkette Training Center
Bearfoot Gymnastics
Uzelac Gymnastics
AJS Pancott Gymnastics
Energy Gymnastics
Butler Gymnastics
Axis Gymnastics
GymKhana Gymnastics
Brandy Marie's Gymnastics
Force Gymnastics
Nook Gymnastics
Gym Starz
Metzler's Gymnastics
Gymnastics of York
Perfect 10 Gymnastics
Fusion Gymnastics
Harrisburg Gymnastics
Paramount Gymnastics
Jewart's Gymnastics
Philadelphia Gymnastic Center
All Star Gymnastics

Dynamats Gymnastics

ProHealth

Prestige Gymnastics

KMC Gymnastics

Central Pennsylvania Academy of Gymnastics

Rainbow Gymnastics

Ricochets Gymnastics

Centre Elite Gymnastics