

OGA and KBS,

Effective 1 November 2020 it will be mandatory that all recreational gymnasts participating in classes wear masks for the entirety of their 1-hour class. These are classes happening primarily in the North Gym. As I've said from the outset of this, we continue to look for ways to improve our precautions and our sanitation. Initially we were concerned that the masks themselves would be a safety hazard. However, many students elected to wear a mask to recreational classes and under careful observation we have seen that it poses no risk. Moreover, what has been challenging is keeping distance between young children which is why we had a phased approach to re-opening. The younger the child, the more difficult it is to enforce social distancing. We will continue to practice, reinforce, and get better at safe distancing, but with the added precaution of a mask.

We are not extending this policy to competitive-level gymnasts for two reasons. Firstly, the difficulty of learning higher level skills while wearing a mask is still a safety concern. Secondly, the age and maturity of the gymnasts at those levels is high enough that we have had success at keeping them distanced in and out of their groups. However, I encourage gymnasts at every level to wear a mask at practice. If your coach needs you to take it off for safety of skill execution, they will tell you, and after the repetition is complete you can return to wearing it. All upcoming competitions will follow that format anyway.

Between now and the beginning of this policy, I encourage our recreational students to try wearing their mask to their class in order to ensure it fits properly while they practice their skills, and to begin understanding any additional unforeseen constraints on the conduct of the class. Thank you for your understanding and your continued support of our program. It is my hope that we remain an example to our students of how to listen, adjust, and safely push through difficult times.

See you in the gym,

Coach Jake