

16/03/2020



GI Club Secretaries

**RE: UPDATE 3 – Coronavirus/Covid-19**

Dear Members,

Over the past 2 weeks we have been in contact with our insurance company Marsh and have today **agreed on a payment freeze for the planned March club insurance programme payment in the interests of assisting clubs with their immediate cash-flow concerns** given the impact of the governments necessary 'social distancing' policy to combat the spread of the Coronavirus/Covid-19. Any club who has already paid their club insurance programme payment for March can contact GI and we will issue a refund immediately. Obviously we are all hoping that current delay measures will be successful and therefore disruption to normal short-term club business operations will return to normal as soon as possible, at which time we will liaise with Marsh to reschedule the payment date.

Additionally we have been working with the Federation of Irish sport to build the case for the sports sector in terms of the potential impact of any longer term disruption to club operation as sports businesses. The aim of this is to ensure that the government understands that sports clubs like ours are just as much part of an industry as restaurants, bars etc. and are facing the exact same issues.

Finally as you are aware we have cancelled all national activities until end of March 2020 and advised clubs to ensure they are operating in-line with government guidelines, particularly in the wider interests of the community as a whole and have encouraged that clubs make decision based on supporting the government's policy of 'social distancing'. We are very encouraged to see that the vast majority of clubs have mirrored the action taken at national level and closed their programmes until end of March in order to fully support the government policy. **Given the recent statement this afternoon by the Chief Medical Officer that the next 7 days are crucial in order to 'flatten the curve' in terms of the spread of the virus we are strongly advising any clubs that have not done so already to cancel any planned club activities until the end of March.**

Again we fully appreciate the financial position our clubs presently find themselves in. Unlike many other sports gymnastics clubs are now largely businesses and therefore we recognise that what is essentially ceasing trading for 2 weeks is daunting and has immediate impact. Again we hope that if our community fully supports the government policy along with all other areas of Irish society the strategy will work and the current measures will not be required in the longer term.

As ever we will continue to monitor the situation and communicate directly with our clubs should there be any further developments.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Gallagher".

Ciaran Gallagher  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: GI Board  
GI Staff

*Sport Starts Here.*