



## **Gymnastics Ontario statement regarding the outcome of the Scott McFarlane trial**

BRAMPTON, ON (November 21, 2022) -- Gymnastics Ontario is aware of the decision by the Ontario Superior Court regarding Mr. Scott McFarlane. Mr. McFarlane's temporary suspension from all Gymnastics Ontario and Member Club activities will be extended until such time that an internal review of the alleged behaviour detailed in the court proceedings can be completed.

Gymnastics Ontario acknowledges, understands, and remains committed to our responsibility in creating and preserving gymnastics environments that ensure positive, healthy, and fulfilling experiences for all our participants. Together with our partners and member clubs, we are continuing to implement a safe sport framework for gymnastics across the province. This framework includes tools to assist parents and other responsible adults to identify potentially unsafe situations and take proactive steps to ensure the safety of the athletes; providing confidential channels for athletes to communicate concerns with respect to their safety and well-being without risk of reprisals; and utilizing the appropriate enforcement mechanisms for addressing individuals who breach safe sport policies.

We remain vigilant in our efforts to ensure that inappropriate and harmful conduct is dealt with immediately and effectively. Gymnastics Ontario and its member organizations consider the safety and well-being of all participants as our top priority.

For more information on the Gymnastics Ontario Safe Sport Framework, please visit:

<https://www.gymnasticsontario.ca/safe-sport-2/>

### **ABOUT GYMNASTICS ONTARIO**

Gymnastics Ontario is the sport's governing body in Ontario and the provincial member of Gymnastics Canada. We work with our member clubs to help them provide a broad range of programs and services to meet the needs of all participants.

Gymnastics Ontario also sets operating standards and practices, from coaching certification and athlete preparation, to ensuring optimal safety and ethics in the sport. We develop training programs and oversee the organization and running of competitions which help elevate the skill levels of everyone involved including athletes, coaches, the club owners, club administrators, directors, volunteers and parents.

Gymnastics Ontario is responsible for all six gymnastics disciplines: Artistic Gymnastics, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Trampoline, Tumbling, Sports Aerobics and General Gymnastics. The first three disciplines are all Olympic sports.

Our mandate is to ensure that everyone can enjoy the sport as safely as possible. We have also developed ethical standards to ensure everyone feels welcome and empowered. Visit <https://www.gymnasticsontario.ca/> for more information on our programs and policies.

For more information about this statement or our processes, contact Dave Sandford, CEO Gymnastics Ontario at [ceo@gymnasticsontario.ca](mailto:ceo@gymnasticsontario.ca).