

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE



OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

For the the attention of:

- **The FIG Authorities;**
- **The affiliated / associated Federations;**
- **The Continental Unions**

LAUSANNE (SUI), FIG Office, 18 August 2020 NBU / spe

Disciplinary sanctions and information sharing

Dear Members of the Authorities,
Dear Presidents of Federations and Unions,

Recent events have shown that the lack of communication and information sharing among and within organisations can lead to important failures in the system of protecting participants in Gymnastics from abuse, violence and mistreatment in all of its forms.

Over the last few years, the FIG has worked to reinforce its prevention and protection mechanisms, with on the one hand the establishment of the Gymnastics Ethics Foundation (GEF) and on the other, the establishment of a Safeguarding Unit within the Federation itself.

In the course of the last months, a few national federations have informed the FIG or the Gymnastics Ethics Foundation (GEF) of disciplinary decisions or criminal sentences which have been issued in their countries against a member of athletes' entourage.

We strongly encourage this practice. It constitutes an additional safety net, in order to reduce the risks that a person who has already been sanctioned in one country for acts of violence or mistreatment is able to practice freely in another country.

Before hiring staff from a different country, and particularly staff that will work directly with athletes, we strongly recommend doing each of the following:

- **Checking with the national federation of the country where the person is from and/or the country where he/she was previously practicing, to determine if any complaints were brought to their attention.**
- **Conducting a background check with the relevant state authorities.**
- **Consulting the FIG Safeguarding Unit and/or the GEF to see if any sanction or conviction has been brought to the attention of the FIG against the person in question.**

Furthermore, the FIG commits itself to inform the continental unions and national federations of any new disciplinary decision or criminal sentence communicated to it.

Vigilance in this matter concerns all of us. We thank you for your crucial collaboration in this field, which is particularly close to our hearts.

- **To contact the FIG Safeguarding Unit, please use the email address:**
safeguarding@fig-gymnastics.org
- **For more information about the GEF and its mission:**
www.gymnasticsethicsfoundation.org

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE
Nicolas BUOMPANE, Secretary General