



March 20, 2020

Coaches and athletes,

The advisory council had a conference call last night after I spoke with the TAAF executive director concerning the fate of the state competitions. Since last night the TAAF office has already given a directive that no competitions are to be held in April and that could likely be extended through May and Texas Governor announced that effective at 12 midnight ALL Texas schools, gyms, bars are to close. Restaurants are take out only. If gyms are required to close the athletes cannot train for state meets and there are only so many times we can kick a can down the road and then, at what risk. In my small town of Whitney we just had our first case this morning. After extensive discussions and weighing all the risks and benefits it is in the best interest of TAAF, our athletes and communities that we cancel our state meets this year. Our meets draw large spectatorship and from all parts of the state. It may be very unwise to risk that exposure until this virus is much more contained and under control. Since we truly have no idea how long this could take we needed to make a decision so we could all move on and regroup. This is a disappointing end to a season and we are aware that some of the athletes may be quite saddened about this but if we teach them nothing else in our sport we should be helping them to accept a failure and disappointments and to be resilient. It is now also our turn to accept that same advice. For my gym we will plan a fun celebration of the season with parents and friends to perhaps show season's routines and perhaps some of the "new" skills now being worked on for next season! How we present this to our children will play a big part in how they accept it and turn a disappointment into a different opportunity that will be fun!

The entire country and world are suffering and most of us may never be fully aware of the extremes of the hardships of many. We can hope that our athlete families can weather this storm financially and provide for their families until the fog lifts. Our gymnastics schools are in uncharted territory as many are small to medium sized schools with fewer students and often limited resources but still have monthly bills and teachers to pay. Other larger schools have staggering monthly loads in rent or mortgage and payroll and are seeking loans to stay afloat. We need to help each other. Club owners are frightened of losing their businesses.

Council member Brad Turner shared this information for those in need of an SBA loan: "They first have to fill out this economic worksheet. It's just one page and not very difficult. I think this just gets the ball rolling and shows them who needs help. It's a start. We all have to work together, so I'll do my best to share info as I find it. Good Luck!!" Brad
<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/#1584551794550-8cefdca0-1039>

No one has a crystal ball to know how long this may last. I told the council last night that is this all miraculously goes away in three weeks and we are in the clear I will not for a moment regret the decisions to halt the season. I will instead be on my knees thankful that the beast is dead. However long this lasts or it takes to be extinguished, in the interim, we need to stand together and help each other. Many of you are already a member of a number of facebook gymnastics groups and have been sharing your stories and asking for guidance. Many have been sharing helpful ideas for your schools - ways to keep your students engaged in something for home - anything to keep moving forward toward the day when our schools are in full swing again. Other clubs may need help on negotiating lease/rent/mortgage payments on their gyms. Some of you may have insights and personal experiences you can share. Dallas Gust of 10.0 Gymnastics in Fort Worth shared the links of many of the sites he signs onto. Here is that info:

Club owner/manager Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/GymnasticsClubOwnersAndManagers/?ref=share>

The Gymnastics Marketing Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/GymnasticsClubOwnersAndManagers/?ref=share>

Coaches Skill & Drills

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/653391321411900/?ref=share>

All Things Gymnastics

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/200213680917076/?ref=share>

US Gymnastics Club Owners Association

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/266731783916435/?ref=share>

Master of Sport

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/320992155236348/?ref=share>

Preschool Gymnastics

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/preschoolgymnasticscoaches/?ref=share>

3rd Level Consulting

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3rdLevelConsultingOnlineForum/?ref=share>

There are likely more and if so then share with our gym family. As of today we are planning our yearly meeting on FRIDAY, JUNE 5 at 10 a.m. AT TREVINO'S Gymnastics in Lancaster. That date will be fluid and I will keep you informed if it has to change. We will be working on a calendar for next season. There are several changes that we will need to make and I would like to be able to already have a blank meet schedule in place after I coordinate with the USAG and invitationals already scheduled so that we have a better chance of getting the needed judges by trying to avoid large conflicts in dates. We will also likely need to go back to Friday night and Sunday night sessions simply because of the logistics. I will try to iron out some items in advance of the meeting so we can spend a lot more time listening to the needs of the clubs and seeing what we can all do to help each other.

A club owner called today for some insight into what to do with teams - can we re work teams so only to have groups of no more than 10 in gym at a time, etc. I did not have a clear answer. I will make my personal decisions first on the mandates of my state and county and I will also follow the lead of the local school but it will be literally one day at a time. You all may want to look to your communities as well. In the meantime I will be taking some of the fabulous ideas on the facebook groups pages and will use this time to plan plan plan for summer ideas for profit centers and preparation to bring back the students with enthusiasm and fresh ideas! It is hard not to worry but we need to be reminded - we are gymnastics people. Many of us were athletes ourselves and as coaches and teachers we KNOW how to work hard. So we will keep our heads

down to plow through and work work work and we will also keep our heads and spirits up so we can see where our help is needed and reach out to those who need it.

"YOU CAN DO THIS. DO NOT BE AFRAID OF FAILING. DO NOT RETREAT FOR FEAR OF DISAPPOINTMENT. PUSH THROUGH AND TRY AGAIN. BE STRONG. LOOK TO YOUR TEAMMATES FOR SUPPORT. CHEER THEM ON."

Does this sound familiar? *We tell our athletes this all the time...*

I admire you all. Please share any ideas you may have on our TAAF facebook page. I will ask Jennifer from Liberty to share that facebook page with you and how to become a member if you are not already. Please email me or call me (254-221-2177) if you have a question or just need to talk.

Sincerely,

Jan