

Updated May 8, 2019

AGF Members Can Expect to See Another Increase to Insurance Fees

On July 1, 2019 the Alberta Gymnastics Federation (AGF) insurance policy will renew and our insurance broker, Toole Peet has advised that insurance fees will be going up. To evaluate additional options, AGF put insurance up to tender and a second brokerage, Jones Brown is currently evaluating 2019 – 2020 rates for AGF as well. The rate of increase and whether there will be a change in coverage is still to be determined. No insurance provider can begin to research options or provide a quote more than 90 days before an organization's insurance renewal date. That assessment period began on April 2nd for AGF and will run until June 30, 2019.

Clubs accepting registrations for the summer session are advised to notify registrants that an insurance top up fee may be required pending a rate increase takes effect before the summer class begins.

Why Another Increase?

- There have been significant claims within AGF membership and within the industry.
- Gymnastics is in a high-risk market with few insurance carriers willing to provide required coverage.
- Splitting coverage of operations between insurance carriers to get better rates is difficult; all or nothing approach.

How Our Rates Compare

Gymnastics PSOs across Canada are seeing insurance rate increases and trampoline restrictions for many of the same reasons Alberta has experienced. Nationwide, Gymnastics Ontario currently has the highest premiums. Even trampoline parks are feeling the impact. The maximum limit of liability that is currently available to trampoline parks is \$2 million (previously \$5 million) with no other markets willing to give excess coverage. In comparison, AGF has a \$5 million limit through Markel Insurance with an additional \$5 million top up through Aviva (\$10 million total) but this too could change by July 1, 2019.

A Closer Look at AGF Claims

- Currently there are 11 claims listed on AGF's primary liability. These date back to October 2012 and 7 are still open.
- The combined amount paid plus payout still expected (reserves) is equal to **over \$6.6 million**.
- The total primary liability premium paid since 2012 is equal to **over \$1.1 million**.
- The **loss ratio over this 6-year period has been ~583%**.

Across Markel, \$8.6 million has been paid out in gymnastics claims since 2007. **87%** (\$7.2 million) were **trampoline related**.

Accident Prevention is Key

AGF has always strived to maintain the highest level of coaching certification and risk management prevention. Despite these efforts, liability is typically found due to a lack of supervision, demonstration of technique and instructions, and training. Other culprits include improper equipment, failure to update protocols, and a lack of having or improperly implementing a Waiver/Notification of Risk. All it takes is one major claim, a catastrophic injury, and your club may be liable for the costs over and above what the insurer will pay. **AGF cannot emphasize enough how important it is to review and assess your coaches' certification levels to ensure they meet the insurer's requirements and to review your public/participant safety and emergency plans during training, classes and events at your gym.**

When an Accident Occurs

If an accident occurs at your gym, an [incident report](#) must be completed and submitted to Toole Peet. If an ambulance is called, Toole Peet must be notified by phone immediately and an incident report detailing what happened must be submitted to them as well.

Next Steps and Where to Find More Information

AGF will continue to provide updates about upcoming changes to insurance as we learn more. In the meantime, members are encouraged to visit the AGF website for more information about AGF insurance coverage, premiums, resources (e.g. the incident report form) and more at abgym.ab.ca/Membership/Insurance. There you will also find a recording of the webinar that was hosted by Toole Peet and AGF staff on April 24, 2019, including additional information and the Q & A discussions that took place.