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February 3, 2012

Attn.: All Member Clubs

Re: Ontario Winter Games

It is with sincere regret that I must announce Gymnastics Ontario will not be participating in the 2012 Ontario Winter Games for Women's Artistic Gymnastics, Men's Artistic Gymnastics and Rhythmic Gymnastics due to insufficient registrations and conflicting competitions.

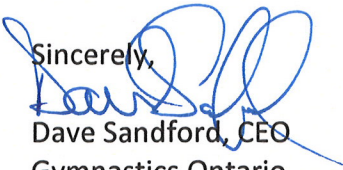
The Sport Alliance Ontario implemented a sport selection process for the Ontario Games program in May of 2008. All eligible sports wishing to participate in the Ontario Games must complete an application and follow the requirements of the sport selection process. The application is submitted and evaluated by a sport selection committee. The sport selection criteria include demonstrating how the Ontario Games are an integral component of a sport's athlete, coach and official development.

The sport of gymnastics has been a long-time participant and supporter of the Ontario Winter Games. In recent years participation has waned due to the event not being reviewed to make it an integral part of our competition calendar since there are no longer regional teams. As well, Gymnastics Ontario implemented a new qualification process as per the requirements in the sport selection guidelines to ensure the top athletes in the specific age category attended the Ontario Winter Games. It has consequently become increasingly difficult to ensure that a sufficient number of our best athletes attend the Games. As a result, Gymnastics Ontario had to make the decision to withdraw from the 2012 Ontario Winter Games due to a low number of athletes available to participate.

I would like to acknowledge the Ontario Games Organizing Committee, Kellie Hinnells for accepting the role of Sport Manager for gymnastics, Kim Poole as the volunteer coordinator, Base Borden Gymnastics for the use of their facility and Spieth Anderson, supplier of equipment for Gymnastics Ontario.

The 2014 Ontario Winter Games application process begins next week with an initial meeting. Gymnastics Ontario will review its participation in the next event after consultation with each discipline at a Joint Programs Committee meeting with participation from the Ontario Games representative.

Sincerely,

  
Dave Sandford, CEO  
Gymnastics Ontario