

INTERNATIONAL POLICY

The Royal Dutch Gymnastics Federation (KNGU) wants to have an impact on and be informed about international decisions, regulations and policy of gymnastics. To this end, we can timely adjust or we can (further) develop our national goals and plans. However, we also would like to have an impact at an international level, so that gymnastics (the basics of all sports and movement) as it is promoted in the Netherlands, will be known to the rest of the world. In view of KNGU, international policy does not only concern taking in positions, but it also concerns having an international agenda/ strategy which you would like to promote at an international level.

On behalf of the KNGU, at international level, Babette van Wetering is an active member of the Technical Committee (TC) Trampoline of European Gymnastics (EG). This year she is running for chair/president of this TC, of the EC Technical Committee Trampoline. The EC-electoral congress is 2-3 december in Portugal.

STRATEGY & PRIORITIES

KNGU's strategy lays the foundations for the international ambitions. Thus, gymnastics as the basis for all sports. We place the athlete at the heart of everything we do and volunteers are pivotal in practicing our sport.

In this strategy, the KNGU pays attention, inter alia, to the pedagogical vision of the sport, good sports management and diversity. This is translated into five focus points as regards the international policy and the international ambitions.

- Sportive fun and a safe sports environment
- Positioning in the discipline of artistic gymnastics (women and men)
- Gymnastics has an excellent reputation
- Good governance
- International events.

Amidst the focus points as referred to above, the KNGU focuses on several elements, such as representing our interests (together with other (inter-)national organizations) for a safe, fun sports environment, increasing the minimum age of the artistic gymnastics women (from 16 till 18 years – which has already been implemented in the Netherlands since 2018), attention to the importance of grassroots sports, and the KNGU is committed to promote more diversity in committees and federations.

Additionally, the KNGU pursues the acquisition of (strategic) international events which contribute to further the Netherlands and gymnastics in its development. The first step to this end is the World Gymnaestrada 2023 in Amsterdam. But also the World Championships of 2026 are on KNGU's bucket list. Quite some work is done for a bid together with the Rotterdam parties.

KNGU-CANDIDATES FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES

Managerial positions in international committees are required in order to have an international impact, and thus to promote the KNGU-strategy.

Committee European Gymnastics (EG)

The KNGU presents one candidate for the term 2023-2025, namely Babette van Wetering. Before 4th of July her candidacy has to be registered. The EG-electoral congress is 2-3 December in Albufeira, Portugal.

Babette van Wetering

Candidacy as a chair/president of the EG Technical Committee (TC) Trampoline. Babette has been active in Trampoline for many years. For example, in 1992 she participated – as an athlete herself – in the World Cup (bronze together with Inke van Braak). She has been a coach since 1991 and she is an international judge, having attended the Olympic Games in 2008 and 2012. She is also currently a member (as secretary) in the current EG Technical Committee.

Committees of the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG)

The KNGU presents two candidates for the term 2022 – 2024, namely Monique Kempff and Jitske Vasbinder. Unfortunately Monique and Jitske are not selected for a position within the FIG during the FIG-electoral congress in November 2021.

Monique Kempff

Candidacy as a member of the FIG EC (Executive Committee)
The EC reaches decisions, inter alia, about proposals from the FIG technical committees (and procedures). Read about [Monique's motivation for her candidacy here](#).

Jitske Vasbinder

Candidacy as a member of the FIG (Women's Artistic Gymnastics Technical Committee). The WTC determines the international gymnastics ambitions and regulations. A Dutch contribution within the WTC does not only serve the Dutch elite artistic gymnastics, but also gymnastics in general. Read about [Jitske's motivation for her candidacy here](#).

FIG & EG

The KNGU is affiliated to two international federations, the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) and European Gymnastics (EG).

Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique

The Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique has 150 affiliated federations. The international federation organizes and arranges for the execution of the world championships, such as the World Cups and World Championships, in the disciplines of artistic and rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline, acrobatic gymnastics, aerobics, gymnastics for all and parkour (free running). Furthermore, the FIG offers trainer-coach programs, organizes seminars and it sets the rules for the competitions. During a congress which is organized each equal calendar year, the most important decisions are reached as regards finances and the accession of federations. Furthermore, the elections for the international committees take place here. The Netherlands is a member of the FIG.

European Gymnastics

European Gymnastics has 50 affiliated national federations. EG schedules, organizes and is responsible for the execution of the European championships in the disciplines of artistic and rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline, acrobatic gymnastics, aerobics and TeamGym. Additionally, it arranges for the marketing and sponsoring of these events, it organizes seminars and trainings for coaches and jury members and other congresses and workshops. EG has technical committees that are responsible for the implementation of the technical rules of a discipline, as drawn up by the FIG. The Netherlands is a member of EG, and is informed as such about the developments 'in Europe' on a regular basis.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

You will find an overview of developments and KNGU-activities at an international level on this page.

E-conference FIG

In July 2020, the KNGU morally called upon the FIG (international federation) to start an international dialogue about the issue of safe sports environments. Subsequently, an E-conference was organized by the FIG in October during which the KNGU shared its experiences about allowing 'shorts' without a deduction in points during national competitions, and increasing the senior age from 16 till 18 years.

International coalition

In 2020, on the initiative of the KNGU, a coalition was formed with, as of now, eighteen other countries. In November 2020, January 2021 and February 2021, the KNGU organized joint online meetings about the topic what can be done at an international level to make sports world wide safer and more fun. The controversial subject, increasing the senior age from 16 till 18 years, was discussed here as well. The number of states that participate in the meetings is growing at a fast pace. The decision has been reached that the investigations which take place in several countries will form the basis for further actions, also as regards the FIG. In addition, a

letter was sent to the FIG on behalf of thirteen states which included a formal plea for starting a working group on cultural change in gymnastics.

Working group safeguarding FIG

The FIG (international federation) discussed the letter referred to above in the 'Executive Committee' (EC) in February 2021, and stated to be enthusiastic about the composition of a new working group or committee which focuses on safe sports, and it will elaborate on the aims and members. On 19 May 2021, the EC decided to set up a working group on safeguarding. They will advise the EC, inter alia, about the senior age and the use of shorts.

Investigation into transgressive behavior

In April 2021, investigation agency Verinorm presented a report about the nature and scope of transgressive behavior in gymnastics. This page includes [all information](#) about the investigation. [A summary of the report](#) is available in the English language as well.