

February 17, 2026



Dear Women's Gymnastics Alums,

Many of you reached out to our administrative team and me over the past week with your questions and concerns regarding the decision to suspend the gymnastics season. We appreciate how much each of you care about the program.

The decision to suspend the season resulted from a series of complex internal conflicts between individual teammates, coaching staff members, and parents. These conflicts created unreconcilable differences that not only prevented our team from competing, but they also prevented team members from carrying on their daily activities, including practice. In the end, suspending the remainder of the season was the only viable alternative.

Please rest assured we are focused on servicing the needs of our student-athletes. Student-athlete experience is at the forefront of all our decisions. Always has been and will continue to be. Members of our support staff (athletic trainers, strength coaches, academic support, mental health and nutrition specialists, etc.) have all been part of this process and will continue to be available to the young women on the team.

In addition, our administrative staff has spent the past week working closely with the gymnasts to address a multitude of questions including access to training, medical and mental health support, academics, eligibility, transfer portal, etc. Several of those questions require NCAA rule waivers which further complicates providing timely answers.

We also realize many of you have a concern about what this means for the long term viability of gymnastics at Iowa State University. We share that same concern. Unfortunately, conflicts within our gymnastics team are not new. Comparable challenges have occurred multiple times in our program's history,

Providing all our student-athletes with a positive, healthy, and supportive experience is at the core of our athletic program's mission. Unfortunately, gymnastics is the only one of our 18 sports that has exhibited this type of recurring conflict. The fact it has happened multiple times, over an extended period, raises serious questions.

515.294.3662

The gymnastics program has the same access to every service we provide to all our other student-athletes and coaches. Despite that level of support, it is clear our gymnasts are not having the same experience as the rest of their fellow student-athletes. That is unfortunate and unacceptable.

We will continue to analyze and evaluate the root cause of these continual issues with the members of our support staff that work daily with our student-athletes. Our goal is to understand what is preventing our gymnastics program from providing the type of experience we expect for every Cyclone student-athlete and to determine how best to move forward.

In the meantime, we will continue to work closely with the young women on our team to help them navigate this challenging time in their lives.

Thanks for your continued support.

Go Cyclones!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamie Pollard".

Jamie Pollard
Director of Athletics
Iowa State University