

## **USA Masters Weightlifting Board Conference Call - 5/20/2022**

### **1. Call to order (Michael Cohen)**

Michael Cohen called the teleconference meeting to order at 9:00 PM. Attendees included Michael Cohen, Sheryl Cohen, Joe Triolo, Corinne Grotenhuis, Les Simonton, Van Cramer, Jeff Scott and Jerry Dunne.

### **2. Discussion of Referee Testing Opportunities at the USA Masters National Championships (Joe Triolo)**

Prior to this teleconference Joe circulated an email with recommendations for Referee testing procedures at the USA Master National Championships.

The issue is to ensure we can effectively conduct practical testing (applicants have already passed the written portion) to obtain National Category Referee (NCR) and or CAT 1 / Cat 2 status at the USA Masters National Championships.

A concern was raised that there are no juries at the USA Master National Championships (similarly there are no juries for youth or "B" sessions at the USA Nationals.) While not utilizing a jury (primarily influenced by staffing limitations – especially for three platform meets) we will instead utilize a "proxy jury" – i.e., an Evaluation Panel, as detailed in the IWF technical rulebook. The panel will be made up of NCR and CAT 1 and or Cat 2 officials.

While an Evaluation Panel cannot overturn the referees' decisions, they can consult with the referees to make any relevant concerns known / the panel will be the evaluators to score the NCR candidates.

After discussion, it was decided that Evaluation Panels were a viable option but that only candidates for NCRs will be tested at the USA Master National Championships while testing for Cat 1 and / or Cat 2 will be held at USAW meets.

#### **Procedure for National Referee Testing at National Masters:**

- Maximum of 3 or 4 National Referee Candidates (NRC) per event.
- When an NRC sits to test as a Referee each of the other two Referees must be ranked at a minimum as National Referee.
- The NRC will sit in the center chair
- “Proxy Jury” members will act as an Examination Panel (IWF TCRR page 76.)
- The Examination Panel will not have the power to overturn the Referee’s adjudication of a lift.
- \*The Examination Panel may ensure that the rules of the TCRR are being correctly followed and applied.

### **3. Potential Participation of Adaptive Inclusion Athletes (IWF terminology) in the 2022 Worlds Masters Weightlifting Championships**

Denise Offerman contacted Michael Cohen regarding options to include “Adaptive Inclusion” master weightlifting athletes (IWF defined as athletes challenged by various disabilities) in the 2022 Worlds Masters Weightlifting Championships.

The athletes would be able to participate if they can achieve 50% of the relevant Qualifying Total / they will compete in a separate Adaptive Inclusion Division and will be awarded separate medals. (In the USAW these athletes are designated as Adaptive Division Athletes while in Canada they are designated as Para Athletes.)

The number of Adaptive Inclusion athletes that enter will be in addition to the number of World Masters athletes which will remain capped up to 1200.

The USA Masters Committee supports this proposal. We anticipate that we will be on the leading edge of an opportunity to broaden participation for our sport. Inevitably, there will be challenges to administer this division and we will adapt and evolve as necessary to support these diverse athletes.

As this request has come very recently, the only remaining meet that could be used to qualify will be the Howard Cohen American Masters (HCAM). ??? What other meets can the athlete use to qualify during 2022???

### **4. Adjourn**

Michael Cohen adjourned the teleconference and thanked all for their attendance and participation.