

Minutes

2019 USA National Masters Board Meeting at Salt Lake City

Friday, March 29, 2019 9:00 PM

Attendees: Michael Cohen, Sheryl Cohen, Corinne Grotenhuis, Les Simonton, Jeff Scott, Van Cramer, Mike Keating, Joe Triolo, Gerry Dunne.

Howard Cohen, Mike Choi and Jason Farrow were unable to attend.

1. Welcome and Call Meeting to Order (Michael Cohen – Chairmen)

Michael Cohen welcomed all and thanked everyone for their support of the ongoing Nationals event. The Board meeting was held after the last session of Fridays lifting and it was very late, but he wanted to take the opportunity to update the Board regarding USA Masters WL issues and upcoming competition plans.

2. USA Masters and USAWL Funding and Banking Arrangements (Michael Cohen)

USAWL Masters Funding:

Starting January 1st, 2019 all USAWL lifters over 35 years of age will be classified as Masters in the USAWL database and a \$5.00 fee will be collected and credited to the USA Masters account in USAWL.

Previously only lifters who specifically registered as a master were included resulting in approximately 3,000 masters with an annual inflow of approximately \$15,000 being credited to the USA Masters account. However, with the USAWL policy change the number of designated master lifters should increase from the aforementioned 3,000 substantially over the course of 2019 as membership renewals occur.

USA Masters Banking Arrangements:

The existing separate USA Masters bank account of about \$73,000, utilized by the master's program for over 25 years, will be consolidated with the above USAWL masters bank account administered by USAWL. Michael Cohen, as USA Masters Chairman, will be issued a credit card (expected to be the primary method of purchases) and also check signing rights to the account. Check signing rights are still required as occasionally checks rather than a credit card is required for meet preparation and miscellaneous charges or reimbursements.

This should allow USAWL to perform the consolidated administrative and financial functions, enhance audit capabilities and align the USAWL Masters Committee (USA Masters) administration in a more similar manner to the LWCs.

3. Pan Ams Masters (Michael Cohen)

Pan Ams will be hosted by the USA in Orlando FL at the Disney Resort and a large turnout is anticipated. Last year at Gaspe the turnout was fairly low due to the remote geographical location although turnout was similar to recent the Pan Ams that have typically run about 200 -250 lifters. (The largest ever being in Savannah at about 475.) Given the increasing numbers of USA lifters participation the Orlando event should be one of if not the largest ever given the advantaged location and very reasonable hotel costs with no resort fee. In addition to the event there will be a reception and Pan Am business meeting for the officials of the various countries.

However, as of Friday March 29, 2019 Pan Am entries were only about 150 and it is hoped / expected that this will dramatically increase as many USA lifters will qualify at the Master Nationals in Salt Lake City. This year the Pan Am qualifying totals were required to be a national level meet and we will need to see if this has had a negative impact on the total lifters.

4. World Masters at Montreal CA (Michael Cohen)

This year's new qualification and registration process is ongoing with the IWF Masters goal of a meet with no more than 700 lifters to be held in Montreal CA August 16-24, 2019. There are no national quotas, even for the host country Canada and individual lifters are ranked vs each other to get to the best 700 with an emphasis to fill out the top spots at each weight / age group. The new application process was designed to help limit the ever-increasing numbers of competitors at the IWF Worlds Masters. It is significantly more complicated / many USA lifters are still working through the application stages. All prospective entries must be submitted before April 30 and given last potential for last minute internet or administrative process glitches, lifters are encouraged to submit well before the deadline. The last qualifier is the USA Masters National meet so lifters should pick their most advantageous results and submit ASAP.

5. World Cup (Michael Cohen)

USAWL will host a Masters World Cup (similar to the event in Dallas in 2015 and China in 2018) in conjunction with other USAWL events in San Diego. This has just been announced via Facebook and will be held October 2-6, 2019. The Masters World Cups are a relatively new phenomenon hosted by the respective national weightlifting bodies (not the masters) in an attempt to boost masters participation and are frequently held in conjunction with other scheduled senior, junior, youth or other events. For San Diego this will include a Bronze Level qualifier for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. The Master World Cup events are not sanctioned by the IWF Masters and IWF master records cannot be set at these events. However, if the event is drug tested then USA Masters national records can be set.

6. Howard Cohen American Masters Championships (Michael Cohen)

2019:

Rob Arroyo will host the 2019 Americans in Seattle WA on November 14-17, 2019. Rob had already locked in the event venue and hotel arrangements well before the aforementioned World Masters Cup was announced. This is a concern given the close timing and possible cannibalization from the newly announced Masters World Cup that it may depress the American Masters turnout.

2020:

Previously Syracuse NY had indicated an expression of interest but are rethinking in light of the impact of the World Cup uncertainties to Seattle.

7. Growth and Complexity of Hosting Master National Championships (Michael Cohen, Corinne Grotenhuis, Les Simonton)

In light of the dramatically increasing numbers at USA Master Nationals there is a very significant concern around limited senior officiating and technical resources to run such an event. While meet directors may change out (before they burnout!) the same very small group of dedicated technical officials and IT professionals are critical to the success of every national level and USA masters hosted international meet.

The meet in Salt Lake City has been very high quality which is both a testament to the Meet Director and her local volunteers but also to the officials and the small team of volunteer senior technical and IT professionals. These folks were there for 4 days solid until very late (starting very early). Lifters may fly in for one or two days.

It should be noted that the officiating and technical staffs (volunteers) are not only donating their time but frequently their transportation, hotel and meal costs. Serious consideration will need to be given to changing the policy to include as a minimum paying for their out of pocket costs and likely some compensation for their time. Until the very recent past meets were often ~ 200 lifters, one platform events with more modest expectations. The expectations for a large, well run and high-quality meet have become the norm!

Further discussion is ongoing, but the proposal is to reimburse travel / accommodation costs as well as a modest amount for their time for a core group (3-4 individuals).

8. Meeting Close (Michael Cohen)

Michael Cohen closed the meeting and thanked all for their attendance. The next meeting will take place either at the Pan Ams or via teleconference as required.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.