

USA Masters Weightlifting Board Conference Call to Approve the Format & Procedures for 2020 Online Nationals - 7/8/2020

1. Call to order and Meeting Agenda (Michael Cohen)

Michael Cohen called the teleconference meeting to order at 9:00 PM. The purpose of the call is to review and make a final decision regarding the online format and procedures for the 2020 Masters nationals.

Attendees included Michael Cohen, Sheryl Cohen, Joe Triolo, Corinne Grotenhuis, Les Simonton, Van Cramer, Jeff Scott and Jerry Dunne.

It was recognized that the online meet will be breaking new ground and it will be a steep learning curve. The online meet will be a stand in for the 2020 National championship (and master's World qualifier) but will not be able to replicate all the competitive or verification elements of a true onsite physical National championship.

2. Online Format and Procedures Challenges and Discussion (Sheryl Cohen)

Sheryl Cohen lead the wide-ranging discussion concerning the challenges to provide the best possible outcome under the daunting COVID-19 circumstances.

It was decided to adopt and slightly modify the current USAW online competition format and procedures. Launchpad6 software was purchased and will be utilized. USAW procedures for video taking and submission are on the USAW website. The masters will add some additional procedures regarding the weigh-in, lifting itself and verification of the weights reflecting the importance of a national championship. The final version will be posted on the USA Masters web site.

The coach or another lifter will need to take a video of the lifter / the submitted video will include the weigh-in and the lifter's highest snatch and clean and jerk / the element of iterative competition and platform strategy cannot be replicated.

There will be time limitations to mimic a real meet from weigh-in to lifting. The lifter will submit a video with a timestamp for each element / the lifter may take multiple attempts to reach their maximum lift.

Different lifters will face different challenges – some parts of the country gyms remain closed / some parts of the country are less impacted, and some areas have gyms that have opened and now will be re-closed. Some lifters train at home and are less impacted but will need help to video their results.

A number of USAW clubs are stepping up to hold local mini events to provide lifters with a venue to complete their online submissions. At this time Team Savannah will hold a mini meet early September and the list of USAW clubs that hope to be open and able to assist is being compiled and will be disseminated on the master's forum and website.

To give flexibility to learn and adapt to the online procedures it was decided to give a broad window for competition and submission of the online videos. Friday August 14 through Monday September 14 was suggested.

This timeframe will also facilitate the review of the video submission / the same three referees will judge all the lifts in any one class to provide consistency.

Lastly, it was decided that we will develop an online video that with examples and Q&A to help the master's community with the online competition process.

It is an unfortunate reflection of COVID-19 that the playing field can only be so level given training and online competition constraints, however, it is our hope to return to an onsite physical competition next year but that remains to be determined.

3. World Masters Games Qualification

As of the July 8th meeting the qualification period for the 2021 World Master Games was March 1st, 2020 to December 15th with an entry submission timeframe of September 16 – December 15, 2020. Our expectation was that many USA lifters would use the 2020 Online USA Masters Nationals as a qualification meet.

Note:

(Since the July 8th meeting the Masters IWF has expanded the qualifying time period back to August 16, 2019 to encompass the 2019 World Masters Championship in Montreal. We do not know what impact that will have on our 2020 online National Championships but individuals who qualified at Montreal may possibly skip or de-prioritize our online championships if their primary motivation was to qualify for the World Master Games.)

4. Adjourn

Michael adjourned the teleconference at approximately 10:00 PM and thanked all for their time and patience. Detailed format and procedures will be circulated by Sheryl Cohen in the next day for a final online review so they can be distributed to the master's community ASAP.