

## Minutes

### 2021 USA National Masters Board Meeting at Orlando

Thursday March 18, 2021 9:30 PM

Attendees: Michael Cohen, Sheryl Cohen, Corinne Grotenhuis, Les Simonton, Van Cramer, Joe Triolo,

Guest: Mike Choi

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

Michael Cohen welcomed everyone and thanked them for their support of our Orlando USA Masters National Championships. The meeting was held after the last session of Thursday's lifting to review how the first COVID era live event was progressing, what could be done better and discuss any required changes to upcoming meets and competition plans.

#### **2. Orlando National Championship Meet Feedback (Michael Cohen / All)**

The meet has been operating very smoothly and feedback has been uniformly positive. Compliance with our stringent safety procedures has been good. We have about 500 lifters competing in almost 25 sessions with two platforms per session. (There are 12 warm-up platforms for each competition platform.) The small, manageable classes are helping to ensure safety in a COVID world.

Each lifter had their own warm-up platform, own chalk, and is masked at all times unless they are on the competition platform. Weigh-ins are being held in two rooms per each session with all individuals masked, individual pens for writing weigh-in weights / opening attempts and paper towels over the scales changed out for each participant. Spectators to the event are masked and socially distanced.

#### **3. 2021 Pan Ams Masters (Michael Cohen)**

Pan Ams will be hosted by the USA in Orlando FL in early August at the same venue as our National Championships. Given COVID limitations USA qualifying totals can be achieved at a National meet or local meet for this year.

For planning purposes, we assume there will still be COVID related travel and event challenges, but we still anticipate a strong USA turnout. Canada and South / Latin America will likely have travel limitations and related quarantine provisions.

Turnout for the last two Pan Am meets (Puerto Rico last year and Gaspe, Canada the year before) was limited due to COVID (2020) and the relatively remote geographical location (2019). Previously, the largest ever Pan Am meet was in Savannah - about 475 lifters.

The location in the USA, attraction of Orlando and hoped for continued improvement in COVID conditions should allow a good turnout / perhaps the largest ever. Accordingly, we will change to a 5-

day competition (August 4-8) to accommodate the likely still required COVID protocols and large turnout. (Planning for a two or even three platform meet.) We will also have an information and registration table.

#### **4. 2021 HC Americans (Michael Cohen)**

The 2021 HC American meet in Reno, NV is on track with strong support from the Reno Sports Authority and they can accommodate the COVID protocols and implications.

#### **5. 2022 / 2023 HC Americans (Michael Cohen)**

##### **2022**

We are working closely with Osman Manzanares (Nashville Weightlifting) to provide scheduling and venue options for the 2022 HC Americans which are usually held in November. There are calendar challenges due to the 2022 World Master Championships to be held in the USA (early December). Additionally, Nashville Weightlifting has space limitations, and they may not be able to fully accommodate COVID protocols for expanded platforms (approximately 10 warm-up platforms for each meet platform).

##### **2023**

We are evaluating if we can hold the 2023 HC Americans in the Valley Forge, PA area. Michael asked for Board approval to explore and hold the 2023 HC Americans there if the required meet conditions can be met. The Board supported that opportunity.

COVID protocols make it much more challenging for the meet directors and we need to be able to provide additional support to them and remain flexible to accommodate scheduling changes.

#### **6. Discussion of Requirements /Education to Attend International Masters Meets (Michael Cohen)**

Due to COVID we have recently allowed local meets as qualifiers for the IWF World Masters Championships. However, for 2022, we intend to go back to our previous policy where lifters must qualify at the drug tested USA Masters National Championships or another International drug tested event such as the Pan Ams Masters Championships or the prior year IWF World Masters Championships.

We are also planning to develop a short online USA Masters orientation course for IWF Masters International events, so USA lifters are aware of the IWF rules and differences from USAW events.

**7. Treasurers Report (Van Cramer)**

Final USA Masters 2020 financial reporting from USAW will be available soon. Van reported that the USA Masters will have about \$56,000 at the end of 2020 which is a slight increase from the 2019 ending balance. There are about 3,500 masters registered with USAW.

**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 11:00.