

USA Masters Weightlifting Board Conference Call - 5/12/2020

Draft Minutes

1. Call to order (Michael Cohen)

Michael Cohen called the teleconference meeting to order at 8:30 PM. Attendees included Michael Cohen, Sheryl Cohen, Joe Triolo, Corinne Grotenhuis, Les Simonton, Van Cramer, Jeff Scott and Jerry Dunne.

2. 2020 National Masters Update (Michael Cohen)

Michael Cohen gave an update regarding the 2020 National Masters. Everything is in place for the meet and there are still rooms at the Orlando meet hotel. At this time Florida is undergoing a phased re-opening / some of the Orlando Disney facilities are re-opening and the Orlando area is generally healthy. Overall, Florida is greatly increasing testing so there are more cases, but serious infection rates and hospitalization rates are down.

Given the fluid nature of the COVID-19 impacts / government mandates we will review again at the end of July to determine if the meet can still be held. Hopefully, the meet can be held as planned and we are ready. If we are forced to delay again the most likely decision will be to rollover the entries to the 2021 Nationals which would then be held in Orlando in February 2021 at the same venue.

This change would have a cascading effect - the initial plan would be that the 2022 Nationals would be held in Dallas (previously Dallas was scheduled for 2021) and the 2023 Nationals would move to Salt Lake City /Debbie Millet (previously the 2022 site).

The majority of the 2020 National Masters meet expenses are already spent (representing over 75% of the entry fees) but can be rolled over to a 2021 Nationals meet if they are held at the same Orlando site. Given the COVID -19 crisis the hotel and other vendors have been willing to work with us on the re-scheduling.

3. 2021 National Masters Update (Michael Cohen)

The 2021 National Masters currently scheduled for February to be held in Irving, Texas are progressing / Michael will fly next week to review equipment, approved vendors, drug testing and timing issues with the meet director.

4. 2020 / 2021 Howard Cohen American Masters Update (Michael Cohen)

The 2020 Howard Cohen American Masters are on track for Savannah November 12-15 / depending on the entries and number of platforms required it will be held at the Anderson – Cohen Weightlifting Center or if a more platforms are required at the Savannah State University.

2021 Howard Cohen American Masters will be in Reno NV (Calavera Barbell) / Michael is flying out July 22nd to review the site and discuss with the meet director.

5. Refund Options for Future Events (All)

The unprecedented COVID-19 Virus impacts on life in general and sporting events in particular require that we have a specific refund policy to avoid misunderstandings, protect the meet directors and provide reasonable options for the lifters entering the meet.

We are working on new written rules for pandemic and similar situations that would cause re-scheduling / canceling in line with evolving USA Weightlifting policies.

6. Masters Committee Representation at USAW Strategic Planning meeting for July 10-11

USA Weightlifting has requested a master's Committee representative to attend their Strategic Planning meeting in Colorado Springs (in person or virtual depending on the state of Colorado and travel restrictions in early July). Van Cramer agreed to attend to represent master's interests.

7. Old Business

None.

8. Adjourn

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