

2019 USA Masters WL Teleconference Board Meeting - Update and Minutes

Sunday September 29, 2019

10:00 P.M. (Eastern Time)

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

Michael Cohen welcomed all the attendees and thanked them for being able to participate. Attendees included Michael Cohen, Phil Andrews, Mike Choi, Les Simonton, Corinne Grotenhuis, Joe Triolo, Jeff Scott, Van Cramer and Sheryl Cohen.

2. Update on the World Masters Championships in Montreal / International Travel Insurance (Les Simonton / Michael Cohen)

Les updated the board re the World Masters Championships in Montreal. The Canadian Masters did a very good job on the venue and the meet in general. The IWF Masters had some administrative / technical challenges with a new E tablet scoring system breakdowns, jerk lockout judging (seemingly very strict) and changing rules for the required opening attempts. The IWF administration was understaffed with only 3 of the 6 elected board members being in place and ad hoc decision-making processes that seemed to circumvent the IWF members Congress. It was announced the 2022 World Masters would be held in Russia and the final iteration of the starting attempts rules was set to 80% of the qualifying total.

Michael reviewed his challenging medical insurance coverage experiences in Montreal following his injury and suggested we implement a requirement for overseas medical coverage. Corrine talked about her experiences with Mark LaValle' accident in Thailand at the Senior Worlds. All agreed overseas insurance coverage would be beneficial. Phil suggested using the same USAWL coverage that USA elite athletes utilize which will cost about \$10 per overseas day. For a masters meet this might mean \$50-60 dollars for the meet trip which is reasonable given the overall cost of overseas travel. The coverage would be for the weightlifting event itself and normal tourist activities (excluding things like sky diving or scuba diving etc.) We would anticipate very few exceptions but could have an electronic waiver as part of the registration process / we will strongly encourage all USA master lifters to sign up for the coverage as part of their international travel planning.

3. Bringing on a non-voting BoD member to coordinate medical issues (Michael Cohen)

Michael suggested we bring on a non-voting BoD member to coordinate medical issues, especially on-site support at all national level and international level meets. He also noted that there is now more ongoing research on master weightlifters and the benefits of lifelong weightbearing exercise.

All agreed this was a good idea / Michael suggested an individual to fill this role for the masters. Phil Andrews agreed with the suggested individual. Phil also recommended we touch base with Mark LaValle, who successfully fulfills this role for USAWL, and update him to see if he has any other suggestions / “Lessons Learned” on the best way to support the masters program medical needs.

4. Evaluate Revised Options for USA Masters Hall of Fame Eligibility (Michael Cohen, Van Cramer)

Follow-up from the initial discussion in Orlando.

The draft suggestion is to do a points-based system conceptually similar to the current Canadian system. A total of 150 points would earn entry into the USA Masters Hall of Fame (HoF). USA master nationals would be 10 points for gold, 7 points for silver and 5 points for bronze. World masters would be 6 points for gold, 5 points for silver and 4 points for bronze. Pan Americans masters would be 5 points for gold, 4 points for silver and 3 points for bronze. The Howard Cohen Americans would be 3 points for gold, 2 points for silver and 1 point for bronze.

We agreed that for a period of time we would maintain a “dual track” with athletes able to earn entry from both the existing (10 National master wins) and the new selection criteria. However, it is likely that the new criteria will accelerate a number of athletes who are now close to entry under the existing criteria and will enable them to gain entry sooner. Overall, the new criteria should better recognize the depth (and difficulty) of competition in the younger classes.

Les Simonton will utilize his database back to 1998 to simulate this scenario so we can better evaluate the impacts and discuss at the next board meeting.

5. Status / Locations for Upcoming Masters Meets (Michael Cohen)

- 2019 Howard Cohen Americans – Seattle WA / November 14-17, 2019 (sponsored by Fortis Barbell Club). About 275 lifters now registered and anticipate the final total will be above 300.
- 2020 Master Nationals - Orlando FL / April 16-19, 2020 (sponsored by Team Savannah). Same venue as the 2019 Pan Ams / will be able accommodate a 2 or 3 platform meet.
- 2020 Howard Cohen Americans – Savannah (sponsored by Team Savannah).
- 2021 Masters Nationals – TBD / possibly Irving TX in conjunction with USAWL Juniors. Will probably be much earlier in the year (February) than the usual early April timing due to the World Masters Games in Japan being held in May and the likely USAWL Juniors timing. Working through aligning equipment, drug testing and timing issues.
- 2021 Howard Cohen Americans – TBD / possibly Nashville, TN.
- 2022 Masters Nationals – TBD possibly Salt Lake City (Debbie Millet).

6. USA 15/10 rule (Michael Cohen)

At the Worlds Master Championships, the 15/10 rule was modified several times as the competition progressed. The eventual IWF masters rule now being that lifters must start with at least 80% of the qualifying total. We discussed whether USA Masters wished to adopt this rule or stay with the current 15/10 rule. Further discussions will be held at the Howard Cohen Americans BoD meeting.

7. Meeting Close (Michael Cohen)

Michael Cohen closed the meeting and thanked all for their attendance. The next meeting will take place at the Howard Cohen Americans in Seattle. (Tentatively scheduled for Friday evening November 15th after the last competition session for the day.)