

USA Masters Weightlifting Board Conference Call - 3/12/2020 Minutes

1. Call to order (Michael Cohen)

Michael Cohen called the teleconference meeting to order at 11:00 PM. Attendees included Michael Cohen, Sheryl Cohen, Joe Triolo, Corinne Grotenhuis, Les Simonton, Van Cramer, Jeff Scott and Jerry Dunne. Additional Attendees: Phil Andrews and Mark Lavalley (medical).

2. COVID-19 / 2020 National Masters Postponement Discussion (Michael Cohen, All)

Michael Cohen gave an update regarding possible postponement of the 2020 National Masters.

Everyone acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic was evolving at a very rapid and unpredictable manner and this or any other decision would be subject to revision as events dictated. Individual situations differ greatly by geographic region, age, ability to train, travel, etc.

Working in conjunction with USAW, (who is in the middle of deciding what to do regarding their upcoming USAW Nationals), the recommendation is to postpone the 2020 National Masters until August 2020. This also allow USA lifters to better align with the IWF Worlds that is currently scheduled to be held in Orlando at the same time (totals counting for both events). This is under the assumption that the COVID-19 pandemic will be under control and the meet(s) can be successfully held.

Ideally, we would prefer to issue a joint announcement with USAW who is considering postponing their Nationals. Currently, USAW is going ahead with the USAW National meet (which is slightly further out than our meet) pending COVID-19 developments.

Given that we are only about 6 weeks from the start of the Masters National Championships a decision / postponement announcement cannot be delayed more than a few days more. For now, we will wait to see if USAW is ready to make a postponement announcement. We will send out our announcement (DRAFT below) within a few days to allow our masters participants time to finalize travel arrangements and decisions to attend or not due to COVID-19 concerns.

The COVID-19 epidemic is presenting unprecedented challenges and we realize (as does USAW) that it will be impossible to make everyone happy in this or any other option. At this time this appears to be the best available option.

3. Postponement Announcement DRAFT (Michael Cohen)

Michael shared the following DRAFT for consideration:

“To USA Masters Weightlifting Members,

Over the course of the last few days, let alone the last 24 hours, the coronavirus (COVID-19) has prompted unprecedented changes within the world of sport.

Our Masters leadership, in collaboration with USAW CEO, Phil Andrews recently met to discuss the most up-to-date information on the evolving COVID-19 public health threat and its associated effects on our upcoming National Championships and the impending effects these decisions will have in qualification for our World Masters Championships.

In prioritizing the health and wellness of all our members, as of March 13,

USA Masters Weightlifting has made the decision to postpone our National Masters Championships to coincide with the World Championships in late August. The National Masters Championships will take place in conjunction with the Worlds, with totals counting for both events. We have seen this done successfully in Canada in conjunction with the Master Pan Ams. Furthermore, the USA Masters will allow local sanctioned meets to count as qualifiers for the World Championships this year. It has also been said that the IWF will now allow the 2019 Worlds to count as a qualification event.

Please see below the standards set forth by USA Weightlifting in the event of cancellation or postponement of a National event:

*Refunds will not be permitted unless the event is completely cancelled (as opposed to restricted to registered participants only).

Also note that registration will NOT reopen for the National Championships. All registered athletes will be transferred to the new dates. The competition hotel will also honor the cancellation and transfer of dates.”

4. Adjourn

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