

USA Weightlifting Masters Committee Conference Call

8/29/2021

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

Michael Cohen called the teleconference meeting to order at 9:00 PM. Masters Committee Attendees: Michael Cohen, Les Simonton, Corinne Grotenhuis, Van Cramer, Joe Triolo, Jeff Scott, Jerry Dunne, Sheryl Cohen. Additional attendees: Mario Dispenza, David Meltzer. (Debbie Millet also invited but was unable to attend.)

The purpose of the call is to discuss the recent USAW By-Laws vote, impacts to the masters membership and possible next steps to improve the current situation.

2. USA Masters Committee Discussion (All)

The masters committee discussed the voting process itself, outcome (USAW proposal to eliminate the current elected board failed), impacts, options and what our next actions should be. The number one issue was lack of effective communication between masters committee, members and USAW etc. One concern was the reliance on social media as a communication vehicle and the need for the masters committee to be able to access the USAW email lists to speak directly to the masters membership.

There was a general consensus that the younger master lifters, who represent the largest growth of all USAW and particularly masters, want more communication and opportunities for representation. Also, that elements of this group may not be fully aware of the current masters business model and high-quality level of the masters national meets.

Actions:

- Michael Cohen has already reached out to the USAW CEO immediately following the vote to suggest face to face meetings to identify issues and discuss possible improvements. Phil Andrews agreed, and meetings will be scheduled. A joint message to masters members is WIP.
- Master membership Surveys are being developed to help identify issues (Sheryl Cohen – initial draft with additional incremental survey questions and valuable input from Mario Dispenza / Sheryl to compile final draft for comment then distribution to masters members.)
- Update the USA Masters web site with additional information - National meet(s) hosting bid procedures, additional governance and financial information, a “Facts Sheet” / Q&A etc. (Van Cramer and David Melzer will start the “Facts Sheet” / Q&A draft for review).
- Work to identify additional masters committee participation opportunities for younger masters – ensure awareness of the opportunity to be appointed to existing and new subcommittees / Review experience requirements for elected positions with the intent to make them less restrictive / WIP. (Les Simonton.)

3. Qualifying for Kansai World Master Games

Due to the continued COVID-19 impacts limiting qualification opportunities for the Kansai World Master Games the committee voted to allow online meet results to count towards the qualifying total.

Adjourn (Michael Cohen)

Michael adjourned the teleconference and thanked all for their attendance at this ad hoc call and the shared concerns for the future of masters weightlifting.