

USA Masters Weightlifting, Inc. Board Meeting Minutes
9/10/2023

Attendance

Board members: Michael Cohen, Sheryl Cohen, Jeff Scott, Van Cramer, Juli Peterson
Non-board members: Jerry Dunne, Joe Triolo, David Meltzer, Corinne Grotenhuis, Les Simonton

Meeting convened at 8:15pm (EST)

Approved 7/31/2023 Zoom meeting minutes

Old Business:

1. Drug education requirements: Corinne is working with Drug Free Sport to finalize drug testing for November, HCAM event in Nashville, TN. DFS offers a TUE review, Corinne will set up a call with Trent Godfrey V to get specifics on this. It is recommended that members who retain their USAW membership continue to get their TUE through USADA. Brief conversation ensued on USADA pulling drug testing for the recent USAW sanctioned Pan American Masters Championships in Orlando due to IMWA not being a signatory of USADA; however, the new masters federation that USAW has joined, UMWF, is not connected to IWF doping control and in fact, the last World Masters Games held in 2017 in New Zealand, was not drug tested.
2. Adopted the by-laws by a unanimous vote. Approval (ratification) is still contingent upon a member vote at the next annual meeting. Well done all!
3. USAMW has been awarded the 2025 IMWA World Championships and it was requested by Denise Offermann that it be a part of a multi-sport competition similar to how 2024 US Masters Nationals will be run. There are three sites being looked at for the event.
We need to hire Medical staff for the upcoming HCAM.
2024 HCAM location and meet director TBD
2025 Pan American Championships will be held in Baton Rouge, LA
2025 National Championships will be in Orlando, FL
We need to discuss how to choose the official USA Team when going to International meets. Team USA had a combination of no-shows and multiple bomb-outs at the recent IMWA World Championships in Poland. This is a delicate subject due to past ethics complaints that have been filed when lifters have NOT been chosen for the team. A simple start is to express the necessity of lifters notifying the USAMW COO immediately when they need to pull out of the meet. Also, we can make announcements reminding lifters that they may be placed on the team and to choose opening attempts accordingly. The idea of hiring a "Team Manager" for international events was discussed to ensure lifters, especially those traveling alone, will have an escort in the event of injury or simply maneuvering international travel.

New Business:

1. CEO report combined with future events agenda item above.
2. Sheryl mailed out gift cards with the personal donations received to the lifters placing highest in the Best Lifter category at the recent IMWA World's. The recipients were Holly Arrow and Rudolph Kotlikov. Corinne has each of their trophies and will mail the trophies to Holly and Rudolph. Corinne will be reimbursed for shipping costs. Sheryl printed and mailed out certificates of achievement to all who lifted at IMWA World's. Thank you Sheryl!

We have received our business license.

We are still waiting for 501(c)3 confirmation due to the IRS backlog.

3. Van shared the current financial statement dated 8/31/23. Motion to receive and file the CFO report was passed unanimously. It was agreed upon that all reimbursements to CEO and/or the COO will receive board approval.

USAW has not paid and has not given a final resolution as to whether they will reimburse USAW Masters Council for past expenses.

4. It is agreed that the Masters Forum that we maintain and moderate is an imperfect communication tool. One idea of David's is to set up a way on the website to receive questions, either signed or anonymous, and we can answer them on the site itself. This would also be a useful tool for our FAQ section of the site.

We will communicate on the forum ways members may reach any board member with questions or concerns.

The official USAMW Facebook page will be announcements, "read", only. If there are questions resulting from a post, a member may contact any board member.

We will continue to search for alternate communication channels prior to being hands off of a Masters forum.

Juli will come up with possible "call to action" communications to the group and we can decide which will be most useful in promoting healthy and useful communication.

A quarterly newsletter was suggested. Juli will head this up. Jerry will connect Juli with Ann Barry who does similar work with another Masters sports organization to get ideas on how best to proceed.

Due to the overwhelming positive response of Michael's "pre World's" video, we will do more of these to take advantage of his 50+ years experience in weightlifting.

5. Brief discussion on new United Masters Weightlifting Federation. At this time, there is no official website although a flier has been distributed on-line. At this time, there is no drug testing information available on the federation.
6. Joe Triolo: USAW will not consider the 2023 HCAM a national event; therefore; officials cannot receive points that contribute to being eligible for international event per Pedro Meloni. It was questioned if Pedro has the authority to make this decision without USAW Board input. A possible solution is that officials affected may file a grievance with USAW on the matter.

IMWA is putting together a Masters referee program that will be tested in London first.

This may be used stateside in the future.

7. Congratulations to the following board members and interested parties for their lifting achievements at the recent IMWA World's in Poland:

Michael Cohen-Gold medal

Sheryl Cohen-Silver medal

David Meltzer-Silver medal and induction into the World Masters Hall of Fame!

Next meeting scheduled for October 16, 2023 at 8:15pm (EST)

Meeting was adjourned at 10:22pm