

# **2019 USA National Masters Board Meeting - Update and Minutes @ Pan Ams (Orlando FL)**

Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

5:00 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 attend the 2019 Pan Ams Masters competition and this USA Masters Board update and meeting. Attendees included Michael Cohen, Van Cramer, Les Simonton, Corinne Grotenhuis and Sheryl Cohen.

## **2. Evaluate Options for USA Masters Hall of Fame Eligibility** (All)

Given the explosion of the popularity of masters weightlifting there are now exponentially more competitors in the younger and female classes. Recognizing this depth of competition, we believe it is time to re-evaluate the criteria for entry into the USA Masters Hall of Fame (HoF). Currently, the athlete's entry into the HoF is based the objective criteria of 10 wins at the National Championships. (Prior to 2011 for female lifters this was 7 wins when the female program was still evolving.)

Our initial thoughts are that entry into the HoF should still reflect a heavy weighting for winning a national championship but that results at other master's competitions such as the Worlds, Pan Ams and the Howard Cohen Americans should also be part of the equation. We discussed options and will look at other nations criteria (such as Canada which have multiple weightings for different competitions). Les Simonton will utilize his database back to 1998 to run several options and we can look at the results to determine next steps.

We agreed that for a period of time we would maintain a "dual track" with athletes able to earn entry from both the existing and new selection criteria. However, it is likely that the new criteria will accelerate a number of athletes who are now close 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.

## **3. USA Masters Website** (Michael Cohen)

We discussed the options to better support the existing USA Masters website and help make the data transfer between the masters and USA Weightlifting more efficient. Currently, USA Weightlifting is evaluating a proposal for a new website and we are considering changing from our existing separate USA Masters website to be included in the new USA Weightlifting website. It should help facilitate integration of the respective databases, make event registration and qualifying totals checking easier and hopefully make administration of the USA Masters website easier and more secure.

The existing USA Masters website administrator, Sheryl Cohen, would be given access rights by USA weightlifting if this approach is finalized.

**4. USA Masters Headcount** (Michael Cohen)

We are working with USA Weightlifting to get the latest estimated number of masters that should reflect the change to register all over 35-year-old lifters as “Masters” as their registrations are renewed. USA Masters receives \$5.00 per lifter towards the master’s program which is collected as part of the annual USA Weightlifting dues.

**5. Eleiko Bars for Masters Competition** (Michael Cohen)

As part of our long-term plan to have the available infrastructure for three platform masters meets, we are purchasing (3) Eleiko full competition sets and (12) Eleiko warmup sets at approximately 40% off the normal pricing as part of our overall relationship with Eleiko USA. The total cost will be approximately \$30,000. Eleiko also agreed to supply (6) extra warmup sets if required for specific meets.

**6. Locations for Upcoming Masters Meets** (Michael Cohen)

- 2019 Howard Cohen Americans – Seattle WA / November 14-17, 2019 (sponsored by Fortis Barbell Club)
- 2020 Master Nationals - Orlando FL / April 16-19, 2020 (sponsored by Team Savannah)
- 2021 Masters Nationals – TBD / possibly Irving TX
- 2021 Howard Cohen Americans – TBD / possibly Nashville, TN

**7. Meeting Close** (Michael Cohen)

Michael Cohen closed the meeting and thanked all for their attendance. The next meeting will take place as required and possibly an update at the World Masters in Montreal in August.