

USA Weightlifting
Board of Directors Conference Call
July 8, 2009
Recorded by Laurie Lopez

Call to order 3:00 p.m. MST

Board members present: Ursula Papandrea (UP), Mike Wittmer (MW), Jack Lano (JL), Leo Temoshenko (LT), Mark Cameron (MC), Regis Becker (RB), Megan Tornstrom DeFourny (MTD). Staff present: Mike Gattone (MG), Laurie Lopez (LL).

Agenda – Team selection for World Championships

MC: IWF has announced 2009 WC not a qualifier for 2012 Olympic Games.

MG: In light of IWF announcement, Kelly Skinner at USOC indicated we would be allowed to reallocate WC funding to other activities or events.

MC clarified that we do not need to decide what those activities will be. Issue being addressed today is should we send a reduced team, how reduced and how to select?

Points raised in discussion:

- We normally do send full teams, even in years not qualifier for OG.
- Our highest ranked athletes are at lower percentages than have been in many years.
- By sending full teams, we would have better chance of getting WC team points, but we would still place low.
- Funds could be reallocated to developmental programs.
- Board has an obligation to make the best use of our resources.
- We may still have to pay back USOC for expenses of those who do not score points.
- QTs have been posted and athletes have been working toward qualification for world team.
- Experience at this level is important and better to have athletes on Olympic team with 3 WCs under their belt rather than 2, 1 or none.
- Discussion re perception that athletes use international competition opportunities as a vacation and place more value in making the team than in doing their best at the event.
- WC and JWC are far more competitive than other international events.
- Incentive for an athlete to return to the sport is gone if chances of getting to a WC are slim.
- Reducing WC team to less than full teams would be removing a major incentive for athletes.

Questions raised:

- Will WC performance count for qualification for any other international events? A: No.
- Will sending a smaller team impact our USOC funding next year or remainder of quad? A: MG believes that USOC likes to see us changing our strategy rather than just doing what we have always done.
- If all we care about is points, why send anyone?
- Could funding of Criollo Cup be alternative to funding a full World Team? A: No comparison.
- Could funds not used for 2009 WC team be used in future years and has that been confirmed in writing by USOC? A: MG – Not in writing yet but discussed via telephone. Writing would have to follow.

Suggestions Presented by Board:

- Since next 2 worlds are qualifiers for next OG, we could decide on specific number of lifters for this year with no obligation to pay back USOC and reserve unused funds for alternates for WCs in 2010, 2011.
- Partially fund lower rankers on team; noted that having to pay ½ expense would discourage a poor kid.

Cursory review using 2005 totals identified 5 or 6 athletes as point earners; using 2007 totals, none. Brief discussion re if we send reduced teams, proposed team sizes.

Motion by MW, 2nd by JL: To send full teams to the 2009 World Championships. No further discussion. In favor: UP, MW, JL, RB. Against: LT, MC, MTD. Motion passed.

Conference call moved to Executive Session.