

USA Weightlifting Board of Directors Teleconference
Minutes – November 13, 2013 8pm Eastern time

Present: David Boffa, Artie Drechsler, Mike Graber, Terry Grow, Ursula Papandrea, Ari Sherwin, Les Simonton, Jennifer Ullman, Emmy Vargas

Not present: Jasha Faye (death in the family),

Staff: Peter Roselli, Michael Massik

1. Finalize an award for Coaching Excellence

Gayle Hatch has requested that the Board approve the creation of the “Gayle Hatch Award for Coaching Excellence” He is willing to make a financial commitment to support those awards on a long-term basis. After discussion, the Board decided that such an award was desirable and that there would be separate awards for the men's and women's coaches and that they will be tied to the selection procedures for World Team coaches. Artie will approach Gayle Hatch with options and report back with his desire.

2. Resolution of the request for reinstatement by an athlete:

The Board approved two options that would create additional options for the athlete:

Option 1: That the athlete agrees to the proposal that was previously discussed but change the repayment amount to \$200 per month.

Option 2: That the athlete repay the organization in a combination of two ways – make approved presentations at the Junior Nationals, the Youth Nationals and the National Championships (travel expenses are athlete's responsibility) plus reimburse the organization according to the proposal that has previously been discussed but changing the repayment amount to \$2,500 total at the rate of \$100 per month starting in six months.

NB. The athlete chose option #1 and has signed an agreement that stipulates his acceptance.

3. The selection procedures for the Youth Olympic Games: *(Previously distributed)*

The revised selection procedures for the Youth Olympic Games were reviewed and approved by the Board. The revised selection procedures for the Youth Olympic Games were reviewed and approved by the Board. Discussion regarding requiring the final Trials to be mandatory, to insure that the eligible athletes would be drug tested at the time of selection and reasonably close in time to the commencement of the YOG in mid-August, in Board agreement to adjusting the wording in the selection procedures draft to indicate that the Trials would become optional if USADA would agree to test the athletes nominated prior to their departure. This adjustment has been made and circulated to the CEO and Board for their review and further action.

Discussion of qualifying periods vs. individual qualifying events in regard to the Continental Qualification Event for the Youth Olympic Games related to the use of results from multiple

qualification events and a final trials event to make the final selection, versus using only the results from the Continental Qualification Event itself. The conclusion was that since the variability in individual body weight categories in Youth international competitions is so great and irregular in terms of numbers and quality of participants, that relying on the Continental Qualification Event alone would not result in selection of the most deserving US nominee (s) to compete in the YOG, if slots are earned.

Action Item: Discuss with USADA on how to reshuffle test allocation to ensure that athletes that qualify for international events are tested and results are communicated prior to the departure date for the international completion.

The revision of the National Classification System Matrix to include the 2013 World Championships and ranking methods for the various 2014 international competitions with updated data was reviewed and approved by the Board.

After some few edits remaining, a final version with some added explanation will be circulated for one last look by Board members, after which this documentation will be posted.

4. At the 2013 Nationals, we moved, with 100% athlete consent, some athletes to the A sessions on Saturday or Sunday. We would like to repeat this practice at the American Open to relieve pressure on Friday. Particular examples include the 75+B, 85A or 94A. Can we add this to the agenda for a brief discussion and vote?

The Board has tasked the staff to examine the entries and divide the athlete pool into athletes that would have qualified as A session, athletes that would have qualified as B session and consider the possibility of creating a C session to accommodate the surprisingly large number of entries. The staff will report to the Board by 11/15/2013.

NB. The staff and the Technical Committee have worked to create an alternate schedule that both the staff and the Committee will accommodate the entry pool. The schedule was communicated to the Board throughout the revision process.

5. Complaints regarding members behavior
 - a) Complaint from a State Championship

The IWF Weightlifting rules will be amended in the United States to state that the Meet Director or officials will have the authority to eject a participant, coach or spectator in the event that such individual refuses to comply with a request from the Meet Director to cease any disruption of the competition or unsportsmanlike behavior. The staff and the Technical Committee will work together to determine the exact language of the amended rule. Proposed language is attached below as Attachment 1.

b) Coach at U15 Pan Am Championships

The Board is in agreement that no staff member (volunteer or paid) has the authority to initiate a program of independent fundraising without the advance authority of the organization.

Future volunteer and paid staff members will be instructed in the above policy.

The coach in question will have the opportunity to repay the complainant but if that repayment does not occur immediately, then the office will pay the full amount and debit the account of the coach.

c) Prominent athlete making unprofessional comments on Facebook (Attachment 4)

There have been questions regarding media training for elite athletes. All athletes are required by the USOC to participate in media training prior to departure for the Olympic Games. It is rare for an athlete not to receive such training prior to participating in an Olympic Games.

Emmy Vargas will lead an effort to develop a policy regarding developing an Electronic Media Communication Policy for USA Weightlifting. for the Board to review

No direct action will be taken toward the athlete in this complaint. The complainants will receive a response from the staff.

6. Report on IWF acceptance of USA Weightlifting proposal.

USA Weightlifting submitted a proposal to the IWF regarding qualification procedures for the 2016 Olympic Games. The submission was spearheaded by Peter Roselli and the proposal was a collaboration of Peter Roselli and Zygmunt Smalcerz. The IWF recently announced that the proposal submitted by USA Weightlifting was accepted and would be incorporated into the qualification pathway for Rio 2016.

Meeting adjourned 10:57 Eastern time.

USAW Addendum to IWF Technical Rules 11/2013

Unless stated otherwise below, the USAW adheres to the IWF's technical rules to the degree practicable. However, conditions special to competitions held in the US at the national and/or local level have led to the USAW's adopting standing modifications to the IWF technical rules as discussed below (other modifications for specific events may be indicated on the entry forms for those events).

USAW Standing Rules

At all USAW competitions:

- 1) Athlete, coach, official, volunteer and spectator participation rights are subject to immediate termination if a participant threatens any other participant or behaves in a way that unduly delays the progress of the competition or otherwise impedes the competition in any way
- 2) Any athlete, coach or official who behaves in a way that could cause damage to the facilities or equipment being used in the competition, or damage the reputation of participants or the USAW are subject to a loss of participation privileges after a verbal warning (e.g., "spiking" the barbell as compared with IWF requiring that the lifter to release the barbell from below the shoulders when it is lowered to the platform).

At National Competitions:

In the event of a lack of sufficient officials to perform the duties of the Technical Controller, Marshall and/or Jury, the USAW reserves the right to have the speaker/referees serve the functions of the aforementioned officials in a way similar to what is described below for local competitions.

In addition, in the event that because entries in national competitions exceed the capacity of the facilities and other resources allocated to the competition, the USAW reserves the right to add facilities and platform(s) that meet only local specifications for the lowest ranked lifters in such competitions.

In addition to the IWF bodyweight and age categories, the USAW recognizes the following categories:

In Youth National events: 1) 14-15, 12-13 and 11 and under age categories, 2) 35, 39 and 44 kg. categories added for men and women 13, a 44 kg. bodyweight category added for men and women 14-15, and a men's 50 kg. category added for men 17 and under.

In Masters National events: 1) 5 year age categories beyond the men's 80 and women's 70 used by the IWF (e.g., 85-89 for men) to infinity, and 2) men may use a 15 kg. bar, with a minimum weight of 20 kg. for men and women, 3) spring collars may be used with weights below 40 kg. on the women's bar and below 45 kg. on the men's bar. and, 4) no Jury is used. .

At Local Competitions:

- 1) The three referees officiating at local events shall have the same responsibilities and authority as Jury and the Technical Controller would at international events.
- 2) The speaker will have the same responsibilities and authority that the speaker and marshal have at international events.
- 3) In an effort to facilitate the use of the largest diameter plates available (e.g., 45 cm diameter 2.5 kg. plates), men lifting less than 45 kg., and women lifting less than 40 kg., may use a lighter than standard (20kg./15kg.) bar, as long as the diameter and length of the bar inside the inside collars meet IWF measurement standards. Spring collars may be used (with no credit given for the weight of the spring collars).
- 4) The platform may measure from 3.66 meters (12 feet) to 4 meters square and may be up to 10 cm in height (if the platform is the same height as the surface around it, the outside dimensions of the platform must be clearly marked).

Team Point scoring for all USAW national and local events shall be as follows:

| Place | National Event Points | Local Competition Points |
|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 12 | 6 |
| 2 | 9 | 4 |
| 3 | 8 | 3 |
| 4 | 7 | 2 |
| 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 6 | 5 | |
| 7 | 4 | |
| 8 | 3 | |
| 9 | 2 | |
| 10 | 1 | |