

Minutes - USA Weightlifting Board of Directors Tele-conference – March 12, 2014 – 8:00 p.m. EDT

In Attendance: Artie Drechsler, David Boffa, Jasha Faye, Mike Graber, Terry Grow, Ursula Papandrea, Les Simonton, Jennifer S. Ullman, Emmy Vargas

Absent: Ari Sherwin

USA Weightlifting Staff: Phil Andrews, Michael Massik, Peter Roselli

Old Business:

All Old Business items were addressed. Presently, there are no old business items pending.

New Business

1. Discussion of National meets

Discussion item: Raising the qualifying totals as compared to hosting a four day meet to accommodate the increased demand for participation.

This is an organizational direction question. Specifically, with the growth of membership and increased attendance at meets, we are facing a potential overflow of entries for meets. The idea of attendance growth has merit, but is a significant departure from tradition. Additionally, we are unable to predict if raising the qualifying totals will limit the entries to a point where competition will conclude at a reasonable time each day. Of additional concern, we also need to determine if we have sufficient referees to accommodate increased growth or an event with an additional day.

- a. *Action Item: Create a membership survey that asks if members would be in favor of expanding a single upcoming meet to four days. Also, if favored, on which meet do the members recommend we pilot the four day meet concept?*

If the membership finds a four day pilot study attractive, the staff will develop a scheduling concept that includes the number of platforms, attracting enough referees, a generalized schedule, and any other pertinent items that would need to be addressed.

If the membership finds the four day concept unappealing, then the staff will develop increased qualifying totals for the American Open.

- b. *Motion – Mr. Graber (Second – Mr. Faye): Create a model system that will target the number of athletes to be 75 per day for National meets.*

- a. *The staff will develop a proposal for such a system and present the concept to the Board for review. The guidelines for that model are to be 75 lifters per day, with the total number of lifters in the competition based on the number of days (e.g., 225 for a 3 day meet and 300 for a 4 day meet). In addition, the Board directed that the system should guarantee entry to those lifters who made the equivalent of A session totals and then fill out the remainder total on the basis of a ranking system such as our classification system. Lifters who did not make A totals would be informed if their entry was accepted approximately 6 weeks prior to the event, which requires that the entry deadline would likely be about 8 weeks out. This system would first be tried at the 2014 American Open.*

We need to create a program to broaden the pool of referees for National events. We need to recruit more new referees. We should be able to create an online test that would help fill the ranks of National Level Referees.

Should we plan for two platforms for all National meets? In any case, if we have a jury for one platform or one session, there should be a jury for all platforms and all sessions.

- c. Scoring/timing systems for National meets
 - ii. The Board is in agreement that a competition will not be stopped if the scoring system fails. Should the scoring system fail, the competition will move to manual/traditional operations.
 - iii. Discussion of scoring/timing systems.

RFPs for scoring and timing systems have been distributed and responses are being received. The RFPs will be reviewed and distributed to the Board

At the very minimum, we will have an independent lighting system and an independent clock for National events.

- d. Discussion of the B session Friday
 - iv. *We will not commit to holding the mandatory B sessions exclusively on Friday (or Thursday in a 4 day event), but might still do that if it were the best approach to reach the 75 lifter per day target.*

2. Update on 2015 World Championships in Houston, Texas

- a. The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed, but the final contract needs to be developed between USA Weightlifting, Houston Sports Foundation, and IWF.

i. The Board has directed that we move finalizing this contract to extremely high priority and has tasked the staff to achieve this objective.

3. Discussion of the revised LWC Guidelines.

- a. *The Board voted to adopt the revised LWC Guidelines as temporary guidelines for the operation of an LWC.*

4. What is the organizational direction regarding dietary supplement manufacturers as sponsors?

- a. *Any interested sponsor would need to provide clear guarantees of purity and lack of potential contamination before the organization would consider any possible partnership. Additionally, we need to request interpretation of how the IWF is interpreting the new WADA regulations slated to become effective on January 1, 2015.*

5. The Wall of Fame section of the website was discussed. <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Weightlifting/Weightlifting101/Olympic-Training-Center-Wall-of-Fame>

6. The Weightlifting Safety portion of the website was discussed: <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Weightlifting/Weightlifting101/Safety>

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m. Eastern time.