

## MINUTES DRAFT 8/21/14

USAW Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, August 20, 2014, 8 PM ET to 11:25 PM ET

Board Members Present (listed alphabetically) – Artie Drechsler, Jasha Faye, Mike Graber, Terry Grow, Ursula Papandrea, Ari Sherwin, Les Simonton, Jennifer Ullman, and Emmy Vargas.

### **2014 American Open (AO)**

The USAW Board reviewed the responses that have been received regarding the announced changes in qualification procedures for national events, positive and negative. It was observed that the vast majority of the negative responses pertained to the AO, and in particular to the earlier than traditional closing date for qualification and entry. While the earlier date was established to allow for extra time to analyze entries and provided more time for travel arrangements to be made, concerns expressed by respondents highlighted the importance of allowing as much time as possible for qualification to be achieved. While the logistical limits to the number of competitors remain, the time frame for qualification can be adjusted. Therefore, a motion was made, seconded and approved by the entire USAW Board to:

Extend the qualification period to include Sunday, November 2, 2014. In order to live with this date and still inform competitors of the acceptance of their entries early enough for them to make reasonable travel arrangements, we will require meet directors to submit meet results no later than November 4, 2014 (within 48 hours of the latest qualifying competition date). In addition, competitors will be required to enter no later than November 4 as well.

Immediately following the closing of entries and deadline for submission of meet results, the USAW National Office and volunteers will work to provide a list of accepted entries by Friday November 6. This will require close cooperation between the USAW staff, meet directors holding events in late October 2014 or the first weekend in November 2014, and competitors, but it does significantly extend the qualifying period and approximately retain the closing dates used in prior years.

### **USAW Board Responses to Complaints Suggestions and Similar Communications**

Discussion was conducted regarding one or more USAW Board members responding to communications directed at the entire Board, in the absence of the USAW Board having the opportunity to confer on the communication and any response before it was generated. In interactions with the membership, USAW Board members should always endeavor to be courteous and bring items raised to the attention of the full USAW Board where applicable. However, being a USAW Board member does not require acceptance of abusive behavior on the part of members, whose responsibility it is to remain respectful in their interchanges with USAW Board members, other volunteers and USAW. Should an abusive situation occur, the involved USAW Board member, volunteer or staff member should merely disengage and feel free to report the incident. USAW Board members

should never imply that their position as USAW Board member generally grants them the authority to unilaterally create USAW policy.

A motion was made, seconded and approved by the entire USAW Board to prohibit any Board member to respond individually to a communication directed at the USAW Board. Instead, the CEO will respond promptly (within 48 hours) to communications directed at the Board by either: a) responding directly when the staff has been given authority by the Board to act on such issues, or, b) to acknowledge receipt of the communication, with a promise to refer it to the Board for its consideration. Individual Board members may still respond to communications sent to them by individuals, as long as it is clear that their response does not represent a response by the USAW Board.

### **Athlete Support**

Current USAW/USOC and Werksan athletes support programs were discussed, as were new programs proposed by USAW Board member Mike Graber. It was agreed that a sub-committee of the USAW Board would be formed, consisting of Mike Graber, Ursula Papandrea, Artie Drechsler, Emmy Vargas and any other USAW Board member who wishes to participate. The purpose is to enrich and integrate support programs, ramping up support for athletes who have reasonable chances for point scoring that will contribute materially to our Summer Olympic Games slots available during 2014 and 2015, and providing support for potential medal athletes participating in the 2016 Rio Summer Olympic Games, as well as rewarding medal/record performance at the highest levels of international competition.

### **Limits On Athletes at Trials Events**

Motion was made, seconded and approved that at national events, and special trials events (the latter at the discretion of the local meet director) the trials session spots are limited to those who rank in the top 15 for their gender and cannot otherwise qualify for the event. For instance, at the 2015 Juniors, we intend to hold trials for both the YWC and PAG, so only Youth athletes who are in the top 15 in their gender in the YWC ranking coming into the Juniors and who can't make the qualifying total for the Juniors would be eligible for the special trial slots. Any remaining available spots not filled by the 15 Youth athletes of each gender who are in the top 15 and do not otherwise qualify for the Junior Nationals will be available for a PAG Trials held at the same event and available to up to the top 15 athletes in their gender in the PAG ranking who did not otherwise qualify for the Juniors because of their age. The total number of Trials athletes in the YWC and PAG Trials combined will not exceed 15 athletes of each gender. If there are insufficient number of athletes in a given trials session to justify a separate session, the athletes can be integrated into regular sessions as long as all participants are made aware that these athletes are not competing in the JN."

## **2015 Calendar**

Concerns were raised about a calendar to which events seem to be randomly added, sometimes without the full knowledge of the USAW Board, and assuring that U.S. national events were integrated with international events as effectively as possible. Specific issues had to do with last minute “trials” events being added.

Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved that the calendar for a given year will be drafted by the CEO, High Performance Director, and Events Director for approval by the USAW Board by August of each year for the succeeding year. Then, any meet director who wishes to host an additional trials and/or record maker’s event must submit a proposal to do so by December 1 of that year, for events the meet directors wish to host in the following calendar year. A limited number of rights to such events will be granted, with preference given to organizations that have demonstrated the ability to successfully host such events or national events, which are flexible about the dates and number of athletes in such events. Decisions will be made regarding the scheduling of these events by year’s end.

## **Team Selection**

In view of recent team selection situations, and input from coaches, the USAW Board re-examined selection procedures for international teams.

Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to reinstate the traditional policy of final trial events approximately three months before the germane international event, with those ranked the highest at of the close of that event being selected (locked in). The only event for which the highest ranked athletes would not be locked in would be for the World Championships teams competing in the World Championships in either of the last two years leading up to the Summer Olympic Games (e.g., 2015). The current Athlete Handbook rules will apply for 2014, but going forward into 2015, the only event for which positions are not locked in as of the close of the trial period approximately three months prior to the international event are the bottom two spots for the men’s and women’s World Championship teams. In other words, the top six men and the top five women, regardless of their ability to place or percentage ranking, are guaranteed their positions on the team.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to re-institute the requirement that athletes who wish to qualify for international events must volunteer to be in the USADA testing pool at least six months prior to the final selection event for the competition that athlete is attempting to qualify for (exceptions for youth and junior lifters will still apply, but such athletes must apply to be in the pool immediately following the event at which they qualified).

USADA’s policies and resources need to be factored into the final implementation of this policy before final details are announced.