

USA Weightlifting Board of Directors
Minutes
Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 February, 2017
Sheraton Kansas City Crown Center

Present: Ursula Papandrea (Chair), Travis Cooper (AAC Rep), Paula Aranda, Jenny Schumacher, CJ Stockel, Butch Curry, Lou Lauria (By Phone), Colin Burns (By Phone), Jasha Faye.

Staff Present: Phil Andrews (CEO)

Members Observing: Leo Totten (Coaching Committee), Howard Cohen (Masters Committee), Roger Sadecki (Bylaw Review Committee).

1. Chair Update
 - a. The Chair gave a background on the last few years of the Board of Directors addressing the new members of the Board of Directors in particular.
2. CEO/National HQ Update & Q&A
 - a. Phil Andrews provided an update on the current projects in the National Office, current sponsorship update, personnel update, membership update.
 - b. It was highlighted that membership growth has slowed but has not halted.
 - c. National Office staff Lance, Lorene, Kevin, Pedro and Tamas were introduced to the Board of Directors.
3. Committee Reports
 - a. Leo Totten provided a short update on behalf of the Coaching Committee, it included the work the committee had provided in providing input on Coach Selection, Team Leader Selection and Athlete stipend documents. The Committee thanked the board for the increased interaction with the Coaching Committee.
 - b. Howard Cohen provided a short update on behalf of the Masters Committee, including the history of Masters Weightlifting in the United States, and the current state of the Masters division.
 - c. Roger Sadecki, present to observe, provided a short update on the work of the Bylaw Review Committee in addition to a written timeline submitted by Ari Sherwin. The group is on track to provide adjustments to the USA Weightlifting bylaws by the National Championships in May 2017.
4. Financial Update & Review.
 - a. Phil Andrews provided a brief update on the current financial state of USA Weightlifting and the USA Weightlifting Foundation. USA Weightlifting is currently in a good cash position to start the year but February was a significantly slower month than January 2016.
5. Webpoint Update & Review.
 - a. On behalf of Membership Manager, Brad Suchorski, Phil Andrews provided an update to the board on the current progress with the membership system. The system has seen significant progress in the past few months.
 - b. The issue of uploading results was specifically discussed. The results upload facility for local meets is currently in testing and is expected to launch soon.

- c. Local meet registrations taken via Webpoint was discussed, and those running competitions in the room warmly received this possibility, noting that a flat fee similar to those already in this market would be preferred by meet directors.
6. LWC Alignment Policy – Zipcode vs Club.
- a. Significant discussion was held regarding the allocation of a member’s LWC. Examples were given of the benefits of both allocations by zipcode and allocation by the location of the club.
 - b. A hybrid solution was proposed by the Chair to address this by allowing the member to select their LWC at the time of their membership. It was raised this may cause some voting issues in elections. A further solution was proposed to retain voting rights to be allocated via zipcode.

Motion 1: To change away from the Zipcode allocation system for LWCs (CS, JS).
In Favor: ALL

Motion 2: To change the method of LWC allocation to one of the following (CS, JS):

 - (1) To the previous method of allocation by club – DF
 - (2) To a free choice of LWC by the member, with the voting rights allocated by Zipcode – UP
 - (3) To a free choice of LWC by the member, with the voting rights to be allocated accordingly -

ACTION: LWCs, from as soon as is possible to program in Webpoint, will be allocated using a free choice of the LWC by the member, with the voting rights allocated by zipcode.
7. LWC Referee Policy
- a. The board evaluated a proposal from a member to lower the age of the LWC Referee at a competition to 16 years of age (age as of 12/31 of that year), however under no circumstances may any individual aged 18 years or under on the date of competition undertake a weigh-in.

Motion: To lower the LWC Referee age to 16 (as of 12/31 of that year), however under no circumstances may an individual aged 18 years or under on the date of competition undertake a weigh-in.
In Favor: ALL

ACTION: With immediate effect, LWC referees will be permitted at age 16 (as of 12/31 of that year). It remains the case that to conduct a weigh in, an individual must be aged 18 years of age or older chronologically.
8. Coaching Committee (P Maizels) Paper regarding attempts under 20kg.
- The board discussed a proposal to adopt rules regarding attempts under 20kg and how the bar should be loaded. A discussion occurred around the need to be flexible based on the equipment available to a local meet director, whilst providing a consistent standard at the national level.
- The board asked the staff to create some “how to load” resources for members, to include recommended loading below 20kg but did not favor rules in this regard.
9. Iran Fajr Cup Update
- a. Brian Secrest Coaching Request.
 - i. The Board denied the request from Coach Secrest to be credited with coaching an athlete at the IWF Grand Prix & Fajr Cup.
 - b. Jason Bonnick entry waiver request.
 - i. The Board denied the request from Jason Bonnick to be granted over-age entry to the 2017 National University & National Under 25 Championships.

10. 2017 IWF World Championships organizing update.

The CEO Updated the board of directors on the latest regarding the organization of the 2017 IWF World Championship in Anaheim, CA including the necessity of excellent ticket sales.

11. Weight management policy.

The board discussed the proposal to limit weight cutting for international competitions. However, it was felt that the new selection process including readiness plans addresses this concern.

It was also addressed the ability to go up and down a weight category at a National Competition, the board instructed the following:

From 1 January 2018, an athlete may go up or down weight categories at their will once qualified for the event, and will retain their maximum lift total. Such an athlete must open within 20kg of the minimum qualifying standard of the new class they are entering.

EXAMPLE: John Smith is a 77kg athlete, with a 250kg total. The qualifying standard for the 85kg category is 260kg. John may move to the 85kg category, and will be listed with a 250kg total. However, he must open within 20kg of 260kg, therefore his minimum opening attempts must add up to 240kg.

12. Defining “Prime-Time” at National Events.

The board discussed scheduling issues for national events and provided staff with the following guidelines for scheduling the National Championships. The following priority list was agreed upon:

- a. All A groups should take place between 11am and 7pm.
- b. The Board do not favor 4 day competitions at this time.
- c. Where possible, A groups should take place on a single platform. Where it is not possible, the order of preference is the following:
 - i. Dual Platform A groups, with A groups lifting at the same time between 11am and 7pm.
 - ii. Single Platform A groups, with combined A sessions (eg. 85kg A/94kg A) should be avoided.

13. Awards Policy – Review Awards structure for 2017.

The Board reviewed the current method of awarding the USA Weightlifting awards and reviewed any awards to be added. The board, by consensus, added the following awards:

- a. The Cheryl Haworth Award for Youth Athlete of the Year (Female)
- b. The Oscar Chaplin III Award for Youth Athlete of the Year (Male).

The Board also asked the Coaching Committee to suggest an objective method to award the following:

- c. Coach of The Year (Separate to the existing Gayle Hatch Award)
- d. Development Coach/Program of the Year.

The Board also endorsed that the Gordon Andrews Award for Outstanding Contribution to Male Weightlifting and the Mabel Rader Award for Outstanding Contribution to Female Weightlifting be re-affirmed to be a Lifetime Achievement award, able to be won once each. Therefore they are renamed to:

- e. The Mabel Rader Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to Female Weightlifting
- f. The Gordon Andrews Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to Male Weightlifting.

Finally, the board reviewed the method by which awards are nominated. Currently, LWC Presidents nominate and the awards are voted on by the board. The board changed the procedure to be the following:

- g. The entire membership will be invited to nominate for each award, save those judged by an objective system (Gayle Hatch Award, Hoffman Award, the above coaching awards).

- h. The Hall of Fame Committee will recommend those to win the awards from the nominations, with a final vote of approval to be taken by the Board of Directors.

14. Military Competitions (UP)

The Chair asked for feedback on trialing a Military competition in the city of Austin with a view to USA Weightlifting being in a position to service our military membership in the future with military competitions.

The board expressed broad support for the initiative, and for USA Weightlifting to continue to find ways to support and engage our active and veteran military population within USA Weightlifting. (Note, data indicates approximately 17% of USA Weightlifting membership is active or veteran military).

15. Bodybuilding.com Proposal

The Board discussed a sponsorship proposal from Bodybuilding.com, evaluating the positives and possible negatives of such a partnership.

IN FAVOR: UP, JS, JF, PA, BC.

ABSTAIN: TC, CB

AGAINST: DF, CS

ACTION: Staff will pursue, with legal advice, a possible agreement with Bodybuilding.com

16. CEO Performance Review

- a. In Executive Session the Board reviewed the performance of the CEO.

Meeting Adjourned 5.15pm.

Board Training with John Long.