

10-12 Meeting: WSO Weightlifting Event Debrief and Future Plans

Date & Time: 10/12/25 3pm, next meeting scheduled for 11/9/25

Location: video meeting

Attendees: Mira Kwon, Celia Montgomery, Isaac Maron, Kim Douglas, Jenn

Sprague, Lauren Hatmaker, Derek Kress. Not in attendance: Chelsea Hopkins

Overview

This document summarizes the meeting held on October 12, 2025, which debriefed the recent WSO weightlifting event and outlined future plans. Key discussions covered feedback on the WSO event, particularly inconsistent officiating, and future event logistics, including a potential move to Tacoma. The group approved business items like a final payment and a forthcoming "President's Update" email. A significant new proposal for a "Cascadia Cup" cross-border competition with Canadian lifters was met with enthusiasm. The summary also notes a current shortage of sanctioned meets in the region.

WSO Event Debrief and Future Plans

- The event was sold out and feedback on logistics was largely positive.
 - Parking was significantly better than the previous year, with attendees finding spots within five minutes.
- The primary area of negative feedback was officiating.
 - One judge was widely disliked, and there were concerns about inconsistent and strict calls that surprised some athletes.
 - It was noted that athletes accustomed to local meets can be shocked by the stricter officiating standards applied at larger events.
 - The event organizer, Joe, is aware of the feedback and was receptive to it, just as he was with last year's comments.
 - Inconsistent officiating standards between local and major meets remain an issue that can negatively impact athlete experience.
- Proposed solutions for judging issues were discussed.
 - Joe suggested implementing a pre-meet Technical Official (TO) meeting, similar to national-level meets, to align all judges.

- This would also create an opportunity to train less experienced officials by discussing specific calls and situations between sessions.
- Joe Beck, who is interested in meet director in 2026 is seeking a partner team in Washington to host the next event.
 - The partner would need to supply equipment and manage the load-in and load-out process.
 - Finding a suitable partner in Washington to handle equipment and logistics is a key dependency for hosting the next WSO event in the state.
- The Tacoma Convention Center was mentioned as a potential venue.
 - This location is considered favorable due to its central location, better accessibility for athletes from Oregon, and potentially lower costs for parking and lodging compared to Seattle.
 - 2026 and 2027 WSO championships bids are now open.

LWC Communications & Business

- The final payment for the recent WSO event was approved to be sent.
- A “President’s Update” email will be sent to the community.
 - The email will announce that bids are open for the next WSO championship.
 - It will include a reminder that the scholarship application window is from February 1st to February 28 or 29th, 2026.
 - A recap of the recent event will be included, potentially with athlete counts.
 - The email will also mention that the organizer is looking for a Washington-based partner for the next event and will list other upcoming meets.

Upcoming Meets and Sanctioning

- There is a noticeable lack of sanctioned meets scheduled in the near future, creating a need for an event before early winter and leaving athletes without competition opportunities until early 2026.
 - Some gyms that previously hosted multiple meets per year have slowed down or stopped.
- The process for meet sanctioning was clarified.
 - A request is automatically approved one week after it is paid for if it is not manually approved sooner. This ensures no request waits longer than a week.

Proposed “Cascadia Cup” with Canadian Lifters

- An idea was proposed to create a cross-border “friendship cup” style competition with the Canadian federation in British Columbia.

- The event was tentatively named the “Cascadia Cup.”
- The concept was met with enthusiasm, with suggestions for it to become a yearly event with a traveling trophy.
- A coach named David Ogle, who works with many national-level athletes in Vancouver, was identified as a potential contact.
- The group also considered inviting athletes from Alaska to participate.

Action Items

- [] Send the final payment for the WSO event.
- [] Draft and send a “President’s Update” email including the WSO bid announcement, scholarship window, event recap, and call for a partnership.
- [] Compile event results from BARS and compare them against the internal spreadsheet to create a recap.
- [] Contact Luke to encourage him to schedule a meet.
- [] While in Vancouver, speak with local coaches and gyms (like Dynasty) about the “Cascadia Cup” idea.
- [] Connect with David Ogle when he is in town on November 15th and 16th, 2025 to discuss the potential for a cross-border event.

AI Suggestion

AI has identified the following issues that were not concluded in the meeting or lack clear action items; please pay attention:

1. ****High Risk of WSO Event Cancellation:****The upcoming WSO event in Washington is at immediate risk of cancellation as it is entirely dependent on securing a partner team to manage critical equipment and logistics. Without a confirmed partner, the event cannot proceed. Furthermore, the potential venue in Tacoma remains an unvetted suggestion, requiring a formal investigation into its feasibility, cost, and availability.
2. ****Significant Shortage of Athlete Competitions:****There is a critical shortage of sanctioned meets scheduled in the region, creating a risk of a significant gap in competition opportunities for athletes. A clear strategy is needed to address this scheduling deficit, which includes actively encouraging and enabling local gyms to host events to fill the void.
3. ****Unresolved Officiating Inconsistency:****A persistent issue of inconsistent officiating continues to negatively impact the athlete experience and the integrity of competitions. A proposed solution involving a pre-meet alignment meeting for officials has been discussed but has not been formally evaluated or adopted, leaving no clear action plan to ensure standardized judging at future events.

4. **Undefined “Cascadia Cup” Proposal:** The proposed “Cascadia Cup” cross-border competition is an enthusiastic concept that lacks a concrete plan. The project requires the development of a formal proposal, including defining the event format, creating a timeline, and outlining a strategy for officially engaging the Canadian federation and other key contacts.