

# USAW Masters Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** April 9, 2025

**Platform:** Zoom

Minutes from [previous meetings](#)

## Participants

- **Present:** Melissa Doherty, Gwen Chamberlain, Aimee Everett, Tom Sroka, Bob Takano, Mira Kwon Gracia, Carlos Hernandez, JP Nicoletta (staff liaison), Mike Choi (board liaison)
  - **Absent:** None
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## 1. Call to order:

- **Time:** 9:06 PM (ET)
  - **Facilitator:** Mike Choi
  - **COI Disclosures:**
    - AE: Athlete and coach
    - BT: None
    - CH: none
    - GC: Athlete and coach
    - MG: Athlete and coach
    - MD: None
    - TS:: Coach
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## 2. Discussion Topics

- **Masters Nationals (Atlanta)**
  - General discussion and review of the event. Overall positive comments about operations: "This is one of the best-run Masters Nationals I've attended."
  - **Wins:**
    - High production value equal to all other USAW meets.
    - Meet ran on time or caught up throughout each day.
    - Prominent medal ceremonies on stage after each session.
    - High quality livestream (next-day view/download availability at no cost).
    - Commentary added depth to livestream.
    - WSO records displayed on the scoreboard.

- Positive community atmosphere.
- **Improvements needed:**
  - Access control to the warm up room. Recommendations made for pre-event notification, additional signage, and improved gatekeeping of the warm-up area..
  - Officiating inconsistency was discussed. Though not all experienced officiating inconsistency, Technical Officials should hold to a consistent high quality of officiating without considering age or other factors.
- **Qualifying Totals for Masters Events**
  - Discussion continued on improving and harmonizing standards for masters qualifying totals at USAW National events.. The group agreed the hierarchy of qualifying standards should be:
    - (1) Masters Nationals (hardest).
    - (2) Virus Weightlifting Finals.
    - (3) Virus Weightlifting Series (least difficult).
  - The group recommended increasing qualifying totals for Masters National Championships to conform with the above hierarchy and to make Virus Weightlifting Finals qualifying totals (for masters) less stringent than Masters National Championships.
  - Motion to recommend the 1-2-3 hierarchy as stated above. Seconded. Motion passed. Recommendation will be made to USAW Events Director to review this with the USAW Technical Committee to incorporate into the next revision of qualifying totals for 2026.
- **Masters Hall of Fame**
  - Hierarchy for Hall of Fame points should mirror masters qualifying totals (1-2-3 hierarchy).
  - **Questions:**
    - Do we only count qualifying points (Finals as a Senior level athlete) or are there other subjective criteria?
    - And do we allow Hall of Fame nominations beyond athletes? For example, Contributors?
    - How do we determine the number of points and how do we treat prior Nationals? Can we honor prior point accumulations? More discussion needed.
  - Proposed hierarchy of Hall of Fame point value:
    - Olympic Games (highest).
    - IWF World Championships.
    - Pan Am Games.
    - Pan Am Championships.
    - USAW National Championships.
    - Virus Weightlifting Finals (Seniors).
    - USAW Masters Nationals.
    - Virus Weightlifting Finals (Masters).
    - UMWF World Championships (TBD).

Group agreed Virus Weightlifting Series 1-2 should not be considered as Masters HOF accrual events. Further discussion needed.

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### **3. Adjournment**

- **Time:** 10:08 PM (ET)