



USAW Masters Council Meeting Minutes

Date: July 8, 2026

Platform: Zoom

Minutes from [previous meetings](#)

Participants

Present: Holly Arrow, Gwen Chamberlin, Travis Cooper, Aimee Everett, Suzy Sanchez, Tom Sroka, Bob Takano, JP Nicoletta (staff liaison), Mike Choi (board liaison)

Absent: none

1. Call to order:

- **Time:** 9:04 pm MT
- **Facilitator:** JP Nicoletta
- **Conflict of Interest Disclosures:**
 - HA: Masters Athlete
 - GC: Masters Athlete and Coach
 - TC: Masters Athlete
 - AE: Masters Athlete and Coach
 - SS: Masters Athlete and Coach
 - TS: Coach
 - BT: None

2. Discussion Topics

- **Masters Hall of Fame — Points Clarifications:** JP shared two MHOF applications for discussion. One included an athlete's achievements prior to turning 35. Council agreed only achievements at 35+ count toward MHOF. The second application had one event listed twice for points. TS clarified prior understanding that for events where points are available for placing in the Open/Senior and placing in the Masters division (Virus Series/Finals) the athlete earns points for the higher of Masters or Open from that meet, not both. JP to update the HOF page and application to clarify.
- **Best Lifter Awards by Age Category:** USAW currently awards one overall Best Lifter per gender at Masters Nationals. Additional Best lifter awards by age category were discontinued in 2024. Following discussion, the group requested USAW reinstate age-category Best Lifter awards at the 2027 Masters Nationals. Separately, HA noted confusion around the Best Lifter award along with a broader issue of recognizing the winner(s) and delivering their physical award. MC approved reinstating age-category awards at UMWF events.
- **2027 Masters Nationals:** Confirmed dates: April 15–18. Public release expected within 1–2 weeks.
- **Masters Records — Standard-Setting Process** TC raised concerns about record standards dropping ~5kg in January every year when they're unmet. Specifically, an athlete who beats an old standard before it gets dropped does not get the record, while an athlete who later clears the new, lower standard does. Two options discussed: stop continuously lowering record standards or let athletes claim retroactive credit if they can show they beat a standard before it was later lowered. No decision reached, JP to bring a formal proposal back before standards are reset at

year end.

- **UMWF Australia Event Update:** MC shared ~300 athletes representing 10 nations. This was lower than hoped after the event moved from China to Australia. Event standards continue to be high with CAT 1 or 2 referees and CAT 1 juries for all sessions. The UMWF follows the IWF TCRR. Only two American athletes competed; 39 UMWF records were broken by Australian and New Zealand lifters. Some good natured fun about beating the “Yanks” from Adelaide.

3. Adjournment

- Time: 9:58 pm MT