

USAW Masters Council Meeting Minutes

Date: November 13, 2024

Platform: Zoom

Participants

- **Present:** Melissa Doherty, Gwen Chamberlain, Tom Sroka, JP Nicoletta (staff liaison), Mike Choi (board liaison)
 - **Absent:** Carlos Hernandez, Aimee Everett, Bob Takano
(Note: A scheduling mix-up resulted in Carlos, Aimee, and Bob calling in at 10 PM instead of 9 PM, as the meeting invite inadvertently listed the later time. The mix-up was acknowledged with understanding and no blame.)
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1. Call to Order

- **Time:** 9:10 PM (ET)
 - **Facilitator:** JP Nicoletta
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2. Agenda Items

Item 1: Qualifying Totals for North American Open Finals (NAOF) vs. Masters Nationals

- **Presenter:** JP Nicoletta
- **Discussion:**

Gwen raised concerns about the fairness of NAOF Masters qualifying totals being set 10% higher than those for Masters Nationals.

 - **Arguments for Higher Qualifying Totals:**
 1. NAOF has historically been a senior-level event, though it now includes youth, juniors, and masters.
 2. The discrepancy may stem from naming conventions ("North American Open" vs. "Masters Nationals").
 - **Arguments Against Higher Qualifying Totals:**
 1. It may appear discriminatory towards masters athletes.

2. Masters athletes should not face stricter qualifying criteria than at Masters Nationals.
- Tom highlighted the potential impact on Hall of Fame qualifications and suggested weighting NAOF points higher as it is considered a premium event.
 - **Other Considerations:**
 1. Financial and operational impacts of lowering NAOF qualifying totals remain uncertain.
 2. Growing event sizes create real limitations.
 - **Proposed Solutions:**
 1. Allow qualifying totals to "float" annually based on prior-year results.
 2. Phase registrations based on qualifying total tiers, similar to the NAOS1 model.
 3. Request lowering NAOF qualifying totals to remove the "premium" on Masters.
 - **Action Items:**

The Masters Council agreed that a full discussion involving all members is needed to reach a consensus and provide a recommendation to USAW's Events Director and Technical Committee. A timeline for these discussions is to be determined, but the recommendation should allow adequate time for athletes to plan.
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Item 2: United Masters Weightlifting Federation (UMWF) Update

- **Presenter:** Mike Choi
- **Discussion:**
 - The UMWF website is expected to go live by the end of 2024.
 - Mike shared updates on the UMWF World Championships, which were heavily tested with no doping violations reported.
 - The UMWF Executive Board has moved to align with IWF weight classes, pending decisions at the upcoming IWF Congress in December.
 - A brief update was provided on discussions with Canadian Masters, as well as plans for a future adaptive athlete policy.
 - **Tom's Question:** When will the event calendar be finalized?
 - **Mike's Response:**
 - The World Cup location is nearing finalization.
 - The World Championships venue is expected to be confirmed by January 1, 2025.

3. Adjournment

- Time: 10:00 PM (ET)