

USAW Masters Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 01/08/2025

Platform: Zoom

Participants: Mira Kwon Gracia, Carlos Hernandez, Aimee Everret, Bob Takano, Melissa Doherty, Gwen Chamberlain, JP Nicoletta (staff liaison), Mike Choi (board liaison)

Absent: Tom Sroka

1. Call to Order

- **Time:** 9:05 PM
- **Facilitator:** JP Nicoletta

2. Agenda Items

Item 1: Qualifying Totals for NAOF vs Masters Nationals

- **Presenter:** JP
- **Discussion:** Continued discussion from [Nov 13, 2024](#) on qualifying totals (QTs) for the two events and why NAOF masters was higher than Masters Nationals. The two philosophies discussed:
 - a. NAOF was traditionally viewed as a “senior” meet, which is now inclusive of youth, junior and masters divisions. NAOF masters QTs are currently 10% higher compared to Masters Nationals. Same for youth.
 - b. Masters Nationals is the premier meet for masters and should have equal or higher QTs.
- **Decisions Made:** Group recommends following **philosophy b** with a request that all age categories are treated uniformly with respect to NAOF QTs.
- **Action Items:** JP to make this recommendation to Pedro (Events Director) on new QTs for the 2025 NAOF. Following the decided outcome, discussion of Hall of Fame point value will need to occur.

Item 2: Masters Nationals General Discussion

- **Discussion:** Georgia WSO Championships will occur as a completely separate event from Masters Nationals in Atlanta, GA. WSO athletes will not compete on Masters Nationals platforms.

- USADA conflict with WADA - The public dispute between the entities is not expected to impact drug testing at national events. Testing will occur per established testing standards following the WADA code.
- Masters Team Awards - JP to investigate options. It may become part of the wider and newly launched club / league program.

Item 3: UMWF Masters Worlds

- **Presenter:** Mike Choi
- **Discussion:** A high level overview of the event was given. Discussion resulted in questions the event organizer will need to address in the near-future. **Attention:** details below are subject to change. See www.umwf.net for most current details.
- **Questions & Answers:**
 1. Can you provide more details around how UMWF Worlds and USAW AO Finals. Work?
 - i. Registration opens on Feb 1 through BARS for all registrants..
 - ii. 4 to 5 platforms running concurrently: e.g.
 1. Platform 1: NAOF
 2. Platform 2: NAOF
 3. Platform 3: NAOF
 4. Platform 4: UMWF
 5. Platform 5: UMWF (if necessary)
 2. How does qualification work?
 - a. Qualifying totals are available on www.umwf.net > Events
 - b. Qualifying period is Dec 4, 2024 to Nov 20, 2025
 - c. UMWF Masters Worlds athletes may use any sanctioned meet by any federation to enter the event.
 - d. Qualifying events during the qualifying period require an athlete to compete at actual bodyweight (plus singlet allowance) within the new category they plan to enter for Masters Worlds. **Example scenarios below:**
 - i. **Jan 1 - May 31, 2025** e.g. 64 kg athlete (current class), competing on Feb 1, must weigh no more than 63.25 kg (new class 63 kg), in a singlet.
 - ii. **June 1 - November 20, 2025** If competing at an event after June 1, new bodyweight categories apply and the athlete must weigh no more than 63.25 kg.
 - e. All gold medalists from 2024 UMWF World Masters Championships (Suva, Fiji) are automatically qualified even though outside the official qualifying period.
 - f. Once qualified, athletes may enter or change to any weight class until the Verification of Final Entries (VFE) closes. Date TBD. As of now, for the UMWF

World Championships, bodyweight category changes at weigh-in will not be permitted. This is to be discussed and could change.

3. How will athletes prove they've qualified?
 - a. The mechanics of this are TBD. All registrations will be collected through BARS. USAW members with a logged total, from a USAW sanctioned event, will have their totals verified directly via BARS. If an official meet result was achieved outside of a USAW sanctioned event alternate TBD arrangements will be made through Mike Choi (UMWF general secretary)
4. What are the qualification requirements for the 30-34 YO age group at UMWF Worlds?
 - a. Clarification needed. This age group is still considered as "senior" athletes but will have access to UMWF Worlds, to participate at a high level meet. There are no other special requirements in the age group other than: successfully making the qualifying total, during the qualifying period, at a sanctioned weightlifting competition. More discussion needed on this.
5. Has the UMWF adopted the new IWF body weight categories?
 - a. Confirmed. UMWF adopted new classes as of Jan 1 because there are no UMWF competitions prior to June 1, 2025.
6. What are the registration options?
 - a. UMWF only - One entry fee. Eligible for UMWF awards and results only.
 - b. NAOF masters only - Eligible for NAOF masters awards and results only.
 - c. UMWF + NAOF - Eligible for **both** award ceremonies and results. Athletes +35 years old will be assigned to the UMWF competition platform(s).
 - d. In all scenarios, athletes lift in **one** session only. Athletes ages 30-34 will compete on dedicated NAOF platforms. This will be discussed further.
 - **Decisions Made:** Masters Council was agreeable to the above with understanding further discussion is needed. Note: Answers to meeting questions updated after discussions between Pedro (USAW Director of Operations), JP (USAW COO), and Mike (UMWF General Secretary)
 - **Action Items:** Mike Choi works on clarification items/questions.

6. Adjournment

- **Time:** 10:03 PM (ET)