USA Masters Weightlifting Board Meeting Minutes

11/09/2017 @ 7:30 PM (at American Masters Meet)

Attendees: Howard Cohen, Michal Cohen, Sheryl Cohen, Van Cramer, Gerry Dunne, Corrine Grotenhuis, Les Simonton, Joe Triolo

1. USA Weightlifting and USA Masters Weightlifting relationship / governance issues.

- USA Weightlifting’s request to view, review USA Masters bank account / master’s membership rebates on hold.
  - Earlier this year the USA Weightlifting masters membership rebates (collected by USA Weightlifting and payable to USA Masters Weightlifting) were placed on “hold” until the USA Masters bank account could be viewed by USA Weightlifting. There was some initial lack of clarity as to how the governance / viewing process would be requested and actioned but subsequently the viewing process was completed and the rebates were paid.

- USA Masters Weightlifting Board member election process
  - Per previous agreement with USA Weightlifting regarding governance at least 50% of the USA Masters board members would be elected every 2 years.
  - Board members have 4 year terms. Current USA Master board officers elected in 2016 are President, Vice President and Treasurer. Elections will be held in 2018 for Records Chairman, HoF Chairman, Treasurer and Women’s representative.
  - The candidate selection and subsequent voting process will be modeled after the USA Weightlifting related selection process. One of the criteria established will be that board candidates must have lifted / been involved in the master’s program for at least 10 years and have competed at the Masters National championships at least 5 times. After discussion the USA Masters board agreed that the criteria will be included in the new By-Laws.
  - A new slate of board member candidates will be recommended to the general membership at the annual business meeting at the 2018 Masters Nationals in Buffalo.

- USA Masters Weightlifting By-Laws
  - Per previous agreement with USA Weightlifting regarding governance it was agreed that USA Masters would develop By-Laws.
  - Gerry Dunne agreed to develop draft By-Laws for discussion. Gerry is uniquely positioned to complete this work as he is an highly qualified attorney with related By-Law experience in several other non-profit sporting organizations.
included working on the development of the newly created USA Weightlifting By-Laws.

- The plan is that Gerry will develop a draft for discussion in November / December and circulate the masters board by early January at the latest. After board review and any changes are completed the proposed By-Laws will be circulated online on our website at least 30 days prior to the 2018 Nationals.

USA Masters general membership discussion and vote is anticipated to occur in Buffalo at the 2018 USA Masters annual business meeting. This process is similar to USA Swimming and other non-profits whereby the drafts are circulated an appropriate time before the general meeting where the actual discussion and vote occurs.

- Gerry rendered the view that the By-Laws should be developed similar to a constitution to give general guidance but that the board will adopt board policies to address other issues as required.

- Further discussion to come as the By-Law drafts is developed.

2. Setting National Masters records

- After discussion it was agreed that USA National Masters records could be set at the four drug tested masters national and international meets only.
  
  - The four master meets are USA National Masters, Pan Am Masters, World Masters and the American Masters.
  
  - The policy will be effective immediately.

- It was discussed and agreed that other meets such as the AO series that might have master participants would not qualify. Master lifters would not realistically be subject to drug testing at these events. However, several master records set at the AO series this year would be recognized as the policy was not adopted retroactively.

3. President for Life

- Michael Cohen raised the concept of the USA Masters program adopting a “President for Life” policy similar to what has occurred at the IWF in prior years. In the IWF the General Secretary would run the day to day with the “President for Life” being a primarily honorary position. The President for Life and General Secretary would be analogous to the USA Masters Weightlifting current Chairman and Vice President positions.
There would be no change to the current board makeup. If the current Chairman chose to resign he would become the “President for Life” and the Chairman duties would be taken over by the Vice President.