BYLAWS OF USA WEIGHTLIFTING MASTERS COMMITTEE

Article 1. Name and Status

Section 1: Name
USA Weightlifting Masters Committee

Section 2: Status
The USA Weightlifting Masters Committee is a committee organized pursuant to Section 8.24 of the Bylaws of USA Weightlifting, Inc., the National Governing Body of the sport of Olympic-style weightlifting. The USA Weightlifting Masters Committee will operate as a not for profit 501(c)(3) group exemption sub-committee of USA Weightlifting, Inc.

Article 2. Mission Statement

The USA Weightlifting Masters Committee shall promote the growth and development of the sport of Olympic-style weightlifting, particularly for those members of USA Weightlifting, Inc. at least 35 years of age and older throughout the United States.

Article 3. Governance

Section 1 Purpose
The USA Weightlifting Masters Committee shall endeavor to educate, promote, sponsor, coordinate and stimulate the interest of Olympic-style weightlifting as an amateur sport throughout the United States, particularly for athletes at least 35 years of age at any time during the year and older; and coordinate with the Masters committee of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) and the National Board of USA Weightlifting, Inc. The USA Weightlifting Masters Committee shall organize and conduct a duly-sanctioned annual National Championship in the sport of Olympic-style weightlifting for those athletes at least 35 years of age at any time during the year and older according to procedures and rules in effect as established by the International Weightlifting Federation and the National Board of USA Weightlifting, Inc, and shall organize and conduct other national events as deemed appropriate, and coordinate the participation of such athletes in international competitions.

Section 2 Procedures
Currently the Masters Athletes of USA Weightlifting, Inc. are organized under USA Masters Weightlifting Governance which includes as officers a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer, whom shall remain in their respective capacities until such time as new officers are elected for their duties as set forth in these bylaws.

USA Weightlifting Masters Committee shall be comprised of members elected by those members of USA Weightlifting, Inc. registered as Masters Athletes; and shall include as elected by such Masters Athletes:
A. Chair who shall have served at least one prior term as an elected member of the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee and shall preside at the meetings of the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee as chief officer; shall supervise the affairs of the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee and its activities; shall make an annual report at a meeting held in conjunction with each Masters National Championship; and be responsible for seeing that all of the organization’s activities are in accordance with these bylaws and the bylaws of USA Weightlifting, Inc. and the procedures and rules governing Masters competitions as established by the International Weightlifting Federation;

B. Vice Chair who shall have served at least one prior term as an elected member of the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee and shall assume the duties of Chair when needed or requested by the Chair;

C. Treasurer who will supervise and maintain all financial records and accounts of the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee; and shall make an annual report at a meeting held in conjunction with each Masters National Championship, the Treasurer shall maintain such financial records and accounts in a manner as required by the National office of USA Weightlifting, Inc. and enable the appropriate staff at the National office of USA Weightlifting, Inc. to review all financial records and accounts of the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee for audit purposes.

D. Two at large members elected from the membership of USA Weightlifting, Inc. registered as Masters Athletes.

At least one of the members of the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee shall be an Elite Athlete Representative selected from those members of USA Weightlifting, Inc. registered as Masters Athletes that have either (1) represented the United States and competed as an athlete in at least one World Masters Championship in the past 10 years prior to election and achieved in that competition a total equal to or above the qualifying standard in the year of election for the United States Masters National Championship for the closest weight class and age group within which such athlete competed or (2) won a United States Masters National Championship in the past 10 years prior to election, or participated as a senior lifter in at least one IWF World Championship, Olympic Games, Pan American Games or other Operation Gold designated event in the previous 10 years.

Voting for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and the two at large positions shall be by those members of USA Weightlifting, Inc. registered as Masters Athletes and shall be conducted by electronic ballot by the National office of USA Weightlifting, Inc.

The members of the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee shall be elected to 4-year terms and elections for the members of the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee shall be held every two years with the first election scheduled for May 2018. At the first election scheduled for May
2018, the Vice Chair and two at large members elected from the membership of USA Weightlifting, Inc. registered as Masters Athletes shall be voted upon by the Masters Athletes of USA Weightlifting, Inc., with nominations being accepted by procedures adopted by the National office of USA Weightlifting, Inc. upon these bylaws being adopted at the April 2018 Masters National meeting held in conjunction with the Masters National Championship to be held in Buffalo, New York, April 4 through 8, 2018 with the goal of an election being conducted in May of 2018 by the National office of USA Weightlifting, Inc. Such nominees timely submitted to the National office of USA Weightlifting, Inc. shall be required to meet the minimal requirements for serving on the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee as set forth in paragraph F below, and shall be subject to review and approval by the Nominating and Grievance Council as established in paragraph F below. For the first election scheduled for May 2018 the candidate(s) for Vice Chair need not have served a term on the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee.

The current Treasurer will remain in his position and serve two year a term as a member of the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee until such office can be filled by elections in 2020. Elections will then be scheduled every two years to fill the vacancies as they occur. There shall be no term limits.

To provide continuity in this transition, the current Vice Chair, Michael Cohen, shall upon these bylaws being adopted at the April 2018 Masters National meeting be appointed Chair for a two year term until such office can be filled by elections in 2020.

Upon the Vice Chair and two at large members being seated in their positions, the members of the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee shall form a Masters Executive Advisory Group to include the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer and the two at-large members; and in addition the following unfilled positions designated as Chair to be appointed by majority vote of the members of the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee, such appointed members shall serve four year terms. The Masters Executive Advisory Group will serve as an advisory body to the five elected members of the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee, and shall include:

A. Records Chair who may select additional persons registered as Masters Athletes in USA Weightlifting, Inc. to serve on a Masters Records Council to maintain the records for the best performances in each weight class category and age group of the competitions held by the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee. As weight classes may change periodically, such records as exist shall be maintained for historical weight classes. The Records Chair or Records Council shall recommend from time to time to the Masters Executive Advisory Group the criteria for establishing Masters records; such criteria to include adequate assurances that any competition at which masters records can be set is appropriately drug tested.

B. Hall of Fame Chair who shall be responsible for supervising a Masters Hall of Fame to identify those eligible for membership in the Hall of Fame established for masters weightlifters.

C. Woman’s Chair who shall be responsible to promote the interests of women in the
sport of Olympic-style weightlifting, and establish guidelines to achieve gender equality among Masters athletes and competitions in the sport; and may select additional persons registered as Masters Athletes in USA Weightlifting, Inc. to serve on a Masters Woman’s Council. The Masters Woman’s Council shall at all times have a majority of its members identifying as female.

D. Competition Chair who may select additional persons registered as Masters Athletes in USA Weightlifting, Inc. to serve on a Masters Competition Council that shall advise the Masters Executive Advisory Group on procedures and rules to be adopted for National and Regional Masters competitions organized and sponsored by the Masters Weightlifting Committee and Masters Executive Advisory Group, including protocols for conducting such meets, procedures, rules and requirement for soliciting bids for holding sanctioned National and Regional Masters competitions, and entry requirements including qualifying totals and minimal start attempts. The Masters Competition Council shall establish criteria for awards and honors to be bestowed by the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee in keeping with past practices, such as the Grand Slam Award, and shall recommend to the Masters Executive Advisory Group any special honors to be granted by the Masters Executive Advisory Group to those involved or supporting masters weightlifting.

E. Technical Chair who may select additional persons registered as Masters Athletes in USA Weightlifting, Inc. to serve on a Masters Technical Council that shall be responsible for assuring that all National and Regional Masters competitions organized and sponsored by the Masters Weightlifting Committee and Masters Executive Advisory Group are conducted according to the rules and procedures established by USA Weightlifting, Inc. and the International Weightlifting Federation; and coordinate to assure appropriate technical officials are available and present at National and Regional Masters competitions.

F. Nominating and Grievance Chair who shall select at least 2 additional members registered as Masters Athletes in USA Weightlifting, Inc. to form a Nominating and Grievance Council to receive nominations for any position for the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee and Masters Executive Advisory Group. At least one member of the Nominating and Grievance Council shall be an Elite Athlete Representative as defined in section 3 D above. The Nominating and Grievance Council shall establish procedures for nomination for any position for the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee and Masters Executive Advisory Group, vet such nominations and approve those nominees who have established by their participation in masters competitions as athletes, officials or administrators that such nominees are knowledgeable of the rules and procedures for master’s level competitions and have experience in the conduct and administration of national or regional master’s competitions. As a minimal requirement for serving on the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee and Masters Executive Advisory Group, the Nominating and Grievance Council shall assure each nominee may not have been sanctioned for a doping violation by USADA or been suspended by USA Weightlifting, Inc for any reason and has been involved in at least ten of the national or international competitions for masters athletes organized and sponsored or approved by the Masters Weightlifting Committee and Masters Executive Advisory Group as a competitive athlete, technical official and/or administrator.
of master’s competitions. Such national or international competitions for masters athletes presently include the United States Masters Nationals, the American Masters, the Masters Pan American Championship and the Masters World Championship sponsored by the IWF, and all such past competitions shall qualify an applicant under this provision.

The Nominating and Grievance Council shall also establish procedures to favor gender equality within the governing bodies of USA Weightlifting Masters Committee and Masters Executive Advisory Group. The Nominating and Grievance Council shall also hear at the first instance any grievance filed by an athlete registered as a Masters Athlete with USA Weightlifting, Inc., and shall issue a written report to be released to such athlete and other body hearing any such grievance.

In the event the Nominating and Grievance Council does not receive qualified applicants for the position of Chair or Vice Chair who shall have served at least one prior term as an elected member of the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee, the Nominating and Grievance Council may select as nominees a person who has served as a Chair of at least one of the committees of the Masters Executive Advisory Group.

The first Nominating and Grievance Council shall be upon adoption of these bylaws at the April 2018 Masters National meeting, be comprised of Howard Cohen as Chair, and include Jodi Stumbo, Robin Byrd-Goad, Debbie Millet and Jerry Dunne to serve a two year term.

No member of the Nominating and Grievance Council may concurrently hold another position as officer or chair in the Masters Executive Advisory Group.

Masters Executive Advisory Group shall be the governing body of masters weightlifting in the United States and shall be the authority reporting to and advising the Board of USA Weightlifting, Inc. concerning matters relating to masters weightlifting as set forth in the USA Weightlifting, Inc. bylaws, section 8.24 c.

The Masters Executive Advisory Group shall select by majority vote a representative to attend respective meetings of the Board of Directors of USA Weightlifting, Inc. to serve in an advisory capacity.

The Masters Executive Advisory Group shall have meetings as scheduled by the Chair from time to time to discuss its affairs and governance of the sport of masters weightlifting in the United States, at the discretion of the Chair, such meetings may be conducted by email or teleconference enabling full deliberations by the members. The Chair shall notify the National office of USA Weightlifting, Inc. in sufficient time to allow a staff representative and/or a member of the Board of Directors of USA Weightlifting, Inc. to attend or participate in such meetings. All motions and procedures to be adopted at such meetings shall be voted upon by the five elected members of USA Weightlifting Masters Committee with the active participation of all the members of the Masters Executive Advisory Group who shall be given the full opportunity to
participate and deliberate in such meetings in their advisory capacity.

The Masters Executive Advisory Group shall assure minutes are kept of its meetings and publish such minutes.

Only one Masters Athlete may hold any one of the five elected positions in the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee, but one Masters Athlete may hold more than one Chair position in the Masters Executive Advisory Group. A member of the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee may hold one or more Chair positions in the Masters Executive Advisory Group.

All such matters as quorums, resignations, removal and vacancies of any position shall be governed by the bylaws of Board of Directors of USA Weightlifting, Inc.

The Records Chair, Hall of Fame Chair, Woman’s Chair, Competition Chair, Technical Chair and Nominating and Grievance Chair shall be appointed to 4-year terms with the current Records Chair, Hall of Fame Chair, and Woman’s Chair remaining in their positions upon adoption of these bylaws for a two-year term and the Competition Chair and Technical Chair being appointed for four year terms upon the seating of the Vice Chair and two at large members of the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee. The appointments for the Records Chair, Hall of Fame Chair, Woman’s Chair, Competition Chair, Technical Chair and Nominating and Grievance Chair shall be conducted every two years to fill the vacancies as they occur. There shall be no term limits.

Article 4: Amendments to Bylaws

Section 1: Amendment Proposal
Amendments shall be proposed by any member of the Masters Executive Advisory Group and deliberated by the Masters Executive Advisory Group and voted upon at a meeting provided a quorum of at least two-thirds (67%) of all members of the Masters Executive Advisory Group are present or participating by email or teleconference. At least 50% of those members participating in the meeting must vote affirmatively in order for an amendment to be approved and added to the bylaws.

Article 5: Miscellaneous

Section 1: Severability and Headings
The invalidity of any provision of these Bylaws shall not affect the other provisions in these Bylaws, and in such event these Bylaws shall be construed in all respects as if such invalid provision were omitted.

Section 2: Procedure for Adoption
These bylaws shall be discussed, and approved at the annual meeting scheduled for the next national masters competition in April of 2018; and shall be approved and adopted upon a majority vote of all Masters Athletes registered with USA Weightlifting, Inc. attending. No proxies
shall be allowed for this approval or any other vote authorized by these Bylaws. Once adopted and approved at the annual meeting scheduled for the next national masters competition in April of 2018, these bylaws shall be in effect.

Section 3. Conformance with USA Weightlifting Bylaws
Any matter not addressed by these bylaws shall be governed by the bylaws then in effect of the National Board of USA Weightlifting, Inc.

Section 4. Rules of Order
All meetings and proceedings of USA Weightlifting Masters Committee shall be conducted and guided by Roberts Rules of Order.