Raw Committee Report

Report submitted by Joe Warpeha

Raw lifting continues to experience popularity both in the U.S. and internationally. This is illustrated by: 1) the continued large numbers of raw lifters at state/local meets and Raw Nationals (2013 Raw Nationals was the largest to-date with 350+ lifters), 2) the almost immediate filling of the roster for the NAPF Raw Challenge at the 2014 Arnold, and 3) the nomination of 547 athletes from 30 countries for the 2nd IPF Classic [Raw] World Powerlifting Championships in June, 2014 in South Africa. Masters divisions will be contested for the first time at the 2014 IPF Raw Worlds which comes one year after the inclusion of Juniors and Sub-Juniors in Raw Worlds. Due to the fact that a Masters division was not added to the 2014 Raw Worlds program until November, 2013, the Masters members of Team USA were selected from the lifters who competed at the 2013 Raw Nationals. This process is consistent with the format used for the selection of Juniors and Sub-Juniors the year prior.

The 2014 Raw Nationals will be the last time the event is held in July/August. Beginning in 2015, Raw Nationals will be held in October/November in order to be in better alignment with the IPF calendar, specifically the June timeframe for Raw Worlds. Steve Mann will host the 2015 Raw Nationals in Scranton, PA with a tentative date of October 16-18.

From the very beginning, the issue of qualifying totals (QTs) for Raw Nationals has been debated. This debate has ramped up in the past year. At the 2013 Raw Committee meeting, it was voted to leave things as they are for now (i.e., no QTs for Raw Nationals). Since the Raw Committee meeting, discussion on the topic has increased and, as a result, the Raw Committee decided to conduct an online poll (open to all current USAPL members) that asked the following question: Should qualifying totals be required to lift in USAPL’s Raw Nationals? Between April 18 and May 21, 2014, a total of 392 current USAPL members voted. The breakdown of the results is as follows: 315 (80.4%) voted in favor of requiring QTs and 77 (19.6%) voted against requiring QTs.

In closing, it is an exciting time for raw lifting within USAPL and the IPF. Interest remains strong and a world “platform” for raw lifting now exists for men and women of all ages.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Warpeha