

## Raw Committee Meeting - 2014 Raw Nationals in Aurora, CO

Meeting Location: Room "Summit C" (in Red Lion Hotel)

Meeting Date and Time: Saturday, July 19 at 7pm (or after lifting is done)

### MINUTES

(written and submitted by Joe Warpeha)

**1. Welcome.** The meeting was called to order to at 8:53pm by Raw Committee chair Joe Warpeha. All in attendance were welcomed to the meeting and it was explained that only one member of the 4-person committee (the chair Joe Warpeha) was in attendance. One position on the committee is currently vacant as Andrey Grebenetsky has decided to step down from the committee. The other two positions are held by Angela Simons and Matt Gary. Angela was unable to attend Raw Nationals and Matt Gary was scheduled to weigh in for competition at 6am the next morning and therefore decided not to attend the meeting that was likely to go late into the evening. The committee chair judged these absences to be completely legitimate. These absences resulted in the unusual situation of the meeting being run by a single member of the committee. **Post-event note: in all, 26 people attended the meeting.**

**2. Thank you.** Meet directors Jennifer and Dan Gaudreau were thanked and commended for their efforts in putting on the largest event in the organization's history. Meet staff, referees and officials, lifters, sponsors, and the Radisson and Red Lion Hotels were also thanked.

**3. Raw Nationals data.** The numbers of entrants at all previous Raw Nationals were briefly reviewed noting the trend towards increasing turnouts in the past few years. The breakdown of lifters by age group at this year's event was reported. The preliminary roster indicated there were 141 lifters aged 23 and under, 157 lifters aged 40 or older, and 173 lifters aged 24 to 39 for a total of 471 lifters. There appeared to be a fairly even distribution between the three age groups. **Post-event note: actual number of competitors was 445 (148 women, 297 men) including 21 who bombed out (bombout rate = 4.7%).**

**4. IPF Classic (Raw) World Championships.** The team results of the recent 2014 IPF Raw Worlds in South Africa were reported. The men's and women's U.S. teams (coached by Angela Simons and Malinda Baum) did very well overall and it was noted that no women's team finished lower than second place. Johnny Graham told all in attendance that the 2015 Raw Worlds would not be held in Helsinki (as currently listed on the IPF website) but rather in a smaller town in Finland. Johnny did not know what town it would be in. Johnny also mentioned that days have been added to the 2015 Raw Worlds to accommodate the number of lifters and it could be up to an 8-day event. The coaches for the 2015 U.S. team have not been determined yet. Jennifer Gaudreau stated that no advertisement soliciting applications of interested coaches has been publicly posted yet and that the rules require any vacant coaching position(s) to be publicly posted for at least 30 days. It was added that the Coaching Committee is the body that reviews coaching applications and recommends coaches for all world teams. The world team selection criteria were reviewed. Jennifer Gaudreau brought up the fact that some Teen III lifters are confused about the selection process (i.e., those teens who will become IPF-recognized juniors by the time of the next Raw Worlds). Dan Gaudreau mentioned that such a precedent already exists with masters world teams. Cathy Marksteiner recommends that entry forms for future Raw Nationals be required to have very clear wording that indicates how world team members are selected with specific emphasis on those situations in which a lifter's age division will change between Raw Nationals and Raw Worlds. Joe Warpeha adds that this wording also needs to appear on the Coaching Committee's webpage.

**5. Future Raw Nationals.** The dates and locations of future Raw Nationals were reviewed. **Post-event note: the 2015 Raw Nationals in Scranton, PA currently has advertised dates on the USAPL calendar of October 16-18. Joe Warpeha has confirmed with meet director Steve Mann that the 2015 Raw Nationals will be a 4-day event running from October 15-18.** Mike Zawilinski proposed that future meet bids for Raw Nationals be submitted and voted upon at the Raw Committee meeting as is done with other national meets associated with a standing committee (e.g., masters, womens, etc.). Cathy Marksteiner seconds the motion. All in attendance are unanimously in favor of the

proposal. Jennifer Gaudreau informs the group that the proposal is a moot point because procedures/rules already exist allowing for this. Due to timing issues, Jennifer goes on to suggest that meet bids for 2017 Raw Nationals be submitted at the 2015 Raw Committee meeting to be voted upon after which time the recommendation will be sent to the Championship Committee and the Executive Committee for approval. In this one case, it is requested that approval by the NGB not be required in order to give the 2017 meet director as much time as possible to prepare. All in attendance are in favor of the proposal.

**6. 2015 Arnold NAPF Raw Challenge.** The dates, criteria, and selection process for the 2015 NAPF Raw Challenge at the Arnold were reviewed. It was mentioned that last year's roster filled in less than a day. **Post-event note: registration for the 2015 Arnold NAPF Raw Challenge opened at midnight EDT on August 1 and filled in less than 2 hours (53% of the 70 lifters entered are female).** Dan Gaudreau makes a motion that the Raw Committee recommends the following to the Arnold Committee: allow Open Raw National Champions to register up to a week before the usual registration opens to ensure they get a spot if they want one and do not miss out because the roster filled in a matter of hours. Dan amends his proposal to state that the Open Raw National Champions must have met the Wilks points criteria. Mike Zawilinski proposes an amendment to Dan's recommendation stating that to be able to take advantage of the early sign up for the Arnold, Open Raw National Champions had to have already accepted their spot on the National Team. Mike's proposal is not seconded so Dan's original proposal stands. A vote is taken on Dan's proposal with 15 in favor and 3 opposed. Joe Warpeha will pass on the recommendation to the Arnold Committee. It should be noted that Greg Page (member of the Arnold Committee) was present at the meeting for the discussion.

**7. Qualifying totals (QTs) for future Raw Nationals.** Joe Warpeha informs all in attendance that the NGB voted (in June, 2014) to implement QTs (beyond just a total...any total) for the 2015 Raw Nationals and beyond. The NGB left it to the Raw Committee to determine the specific totals. The Raw Committee would like the totals to be decided upon by those at the Raw Committee meeting as opposed to having 4 people (i.e., the Raw Committee) make such an important decision. The Raw Committee recommends no QTs for masters lifters (just a total); 82% of corresponding geared national QTs for men's open, teen and junior lifters; and 80% of corresponding geared national QTs for women's open, teen and junior lifters. Joe Warpeha states that an analysis (performed by Sioux-z Hartwig-Gary) of last year's Raw Nationals data indicate that no more than 10% of lifters would be eliminated using these QTs. Joe Warpeha states that the 80/82% values originated with the IPF when raw lifting was first sanctioned at the international level. Joe Marksteiner gives a brief explanation of how the IPF [statistically] arrived at the values. Dan Gaudreau asks why a proposal was made at the 2014 NGB meeting for raw QTs when those present at last year's [2013] Raw Committee meeting voted against it. Joe Warpeha responds by telling Dan that the Raw Committee did not make the proposal for the NGB meeting. Jennifer Gaudreau states that the proposal was made by two people (Sioux-z and Matt Gary), one of whom is a Raw Committee member (Matt Gary). Joe Warpeha corrects Jennifer Gaudreau and confirms that the proposal was made solely by Sioux-z. Johnny Graham also reminds those in attendance that any member can make a proposal at the NGB. Dan objects and says the proposal should have gone through the Raw Committee first per procedure. Dan states that a discussion should have occurred first that would have allowed for the exploration of several options including QTs and regional qualifiers (i.e., a north and south regional meet). Mike Zawilinski states he is in favor of a qualifying process but would like the requirement for masters, teen, and junior lifters to remain as it has been (i.e., a total). Joe Marksteiner proposes that those in attendance recognize that the process for the NGB proposal was invalid but recommends that a vote still be taken on the 80/82% proposal. Dan Gaudreau proposes QTs for open men and women only (i.e., no QTs beyond a total for masters, teens, or juniors) and recommends that those QTs be 75% of the corresponding geared national QTs. It is noted that such QTs are extremely conservative but will serve the purposes of: 1) preventing open lifters from just lifting the bar three times to qualify, and 2) preventing masters, teens, and juniors from also entering the open division just because they can. It is also noted that masters, teens, and juniors can still enter the open division but they must meet the open QTs. A vote is taken on Dan's proposal (75% for open lifters only) with 14 in favor and 5 opposed. **Post-event note #1: the proposal at the NGB meeting was for QTs to be required for open AND teen/junior lifters. This was overlooked at the Raw Committee meeting. Therefore, QTs of 75% of the corresponding geared national QTs will be required of all open, teen, and junior lifters beginning with the 2015 Raw Nationals.**

Post-event note #2: an analysis of the 2014 Raw Nationals results (performed by Sioux-z Hartwig Gary after the event) indicates that the 75% QTs would have eliminated a TOTAL of 5 lifters (5 men, 0 women). This analysis was performed on open AND teen/junior lifters. It should be noted for the record that the 4-member Raw Committee is unanimously against the 75% QTs (because such low QTs will eliminate virtually no one and goes against the spirit of what was voted at the NGB meeting) but the committee will not attempt to overturn the decision made by the majority at the Raw Committee meeting. A question comes up about how the new QTs will be developed since the national meet QTs currently on the USAPL national website use the old weight classes. Joe Marksteiner explains that the new QTs (specific numbers) could be created using linear interpolation. Post-event note: updated QTs (i.e., using the new weight classes) have been listed on the national website and were determined by setting the new qualifying totals to the qualifying total from the old weight class that was just below the new one. A similar procedure will likely be used when creating raw records for the new weight classes.

**8. Elections (2 positions).** The committee chair position is up for election. Joe Warpeha is the incumbent and is unopposed. Joe is reelected by acclamation. Andrey Grebenetsky has stepped down from the committee so his position is vacant. Ryan Gleason (Connecticut state chair) is nominated and is running unopposed. Ryan gives a brief summary of his background and interest in joining the committee. Ryan is elected to the committee by acclamation.

**9. Items from the floor.**

**A.** Dan Gaudreau would like the Raw Committee to decide what awards (i.e., team awards) should be presented at the meet each year. He would like a standardized protocol for team awards for each Raw Nationals. Dan clarifies that he does not want to mandate what form the awards take (e.g., medal, trophy, plaque) as that should be left to each meet director. A vote is taken on Dan's proposal with 12 in favor and 1 opposed. It is stated that the Championship Committee is working to standardize award protocols for all national meets so that it is not on meet directors to make the decision each meet. Joe Warpeha states he will talk to all major meet directors and the Raw Committee will make a recommendation about the standard for Raw Nationals.

**B.** Cathy Marksteiner proposes that the awards (and divisions lifters can enter) at Raw Nationals only be for the USAPL-recognized age divisions (excluding youth). In other words, she proposes that non-age group divisions (e.g., collegiate, police and fire, military) be eliminated from Raw Nationals. It is also mentioned that the youth division not be contested at Raw Nationals because there is now a national meet for youth lifters. Jennifer Gaudreau seconds the motion and suggests having a raw division at Police/Fire and Military Nationals. Zac Cooper discussed the option of adding a collegiate division. A vote is taken on Cathy's original proposal with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

**C.** Mike Zawilinski requests that records/results in the database be clearly indicated as "raw." There is widespread agreement from those in attendance.

**D.** Cathy Marksteiner would like the total achieved by each lifter [to qualify for Raw Nationals] to be indicated on each lifter's entry form along with the meet at which it was achieved. It is noted that this has already been put forth to the Championship Committee.

Joe Warpeha would like to thank his wife Rachel for taking notes of the entire meeting.

**10. Adjourn.** Joe Warpeha adjourns the meeting at 10:29pm.

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*Note: The meeting minutes above were written by Joe Warpeha and are largely based off of Rachel Warpeha's detailed note-taking.*

*Note: Prior to publication, these minutes were sent for review (for accuracy) to the following members present at the Raw Committee meeting: Zac Cooper, Dan & Jennifer Gaudreau, Ryan Gleason, Tonya Lambeth, Greg Page, Joe & Cathy Marksteiner, Mike Zawilinski, and Johnny Graham.*