

## USA Powerlifting

### What to expect at the National Governing Body (NGB) Meeting

The National Governing Body Meeting is held once annually, with the Open National Championships. It is the forum in which issues critical to the governance of USA Powerlifting are discussed, and where policy-related decisions are made. The input of the voting members of the NGB on policy and strategic plans is critical so that the Executive Committee and the employees of USA Powerlifting may implement and oversee the day-to-day operations of the Federation. Examples of strategic direction decisions include pursuit of United States Olympic Committee recognition, interaction with international affiliates, and drug testing policy.

The NGB meeting will start at 9 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m. per prior decision of the 2014 NGB.

The meeting is chaired by the President of USA Powerlifting or his/her designee during periods of absence.

Voting members of the USA Powerlifting National Governing Body include members of the Executive Committee, Chairpersons of committees that represent a specific beneficiary group, e.g. Teen/Jrs., Collegiate, Masters and others specified in the Bylaws of USA Powerlifting, State Chairs, Athlete's Representatives and an additional voting member from each of the 5 states with the highest membership during the previous year. Votes may be assigned to a proxy for those not present subject to rules governing such assignments. Each individual voting member present at the NGB meeting may exercise one vote.

The NGB Chair may speak to matters before the NGB and will vote in the case of a tie after polling the voting members of the NGB. Robert's Rules of Order are followed in the NGB meeting.

Robert's Rules of Order:

- Motion is read
- Call for a second for the motion to be accepted? Voting Member may (or may not) accept to hear motion. If not accepted, the motion dies for lack of a second and next motion is presented.
- Discussion of Motion: Each item is allotted 5 minutes discussion. Each voting member may speak to a motion one time initially, for one minute, when called upon by the Chair. Should time remain for discussion, members may be called upon by the Chair to speak again. Clarification may be sought by the Chair if motions are unclear.
- After 5 minutes: Motion to extend discussion, which must be seconded and passed by a majority. If not extended, then call to vote.
- Call to Vote: Bylaws require 2/3 to pass, Rules require majority.

Reading and approval of the prior year's NGB minutes. Historically, these are unanimously accepted and are not read at the meeting due to their availability to read online.

Reports are presented by the President, Vice-President and Treasurer of the Executive Committee and the Executive Director and cover the activities of the office holders over the preceding year, current challenges faced by the Federation, and information relevant to future directions of USA Powerlifting. Committee Chairpersons are present to answer question arising from their previously submitted reports. Formal committee reports are not given.

Officer reports are included at the beginning of the Meeting, allowing for questions from voting members. Financial information is provided by the Treasurer, which includes a review of the past year's budget and comparison with actual spending, the budget for the current calendar year, delineation of financial challenges and successes. USA Powerlifting completes more than 20,000 financial transactions annually, including membership purchases, merchandise sales, meet sanctions and collection of drug test fees, and receives more than 2,000 invoices each year. A summary of these are presented to the members of the NGB, however, review of individual line items is neither possible nor appropriate. As explained in prior NGB meetings, each member of the Executive Committee receives an accounting of financial transactions each week and are responsible for reviewing such transactions. Any disbursements must be approved by two officers and no single member of the Executive Committee may authorize spending. The Executive Director does not have spending authority within USA Powerlifting.

Unfinished business from prior NGB meetings may be entertained provided items to be presented continue to be relevant to the current operations of USA Powerlifting, and meet the criteria described above.

Motions for changes to the bylaws of USA Powerlifting may be submitted by the deadline in the NGB meeting notice for consideration of the NGB. Those submitted after that date will not be included on the agenda for discussion. Items which appear to be standard motions but which are related to, or substitute for bylaws will be disallowed. Bylaw changes must pass by a 2/3 majority of voting members of the NGB.

General motions for consideration of the NGB that affect policy will be accepted by the deadline stated in the NGB meeting notice. Those not received by the deadline for submission will not be included on the agenda. Such motions may be raised as 'motions from the floor' at the conclusion of the meeting, if time allows and they are deemed appropriate by the Chair. Motions from the floor, historically have been presented when adequate planning by those presenting such motions has not been completed, or to seek to have motions passed without adequate notice and forethought by members of the NGB. They often represent the personal agendas of those presenting them and are not offered in the best interest of USA Powerlifting. Such motions are subject to the criteria described above related to motions and bylaw changes, and failing to meet those criteria, will not be entertained.

Neither bylaw changes nor general motions will be included in the agenda if they have been dealt with previously by the NGB or committees two or more times. Likewise, motions will not be entertained which constitute personal attacks or which are presented for the personal gain of individuals, to influence elections, or to facilitate aspirants receiving positions of authority. Issues which constitute disciplinary matters against individuals may not be presented to the NGB in absence of prior exercising of administrative procedures as specified in the bylaws of USA Powerlifting. Individual financial transactions or procedures may not be challenged, these require a full understanding of the budget, financial flow, and strategic plans, and external contingencies of the Federation. Consistent with the procedures of other non-profit sports federations and similar sized National Governing Bodies, these matters are overseen by the Executive Committee and implemented by the paid staff and financial consultants.

All members in good standing may attend the NGB meeting as observers. However, only those with voting privileges may speak to motions and vote in matters, including election of officers.

Attempts to monopolize the NGB meeting by one or several members will not be allowed. This may be assumed to exist if a member speaks to more than five items, or must speak to items that he or she supports. Filibusters of the meeting will not be entertained.

Elections of Executive Committee members will take place at the NGB meeting. Those confirmed in the positions are responsible for day-to-day decisions affecting USA Powerlifting, oversight of the paid staff and programs of the Federation, weekly oversight of spending, participation in votes, planning sessions, and conferences which constitute the hands-on governance of the Federation. Nominations for positions must be received by the deadline in the NGB meeting notice. Those nominating individuals or the individuals themselves may submit a statement of purpose, resume, or both to be presented to the NGB. They may present their reasons for seeking office, background or other relevant information in person to the NGB. Those not present may be represented by a member of their choice in this regard. In the case of contested elections, candidates may debate critical issues, and may entertain questions from the floor. The statement of each individual candidate will not exceed 10 minutes. Debates or questions from the floor will not exceed 10 minutes.

All items passed, unless otherwise noted, and the terms of all those elected will go into effect the Monday after the NGB meeting.

The National Governing Body is:

- The annual forum for discussing policy, mission, direction of USA Powerlifting.
- The venue for presentation that is specifically related to challenges and unexpected costs that are not presented to the public at large.
- Where candidates for leadership positions present their background, qualifications, and other relevant information so that the voting NGB members may make an informed choice between candidates.

The National Governing Body is not:

- A forum to further personal agendas or to benefit individuals through fielding bylaw changes, changes in policy, or other specific motions. Historically, specific individual members of the NGB have monopolized meetings through excessive numbers of motions, speaking on each motion, or failing to yield the floor, resulting in failure to gather input critical to the future operation of the Federation, and resulting in excessively long meetings or deferred business items.
- A public presentation of financial detail such as the general ledger or bank statements.
- A mechanism by which individuals may exercise line-item veto power over specific financial transactions.
- A forum to intimidate or attack individuals in leadership positions or other members of USA Powerlifting.
- A public presentation of ongoing disciplinary cases, legal cases, or other matters in which confidentiality, legal privilege, or strictures of the Court are in force.