

## Meeting Minutes for WHSPA Spring Board Meeting April 21, 2012

Attendees: Joe Lewis, Jeff Schillinger, Bruce Sullivan, Dave Bauer, RG Luckow, Andy Chromy, Tonya Lambeth, Rebecca Main, Erich Mach, Brian Blazer

**First topic of discussion: Number of board members present was insufficient number for voting.** This led into next conversation on the possible use of Skype for conference calls for discussion and the use of an on-line survey/questionnaire tool (SurveyMonkey or Zoomerang) for voting or as a structured way of collecting responses. It was decided to use on-line survey tool to vote on several topics for this meeting and these collected votes would be considered official. All board members (present today or not) will receive the link for the voting "survey" along with supporting documents and instructions on how to use the on-line tool.

**Topic:** Creation of WHSPA "Hall of Fame". In preparation for this meeting, Andy researched on how other Wisconsin organizations manage their 'Hall of Fame' nominees and recognition. Attached is his document, titled X. Please take a look at this for more information. Brian Blazer has spoken on behalf of the Wisconsin Strongman LLC, pledging \$2,000 in funding to help get this started. Cover the cost of the award, in whatever format, as the first year will include nominees back to the creation of WHSPA (1996).

The actual question for the board to vote on:

*Creation of a WHSPA Hall of Fame award YES or NO*

If passed, the details of who, what, when, why, where will be worked out by the board.

**Next topic:** Proposal from Brian Blazer regarding the establishment of WHSPA scholarship fund. Please review document titled X for more information. Brian and Kate Blazer have already offered to contribute \$1,500 per season to a segregated scholarship fund for a period of five (5) years or until such a time when the scholarship fund becomes self-funded, whichever is sooner. The actual question for the board to vote on:

*How to self-fund the scholarship: multiple choice selection*

- 1. Add \$1 to the individual entry fee, the new fee would be \$18 if passed.*
- 2. \$1 per each competitor, the meet director will need to contribute this after the contest*
- 3. No increase, allow scholarship to discontinue after initial Blazer funding*

**Topic four:** Brief discussion on the current number of WHSPA female weight classes and returning to the inclusion of a 242+ lb class. Andy provided the following numbers for the 198+ weight class count:

'03 - 7	'05 - 11	'07 - 12	'09 - 9	'11 - 12
'04 - 9	'06 - 11	'08 - 9	'10 - 9	'12 - 18

*Board members will need to vote on the return of the 242+ class for the female competitors: YES or NO*

There was no discussion on what the qualifying total would be should this be passed.

**Topic five:** Discussion regarding the idea of a 'state meet' committee that would that run the contest and/or a committee running the contest at same location year over year. Discussion also included whether or not to continue the split state contest structure. After much talking, it was decided there is quite a bit involved with each idea and we need to actually experience the split state contests before we understand better what the concerns are. Decided that the board needs to vote on the following:

*When should the board revisit the split state contest structure?*

- 1. After 2013 state contests (one year of this structure)*
- 2. After 2014 state contests (experience two years consequently)*
- 3. After 2015 state contests (experience three years consequently)*

**Topic six:** Require a specific platform configuration at a state meet. Brief discussion; what works what doesn't, for coaches and/or parents. Many of the coaches present said the four corners was very good to work with, saved on miles of running/walking back and forth. Decided that this is not something that we can require meet directors to conform to.

**Topic seven:** Changing the date/timing of the state meet dates. Coaches brought up the conflict of going too late into other spring sports if the date is pushed out, discussed timing to nationals, many felt that the WHSPA state meet is to be the focus of the high school season, knowing that the contest is on the same week every year helps for planning. It was decided that there will be no change on this subject at this time.

**Topic eight:** Continuation of awarding of a combined team award. With having current structure of a split state structure, this is a moot point at this time.

**Topic nine:** Discussion on having a "raw" only state level competition. Challenging to have two separate categories of competition, not impossible. We decided that we need to discuss this at greater length with more input from coaches and board members. Also waiting a bit to see how the USAPL raw competition path (raw only meets from local to world level) works out this year and maybe next. It was discussed that there are definitely advantages to be raw only; reduction in spend, training time not affected by adjustments to gear and getting someone in/out of suit or shirt, not having to deal with adjusting to gear feeling after lifting with no gear. Talked about the possibility of WHSPA someday going to all raw. Drawback is that teenagers who want to compete with the USAPL gear category would have to qualify for nationals at a USAPL contest that offers a gear category. Would also reduce the numbers of Wis. Lifters to USAPL HS Nationals which is 'gear' competition. It was mentioned that the USAPL may not like the WHSPA going all raw but the point was brought up that raw lifting is gaining popularity and

there the shift may be already be occurring with ½ to 2/3 of competitions already raw. If there is a raw national level contest for high school lifters, then gets easier to consider this.

The board will vote on the following:

*Are you interested in exploring the idea of a separate raw only state meet for WHSPA lifters? YES or NO*

**Topic ten:** Joe asked for input on the new WHSPA website. Primarily received kudos. He admitted that many parents and coaches have asked for the same historical contest data to be present from the previous site. He said that this is a summer project as he just couldn't build this piece fully before the other site went down.

**Topic eleven:** Varying formats of the meet results are coming to Joe – Webmaster. He is spending too much time editing the spreadsheets before posting. He will be providing all coaches with a results template, Excel format, that will be required to be used. This will be a working spreadsheet with formulas intact. The template will be specific to what the column headings are to be named, in what order are they to be in (col. A, B, C) Joe will also provide which columns will need to be filled out at a minimum before Joe will post. If the results are not provided to Joe in this format, he will reject the spreadsheet and ask the meet director to follow the template requirements. This will also be the same template that coaches use to submit their rosters before a contest. We are then consistent in content, order of the data and accurate formulas. Meet directors should expect roster in this new format. Joe will provide before the next WHSPA region contests.

**Topic twelve:** One agenda item was the question of should all WHSPA region meets be ran as USAPL sanctioned contests. After some discussion, it was decided that this is not something that we can require nor do we want to. The amount of administration work (during registration) and after the contest is allot for a new meet director or for a contest with limited volunteer staff available. The discussion led into the number and timing of USAPL sanctioned contests available to the WHSPA lifters who are looking primarily to qualify for USAPL high school nationals. The general consensus is that the contests need to be scheduled and sanctioned at season start, allowing coaches and competitors can plan their season accordingly, making decisions about timing, cost, potential activity conflicts and travel expenses. There are the following opportunities for WHSPA competitors to complete in a sanctioned USAPL contest :

- Necedah regional - Dec
- USAPL Open State Meet – Jan/Feb
- Dells Summer Meet
- Whitehall regional
- MN Open Meet – summer
- Hudson Open – Oct/Nov
- Badger Open – Jun

The USAPL state chair will work with the WHSPA BOD regarding requests in addition to the above list.

**Topic thirteen:** Two board members have resigned; Joel Hornsby of Eau Claire North. He represents a position in region one. Eau Claire North team will also lose Joel's coaching and support in the next school year. The WHSPA board and member coaches wish him luck in his future endeavors and look forward to crossing paths again. Bruce Sullivan has also resigned, to allow for another region four active high school coach to participate. Bruce asked that the board consider adding board position(s) of an emeritus designation. The advantage of this is keep important and passionate people involved with our organization while still being able to have access to past structure / events. It was agreed that we do not want lose Bruce's support and knowledge with his resignation. Adding emeritus or 'at-large' board positions will provide valuable input to improve the sport of drug-free powerlifting in Wisconsin.

We also discussed expanding the number of board members, one position additional for each region, subsequently change the quorum number as well.

This discussion prompted to items for the board to vote on:

- *Should we expand the total number of board members by adding one position per region? YES or NO*
- *Should we add members with an emeritus designation or as 'at-large' positions? YES or NO*

**Two last topics brought to the table by Brian Blazer:**

- Can kilo plates be used in WHSPA regional competition? Discussed that this is not something that the board dictates and that is something that the meet director can decide to do. Suggested that plenty of kilo conversion charts be on-hand and the entry form clearly state the use of kilos during competition.
- Brian asked that the board vote to require that certified, trained emergency support personnel be on-hand at all WHSPA and USAPL competitions. Cited recent example of he personally assisting in eight situations at the state competition. All agreed that having this type of support is advantageous. Unfortunately the cost of having this type of personnel can be cost prohibitive. Suggested that each meet director explore what is available in their area. Liability coverage is a separate topic as it only addresses the situation after the injury/physical concern. It was decided that this was not a topic that would not be up for vote at this time. Brian's contribution at state and other contests has been very much appreciated.

A few highlights from casual conversations during lunch or as meeting starting/ending:

- Rebecca Main is the newest USAPL national level referee in Wisconsin. Congratulations!
- Tonya Lambeth still needs to chase up three state level referee tests with the USAPL Referee Chair
- Joe Lewis is working on the list of individuals who will compete at the world level for teenage lifting. There are still several WHSPA members in the mix to be heading to worlds. Exciting!
- Omro not to hold 2013 regional as a sanctioned USAPL contest. Jason Kallas to confirm.

- Brian Kinney submitted a sanction request form to the USAPL state chair to host a contest on Saturday August 4 in Wisconsin Dells. Sanction pending, anticipated the request will be forwarded to USAPL national office contact within next three business days.
- Mike Gnewuch of Arrowhead (Milwaukee area) has accepted a teaching position in another Wisconsin school district. Fantastic opportunity for Mike. Unfortunately Arrowhead will most likely not have a team next year nor host the region four December WHSPA regional. Region four is working with one of their coaches to pick this contest up.