

Purposes and Principles of the Rule Book of the International Masters Weightlifting Association

1. The new Masters Rule Book of the International Masters Weightlifting Association (IMWA) has three main objectives:
 - a. Ensure that IWF can meet its obligations to the International Olympic Committee without any concerns about doping in Masters;
 - b. Ensure that World Masters Weightlifting can carry out doping control in an effective and economical way, without any concerns about excessive costs or impractical administrative requirements imposed by the International Testing Agency on IWF;
 - c. Ensure that Masters weightlifters decide their own rules and regulations, and govern their own activities without interference from non-Masters sports organizations or government authorities.

2. The three objectives of the new Rule Book are achieved in the following ways:
 - a. The new Masters weightlifting governing body is now formally separated from the IWF, with a new name that does not include the designation “IWF” and an administrative structure that is completely separate from IWF. This new “International Masters Weightlifting Association” (IMWA) will take full responsibility for doping control in Masters weightlifting worldwide, with no involvement of the IWF or of the doping-control administrative and management system associated with IWF. Through these measures, IWF will be freed from any responsibility for positive cases or other issues that may arise due to doping control among Masters weightlifters.
 - b. The new independent International Masters Weightlifting Association will enter into contracts with independent doping control organizations that will be responsible both for testing and results management, and that will not be burdened with the prohibitively expensive out-of-competition testing and administrative apparatus required by the International Testing Agency for IWF events. In this way, doping control will be carried out in an economical and efficient manner for Masters weightlifting. This will protect the integrity of Masters weightlifting performances, ensuring fair competition and trustworthy Masters world records, but also ensuring that doping control costs will not exceed the ability of the Masters weightlifting community to pay for them, nor threaten the ability of Masters to carry out large-scale competitions due to prohibitive doping-control expenses.
 - c. The new rule book specifies that the International Masters Weightlifting Association will only recognize national Masters representative bodies that express the desires of the Masters weightlifters themselves, and makes it clear that the IMWA will not tolerate interference by national sports governing bodies in international Masters weightlifting events, nor interference with any Masters weightlifter who wishes to participate in those events. Participation in World Masters Championships will only be open to entries submitted by Masters representative bodies recognized by the International Masters Weightlifting Association. Any attempts by national sports or weightlifting authorities to substitute themselves for a nation’s Masters weightlifters will not be recognized by IMWA, and IMWA will reject entries for IMWA events submitted by national sports governing bodies that are acting independent of, or against the expressed desires of a nation’s Masters weightlifters. The relevant section of the rule book (Section 3.1) is shown in full below.

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3 NATIONAL MASTERS COMMITTEES

- 3.1.** The IMWA recognises only one Masters representative body from each country. This official Masters body does *not* have to be officially recognised by a National Weightlifting Federation or approved by a National Olympic Committee. *Definition:* A Masters representative body is an administrative structure that governs Masters events and activities in a nation in accordance with the expressed desires of the Masters in that nation, and that is subject to the authority of recognized Masters leaders in that nation. IMWA will not recognize a takeover of Masters by a national governing body that is contrary to the expressed desires of the Masters in that nation. IMWA, at its sole discretion, will deny participation in IMWA events to entries submitted by national governing bodies in violation of the expressed will of the Masters of that nation.
- 3.1.1.** The IMWA will recognize **only one** National Masters Committee. Any persons forming a second committee will not be recognized and do so at their own risk.
- 3.1.2.** A National Masters Committee can be recognized in the following ways:
- 3.1.2.1 When a National Masters Committee and all the national Masters are members of the National Weightlifting Federation. In this case, the National Masters Committee must represent the expressed will of the Masters weightlifters of that nation, and must be subject to the authority of recognized Masters leaders in that nation.
- 3.1.2.2 When a National Weightlifting Federation does not recognize the Masters and it has been necessary to form a Masters Committee to enable national Masters to compete in International Masters championships.
- 3.1.3** The IMWA will not get involved in the internal disputes between groups of Masters within a country. The IMWA will not enter into discussion on any level relating to internal Masters disputes and any such dispute must be settled between the two or more Masters groups within a country.
- 3.1.4** The IMWA, through its Congress of Nations and its Executive Board, will be the **sole judge** of whether entries for IMWA events submitted by any nation are consistent with the rules regarding Masters representative bodies.