

10 MAR 2022 - Meeting Minutes - University Weightlifting Committee

Start Time: 12PM Mountain

Duration: 39 minutes

Method: Zoom

Present: SS, DG, AN, BL

Absent: WH

SS announces that the committee's two elite athlete representatives will be Samantha Poeth and Christian Rodriguez Ocasio

University National Championship Recap

- Record participation
- Record number of teams
- Record number of complete teams

General Updates from SS

- NUQ content scheduled to come out over the next couple of weeks
- Monthly emails are being scheduled
- Regional Planning will need to begin with AN and DG for Regional Championships in the Southeast and Southwest regions
- SS will disseminate contact lists for University National participants based on regions to the appropriate regional representative

All-American Honors

- Published to website under University Programs
- Patches will be delivered to athletes within the next three weeks
- SS received positive feedback from a collegiate coach that noted this AA program would allow him to approach his administration to push towards Varsity inclusion for his program
- DG notes that the committee will need to be sure to publish the 2023 standards well in advance of next years University Nationals, as the threshold will change year to year based on the changing NRS
- DG notes that when coming to a conclusion on what % of NRS to draw the line at for AA status, 75% would have produced 35 All-Americans in 2020 and 31 All-Americans in 2021. 37 All-Americans were named in 2022
 - DG notes that if that number increases significantly, it may necessitate a move towards a First Team and Second Team All-American status
 - DN notes that he'd be fine with keeping it at 75% again next year, but also notes it does also depend on how much the NRS fluctuates
- SS notes that there has not been a University Worlds since the weight class changes and thus all university rankings have been derived from the World Senior NRS. This year with the FISU America Games being held, data will now be available to possibly derive those numbers from a

FISU event. SS poses the question on whether we should continue to take those numbers from a World Senior NRS or a FISU NRS

- DG states that we'll likely have to wait until the FISU Games are complete to know, but does state that the likely top three average of a particular weight class at these FISU America Games will be far below the current top five average at the world level and would result in a much lower standard for AA status, that may turn out 50 or 60 All-Americans.
 - SS notes that it isn't a decision we need to make now, but wanted to create the discussion.
 - SS notes that she's spoken with the high performance team and they'll have the new Senior NRS out shortly after this year's world championships and will be able to recalculate. - This conversation segues to the FISU teams

FISU America Games

- DG notes that the with the team being derived from the Senior NRS and the requirement to hit 81% of the previous year's bronze medal from the senior world championships, only 10 athletes (male & female) made the team, instead of a potential 20. This year 3 males and 7 females hit the necessary numbers to make the teams.
 - DG notes that a similar turnout would have happened in 2020, with only 3 males making that University World Team (later cancelled outright because of Covid)
 - SS states that this issue will likely resolve next year after the FISU America Games are finally held
 - DG recommends for next year, taking that Appendix B requirement of the Selection Procedures (81% of bronze medal total of the previous age-relevant world championships) from the totals at FISU games (the only University level event held for some years), and then still ranking the potential future teams off the World Senior NRS as stated in Step 3 of the Selection Procedures
 - SS notes that this will help remove the initial barrier of entry to these University level international meets, that is preventing USAW from fielding full teams
 - DG references Alyssa DePalo who is 3kg shy of the Appendix B requirement in the 45kg class, would have the second highest NRS on the women's team, and likely do well at these FISU games, if allowed to compete. Having data at the University level in the new weight classes should allow for that Appendix B number to be taken from a University level event, instead of a Senior World Championships
 - SS notes that the committee should plan to make a non-regular meeting after the 2022 Senior World Championships to evaluate these issues for a potential 2023 international university event

University National Championships Signage

- DG notes that in the face of all the work the committee is attempting to do to elevate the image of collegiate weightlifting and grow the sport at that level, at the 2022 NAO Series 1 and University National Championships, there was not a single sign, banner, t-shirt, anything that read University National Championships
 - SS notes that this issue has been addressed and taken into consideration and plans on sending out a formal apology to participants via email

University National Championships Calendar Placement

- AN inquires on whether the committee is considering removing the University National Championships from NAO Series 1 and put it as part of Nationals Week
 - SS states that she feels it should be part of Nationals Week, but cedes DGs previous point that it will be much more difficult for University teams to bring full teams to an event held in the middle of the summer
 - AN states that there seemed to be confusion on University Nationals as a standalone event separate of NAOS, felt that they could have been better distinguished, in that both were occurring
 - AN states that there would be a large loss in participation if University Nationals was held in the summer. Suggests that in a perfect work, we would hold these new Regional events in the late fall, and the University National Championships in the late Spring, on a University campus
 - SS states that is how the event used to be held, but it got rolled into other events to reduce the costs of hosting individual events. SS notes that she would be open to that change, but would likely make for a much smaller meet
 - DG offers that by continuing to host the UNC with AO1, gives us more reliable data on how the event and collegiate weightlifting is actually growing. If its kept consistent (in both location and time of year) we're likely to lose less people based on those variables. DG also notes that he'd be fine with the event moving, if AO1 was no longer to be part of the Arnold, but doesn't think we should adjust two variables and move it to Nationals Week also.
 - DG also states that if the UNC are held during Nationals Week, the luster of the event will be lost event more than being simultaneous with AO1, as it will occur simultaneous with Junior Nationals and Under 25 Nationals, and be sandwiched between Youth Nationals and Senior Nationals. The current setup, aside from an independently UNC, gives the meet the best exposure and chance to shine as an event to anticipate and watch.
 - DG also notes that by having the meet in the Spring, it really allows a college coach to start working with new athletes in the fall semester towards those totals later in the year, but not so late in the year (summer) where there's a high likelihood of family vacations, internships, and students returning to their hometowns, making it potentially more difficult to train.
 - BL notes that the downside to hosting the UNC with AO1 are the costs associated with flying to and staying in Columbus during the Arnold.
 - BL suggests that a standalone event in April, potentially on a college campus, may alleviate those financial barriers for smaller up & coming programs

Regional Updates

Southeast Region - AN

- No major updates
- Plans to hold a zoom meeting once the lists come from the National office

Southwest Region - DG

- Texas A&M - Galveston - already a part of their Rec Sports Department and ready to take part in the University Incentive Program
 - Can be turned to green on the tracker and officially added to the list
- Plans to talk to ASU and OU about starting student organizations

Regional Championships being Planned

- DG began working on the Southwest Regional University Championships that is likely to be held in Central Texas
 - Planning on October 8th, 2022, but dependent on University of Texas Rec Sports confirming
 - November 5th and September 24th are the backup dates (working around UT football home games)
 - If those dates fall through and UT is unable to host, then Texas State University is planned as the backup school
- AN is looking at November 5th or October 29th for the Southeast Regional University Championships
- SS states that she will talk with Pedro, as they will fall under the National Events umbrella, and start discussing the sponsorship side
- SS states that great share should be made in the planning so that both events have a similar feel, and will serve as templates for the regional championships held in the three remaining regions in 2023

Boys Florida State Championships

- USAW has the opportunity to run a booth there highlighting the collegiate programs around the country and SS wanted to ask committee members first, before sending a staff member
 - AN - Vacation planned
 - BL - Masters Nationals
 - DG - Masters Nationals

UF wins Women's National Championship

- DG notes that it was good to see a non-traditional, non-scholarship giving school podium and win a national title. States that particularly in Florida, where there are so many Youths in the sport because of the exposure in high school, this can be a model at other major public schools like UCF, USF, Florida State, and Miami. Notes that if coaches are willing to set aside their ego and allow their athletes to collaborate together, similar results can be achieved.
 - AN notes that Mike at UF is certainly an anomaly and has done great in trying to bring everyone together, but this is what we should hope to see across the board.
 - SS also notes that progress has been made in that were not seeing the same three schools occupy the podium for each competition like in years past.

Next Meeting:

Thursday April 7, 12PM Mountain