**GLOBAL POWRLIFTING COMMMITTEE – AGM**

**17th September 2015 – Westgate Hotel, Las Vegas, USA**

*Voting Reps:* Board: Lee Marshall, Frank McGivney, Brian Johnson, Ger McNamara, Anita Mahony

*Nations:* Ireland – Ger McNamara, GB – Andrew Saunders, - Russia – Yuriy Ustinov, Czech – Libor Hurdalek, Canada – Brian Johnson, Slovakia – Lubos Velgos, South Africa – Jan Kruger, USA, Jesse Rodgers, Australia Scott Wasson, New Zealand – Court Paapu.

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The Minutes of the 2014 AGM had been circulated so were not read. There were no matters arising.

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**Board Member Reports**

The President Lee Marshall welcomed all the lifters who had made long journeys to get to these Championships. He acknowledged that there were some mistakes made with the championships. Many of the best lifters in the world were competing at the event and the facilities didn’t match the lifters so he apologised for this.

The Treasurer Frank McGivney thanked the member countries who paid for 2015, he asked that he be kept informed of new personnel within committees in order that the invoice and certificate of membership can be forwarded to them.

The Technical Officer Ger McNamara reported on the continued use of illegal equipment at the world championships and that he had caught lots of lifters with 3 metres knee wraps. He thanked Jesse for putting on the world championships and indicated that Jesse will have a better idea for future events of what is required at events of this size.

Anita Mahony, the Secretary gave her report which included the level of correspondence required with lifters within each federation including the provision of visa letters, updating the facebook sites and supporting the Promotors of both the 2015 European and World Championships.

Libor Hurdalek the Webmaster reported that the website has had 67,000 from 134 countries visits since it went live on 01/12/2014. He also reported that he can put links to each individual national federation’s website on it.

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**Motions.**

*1.That the Rule “All International Referees (cat 1, 2 or 3) who do not referee an international event for 2 consecutive years will lose their international referee status, and if they wish to continue as an International Referee, they must resit the referees test” be removed.*

**After much discussion the motion was amended and a new motion was drafted & voted on unanimously as follows:**

**“An International Referee’s licence would be extended from 2 to 4 years and would be reviewed on an individual basis by the Board if there is no participation at international events after 4 years. In additional, any event at which a GPC Board Category 1 Referee has been invited to participate will be considered as an International Event in relation to a referee’s status”.**

*2.That the Referee Charge per lifter be increased from €2 to €4 which will be included in the entry fee for Continental & World Championships. 75% of this fee is to be paid to the GPC prior to the commencement of the championships with the remaining 25% to be paid at the completion of the championships.*

**This was passed unanimously**

*3.When a Continental or World Championships are held in a country outside of the Euro Zone, that a conversion to that currency, as per the GPC established price per entry is decided upon prior to entries being accepted and Entry Fees are then paid in the currency of the country hosting the championships*

**This was passed on a vote of 15 to 1.**

*4.That the entry fees for Continental & World Championships are paid to the Championship’s organiser in one lump payment by the national federation rather than by the lifters individually (except in the case of individual members from nations without GPC affiliates or countries from which it’s very difficult to transfer money to other countries).*

**This was passed unanimously**

*5. Eliminate the “start” command from the bench press and allow the thumbless grip”*

**Having been voted on at the last 2 AGM’s, and the proposer of the motion not being present, a vote was not taken on this motion.**

*6. Three International Referees from any Member Country at National Championships would meet the criteria to set World/Continental Records.*

After much discussion on the current requirements for International Records to be broken at national events, which currently requires the attendance of a Category 1 Referee from the GPC Board from outside of the country hosting the event, the motion was put forward that:

**“A list of International Referees will be established by the Technical Officers who, taking geographical location into account, could be nominated by the Board, to attend events in countries other than their own from 01/01/17 in order to facilitate the setting of International Records”.**

In addition, the Technical Officers agreed to review and release the process of promotion of International Referees from Category 3 to Category 1.

**This was passed on a vote of 15 to 1**

*7. That rule changes brought in at the AGM and which come into effect on the 1st January of the following year, have a lifespan of three years before being eligible for change if required through voting at the AGM.*

**This was passed unanimously**

*8. That national federations without any national or international activity in two years must reapply as a new nation for GPC membership and a decision will be made by the GPC Board on whether to renew the membership or not*

**This was passed unanimously**

*9. That World & Continental Championships must be livestreamed*

**This was passed unanimously**

*10. That World & Continental Championships must be livestreamed free of charge*

**This was rejected unanimously.**

The GPC may look at various options for Livestream.

New proposals from the GPC Board following the Board Meeting

*11. That there be some adjustments to the Weight Classes with an additional class added to the women’s categories and one weight class removed from the men’s categories. The class to be added to the women is -110kgs so it will be -90, -110 and +110kgs. The class to be removed from the men is the -52kgs.*

**This was passed 15 votes to 1**

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The election of Officers took place.

**Frank McGivney was unopposed for the position of Treasurer. He was voted in unanimously.**

A vote was held for the position of Technical Officer between Gerard McNamara and Toni Haaparanta

**Gerard McNamara won by a unanimous vote and is returned as Technical Officer.**

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**Bids for 2018 World Championships**

Only one bid had been received for the 2018 World Championships from Jesse Rodgers from the SPF.

As Jesse did not make a presentation and did not have a set location in mind for the championships, it was decided that the nations were not in a position to vote on an event without knowing the specific details of the bid. Jesse was advised to resubmit a bid with the details of a specific venue, accommodation, transport arrangements etc. to the 2016 AGM and to attend the World Championships and AGM in Serbia to make the presentation there.

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**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **Current World Championship**

The general feeling amongst those present was that many of the basic requirements as per the rulebook were not followed. Whilst the event got better as the week progressed, for the first few days, there were not sufficient weights and those that were there consisted of a mixture of lb and Kg weights, the squat bars were not correct, the benches didn’t have safety racks, the platform was slippy, there was no podium and lifters received no reply to the question of livestream that had been asked several times etc. While there were many things amiss and were corrected, there were also positives – the equipment when rectified was of good quality, the loaders were excellent, the lifters supported each other regardless of nationality, there was class competition in many categories. etc. The board agreed to do a swot analysis of the event to send to Jesse. It was also recommended that this be sent to the countries hosting the next two World Championships.

Jesse said that this was a learning experience for him, it being the first World Championships he hosted and never having attended one previously although his job is hosting championships around the US most weekends. On the issue of livestream, he indicated that he didn’t want to pay for it but didn’t mind someone else providing it but he was never going to advertise that it was going to be there since he wanted spectators to pay a fee to him to attend the event, rather than pay to watch it elsewhere. When asked why the US lifters had not supported the event in larger numbers, Jesse said that the US lifters considered that Vegas was too hot and too far away. However, it was pointed out that the bid he had submitted was for Vegas and it was on that bid that he had won the vote to host the championships.

1. **Illegal Equipment**

Given the amount of illegal equipment that the lifters were found to be using, Andy Saunders asked if it would be possible to have a kit check of everyone’s equipment before lifting commenced. This was discussed but found to be impractical as it would take considerable manpower but also lifters may wear equipment on the platform other than that which was checked. However a motion was drawn up as follows:

**It is the lifter’s responsibility to be aware of the regulations regarding legal and illegal equipment. A lifter who is blatantly found to be cheating in relation to equipment will be disqualified from the competition.**

**This was passed unanimously**

A suggestion was made that equipment checks on lifters be carried out by officials of the same sex as the lifter.

This was rejected as impractical as there may not be male & female referees on the platform to examine the lifter and also most of the loaders/spotters are male and the next step would then be to have same sex loaders/spotters to handle the lifters.

There was also discussion on types and brands of both raw leotards and equipped lifting suits.

1. Following a complaint submitted to the Technical Officer, a Rebound leotard was examined. It was found to have both a double ply crotch and reinforced stitching and as such does not meet the regulations for raw lifting and as a result

**Rebound Leotards will no longer be permitted to be worn by raw lifters.**

1. **Leotards which contain zips are not allowed in raw lifting.**
2. **Equipped suits with zips or which can be laced up or have Velcro on other places other than on the straps are also illegal.**
3. **Briefs with legs which are longer than the lifting suit will now be permitted provided that they do not extend longer than the permitted length of the suit (mid thigh).**

That concluded the matters of them AGM.