

**INTERNATIONAL POWERLIFTING
FEDERATION
ASBL**

MEETING MINUTES

2021 IPF Extraordinary General Assembly

At the request of the IPF President and in accordance with articles 6.3.2 and 6.3.3 of the IPF Constitution, an Extraordinary General Meeting is hereby scheduled to take place at the date, time and place set out immediately below:

Hotel Clarion Energy
Ishockeyveien 2, 4021
Stavanger, Norway
Sunday, November 7, 2021 / Begin: 14:00 hrs.

Registered office: 3, route d'Arlon, L-8009 STRASSEN RCSL: F 7468

2021 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY (EGA)

Location:
Clarion Hotel Energy
Stavanger, Norway
Sunday, November 07, 2021
14:00 hrs.

MEETING MINUTES

At 1402hrs, Emanuel Scheiber, the IPF General Manager, opened the meeting and welcomed all the delegates to the Extraordinary General Assembly.

1. **Roll Call**

IPF Executive Committee (12)

Gaston Parage
Sigurjon Petursson
Robert Keller
Arnulf Wahlstrom
Farshid Soltani
Heather Leighton
Marcos Sanchez
Dr. Larry Maile
Eva Speth (Live Video Conference)
Pjotr Van de Hoek
Johan Smith
Tetiana Melnyk (Live Video Conference)

Africa (1)

South Africa

Asia (4)

Taiwan
Iran
Japan
United Arab Emirates

Total Member Federation Votes: 28

Majority Vote: 15

2/3 Vote: 19

Vote Count

Yes – 23

No – 0

Abstention - 4

Absent – 1

Total – 28

Europe (16)

Belarus
Belgium
Denmark
Estonia
France
Germany
Iceland
Italy
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Romania
Russia
Sweden
Ukraine

North America (4)

Canada
Costa Rica
US Virgin Islands
USA

South America (3)

Brazil
Ecuador
Peru

Oceania (0)

No Member Federations present

Mr. Ross Wenzel, legal counsel for the IPF was present and represented the IPF at the EGA.

Two scrutineers were appointed:

- Jeff Butt (Canada)
- Veronika Kondrachow (Germany)

Vote to approve the scrutineers:

Yes – 27

No – 0

No Vote – 1

Abstention – 0

The two scrutineers were approved by the General Assembly.

2. Gaston Parage – The IPF President’s Message (Summary)

- In the assessment of the IPF Executive Committee (the “**IPF EC**”), the fact that the USAPL continues (willfully) to breach the IPF ADR, even after being sanctioned by the competent tribunal means that it no longer fulfils the conditions of membership.
- The IPF EC considers it is untenable for the USAPL to remain as a member of the IPF in circumstances where it is demonstrably not willing to respect the rules of the IPF and has repeatedly made that stance publicly known. Indeed, as set out above, the USAPL has itself stated that its refusal to cease Unauthorized Tests means that a separation of the two organizations is the only possible solution.
- On the basis of the foregoing, the IPF EC recommends that the IPF General Assembly votes in favor of the motion to exclude the USAPL as a member of the IPF.
- The USAPL will be given an opportunity to address the General Assembly in connection with this motion to exclude, following which the General Assembly will be requested to vote on whether to exclude the USAPL from membership of the IPF. Such a vote will require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in accordance with art. 6.2.1 of the IPF Constitution.
- Gaston stated that if the IPF does not act on this matter, the IPF will lose its position in the World Games, and also our WADA Tier 1 status, and the organization’s goal of IOC Recognition.

Prior to the voting on the motion to exclude USAPL from the IPF, the following speakers made presentations:

- Dr. Larry Maile, President of USA Powerlifting, presented the background, history, and structure of their organization, as well as the USAPL’s data on their self-administered, non-compliant drug-testing program. Dr. Maile also presented the total number of tests they performed, and reiterated, several times, during his presentation, the costs were too high for USA Powerlifting to perform a WADA compliant testing program.

- Dan Gaudreau, EC Member for USA Powerlifting, presented a proposal to split the USAPL into two separate organizations – one organization for recreational athletes, and the other organization would be for international elite level athletes. The USA recreational athletes would be tested in non-compliant laboratories, and the USA organization representing the international elite athletes, in the Registered Testing Pool, would be tested in accordance with all WADA guidelines. Mr. Gaudreau cited examples of professional athletes moving from professional sports organizations to national governing bodies to prepare amateur teams for major international events.
- Mr. Ross Wenzel, legal counsel for the IPF, emphasized the revised and updated WADA Code that went into effect on January 1, 2021, clearly states that no National Governing Body can conduct their own testing program. The IPF also sent out two (2) notifications, prior to the January 1, 2021, deadline, to ALL the member federations notifying them of the new WADA guidelines. USA Powerlifting never sent an objection to the IPF nor to WADA concerning the new rules that went into effect on January 1, 2021. Additionally, even after being suspended by the Doping Hearing Panel, USA Powerlifting continued performing unauthorized testing. Ross emphasized that an IPF Member Federation, openly and wilfully violated one of the most fundamental rules, essential in the governing the International Powerlifting Federation, as well as all other recognized international and national sport federations. Additionally, Ross stated by accepting the proposal of USA Powerlifting is an “existential threat” to the IPF. There is no other organization (Olympic and Non-Olympic Sport) that has such a program. The United States Anti-doping Agency (USADA) should have complete oversight over ALL athletes in sport of powerlifting in the United States.
- Sigurjon Petursson, Vice-President of the IPF, stated the recommendation made by USA Powerlifting to split their organization was not acceptable and violates all principles of the WADA Code. The consequences of accepting such a program proposed by USA Powerlifting would be disastrous and cause the IPF to lose World Games recognition, as well as the WADA Tier I status. The IPF would also lose its compliance status. All hopes for IOC recognition will be surely lost. Mr. Petursson emphasized which organizations can be a Testing Authority under the WADA Code. USA Powerlifting cannot be their own testing authority. Mr. Petursson stressed the importance that ALL athletes, both at the elite level, and recreational level, all over the world, regardless of the sport, should receive the same standards of testing, education, sample collection, results management, and TUE approval. The question is whether, or not, USA Powerlifting will stop the unauthorized testing.

At the conclusion of the presentations, Emanuel Scheiber read the motion to exclude USA Powerlifting from the International Powerlifting Federation.

3. Motion:

a. Motion to exclude USA Powerlifting (USAPL) from the International Powerlifting Federation

- **WHEREAS** the background to this Motion is set out in an Explanatory Note (Page 3, 4 and 5)
- **AND WHEREAS** USAPL will be provided with an opportunity to respond to the Motion at the EGA.

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- **MOVED** that the General Assembly conducts a vote to exclude USAPL as a member of the International Powerlifting Federation.
 - The motion was seconded by the Luxembourg National Powerlifting Federation.
 - The results are as follows:
 - A total of 28 member federations were present and eligible to vote.
 - A total of 4 member federations abstained from the vote.
 - A total of 1 member federation was absent from the vote.
 - A total of 23 eligible votes were confirmed.
 - The required 2/3 to exclude USA Powerlifting was confirmed at 16 votes.
 - There were twenty-three (23) YES votes received to exclude USA Powerlifting from the IPF.
 - There were zero (0) NO votes received not to exclude USA Powerlifting from the IPF.
 - **Based on the vote count, USA Powerlifting was excluded from the IPF.**

4. **Presentation of the IPF Hall of Fame**

- The following candidates were inducted into the IPF Hall of Fame.
 - o Sigurjon Petursson (ICE) – Male Official
 - o Christina Chamley (AUS) – Female Official
 - o Sergey Bilyi (UKR) – Male Athlete
 - o Rhea Stinn (CAN) – Female Athlete

5. **Any other Business**

6. **Adjournment**

The EGA was closed at 1605hrs

Prepared:

Robert Keller
Secretary General
International Powerlifting Federation
Sunday, November 12, 2022
Stavanger, Norway

EXPLANATORY NOTE TO THE MOTION TO EXCLUDE USA POWERLIFTING FROM THE INTERNATIONAL POWERLIFTING FEDERATION.

A. Background¹

1. The IPF is a Signatory to, and is therefore bound by the provisions of, the World Anti-Doping Code (the “**Code**”).
2. The World Anti-Doping Agency (“**WADA**”) introduced changes into the 2021 version of the Code which explicitly required International Federations (such as the IPF) to ensure that their National Federations (such as the USAPL) did not conduct doping controls other than under the authority of their International Federation.
3. More particularly, art. 20.3.2 of the 2021 Code requires that International Federations make it a condition of membership that their National Federations *inter alia* conduct testing only “*under the documented authority of their International Federation*”.
4. Reflecting the above provision in the Code, article 18.4(i) of the 2021 IPF Anti-Doping Rules (“**IPF ADR**”) requires that National Federations “*shall take appropriate action to enforce compliance with the Code, International Standards, and these Anti-Doping Rules by inter alia (i) conducting Testing only under the documented authority of IPF [...].*”
5. Before the 2021 Code and IPF ADR came into effect on 1 January 2021, the IPF sent circular letters to its Member Federations (including USAPL) on 16 September 2020 and 1 December 2020 in which it made clear that, from 1 January 2021 at the latest, all anti-doping testing would have to be conducted under the delegated authority of the IPF or through the relevant National Anti-Doping Organization. For example, the 1 December 2020 letter stated that “**effective January 1, 2021, National Federations will not be allowed to run their own national-level testing program.**” (Emphasis in original)
6. In May 2021, the IPF wrote to the USAPL, enclosing evidence that the USAPL had continued in 2021 – notwithstanding the terms of the Code, IPF ADR and the two circular letters - to conduct hundreds of doping controls without the delegated authority of the IPF (“**Unauthorized Tests**”). The IPF (i) asserted that the Unauthorized Tests contravened the terms of the IPF ADR, (ii) required that the USAPL cease all Unauthorized Tests and (iii) advised that it would bring non-compliance proceedings against the USAPL pursuant to art. 12 of the IPF ADR if the situation was not remedied.
7. In its response to the IPF in June 2021, the USAPL did not dispute that it had continued to conduct Unauthorized Tests in 2021 and made clear that it was not willing to cease doing so.

¹ The background facts summarised in this section are set out more comprehensively in the decision of the Doping Hearing Tribunal dated 25 August 2021, enclosed as an Attachment 1 hereto.

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8. By letter of 24 July 2021, the IPF charged the USAPL with breaching its obligations under the IPF ADR (the “**Charge**”) and referred the matter to the Doping Hearing Panel (the “**DHP**”).
 9. During the proceedings, the USAPL made clear that it had no intention of ceasing Unauthorized Tests. By letter of 11 August 2021, for example, the USAPL acknowledged that its decision to continue conducting its own drug testing program means that “*no solution appears possible other than a separation of our respective organizations.*”
 10. The Charge was adjudicated by Judge Mark Williams pursuant to a decision of the DHP dated 25 August 2021 (the “**DHP Decision**”). The DHP Decision duly found that the USAPL had indeed breached the IPF ADR by conducting Unauthorized Tests and imposed a sanction including a one-year suspension on USAPL members from participating in IPF events and from holding positions/offices within the IPF.
 11. Since the DHP Decision, the USAPL has stated publicly that it has no intention to cease Unauthorized Tests and, in fact, has continued to conduct Unauthorized Tests².

B. Regulatory Basis for the Motion to Exclude USA Powerlifting

12. Compliance with the Code is not only a contractual obligation of the IPF vis a vis WADA, but also anchored in the IPF Constitution. More particularly, art. 1.3.6 reads as follows:

“As a Signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code (Code), the IPF accepts the Code and all International Standards and recognizes its responsibilities of adopting and implementing anti-doping policies and rules which conform with the Code and International Standards to maintain both the IPF’s compliance with the Code and its status as a Code Signatory.”

13. As set out above, it is a condition of the Code and IPF ADR that National Federations only conduct doping controls under the documented authority of the IPF.
14. Art. 15 of the IPF Constitution states that “***as a condition of membership***, all IPF Member Federations (both National and Regional) agree to and are bound by the IPF Anti-Doping Rules, the World Anti-Doping Code, and its International Standards.” (Emphasis added)
15. Article 4.1.1. of the IPF Constitution states as follows:

*“Each National Member Federation, and its employees and members are deemed, **as a condition of participation or involvement in the sport of powerlifting**, to have agreed to and be bound by the IPF Anti-Doping Rules [...]”* (Emphasis added)

16. Article 6.2.1 of the IPF Constitution confers on the General Assembly the power “to admit or exclude any National Member Federation as well as any Regional Federation by means of a two-thirds majority of votes cast.”

C. Position of the IPF Executive Committee

17. In the assessment of the IPF Executive Committee (the “**IPF EC**”), the fact that the USAPL continues (willfully) to breach the IPF ADR even after being sanctioned by the competent tribunal means that it no longer fulfils the conditions of membership.

² **USA Powerlifting Drug-Test Database:**

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VaXAd4ETiWk6NMmNzXmTNBAHe494TLxbOig_cf5gw4A/edit?hl=en#gid=2

18. In any event, the IPF EC considers that it is untenable for the USAPL to remain as a member of the IPF in circumstances where it is demonstrably not willing to respect the rules of the IPF and has repeatedly made that stance publicly known. Indeed, as set out above, the USAPL has itself stated that its refusal to cease Unauthorized Tests means that a separation of the two organizations is the only possible solution.
19. On the basis of the foregoing, the IPF EC recommends that the IPF General Assembly votes in favor of the motion to exclude the USAPL as a member of the IPF.
20. The USAPL will be given an opportunity to address the General Assembly in connection with this motion to exclude, following which the General Assembly will be requested to vote on whether to exclude the USAPL from membership of the IPF. Such a vote will require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in accordance with art. 6.2.1 of the IPF Constitution.

Submitted:

**International Powerlifting Federation Executive Committee
Friday, October 1, 2021**