

Para Weightlifting Technical Officials

Are there any special qualifications to be a Technical Official for adaptive athletes competing as Para Weightlifters?

In WCHM documents I have used the term Para Weightlifting though there is no such official Canadian para sport with that name. I often interchange the terms “Para Weightlifter” and “adaptive athlete competing as a para weightlifter.” I try to avoid the term “adaptive weightlifter” and often use “adaptive athlete.”

In Canada, all Weightlifting Coaches are educated by Weightlifting Canada Haltérophilie in collaboration with Sports Canada and then certified by the Coaching Association of Canada under the NCCP (National Coaching Certification Program). All Technical Officials are educated by their Provincial Weightlifting Associations in conjunction with Weightlifting Canada Haltérophilie requirements, which will provide Certification at the National and International levels. The process that culminates in the International Level of Technical Official status is explained in each of the provincial weightlifting association websites. Technical Official courses and Coaching Courses are conducted by highly qualified members of each Provincial Weightlifting Association, who themselves are authorized by WCH to conduct these courses and seminars.

Since Para Weightlifting is not, at this time, organized either as their own organization, either independently or under WCH or WCHM, there are no specific courses or requirements for officiating adaptive athletes/para weightlifters. WCHM has welcomed adaptive athletes as para weightlifters at their national championships. The Canadian Masters Weightlifting Championships relies upon the generous volunteer services of technical officials from the host province as well as qualified technical officials who are also participating as athletes in these championships.

Provincial Weightlifting Associations and WCH are encouraged by Sports Canada to accommodate athletes with disabilities. Provincial Weightlifting Associations should be as inclusive as their resources allow. WCHM is not the National Sports Organization for the Provincial Weightlifting Associations, hence I can only encourage and support those Associations that welcome the inclusion of adaptive athletes. Part of that support is to offer whatever information I can to help their already very qualified technical officials feel comfortable and prepared to officiate at competitions which may have participating para weightlifters.

The WCHM para weightlifting rules can be easily implemented by any Technical Official who will examine the guidelines provided here:

[WCHM.TO-2024.-Para-Weightlifting-Guide.pdf \(wchmasters.org\)](https://wchmasters.org/WCHM.TO-2024.-Para-Weightlifting-Guide.pdf)

The Para Weightlifting Technical Official Quiz can be found here in the Para Weightlifting Section

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