

WEIGHTLIFTING CANADA HALTÉROPHILIE MASTERS

Position Statement on Canadian Provincial and International Para Weightlifting (Adaptive Weightlifting)

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Weightlifting Canada Halterophilie Masters (WCHM) supports the inclusion of Canadian adaptive athletes participating as para weightlifters at its annual Canadian Masters Weightlifting Championships (CMWC). These athletes, members of WCH, must be thirty years or older. WCHM adheres to the expectations of Sports Canada relative to the inclusion of individuals with physical challenges.

To facilitate this inclusion, WCHM developed its own unique rules/regulations pertaining to Records, Participation at the CMWC, Health Care Professional Approval, Standards of Eligible Impairments, Attestation of Athlete's Bodyweight and Directives for Technical Officials. WCHM does not certify Technical Officials and benefits from the voluntary services of Technical Officials from WCH at Provincial level competitions.

The Canadian National Sports Organization (Weightlifting) of the IWF, Weightlifting Canada Haltérophilie (WCH), does not have an official position on the inclusion of adaptive athletes at the provincial or national level within any age group. WCHM encourages each Provincial Weightlifting Association to arrange for the inclusion of adaptive masters weightlifters and to develop their own rules and regulations. Provincial Weightlifting Associations are invited to borrow and adapt the WCHM Para Weightlifting Rules and Regulations for the inclusion of adaptive athletes aspiring to participate as Masters Para Weightlifters at the provincial level, particularly at the Provincial Masters Championships.

WCHM Rules and Regulations were shared with the IMWA (International Masters Weightlifting Association). At the 2022 World Masters Weightlifting Championships, the IMWA used the WCHM Rules/Regulations for including adaptive athletes as para weightlifters. Pan American Masters Championships is also attempting to include adaptive athletes as weightlifters.

WCHM believes it is the responsibility of each nation that supports Masters Weightlifting to develop their own rules and regulations for adaptive weightlifters appropriate for its own weightlifting community. These national masters weightlifting organizations are welcomed to use WCHM para weightlifting documents (rules and regulations) and transform them into policies that can work within their own countries.

WCHM believes that is the responsibility of the IMWA and the Pan American Masters Weightlifting Federation (PAMWF) to encourage its National Masters Chairs to advocate for the inclusion of adaptive athletes as Para weightlifters within their individual nations and to share with each other their own rules and regulations.

WCHM further believes that is the responsibility of the IMWA and the PAMWF to either use the adaptive weightlifting rules and regulations of their Championships' host nations, the adaptive weightlifting rules/regulations of another selected nation, or develop their own rules and regulations from the amalgamation of various nation's rules and regulations.

As interest in masters adaptive weightlifting increases, the WCHM encourages the IMWA and the PAMWF to review their own organizational structure and in due time establish such groups/committees as an inter-nation para weightlifting advisory group, and eventually their own international rules and regulations, which can then be adopted by each nation to ensure national level consistency. Each nation, of course, would still retain their own national para weightlifting rules and regulations.

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