



## Information Bulletin

### 16 March 2020

#### Coronavirus: COVID-19

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has begun to impact regular sporting activities within Australia, as well as major events around the world. The health and safety of all weightlifting participants and supporters is paramount and so the AWF Board of Directors considered the AWF's planned activities in tandem with the latest advice from Australian health authorities, and made the following decisions in an extraordinary meeting of the Board held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020:

1. All AWF National Championships will proceed as scheduled in 2020 unless the AWF is compelled to make changes to the current program at the direction of Government Authorities or because of decisions made by Federal or State Governments that directly or indirectly affect the events.
2. The AWF will extend the qualification period for the AWF 2020 National Junior and Under 23 Championships for those eligible athletes who were entered into any event which was originally scheduled to take place between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020, but was cancelled or postponed. The extended qualification period will end at midnight on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March. To reiterate: this extension only applies to athletes who were originally entered into a competition scheduled for the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March but were unable to participate due to the event being cancelled, restricted or relocated. The AWF will take the advice of State Members as to which athletes fall into this category.
3. Until further notice, the AWF will permit scheduled State level events to be conducted in multiple venues. This option is provided to reduce the number of people gathering together and assist event organisers with their health management plans. For example, an event that might include participants from four weightlifting clubs can be "broken down" into sections conducted within each of those four clubs on the same day and the results collated and submitted as one event. All competitions must still meet the minimum requirements of an AWF-sanctioned event, i.e. they must have at least three Referees; a weigh-in that commences two hours before the competition and lasts for one hour; a square competition platform that measures 400cm x 400cm, etc.
4. The AWF strongly recommends that organisers of weightlifting competitions conduct their events within venues at which they have full control over the cleaning of facilities, equipment and spaces. They should also be familiar with the people who use the venue on a regular basis, to increase the likelihood that they will be alerted to any confirmed cases of COVID-19 associated with someone who has attended the venue.

The AWF continues to monitor the advice issued by the Department of Health and Federal and State Governments. The attached Guide for Event Organisers from the World Health Organisation and the following links provide useful information about the COVID-19 virus and measures that should be taken to protect against infection and spreading the disease.

AIS COVID-19 and Sporting Activity

[https://ais.gov.au/health-wellbeing/covid-19#covid-19\\_and\\_sport\\_faq](https://ais.gov.au/health-wellbeing/covid-19#covid-19_and_sport_faq)

The Department of Health COVID – 19 health alert

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice for public gatherings and visits to vulnerable groups

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-public-gatherings-and-visits-to-vulnerable-groups>

### **2020 Oceania & Commonwealth Championships**

Due to the health risks presented by the COVID-19 virus and global travel restrictions, the Oceania Weightlifting Federation and the Nauru 2020 Organising Committee have postponed the 2020 Oceania Championships until later in the year, possible September or October. As soon as the revised date of the championships is known, members will be informed.

A preparation camp for the Australian Senior Team contesting the Oceania Championships was scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April. This camp will now be postponed and rescheduled prior to the Oceania Championships.

The postponement of the Oceania Championships means that four out of five Continental Championships – Oceania, European, Asian, African – have now been postponed due to the Coronavirus COVID-19.

### **Tokyo 2020 Qualification**

In the wake of widespread cancellation or postponement of T2020 Qualification Events, the International Weightlifting Federation is considering modifications to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Qualification System. What those modifications will be and how they impact on Australia's T2020 contenders isn't yet known.

The IWF issued the following message on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020:

*To all IWF Member Federations,*

*In order to keep all abreast of the progress, a meeting of the Sports Commission on adjustment of the Olympic Games qualification procedures was held on March 14.*

*The Executive Board will take up their proposals on March 17 as one of the first items on the agenda of the meetings over March 17-18. Please be assured that the main concern of the Executive Board is the health of the athletes and delegations.*

*We aim to inform all member federations as promptly as possible of a solution as soon as IOC approval is given. Rest assured that the Board's intent is to ensure that the complications from COVID do not impact any athlete's ability to qualify for the Olympic Games.*

More information on this will be provided as soon as possible.

### **2020 AWF National Masters Championships**

As with other AWF events, at this point in time the AWF intends to go ahead with the 2020 AWF National Masters Championships and Oceania Masters Open as planned, in Cairns on 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June. Enter online at <https://old.awf.com.au/resultsrankings/competitionindividualregistration.aspx>

Entries close Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020.