

WCHM President's April 2026 Update

2027 Canadian Masters Weightlifting Championships Championships

Competition host still required. “Le Club d’Haltérophilie de Montréal” has submitted its bid to be the host with assistance from Club Halteros. Very promising! **If there are any forthcoming bids, please let me know, as I am prepared to suspend the deadline and recommend the approval of this potential host.**

2026 Canadian Masters Weightlifting Championships

Kudos to Driven Barbell for managing the registrations and utilizing social media, particularly Instagram, and the OWA in their preparatory stage of helping out the host and WCHM. One hundred and thirty-six (136) members have registered.

There is a need for bilingual announcers. Registrations are proceeding very well and may close earlier than expected. Drug Free Sport International will again conduct our Doping Control and utilize all WADA testing standards at a WADA-approved laboratory. Although DFSI provides a physician to review the test results, I will also be appointing one of our physician-members as WCHM’s Medical Advisor.

I have ordered some new thank-you medals to supplement the officials who volunteer for at least three sessions. They will have the current logo, which may or may not change when the new logos are ready for next year. The organizing host arranges their own methods of appreciation.

2026 Lifetime Achievement Award

The Board has selected the winning recipient of the 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award. Details will be embedded in the Board’s Annual Report, which will be emailed to all members before the AGM. It will then be posted on the WCHM website.

Approved Qualifying Competitions in Canada for Challenging Canadian Masters Weightlifting Records

Compétitions qualificatives approuvées au Canada pour des records canadiens de maîtres en haltérophilie

See WCHM Website for the complete list.

Board Positions

Board Positions are all up for election/re-election in June 2026. Application forms are on the WCHM Website.

Present Candidates: Mark Gomes, President; Daniel Paré and Madeleine Waterfield, Vice-President; Siew Weldon, Treasurer; (2) Board Directors: Greg Doucette and David Rosati. All positions are open for interested candidates.

2026 IMWA World Masters Weightlifting Championship / Pan Am Masters Championships

To date, 58 women (53 paid) and 39 men (31 paid) have received approval to participate in the WMC. For the PAMC, 5 women and 6 men have received approvals to participate. For the 2027 World Masters, 6 men and 8 women have been approved for preliminary registration.

Gender Identity and Inclusion Policies

A few Provincial Weightlifting Associations have been working on and have completed similar policies. WCH has had a document in place for about five years. I am disappointed that all of these policies lack enough depth to explain how a trans athlete can participate in Weightlifting. Even though the IOC/IWF has now decided not to allow trans women to compete in the women's category, I was expecting to read how trans athletes can still be included, in some way, at the competitive level. Many of these policies also refer to athletes with physical disabilities, and do not describe how this inclusion can be implemented. I have many more concerns about these policies. Our "Gender Diversity and Inclusion Policy" still stands, as we have not made any reference to a definitive category for trans athlete participation. The policy was intended to await guidance from WCH to their Provincial affiliates. As a transitory pathway for trans inclusion, WCHM created the Open Women and Open Men Categories as an option at our National Championships. The IMWA, at the current time, follows the IOC regulations, which, of course, are no longer in effect. WCHM recognizes that trans athletes "mildly" appreciate the creation of the WCHM Open Categories and that they understand that the exclusion of trans women from the women's category is a result of decisions made by organizations far above WCHM. These decisions have been made by the IOC, which expects the IWF and all National Sports Organizations to adopt. Although we are not affiliated with the IWF/WCH, WCHM respects those organizations that represent a larger, shared membership base.

Canadian Masters Sports Wear

For those with some history with WCHM, you know that we once used Power Performance Systems for our singlets. During and after the COVID pandemic, they seemed to have disappeared and never responded to our communications to continue their business.

WCHM could not find a Canadian supplier, and VIRUS INTERNATIONAL was not recommended by many of our members at that time.

As a result, WCHM approached GAMEDAY, a recommendation by USA Masters . They have done a pretty good job, but many surprises surface from time to time. These have involved delivery charges that were not supposed to be levied by GAMEDAY, duties, and now, unknown tariffs by the US Government. Our members who have purchased their sports wear are generally pleased, even with the duties applied. I have had to place, on our website, some cautions about ordering from GAMEDAY.

I will be contacting VIRUS INTERNATIONAL to see if they could provide our singlets and perhaps some other apparel. If so, then our members would have two possibilities for singlet ordering. WCHM currently has a graphic designer working on a new logo for WCHM.