

WCHM President's May 2026 Update

President's Updates are now on the Website

A number of our WCHM Provincial Advisors suggested that these updates be posted on our website, thus saving drive space on personal drives. I did try to use my Google drive but some members were not comfortable with that process. My email to the Advisory Committee members will only highlight the topic items and our website link to the update. This will offer greater transparency to what I, the Board and our colleagues are doing for our membership.

<https://www.wchmasters.org/presidents-updates/> Can be found under news and Reports.

2027 Canadian Masters Weightlifting Championships Championships
Competition host has been approved. Club d'Haltérophilie de Montréal (CHM)

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. Registrations have closed and as per the decisions from the last AGM, a waiting list has started for WCHM members. The waiting list was dissolved immediately after the official registration deadline of May 24.

There is a need for bilingual announcers. Please contact Linda Rosario-Earnshaw, our Technical Officials Coordinator. linda@onweightlifting.ca

WCHM will provide Thank-You medals to supplement the officials' honoraria for those who volunteer for at least three sessions.

WCHM Membership Surging Enrolment

As is common knowledge, WCHM membership can fluctuate quite a bit from year to year. The main factor being the location of the WCHM Nationals and the number of general masters-age weightlifters in that geographic region of Canada. Another factor, closely related is where the International Masters weightlifting events will be taking place, primarily the IMWA World Masters Weightlifting Championships.

However, with the increasing support of WCH's Provincial Weightlifting Associations, many masters-age seniors are being directed to WCHM as it offers the only mechanism for National and International Masters weightlifting competitions, awards, and a common mindset of its members.

WCHM saw a spike in membership in 2019 when the IMWA World Masters was held in Montreal; 345 members. Membership never really regained that number until the Alberta Weightlifting Association heavily promoted WCHM membership in Alberta and British Columbia; 380.

As of this update, WCHM membership is now 390 and should surpass 400 very soon. This is no doubt to the efforts of the Ontario Weightlifting Association in promoting WCHM to its members. The OWA hosts several competitions open to Masters but its focus on the Ontario Masters Open and the Ontario Master Championships has catapulted Ontario's masters-age seniors to rethink their involvement in the Masters movement beyond the provincial level.

Since WCHM cannot, due to privacy concerns, contact masters-age seniors from the PSO membership list, it relies heavily on the Provincial Weightlifting Association to continue spreading the good news that masters weightlifters are recognized at the National and International level by WCHM and the IMWA.

Who can host the Canadian Masters Weightlifting Championships?

Since the creation of the Canadian Masters Weightlifting organization, hosts have been a PSO-registered weightlifting club that has a significant number of masters weightlifters, experience hosting weightlifting competitions, and the support of their Provincial Weightlifting Association. Although there have never been any restrictions on a Provincial Weightlifting Association submitting a bid to host the WCHM Nationals, becoming host has never been considered by a PWA. Four Provincial Weightlifting Associations have asked this question and I have always responded that such a possibility would be preferred.

The Alberta Weightlifting Association President asked me if the AWA would be in a position to be the host for the **2025 WCHM Nationals**. My answer was a definite yes, and the AWA submitted a bid which I endorsed and recommended to our Board for acceptance.

The Ontario Weightlifting Association, which already plays a very important role in all of WCHM Nationals hosted by OWA registered clubs, particularly the **2026 WCHM Nationals**, is considering being the **2029 WCHM Nationals** host. I would encourage our Board to give such a bid the highest consideration.

Since the **2027 WCHM Nationals** will be in Montreal (CHM) Club d'haltérophilie de Montréal, the **2028 WCHM Nationals** remains open for Provincial Weightlifting Association or PSO registered weightlifting club.

Board Member Elections

Members will soon be receiving instructions for electing board members. This year there will be an electronic voting procedure.

President – Mark Gomes (incumbent)

Vice-President – Daniel Paré (incumbent) and Madeleine Waterfield (current Records Secretary)

Treasurer – Siew Weldon (incumbent)

Board Members – Greg Doucett (incumbent/National Chair in Training), David Rosati (incumbent/Director of Policy and Procedure), Michael Boroditsky (WCHM Doping Control Medical Advisor).

2026 IMWA World Masters Weightlifting Championship 2026

To date, 63 women (57 paid) and 45 men (36 paid) have received approval to participate in the WMC.

2026 Pan Am Masters Championships

Members were informed of the names of our Pan Am Masters participants and I extended my well wishes for their success and safe journey. I will watch for the official results and create a results page of just our Canadian athletes, which I will post on our Website's Results page.