

VP Technical Report
2020 Ontario Weightlifting Association
Annual General Meeting
October 3, 2020

This is my second term as VP Technical and I am grateful to continue on in this role and help serve our membership as we collectively continue to strive for excellence in Ontario for this sport of Olympic Weightlifting. What I will discuss are the challenges as well as opportunities from this perspective, in this role. First of all, I'd like to address all of the supporters of this sport who take on the role of Technical Officials. We are volunteers and I extend a huge thank you to you all for your continued support. What I keep advocating is the expansion of volunteers in this capacity, as we cannot run competitions without you. Prior to the onset of COVID and all of its restrictions, we continued to see an increase in competitions and also an increase in the necessity for volunteers and technical officials. What we continue to discuss is how to increase our number of active officials. This is a brief summary of a few points that we hope to implement in the near future: Increase the accommodation stipend for a two day competition Increase the mileage allotment for travel Implement a one time stipend as a uniform supplement for active officials A short survey was sent out a few days ago and I encourage you to complete it. I also encourage you to email me or bring forward thoughts and suggestions. For an average competition of about 55 athletes we require 12 -14 officials to cover the various positions. With the additional protocols necessary for COVID procedures, that number will increase. So where does it leave us? We have discussed implementing a minimum number of volunteers from clubs that are membership based. As we hope this will assist with official shortages, we will continue to implement quality standards. Going forward, I hope to work with the board and update some online learning modules I would also like to bring up two items that were discussed by the Canadian Federation - That they will be imposing stricter standards on uniform and ensure that all officials are wearing the current and acceptable IWF standards of dress I think in this regard we here in Ontario are doing our part and I am proud of the level of uniformity that we have achieved. - The second item is making the wearing of a singlet mandatory at weigh in for athletes under the age of 18. ***** Changes can take time...this year we had some changes to administration and then major changes with COVID. As a board we have to consider many aspects of our sport including athletes and coaches but know we are here to work together for the promotion of our sport and so I cannot stress enough, especially as we attempt to move forward into return to competition that your input is valuable and we will continue to reach out to address how to make the most of this safely.