



Vice President Technical | Linda Rosario-Earnshaw

2022-2023 Annual Report

Introduction

It has been a very productive and exciting year for OWA Technical Officials. As VP Technical, I have endeavoured to encourage and promote the training of new and continuing OWA officials. In addition to the ongoing work with OWA TOs, I have been part of several projects such as the Ontario Winter Games in Barry's Bay, the Canadian Senior Championships in Scarborough, and the Canadian Masters Championships in Midland.

Main Goal-Training and Promotion of OWA Technical Officials

Encouragement and Support

Level 4 – Provincial (OWA)

In the past year there have been 3 OWA Technical Officials Online courses. These courses provide a general view and teachings for Level 4 candidates. All three were instructed by Larry Robinson. Many thanks to Larry for organizing and running the courses. The courses were held in July 2022, January 2023 and in April 2023. There were 32 registrants in total. From those three courses, 6 individuals completed their training and became qualified officials. Twelve candidates are partially trained and will need to continue to finish their Level 4 practical experience and evaluations.

From the total promoted to Level 4, four members directly contacted the OWA and successfully completed their training without attending the online course.

I have been fortunate to have the support of OWA senior officials to continue the training of new candidates when I am unable to attend competitions in person. Thank you to all TOs who have been instrumental in sharing their knowledge and experience with the newer officials.

Level 3 – National (WCH)

There were 3 successful candidates that were evaluated at the Ontario Sr. and Ontario Jr. Championships in late 2022 and were promoted to Level 3.

Level 2 – International (IWF)

In May at the Canadian Sr. Championships, there was one candidate who wrote their exam and was evaluated for their practical exam. They were successfully promoted from National level to IWF Level 2.

Level 1 – International (IWF)

In Scarborough, also at the Sr. National Championships, there were 2 OWA candidates who wrote and successfully completed their written and practical exams to become IWF Level 1 officials.

Overview

From July 2022 to July 2023, there have been a total of 23 promotions among the OWA officials. Well done to all those who have worked hard to level up in the past year.

17 - Level 4/OWA 4

3 - Level 3/WCH 3

1 - Level 2/IWF 2

2 - Level 1/IWF 1

Challenges

The 2022-2023 travel budget for OWA officials was well over by a considerable amount. In the spring of 2023, the OWA Executive Board voted to increase club competition contributions to help alleviate and aid in the travel costs for OWA officials.

As always, clubs who wish to host OWA competitions are highly encouraged to have a few qualified technical officials among their members in order to help at weightlifting meets.

Major Projects

Ontario Winter Games 2023

The Ontario Winter Games 2022 had been delayed to 2023 due to COVID restrictions. I volunteered to become the PSO representing the OWA. Working with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, I was tasked to organize the competition for the OWA's Jr lifters, ages 13-17. The competition took place in Barry's Bay, Ontario in the month of February. Venue assessment and visitation, meetings with the MTCS, accommodations, travel organization and TO scheduling were part of the responsibilities.

29 athletes, 6 coaches, 6 officials, 2 Team Leaders, 1 PSO and various family members braved the freezing rain and inclement weather to get to Barry's Bay. It was a huge success despite the cancellations of the opening ceremonies and of the buses to the venue due to the bad weather. Many thanks to the OWA Set up team and volunteers for all their help in Barry's Bay. Well done to all the athletes that participated.

Canadian Senior Championships 2023

Ontario won the bid to host the Canadian Sr. Championships at Variety Village in Scarborough in May 2023. It was my responsibility to recruit technical officials to officiate at this major event. The technical officials staff consisted of 22 individuals from all over Canada. And the OWA was honoured to have IWF Executive Board member, Yassiny Esquivel, attend and volunteer her time to officiate at the OWA's national event. Four of the 23 officials were up for promotion to Levels 1 and 2...three OWA candidates and one from Saskatchewan Weightlifting. All successfully passed.

Just prior to the start of Sr. Nationals, 2 officials had to withdraw due to flight cancellations. At the time there were major scheduling issues because of the impending WestJet airline strike. The officials were patient and understanding and their professionalism was commendable while the schedule was being revamped.

Thank you to all the technical officials who came from near and far for their participation and assistance. A huge thank you to Abdallah Alsebaai, Variety Village and the OWA Administration team for all your hard work towards the great success of the Canadian Sr. Championships 2023.

Canadian Masters Championships 2023

The OWA provided administrative support to Weightlifting Canada Haltérophilie Masters and to the host club Driven Midland in July. I was asked to organize the volunteers to officiate at this national event as this was hosted by an Ontario club. The scheduling and the organizing of a group of 28 technical officials were part of my responsibilities. Updating the officials with IWF TCRR changes were also part of the job. It was a pleasure to work alongside WCHM, WCHM President Mark Gomes, Driven's Joanne Jeffrey, her staff, and volunteers and the OWA Set Up Administration team.

Looking towards 2023/2024

Future Directions and Goals

1. Continue and support training and promotion of officials of all levels.
2. Encourage clubs to recruit their own members to become officials.
3. Monitor travel budget.
4. Update the OWA executive Board and OWA officials with new rules and regulations as they are amended by WCH and the IWF.
5. Planning and scheduling for officials at Ontario Winter Games 2024, Thunder Bay.
6. Planning, scheduling, and test preparation for officials at the Canadian Jr. Championships 2024, Scarborough.
7. Continue to support the OWA Board and to be a positive role model and representative within the OWA, WCH and the IWF.

Overall, it has been a successful year. I look forward to another term working with the great group of volunteers and staff among the OWA and its members.

