



May 1, 2019

The powerlifting world and the sports world in general are now well aware of the sensitive issue we are dealing with. I had made a short post on our Facebook page to let everyone know we are dealing with this issue and that a full response was forthcoming. This is my official response and I will use this to review the chain of events that have occurred.

On Friday April 26<sup>th</sup>, I received a phone call from a Meet Director letting me know that we might possibly have a Transgender lifter competing on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> at the USA Master Nationals. I asked if this lifter had stated anything to him in regards to being a Transgender lifter and the Meet Director indicated no. I asked what category was checked off on the entry form and he stated female. I informed him to let her lift as it would be more insulting to ask a lifter such a personal question, especially if the lifter did not offer to disclose this information.

On Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>, the lifter exceeded the current female World Records in this lifter's age and weight category. This automatically calls for Drug Testing protocol which takes place at the end of every event. The Drug Testing Coordinator for this event performed the drug test at which time it was revealed that this female lifter was actually a male in the process of becoming a Transgender female. Since the event at this time was over, awards had been distributed and the only lifters left were the ones which had been selected for drug testing. At this point the Drug Testing Coordinator and the Meet Director realized this was a serious and sensitive issue that the Federation President and the Board of Directors would need to address.

On Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>, the lifter made posts on Social Media thanking the Federation and proclaiming victory and in addition announced breaking the current World Records in their age and weight category. As you all know, this exploded and went viral overnight.

On Monday April 29<sup>th</sup>, I the President and the Board of Directors met to discuss this matter. As an aside, the Board of Directors has been working on a Transgender policy. This new policy had not been completed prior to this event occurring.

The Meet Director and I have received many emails, being both positive and negative, since this issue became public knowledge. There have been numerous posts on Social Media sites, as well as Google news, Fox News and about every other news media around the World. Everyone has commented on the posts that this lifter posted on their Instagram page. It is very unfortunate that the news media, social media and so many others have made comments before the true facts could be released.

**Facts:**

1. The lifter identifies as female, and so entered the contest (with no prior consultation with the Meet Director or (100% RAW officials). Our rules, and the basis of separating genders for competition, are based on physiological classification rather than identification. On the basis of all information presented to the Board of Directors for this particular case, the conclusion made, is that the correct physiological classification is male.
2. Since the lifter's gender classification for the purpose of our rules is not consistent with female, no female records will be broken by these lifts.
3. The lifter was uncontested during the event therefore no female lifters were denied a place finish. The lifter will be placed in a different category once the Transgender Division is introduced with a new policy.
4. Drug testing results have not been completed and will take about another week to come back from the lab. As a drug test failure invalidates the lifts, we will need to wait for the results of the drug tests to determine if the lifts can be counted at all under our current set of rules.



100% RAW Powerlifting Federation President

Paul Bossi