MINUTES OF THE WORLD DRUG FREE POWERLIFTING FEDERATION CONGRESS HELD BY TELECONFERENCE 24 JAN2026

Present	Wim Bakelant Neil Thomas Ann Thomas Tom Coyle Pat Reeves Simona Lapustea Rene Hamers Jean Claude Dheilly Sean Muir Indra Sud Ortega Michel Walter Cerrato	President Vice President General Secretary Ireland Representative UK Representative Sardinia Representative Netherlands Representative France Representative Australia Representative Belgium Representative Switzerland Representative Italy Representative
Apologies	Yulia Segal Alexsandr Pasha Mike Stagg Marcus Peshel Sergey Dermelev	General Secretary Moldova Representative (No access) America Representaitve Germany Representative Estonia representative

Opening Remarks	**Action**
1. The President opened the meeting and thanked everyone in attendance. **Item 1 – 2026 International Calendar** 2. The nominations for the 2026 international events were discussed in detail. Currently there was no nation submissions to host the European Full Power event that is normally held in Apr. It was decided this event would be joined with the World Full Power in Nov. 3. The USA was unable to attend the meeting but previously discuss with the president and agreed to host the World Single Lifts. An area for concern was the time of the event and the likelihood of impact to travel costs as the World Football Cup is due to be held in America over the same time. It was agreed that this event would be moved to an earlier date to avoid the additional costs. 4. All venues are pending approval and once complete the full dates will be displayed on the WDFPF website, all additional events approved as follows:	President

(I) **Apr 26:** European Full Power was postponed. (II) **May 2026:** World Single Lifts in USA (TBC) (III) **25-27 Sep 2026:** European Single Lifts in Antwerp (IV) **Nov 2026:** European & World Full Power in Ireland. (V) **Apr 27:** European Full Power – Open for bids (VI) **Jun 27:** World Single Lifts in Sardinia (VII) **Sep 27:** European Single Lifts – Open for bids (VIII) **Nov 27:** World Full Power in Australia, Gold Coast	
Item 2 – WDFPF Membership 5. The current membership costs of the WDFPF currently sits at €1 euro per athlete plus €100 euros national fee and has remained the same costs since 1988. It was discussed that this must raise to assist with the with financial challenges. 6. It was agreed that this will now raise to a cost of €2 euros per athlete plus €100 national fee at a maximum of €1000 for nations with over 500 members. Starting for the membership year of 2027.	Treasurer
Item 3 – Treasurer's report 7. Updated WDFPF financial accounts were discussed in line with point 6. 8. Insurance and any legal fees are still to be paid this financial year.	Vice President
Item 4 – Technical Report 9. The Refereeing situation was discussed as Nations have an obligation to provide International Referees for International events. All Nations representatives are invited to review the situation regarding referee status and a look at how to provide them for events as without referees all events are unable to proceed. With a view to developing pathways to get more international referees qualified.	
Item 5 – Drug Control Officer Report 10. The drug control officer informed the meeting that a total of 104 tests had been conducted so far this year with 3 positive cases which resulted in suspensions. Appeals and legal proceedings continue over additional discipline cases. Most of those tested were at WDFPF events and as such some nations are not meeting the WDFPF obligation of conducting 10% of testing at National level events. What this means is that records may not be honoured should these nations be unable to provide testing for 2026 events. 11. Details of those tested up to Jul 25 can be found on the WDFPF Drug Testing The remaining cases will be updated once any appeals process is complete.	Drugs Control Officer

12. A table will be provided at the end of this document to show which nations have conducted testing, If your Nation be live this information is incorrect then please contact the Drug Control Officer with the provided documentation.

Item 6 – Any Other Business & Ballot points

13. Moldova submitted a paper to the executive committee prior to the meeting. The following points was raised:

    Initiative No. 1: Sporting Integration and Equal Opportunities for Athletes from Regions with Limited Recognition:

14. **Transnistrian Moldavian Republic (TMR).** This was discussed in detail and informed that this was currently in the rule book, similar to that detailed for the UK when participating under Scotland, England, Northern Ireland & Wales and therefore as long as athletes are members of the WDFPF with a paid membership then they may join.

    DECISION: Approved with members needing to have joined WDFPF affiliate nation in order to be considered within results and qualification.

    Initiative No. 2: Dual Recognition System for Teen, Junior, and Masters Athletes in WDFPF Competitions. It was requested that athletes should receive awards for their category and the open. It was recognised as certain athletes would then have access to double recognition while others would not, thus not appropriate.

    DECISION: Rejected.

15. Switzerland submitted the following points for discussion.

16. **Initiative No. 1:** The request for a minimum amount of warm up platforms at events was discussed with a proposal of a minimum of 10 platforms. The rule book currently states that the required amount of warm up stations per competition platform is 2 and doubles as the number of competition platforms rise. Most nations expressed this would not be possible as they do not hold that number of platforms, nor do they have the required plates to support these numbers. Additional factors stated that venue cost, storage and work force to facilitate moving these items would hinder the set up for any event.

    DECISION: Rejected.

17. **Initiative No. 2:** A request for all athletes to receive a medal or trophy was at international events was proposed. The WDFPF rule book indicates a minimum requirement for 1-3 in each category, it also indicates that organisers can present additional trophies on their discretion. Moving on organisers are to provide a presentation of their own discretion for all lifters finishing outside of top 3.

    DECISION: Approved.

18. Italy provided observation for discussion.

19. **Initiative No 1:** A request to ensure that electronic payment is received 60 days prior to any international event taking place. This was discussed in detail and explained this would be difficult to impose as all nations are yet to qualify to attend events and this would prevent the 60 day proposal being enacted. Supplementary to this request was due to the financial costs placed on a host prior to the event taking place. It was noted that all event hosts are in the same position and this was not an isolated case.

20. The UK explained that the reason they requested cash payment on the day to prevent additional international transfer costs being associated. An immediate solution would be for the event hosts to provide a deadline and accept that individual athletes are responsible for making payment to the digital account which will prevent the additional transfer costs. The event host would need to be responsible for managing the accounts to ensure payment has been received and only notify nations of non-payments.

    DECISION: Rejected

21. **Discussion Point No. 2:** Raising the minimum Qualification Total for the Full Power. This will be considered if there is a proposal at the 2026 Congress in Ireland.

22. **Discussion Point No 3:** Website and competition software upgrades. This was discussed in relation to the WSL25. It was noted delay was down to having appropriate staff available to conduct presentations through the day and the ability of the printer to support the paper provided, ie to think. It was agreed that there was no requirement for software updates and mindfulness of certificates and printer capability. The website updates were recognised as occasionally delayed either by location of Gen Sec or the rule's concerning results when process is being undertaken.

Item 7 – Next Congress

23. The date of the next Congress will be held in person at the World Full Power in Nov 2026 in Ireland.

Mr Wim Backelant
WDFPF President

Distribution:

Annex A: Doping Information per Nation held for 2025.

All National Committee Members
Annex A: Drug Testing Information Held:

Annex A: Doping Information per Nation held for 2025.

Nation	Tests Conducted	Event
ADFPF	4	Nationals
BDFPA	22	Divisional and national
BDFPF/ NED	3	Nationals
FSFA	14	Nationals
GDFPF	9	Nationals
ITADFPF	5	Nationals
IRE	0	
SARDPF	0	
SWI	0	
MDFPF	0	
WDFPF	52	**Internationals*** this does not count towards nations individual testing policy as per nation agreement.