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**Subject: Visa Details - 2020 IWF Masters World Championship**

**Date:** 5 January 2020 at 7:03:01 AM NZDT

Dear Masters Chairpersons,

As you would have likely heard, the USA as the runners-up in the 2018 bidding process will be hosting the 2020 IWF Masters World Championship in Orlando, Florida, USA. We appreciate the trust of the Masters community, and of the IWF Masters. You can read the initial information here: <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Weightlifting/Features/2020/January/04/2020-IWF-World-Masters-Championship-comes-to-Orlando-USA>

We do apologize to nations located close to Germany for whom this might create more expense. While the 2019 edition was located in Canada, it might be important to remember that wherever in the globe the Masters Worlds are held, there are Masters who will have the largest expense of getting to that location. We are also sorry not to be visiting with our German friends, as we are aware many US Masters were very much looking forward to returning to Germany to compete. With all that said, we are excited to welcome you all to Orlando.

In order to allay fears about the ability to receive a visa for those nations that require a visa to the United States, please see the below process. Please reach out with any questions. USA Weightlifting and USA Weightlifting Masters Committee have successfully hosted the 2015 and 2017 IWF World Championship, 2019 IWF Youth World Championship, 2015 and 2019 Masters World Cup and several Pan American events and Olympic qualifiers and thus have extensive experience in visa requirements.

USA Weightlifting, in collaboration with the US Olympic & Paralympic Committee and US Department of State will do all we can to ensure everyone receives their visas in good time to join us in Orlando.

To do so, we need your early cooperation and participation, particularly if your country has had previous athletes overstay their visa or not return home from their visa or if your nation has no democratic ties with the United States at this time.

Please know that USA Weightlifting, the USA Weightlifting Masters Committee, US Olympic & Paralympic Committee and the IWF Masters welcomes Masters of all nations to Orlando

Here is the visa application page from the US Department of State:  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html>

**We strongly recommend to apply for visas as soon as possible.**

**Nations that may use ESTA (Visa Waiver Program):**

You may receive your ESTA here: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/> - please apply at least 72 hours before travel, but we recommend as soon as possible. Note, you will not be able to use an ESTA if you have a criminal record, and must apply for a visa.

**Nations eligible:** Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, United Kingdom.

**Rule 214b – Important**

The vast majority of US visa denials are due to reason 214b, this reason is that individuals MUST prove individually that they have significant ties to their home country and will return after the event. Good ways of proving this including proof of employment, family ties, housing ties or other significant signs you intend to return home after the IWF 2020 World Masters Championship.

**Visa invitation Letter Request**

We are happy to support letters of invitation for Masters athletes, their coaches and accompanying

persons. Please submit the following to [phil.andrews@usaweightlifting.org](mailto:phil.andrews@usaweightlifting.org) and we will be able to write the letter and notify the Embassy of our interest in the matter:

First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth	Role	Passport #	DS-160 #	Date and time of interview

**Current Visa waiting times:**

This is a current visa waiting time for US visa appointments worldwide:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html>

Again, we emphasize to apply for the visa as soon as possible and do not wait until the last moment.

**Administrative Processing**

One reason it is very important to apply early is that some visas after your appointment will be selected for additional screening, known as “Administrative Processing”, this can take up to 12 weeks for more complex cases. As Masters Athletes are often mid-career or late-career individuals with significant histories, you should plan for this rather than be unpleasantly surprised.

**Nations Requiring Special Action**

It is possible to get visas for the nations of Venezuela, Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria, Yemen, Libya and DPR Korea. These nations need special instructions and are invited to reach out as soon as possible so we can apply for the sports waiver necessary. Please note that over the course of the 3 IWF World level events individuals from each of these nations have attended in 2015, 2017 or 2019 (and in some cases, all 3).



Member, United States  
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