



Oceania Powerlifting Federation
GPO Box 2322
Melbourne, Victoria 3001
Australia

President: Robert Wilks
Ph: +61 418 366 416
Fax: +61 3 9670 4188
Email: rwilks@powerlifting.net.au

OCEANIA REPORT 2013/14

MEMBERS

As of 1 September 2014 the OPF has as members the following nations –

Australia
Fiji
Marshall Islands
Nauru
New Zealand
Niue
New Calendonia
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
Tahiti
Kiribati (Provisional)
Tuvalu (Provisional)

Over the last year;

- (i) the New Calendonia and Tahiti Federations have re-organized and strengthened themselves, following internal difficulties.
- (ii) Kiribati and Tuvalu have achieved Provisional IPF membership and will advance to full membership in 2014/15.
- (iii) Tonga has failed to renew as an OPF/IPF member and can be considered lapsed.





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ADMINISTRATION

The December 2013 General Meeting of the OPF held in Auckland, New Zealand set the OPF office bearers as:

President & IPF Board Member	Robert Wilks
Vice President	Julian Perry
Secretary	Pam Cutjar
Treasurer	Steve Lousich
Committee	Jason Wharton
Recordkeeper	Aitken Fruen
Referees Director	Pam Cutjar
WebMaster	Aitken Fruen

At that General Meeting the conduct of a combined Asian and Oceania Raw Championships in Melbourne in December 2014 was confirmed. It was also voted in principle to pursue, in due course, the concept of a restructuring of IPF Regions to include an Asia Pacific region, as separate from a possible Middle East Region. This was considered to represent a better balancing of nations across those areas of the globe.

COMPETITIONS

In December 2013 the Oceania Championships were held in Auckland New Zealand, in combination with the Commonwealth Championships. 461 lifters took part, a number of World Records were set, as were many Regional Records. Lifting was approximately three quarters in the Raw category and sessions ran from 7 am to 3 am on almost all days.





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In April 2014 a feature international event was held at the Australian Fitness and Health Expo in conjunction with the Australian Championships. Some 1000+ spectators saw the Raw Pacific Invitational 12 lifter event produce World Records from Ray Williams (USA) and others, with a total of 35,000 persons attending the Expo and being exposed to Powerlifting over 3 days. The Expo organizers reported favourably on the commercial value of Powerlifting to them and shortly after April an agreement was signed for a series of four international Raw events to be held at Expos in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane in 2014 to 2015.

FUTURE EVENTS

In October 2014 the Pacific Challenge feature event will be held as part of the Sydney Fitness Expo. This will, similar to the April Melbourne event, involve over 30,000 attendees. Krzysztof Wierzbicki (Poland) and Kimberley Walfordt (USA) will be attending and hopefully setting World Records.

Then in December 2014 Melbourne will host the largest event in Oceania and possibly IPF history, the combined Oceania Asian Raw Championships. An estimated 600 + lifters will take part over 7 days of lifting.

In 2015 feature events will continue with –

- 4 Fitness Expo showcase events to be held in Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane and Sydney. Subject to contractual arrangements with Diversified Communications, the owner of those events, there will be in each city the format of 2 to 3 full days of lifting with a feature international event within that.
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- The Pacific Games are the Olympics of Oceania, with Powerlifting confirmed in the programme for August 2015. In April 2014 Robert Wilks attended a conference of Games Sport delegates in Port Moresby, where it was clear that the Games faces challenges with time and facilities but Powerlifting has a secure venue.
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- In December 2015 the Commonwealth Championships will be held in Vancouver, Canada, with most Oceania nations eligible.





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ANTI-DOPING

Australia and New Zealand continue to have strong government anti-doping programmes. All athletes in those federations lodge whereabouts and are subject to in and out of competition testing. In 2013 to 2014 Australia has had three positive test cases, involving methyl hexamine from supplements, cannabis and an inadequate TUE. New Zealand had zero positives.

In Australia particularly, the subject of drugs in sports and in the fitness industry has remained headline news. Powerlifting Australia has throughout maintained its standing as an upholder of drug free sport.

The Pacific Island nations have remained resource-poor in implementing anti-doping programmes. Oceania competition-testing thus prioritizes those nations. Also some IPF out-of-competition testing has been conducted on Pacific athletes.

DEVELOPMENT

The Oceania region has experienced great growth in lifter participation in the last two years, that due to the opening up of Powerlifting to the fitness marketplace via the introduction of Raw. That in turn has stimulated commercial interest in Powerlifting, as suddenly there is a worthwhile population of spending athletes to pursue. Traditional Powerlifting suppliers such as Eleiko, SBD and Titan have remained involved and supportive of Oceania Powerlifting, but now larger fitness industry companies have indicated interest and the potential for our sport in this region is great.

ROBERT WILKS

OPF President





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