

OCEANIA REPORT 2016/2017

MEMBERS

As of 1 September 2015 the OPF member nations, subject to arrears, are –

Australia
Fiji
Kiribati
Nauru
New Zealand
Niue
New Caledonia
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Tahiti
Tuvalu

Note that --

- i. Fiji was ruled by the IPF Executive in 2017 to be a member nation of the IPF but under suspension; they have since had an internal revival and their IPF status should soon be clarified
- ii. Papua New Guinea has remained under NOC administration, but meetings are scheduled for October and December to hopefully restore independence for them
- iii. Tonga, having lapsed some years, has revived and is an applicant for OPF and IPF membership.

ADMINISTRATION

The Annual General Meeting of the OPF was held in Christchurch in December, with a strong attendance of nations. The office-bearers of the OPF were elected or affirmed as

President & IPF Board/EC Member

Robert Wilks

Vice President

Julian Perry

Secretary

Susan Maguire

Treasurer

Steve Lousich





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Committee
Record Keeper
Webmaster
Referees Director

Jason Wharton
John Myers
Vicki O'Brien
Steve Lousich.

Since that meeting Gary Williams has been appointed Media Officer.

EVENTS

Activity continued apace in the Oceania Region in 2016 to 2017 –

- i. the 2016 Asia Oceania Championships were held in Christchurch, New Zealand from 6th to 10th December. Nearly 300 lifters took part, that after entries were decimated by visa problems for many nations. Nevertheless there was high standard, spirited lifting, led by Jeza Uepa's 455kg (1000lb) Squat and Liz Craven's 418.5 kg 52kg Total World Record
- ii. the various Fitness Shows continued to put Powerlifting before huge live and on-line audiences. The main event was in April in Sydney at the new International Convention Centre and 40,000 attendees saw World Records come from Brett Gibbs, Kevin Gray and Deamo Baguga from Oceania nations, with visiting US lifter Dave Ricks setting multiple records
- iii. at World events Oceania had Australia, Nauru and New Zealand to the fore. The World Championships in Minsk produced medals for Brett Gibbs (NZ), Liz Craven (Australia) and Jeza Uepa (Nauru). Australia had one of the largest teams at the Championships, with many Junior and Masters medallists. Unfortunately some of the Pacific nations were not able to enter, for reasons that are not completely clear.

OPF/IPF MATTERS

In 2016 & 2017 the OPF and related parties have pursued legal actions against the IPF which at the present time are pending in the Luxemburg Courts. In its submissions the IPF has not denied the existence of breaches by it under Luxemburg law, particularly relating to its standing as a corporate entity. Also the OPF has repeatedly nominated Robert Wilks as the Oceania member of the IPF EC, the EC have not taken up those nominations and also at the 2016 IPF Congress agitated for the non-acceptance of the nomination; since that General Assembly the OPF has again a number of times nominated Robert Wilks as the Oceania EC Member, whilst there remains no valid reason for that nomination to not be accepted. This has denied the OPF a voice on the IPF Executive, with the consequence of capricious actions against the OPF, including –



- moving the 2017 Asia/Oceania Championships to the obviously unviable location of Sri Lanka, without any consultation or notice to the OPF or the originally agreed host nation
- maintenance of a Technical Rule long since ruled invalid by the Appeals Committee, re Referees and Jury members from 3 nations being required for Records, a “rule” which devastates events in the small Oceania Region
- the purported imposition of an extra EUR2000 OCT anti-doping fee over and above the fee mandated by the IPF General Assembly
- denying the OPF the standard Eleiko development set provided to all nations, for greatly need use at the Oceania Championships.

These and other matters are being pursued by the OPF through all appropriate channels, most notably the Courts in Luxemburg.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The themes of the last few years have continued in Oceania. The opening up of the sport via Raw lifting has produced demand which can barely be coped with in Australia and New Zealand and that demand continues to accelerate. In the Pacific Islands, the story is similar, but distance and finances have muted progress in some of those nations.

From here Oceania looks forward to the December 2017 Oceania Championships plus Pacific Invitational to be held in Singapore. Into 2018 the Sydney Fitness Show, now actually a division of FIBO, will be bigger than ever, following other late 2017 shows in Melbourne and Brisbane. Nauru and Samoa are also bidding for major events in 2018.

However the big event in the Oceania region is the multi-sport Pacific Games, held each four years. The 2019 Games was scheduled for Tonga, but that nation withdrew and Samoa has now taken over. We are confident that Powerlifting will be included in the Games again and look forward to the popular and political exposure that will bring. OPF President Robert Wilks has been appointed as the Technical Delegate for the Games.

Robert Wilks
OPF President

