

Comments received on proposed changes to competition policy

Comments from WC:

In response to the proposed changes, the following:

1. Why the change in age groups? The IWF recognises three age groups i.e. Youth(13-17), Juniors(15-20) and seniors 21 and older. It is our recommendation that the current age groups should remain as is. ie 14. We can include the ages of 12 and 10 years but not 8 years. Kids are generally too playful at this age and require close supervision.
2. The u/14 age group is a locally established age group which provides the athletes a bit more time to adjust in the Youth category which starts at 13 years of age. This is acceptable because there are kids at the age of 13 who are biologically more mature than others.
3. A fifteen-year athlete should be ready to enter in the Youth at any rate, therefore no special provision should be made for them. Talented fifteen-year-old athletes can compete in Youth and Seniors. They must be in their sixteenth year to compete in the Seniors though.

Comments from Gauteng:

I have no problem with the proposed additional age groups because there is a big difference between an 8 year old and a 12 or 13 year old. My question only is: are we at the right stage in our development to make these changes? As is we do not have a lot of lifters under the age of 13 competing so will this not create a lot of extra work for competition organisers for very few participants? Will this encourage participation in the sport at a younger age?