

Saturday, December 24, 2011 – Miami, Florida, USA

Dear Friends of IBSA Powerlifting!

I would like to begin by first thanking each of the IBSA Member Federation for their support of IBSA Blind Powerlifting over the past four years. Your work, thus far, has been nothing less than exceptional. Collectively, as an organization we have made great strides in advancing the efforts of blind and visually impaired powerlifting on every continent, to the point that we're now the fastest growing sport in the IBSA! Additionally, we're now moving toward signing a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the IPC. This memorandum will strategically focus on having IBSA Powerlifting recognized, in the not to distance future, as an IPC Paralympic Sport. During the World Championships in Orlando, a special meeting will be held with everyone to discuss the steps IBSA Powerlifting will be taking to make this dream, in fact, a reality.

Second, I'm sending a personal invitation to each IBSA Member Federation to attend the **10th Annual IBSA World Powerlifting and Bench Press Championships** that will take place at the Hyatt – Regency Hotel, located at the Orlando International Airport, in **Orlando, Florida** on July 1 – 9, 2012. I have attached the official invitation for your review. Please begin now to prepare your athletes for this championship, which shall be the best to date!

Third, I have placed this year's World Championship in a location with the highest degree of convenience for the athletes, and their family members, especially taking into consideration those that may have a difficult travel schedules getting to the USA. Please take note, the Hyatt Regency Hotel is **[connected]** directly to the Orlando International Airport and is rated four stars. Also, the Hyatt Hotel is located just 15 minutes away from ALL of the famous Disney World theme park attractions. Specially priced tickets for the IBSA Powerlifting Group will be provided before and during the championship.

Of course, the contest equipment for the championship will be of an international caliber and will include five (5) ER/Eleiko Squat-bench press racks and five [5] sets of calibrated Ivanko and Eleiko weights/bars. A computerized scoring system will be used to direct and calculate the individual and team scoring for the competition. WADA Drug-testing will of course be in place. Directly after the WADA Seminar, a specialized powerlifting training seminar will be held for all coaches and athletes. The event will be LIVE Streamed via the internet world-wide.

Lastly, as an important reminder, please make a note of the deadlines for your contest nomination forms and hotel reservations. The Preliminary Nomination Form is due May 01, 2012, with the Final Nomination Form being due on June 01, 2012.

To close, thank you once more for your support, and let's make 2012 the best year ever for IBSA Powerlifting-- I look forward to seeing you in Orlando!!

Sincere and kind regards,

Robert H. Keller

Secretary General

IBSA Powerlifting

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