



August 11, 2021

Judge Mark Williams, SC

Mr. Scott Grant, IPF Antidoping Secretariat

Gentlemen,

As I stated in my earlier correspondence, and as representative of USA Powerlifting, please find our position with regard to participation in arbitration.

USA Powerlifting does not intend to participate in arbitration with the IPF as regards the charges as stated in President Parage's letter of July 24, 2021. We have stated our objections to Mr. Wenzel's participation and reiterate those here. Mr. Wenzel took part in negotiations with the IPF through our attorney starting in 2018. He was party to off-the-record communication with our counsel and some of those conversations are reflected in the charging document. His firsthand knowledge of the structure and inner workings of USA Powerlifting, and the accommodations that have been made to date to accommodate the IPF put him in a position to exercise undue influence in these proceedings. However, that is not the sole reason for our decision to forego further arguments related to this issue.

USA Powerlifting has been engaged in negotiations with the IPF since the original cease and desist letter of November 2018. We proposed and it appeared at the time to be a workable solution that USA Powerlifting meet the third-party testing requirements for the Arnold Sports Festival and our National events. We complied and worked with both USADA and PWC for these events. Rather than being transparent, the IPF rules governing these processes continue to change. This renders any action other than complete agreement with the IPF in all aspects of antidoping, as well as a surrender of autonomy with regard to input and implementation of antidoping efforts in the United States moot. We do not accept the actions of the IPF as either supporting clean sport at every level, nor do we consent to external administration of our antidoping efforts, which notably comes at a substantial cost and with profoundly reduced testing. As you know, there are significant doping problems in the United States; the only way to keep our platforms clean is testing at all levels. Without such testing, there is no deterrent to those who cheat.

These matters appear unresolvable, and as the parties are aware, arbitration is only possible if the parties agree to discuss matters openly and compromise. These proceedings are only directed at rendering a judgment consistent with the charging documents. No other outcome is possible.

That being said, USA Powerlifting and the IPF have fundamentally different values. USA Powerlifting formed 40-years ago as the American Drug Free Association (*dba USA Powerlifting® since 1996*) because of the rampant drug use in powerlifting. We initiated drug testing on our own initiative before the IPF,

1120 Huffman Rd, Ste 24 #223, Anchorage, AK 99515

260.248.4889 F: 260.248.4879

[nationaloffice@usapowerlifting.com](mailto:nationaloffice@usapowerlifting.com)





and before meaningful and effective testing was employed in the Olympic sports. We did so prior to joining the IPF and were in fact a model they followed in efforts to address doping following our joining the IPF in 1997. The IPF is now more concerned with appeasing the IOC and WADA and having the appearance of testing rather than keeping the sport clean through adequate testing. Their statement that NO testing is required to be compliant with the IPF Antidoping Rules and WADA guidelines reflects this. In USA Powerlifting, we value fairness at every level of sport, effectiveness based on our decades of experience, and with the trust of both our athletes, and in our administrators. The IPF embraces externally imposed guidelines in the pursuit of IOC recognition. Their sacrifice of clean sport by performing minimal testing, lack of transparency of their antidoping program does not meet USA Powerlifting's anti-doping standards. While they appear WADA Code compliant on paper, the actual performance of drug testing, the real core of anti-doping is lacking, with many countries (approximately 40%) never having performed any testing. In other words, the IPF is no longer a meaningfully drug tested federation. We believe that this both sacrifices clean sport, and another generation of athletes who will labor under an administration that is unable to effectively control doping internationally.

Accordingly, and in consultation with counsel, no solution appears possible other than a separation of our respective organizations. That appears to be the objective of the charging documents anyway. While we have enjoyed participation internationally, USA Powerlifting will not do so at the cost of our non-elite membership, our values, our clean platform, and our autonomy.

We anticipate the arbitrator will render a decision based on the information available. Our only hope is that the athletes who have been duly nominated for international competition during 2021 be allowed to participate as independents or through some other mechanism. They should not bear the consequences of this administrative dispute.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Maile".

Lawrence J. Maile, Ph.D., President, for the USA Powerlifting Executive Committee

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