



# The USA Weightlifting Funding System

*A method to support our elite athletes*

2020-2024

Effective June 1, 2020

Updated January 31, 2022

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** It is anticipated that these funding procedures will require significant and immediate review due to changes in the Olympic qualifying process, which will be made in a timely manner as possible after such a procedure is made public by the IWF/IOC/PAWF.

**USA Weightlifting cannot be held responsible for any move of an international event on which an individual may have been relying on for selection, qualification or funding.**

## **USA Weightlifting**

Business Hours: Monday through Friday – 8:00AM to 5:00PM (MT)

### **Address**

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### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the USA Weightlifting Funding System is to provide funding to athletes for the specific purpose of supporting their training and international competition expenses as an elite athlete. This supports USA Weightlifting's goal to support the training of international level athletes who are likely to represent USA Weightlifting in the Olympic Games

### **Budget:**

The stipend system is based on a budget of \$480,000. This amount will be adjusted yearly based on USA Weightlifting's financial status. This amount represents amongst the largest stipend Program in the U.S. Olympic movement.

USA Weightlifting also has a limited budget with regard to competitions. USA Weightlifting must prioritize the primary competition of the quadrennial (the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris), and therefore prioritize qualification for that event.

### **Budget Protection**

USA Weightlifting must be responsible to control its budget and therefore ensure it meets its obligations. Therefore, USA Weightlifting will guarantee the funding of "Medal" level athletes, and Youth & Junior athletes who are showing data ahead of Olympic medalists (within 2 years of their age, and their effective bodyweight category). The remainder of budget will be evaluated on a rolling monthly basis and amounts adjusted accordingly to the remaining stipend recipients.

### **Philosophy on USA Weightlifting's Stipend system:**

USA Weightlifting primarily targets its stipend program at those athletes most likely to participate at the 2024 Olympic Games, and those athletes most likely to win international medals at key IWF and PAWF events, especially those likely to compete at the 2023 Pan American Games, 2024 Olympic Games and 2028 Olympic Games.

### **Minimum Qualifications:**

In order to earn funding you must meet the following minimum requirements:

- **You must be a citizen of the United States of America**

Athletes must be citizens of the United States to be eligible to compete for Team USA. If dual citizenship is held, your sport nationality must be registered as the United States with the IWF or other applicable body.

- **You must have been in the United States Anti-Doping (USADA) Random Testing Pool (RTP) for 6 months.**

If you have not made yourself available for USADA's RTP, please do so immediately. USA Weightlifting has taken a stand for a doping free sport and we require all our international athletes to have been available for testing a minimum of 6 months prior to competing in any international competition (RTP details can be found in the Appendix A).

- **Other Requirements**

- Athlete must be current members of USA Weightlifting and in good standing in order to compete. Good standing means a current USA Weightlifting membership in good standing.
- Athletes must agree to the USA Weightlifting Funding Agreement
- Athletes must continue to show their training through their readiness folder provided by USA Weightlifting to ensure the athlete is training through the period. A minimum expectation is once per 3 weeks when currently receiving a stipend, and once per week when named for an international competition.
- For personal coaches to receive funding, they must have been the personal coach of the athlete for a minimum of one calendar year before the event in question, according to the USA Weightlifting membership system.

### **USA Weightlifting Bonus Payments to Athletes and Coaches**

Any payment made is in addition to USOPC Operation Gold payments. Bonus to be paid 70% athlete, 30% personal coach, based upon the numbers below as a 100% number (gross).

Payments of bonus 30% to personal coaches are subject to terms stated within, and are only applicable to these bonuses and not those of the USOPC. The personal coach may reject the bonus in favor of the athlete in writing, signed by both the athlete and personal coach.

### **IWF World Records**

	Youth World Record	Junior World Record	Senior World Record
Snatch	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$5,000
Clean & Jerk	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$5,000
Total	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$5,000

Maximum payment per annum per athlete (world record) - \$15,000 (gross)

### **Medal Bonus Payments – Medals in the total only**

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Olympic Games	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
Pan American Games	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,500
Pan Am Champ.	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,500
IWF Jnr Worlds	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,500

### **Placement Bonus – IWF World Championships 2022 & 2023. 50% bonus applicable for 2021**

Placement (Total)	Bonus Payment	Bonus (Non-OG wt category)
Gold	\$10,000	\$10,000
Silver	\$7,500	\$5,000
Bronze	\$5,000	\$2,500
4th	\$1,500	\$1,000
5th	\$1,000	\$500
6th	\$500	\$250

### **Team Bonuses – Olympic Games (payments split equally amongst athletes/personal coaches)**

Number of Medals	Athlete Bonus Payment	Coach Bonus Payment
5+	\$50,000	\$50,000
4	\$20,000	\$20,000
3	\$10,000	\$10,000

## **Competition Funding**

### **Protected Competition Funding – Athletes**

#### ***IWF World Championships (Snr)***

#### ***Pan American Championships (Snr)***

For the IWF World Championships and Pan American Championships, USA Weightlifting will fund the registration/entry fees, visa, flight, housing and food fees for ten athletes per gender or the maximum entries permitted by the IWF or PAWF as appropriate.

### United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) Managed Competitions

The following competitions are funded and managed by the USOPC and are excluded from this funding policy. Selection documents for these events are also separate and are owned by the USOPC, athletes are funded for these:

- Olympic Games
- Youth Olympic Games
- Junior Pan American Games
- Pan American Games

### **Protected Funding subject to minimum standard – Athletes**

#### ***IWF Junior World Championships***

The minimum standard for funding to the IWF Junior World Championships is as follows: Equivalent to the 10<sup>th</sup> place (or last available placing) average for the weight category, 2019 to the year preceding the championship.

#### ***IWF Youth World Championships***

The minimum standard for funding to the IWF Youth World Championships is as follows: Equivalent to the 10<sup>th</sup> place (or last available placing) average for the category 2019 to the year preceding the championship.

#### ***Pan American Junior Championships***

The minimum for funding the Pan American Junior Championships is as follows: Equivalent to the silver medal total average for the category 2019 to the year preceding the championship.

#### ***Pan American Youth Championships***

The minimum standard for funding to the Pan American Youth Championships is as follows: Equivalent to the silver medal total average for the category 2019 to the year preceding the championship.

**IMPORTANT:** Should an athlete self-fund to a competition and win the Gold medal, in total, at that competition, the athlete will be reimbursed their competition fees.

## **Competition Coach Funding**

USA Weightlifting strongly recognizes the contribution of the personal coach to the performance of the athlete.

USA Weightlifting will provide competition funding to the personal coach of any athlete who meets one or more of the following criteria. To receive such funding the coach must have been the personal coach of the athlete for a minimum of one calendar year prior to the event in question:

- *IWF World Championships*  
Where the athlete has an international total within the last 12 months that exceeds 15<sup>th</sup> place for Olympic categories or 10<sup>th</sup> place for Non-Olympic categories (using the highest total for that place 2018 to today), and the coach has been the coach of the athlete for 12 months or more before said total was made.
- *IWF Junior & Youth World Championships*  
Where the athlete has an international total that exceeds 5<sup>th</sup> place (using the highest total for the place 2019 to today), and the coach has been the coach of the athlete for 12 months or more before said total was made.
- USA Weightlifting will also refund self-funded coaches who self-fund and their athlete:
  - Wins a medal at the IWF World Championships, IWF Junior World Championships, IWF Youth World Championships or Pan American Championships (Snr)
  - Finishes top 8 at the IWF World Championships (Snr)
  - Pan American Champion at Youth or Junior level

### **Non-Protected Competition Funding**

The remainder of competition funding will be attached to the athlete as opposed to the competition.

This means that the athlete (in consultation with USA Weightlifting Performance Staff and their personal coach) will determine the most appropriate route with the goal of the Olympic Games qualification. For example, if an athlete at Gold Level wishes to attend the World University Championships, for reasons of qualification for the Olympic Games – USA Weightlifting will fund this endeavor despite not funding the whole team. See below for details.

### **Self-Funding to Competitions**

In the event that an athlete wishes to attend a self-funded event that has been agreed that USA Weightlifting will attend, an athlete will be able to self-fund. In this instance, USA Weightlifting will offer that opportunity exclusively for the ten athletes and two reserves who would make up the full team for that competition, and meet the selection criteria.

### **Olympic Qualification Refund Clause**

In the event an athlete qualifies and subsequently competes in the 2024 Olympic Games, and has self-funded to an event which is accounted for in the Final IWF Absolute Ranking for the Olympic Games, USA Weightlifting will refund competition costs (visa, flights, accommodation, food and registration/fees) to the athlete upon production of receipts. In the event the United

States is in the position to take a choice between five or more athletes, all five (or more) are credited with the “refund” clause.

**Definition of Competition Funding**

Competition funding in the above is defined as direct expenses associated with competition (flight, visa, registration/entry, accommodation and food costs). Additional competition funding is available on agreement with USA Weightlifting performance staff and with agreement of the USA Weightlifting Funding Review Panel.

## **Direct Athlete Support Stipend (DAS)**

### **Payment Periods**

Stipend funding will be paid on the first working day of each month, except for January at which time stipend funding will be paid on the second working day of the month.

### **Qualifying periods**

Payment level periods are for six months, re-calculated at the end of the month of the Pan American Championships and the IWF World Championships.

### **Definition of Direct Athlete Support stipend payments**

A Direct Athlete Support stipend payment is designed to support expenses related to training, competition and the maintenance of a performance environment commensurate with an elite athlete.

### **Definition of Athlete Support Project payments**

Athlete Support Project payments are designed to pay for performance enhancement projects for the athlete. For example, massage, sport psychology, sport medicine or other special projects agreed between the athlete, personal coach and USA Weightlifting performance staff. Funding above the below amounts is available pending review of USA Weightlifting Funding Review Panel.

### **Injury Clause**

If an athlete is injured, as defined by the USA Weightlifting Sports Medicine Chair, their funding will continue for the recovery period defined by the Sports Medicine Chair. This clause also applies in the case of an athlete who is pregnant.

Funding may only be removed after a unanimous vote of the Funding Review Panel and the opportunity for the athlete to have a hearing before that group. Additionally, a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors is required.

### **Making a total, international Competition requirement**

Totals will be judged from totals made in IWF Gold, Silver and Bronze competitions only (or equivalent in a Non-Olympic qualification period year). Where the total surpasses/ties (where relevant) the achievement the athlete will be credited with that achievement

### **Expectations of USA Weightlifting and of Funded athlete/coaches**

Athletes and coaches should expect cooperation and communication to and from USA Weightlifting's performance team, and an environment/culture designed to support their performance.

USA Weightlifting athletes and coaches are highly encouraged to reach out to the USA Weightlifting performance team and the USA Weightlifting CEO on a regular basis to discuss



performance issues and questions that might arise. Athletes and coaches are welcome to give feedback on how USA Weightlifting can better support an athlete, where that athlete is either performing at IWF Gold and Silver events and/or data shows they will likely do so in the future.

**Maximum Number of Athletes**

A maximum of two athletes per bodyweight category will be funded at any one time, except for Olympic Games eligible senior athlete within 3Kg of the second athlete. Youth categories are grouped with their closest senior category.

**Payment of Personal Coaches**

Athletes may pay their personal coaches, subject to said coach having been their coach of record for a minimum of twelve months in advance of the championships in which their total was achieved. Payments will be deducted from the Athlete Support Project budget allocated to the athlete and may total a maximum of \$150 per month, and may not exceed the regular payment of that coach by an athlete in their club or program.

## **Funding Review and Budget Protection**

### **USA Weightlifting Funding Review Panel**

The USA Weightlifting Funding Review Panel will have final jurisdiction over any clarification requirement.

The USA Weightlifting Funding Review Panel consists of:

- USA Weightlifting Chief Executive Officer
- USA Weightlifting representative to the USOPC Athlete Advisory Council (AAC)
- USA Weightlifting alternate representative to the USOPC AAC
- An individual who meets the criteria of Independent Director, who holds a CPA qualification
- An individual who meets the criteria of Independent Director, who is licensed to practice law in U.S. jurisdiction
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Any individual who has a conflict of interest in considering a specific athlete or coach case (including, but not limited to, being from the same club, being the athlete of or coach of, being in the same body weight category), must recuse themselves from that discussion and any vote.

The USA Weightlifting Nominating & Governance Committee will appoint the two independent members. Such independent members may be an independent member of any other committee. Should they at any stage no longer meet the criteria for independence, they will be immediately removed without hearing. Appointments are reviewed annually and may serve for four years maximum.

### **Right to Adjust & Review**

In order to ensure USA Weightlifting is responsible with its budget, USA Weightlifting reserves the right to adjust this document at the end of each calendar year with no less than three months' notice given to athletes currently enrolled in the program and all senior athletes in the domestic top ten of their category via email listed in their membership profile, and via [usaweightlifting.org](http://usaweightlifting.org).

Any adjustment to this document must carry the simple majority consent of the USA Weightlifting Athlete Advisory Council and the simple majority consent of the USA Weightlifting Board of Directors.

USA Weightlifting also has the right to review in the event of a change in the IWF Technical Rules and Regulations or a change in the Olympic qualifying procedures. In this instance, any change will be published within thirty days of the publication by the IWF and may be effective immediately.

### **Budget Maximum and Protection of Medal Athletes**

USA Weightlifting must be responsible to control its budget and therefore ensure it meets its obligations. Therefore, USA Weightlifting will guarantee the funding of "Medal" level athletes and youth/junior athletes who are showing data ahead of Olympic medalists (within two years

of their age, and their effective body weight category). The remainder of budget will be evaluated on a rolling monthly basis and amounts adjusted accordingly to the remaining stipend recipients, prioritized in Gold, Silver, Bronze order. The budget will be reviewed every three months and athletes notified accordingly.

## Medal Level

Funding Program Level	Medal Level
DAS USA Weightlifting Stipend	\$3,500 per month (protected)
Funding for IWF Gold/Silver Competitions	Unlimited
Funding for Bronze Competitions	2 per year
Elite Athlete Planned Funding	\$10,000 per year maximum
USOPC EAHI	Top Priority*
Personal Coach** Funding for Gold/Silver Competitions	Always Funded
Personal Coach** Funding for Bronze Competitions	Always Funded

### **Definition**

The medal level is designed to specifically support athletes who are most likely to **medal** at the Olympic Games and/or IWF World Championships.

### **Qualification Criteria**

Athletes can achieve Medal funding status through any one or more of the following criteria:

- A medal at the IWF World Championships (Snr) in any category
- An international total which exceeds the total of a medal in the 2020 Olympic Games

Weight Class	Lowest medal total (must exceed to achieve medal funding)
W49Kg	194
W55Kg	213
W59Kg	214
W64Kg	230
W76Kg	245
W87Kg	256
W87+Kg	282
M61Kg	294
M67Kg	322
M73Kg	342
M81Kg	365
M96Kg	387
M109Kg	410
M109+Kg	424

- An international total which exceeds the highest bronze medal total from the bodyweight category in the 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023 World Championships (Snr), in their bodyweight category.

BW Category	Total to Exceed

W45Kg	169 (2021)
W49Kg	204 (2019)
W55Kg	214 (2019)
W59Kg	233 (2019)
W64Kg	240 (2019)
W71Kg	242 (2018)
W76Kg	259 (2018)
W81Kg	245 (2019)
W87Kg	254 (2018)
W87+Kg	311 (2019)
M55Kg	265 (2019)
M61Kg	308 (2018)
M67Kg	330 (2019)
M73Kg	346 (2019)
M81Kg	372 (2018)
M89Kg	371 (2019)
M96Kg	394 (2019)
M102Kg	394 (2019)
M109Kg	420 (2019)
M109+Kg	448 (2021)

- As of the calculation date in the top 4 in an Olympic bodyweight category according to the Olympic ranking on the IWF website, 1 per nation and removing any athlete or nation who is provisionally suspended for the Olympic Games, when equalized to the same amount of competitions (by averaging ROBI ranking scores back to 1 meet).  
*\*If there is no current Olympic qualification, the IWF absolute ranking will apply with the same guidelines. The numbers for the IWF absolute ranking can be found below (as of 01/26/22) these ranking numbers will be updated every 6 months.*
- Set a world record of any age group in the 12 months to the qualifying period.

*Additionally, athletes receiving this funding level must continue to be eligible to represent the United States in the upcoming Olympic Games by way of a silver or Gold event, including any IWF, USADA, USOPC or USA Weightlifting requirements to continue eligibility. Athlete who fulfill this performance criteria but are not eligible for the Olympic Games will be assessed at Bronze Level.*

*\*Where USOPC EAHF is limited by the USOPC, the highest ranked athlete in accordance with the IWF Absolute Ranking will be given first priority. If the IWF Absolute Ranking is yet to be formed, the athlete with the highest rank by total in the body weight category.*

*\*\*One personal coach is considered per athlete, exclusively at the athlete's choice. Such a personal coach must have a minimum of USA Weightlifting Level 1, SafeSport certification, background check and USADA Coaches Advantage Certification. The personal coach selected by the athlete is intended to be the coach materially involved with their program, training and competition preparation, typically regarded as the coach of record in their USA Weightlifting membership.*

## Gold Level

Funding Program Level	Gold Level
DAS USA Weightlifting Stipend	\$1,750* per month
Funding for IWF Gold/Silver Competitions	3 per year
Funding for Bronze Competitions	1 per year
Elite Athlete Planned Funding	\$5,000 per year
USOPC EAHI	2 <sup>nd</sup> priority**
Personal Coach*** Funding for Gold/Silver Competitions	1 per year
Personal Coach*** Funding for Bronze Competitions	N/A

### **Definition**

The Gold level is designed to specifically support athletes who are most likely to **qualify** for the Olympic Games.

### **Qualification Criteria**

Athletes can achieve Gold Level status through any one or more of the following criteria:

- Exceeds the highest 8<sup>th</sup> place total (4<sup>th</sup> for Non-Olympic weight categories) of the 2018-2023 IWF World Championships (Snr) at an IWF World Championships (Snr), Pan American Championships (Snr), Pan American Games (Snr) or Olympic Games

BW Category	Total to Exceed
W45Kg	164 (2021)
W49Kg	183 (2019)
W55Kg	206 (2018)
W59Kg	215 (2019)
W64Kg	223 (2018)
W71Kg	240 (2018)
W76Kg	230 (2019)
W81Kg	244 (2019)
W87Kg	233 (2018)
W87+Kg	276 (2019)
M55Kg	263 (2019)
M61Kg	292 (2018)
M67Kg	313 (2019)
M73Kg	337 (2018)
M81Kg	355 (2019)
M89Kg	370 (2019)
M96Kg	379 (2018)
M102Kg	393 (2019)
M109Kg	394 (2019)
M109+Kg	422 (2019)

- Currently in the Top eight in an Olympic bodyweight category according to the Olympic ranking on the IWF website, 1 per nation and removing any athlete or nation who is provisionally suspended for the Olympic Games, when equalized to the same amount of competitions (by averaging all ROBI ranking scores back to 1 meet).
  - o For Non-Olympic categories, the ROBI score applied to the ranking is within the Top 8, with the same regulations when applied to the Olympic category above (unless the athlete has 2 eligibility in another category).

*\*If there is no current Olympic qualification, the IWF absolute ranking will apply with the same guidelines. The numbers for the IWF absolute ranking can be found below (as of 01/26/22) these ranking numbers will be updated every 6 months.*
- The top Pan American in the Olympic ranking list in the Olympic category, 1 per nation and removing any athlete or nation who is provisionally suspended for the Olympic Games outside of the top eight.
- IWF Junior World Champion in the last twelve months to the qualification period.
- Actual qualification for the Olympic Games (stipend valid through the end of the calendar year). In the event an athlete qualifies for the Games who is Silver or Bronze level (or lower), the difference will be backdated to the beginning of the Olympic year.

*Additionally, athletes receiving this funding level must continue to be eligible to represent the United States in the upcoming Olympic Games by way of a silver or Gold event, including any IWF, USADA, USOPC or USA Weightlifting requirements to continue eligibility. Athlete who fulfill this performance criteria but are not eligible for the Olympic Games will be assessed at Bronze Level.*

*\*Amount could change pending budget review*

*\*\* Where USOPC EAHI is limited by the USOPC, the highest ranked athlete in accordance with the IWF Absolute Ranking will be given first priority. If the IWF Absolute Ranking is yet to be formed, the athlete with the highest rank by total in the body weight category.*

*\*\*\* One personal coach is considered per athlete, exclusively at the athlete's choice. Such a personal coach must have a minimum of USA Weightlifting Level 1, SafeSport certification, background check and USADA Coaches Advantage Certification. The personal coach selected by the athlete is intended to be the coach materially involved with their program, training and competition preparation, typically regarded as the coach of record in their USA Weightlifting membership.*



## Silver Level

<b>Funding Program Level</b>	<b>Silver Level</b>
DAS USA Weightlifting Stipend	\$1,000* per month
Funding for IWF Gold/Silver Competitions	3 per year
Funding for Bronze Competitions	1 per year
Elite Athlete Planned Funding	\$3,000 per year
USOPC EAHl	3 <sup>rd</sup> priority**
Personal Coach*** Funding for Gold/Silver Competitions	N/A
Personal Coach*** Funding for Bronze Competitions	N/A

### **Definition**

The Silver level is designed to specifically support athletes who have an **opportunity to qualify** for the Olympic Games and/or are likely to be a member of Team USA for the IWF World Championships (Snr) that year.

### **Qualification Criteria**

Athletes can achieve Silver level status through any one or more of the following criteria:

- IWF Youth World Champion in the preceding 12 months to the qualification window.
  
- Currently in the Top 15 in an Olympic bodyweight category according to the Olympic ranking on the IWF website, 1 per nation and removing any athlete or nation who is provisionally suspended for the Olympic Games at the time of the stipend assessment, when equalized to the same amount of competitions (by averaging all ROBI ranking scores back to 1 meet).
  - o For Non-Olympic categories, the athlete must be in the Top 15 in the Olympic bodyweight category when applied to the category above, unless they have two eligible competitions in a different Olympic category.

*\*If there is no current Olympic qualification, the IWF absolute ranking will apply with the same guidelines. The numbers for the IWF absolute ranking can be found below (as of 01/26/22) these ranking numbers for the absolute ranking will be updated every 6 months.*

*Additionally, athletes receiving this funding level must continue to be eligible to represent the United States in the upcoming Olympic Games by way of a silver or Gold event, including any IWF, USADA, USOPC or USA Weightlifting requirements to continue eligibility. Athlete who fulfil this performance criteria but are not eligible for the Olympic Games will be assessed at Bronze Level.*

*\*Amount could change pending budget review*

*\*\* Where USOPC EAH1 is limited by the USOPC, the highest ranked athlete in accordance with the IWF Absolute Ranking will be given first priority. If the IWF Absolute Ranking is yet to be formed, the athlete with the highest rank by total in the body weight category.*

*\*\*\* One personal coach is considered per athlete, exclusively at the athlete's choice. Such a personal coach must have a minimum of USA Weightlifting Level 1, SafeSport certification, background check and USADA Coaches Advantage Certification. The personal coach selected by the athlete is intended to be the coach materially involved with their program, training and competition preparation, typically regarded as the coach of record in their USA Weightlifting membership.*

## Bronze Level

<b>Funding Program Level</b>	<b>Bronze Level</b>
DAS USA Weightlifting Stipend	\$500* per month
Funding for IWF Gold/Silver Competitions	1 per year
Funding for Bronze Competitions	1 per year
Elite Athlete Planned Funding	\$1,000 per year
USOPC EAH	4 <sup>th</sup> priority**
Personal Coach*** Funding for Gold/Silver Competitions	N/A
Personal Coach*** Funding for Bronze Competitions	N/A

### ***Definition***

The Bronze level is designed to specifically support athletes who are development athletes, with prospects of competing at future Olympic Games and the IWF World Championships (Snr) for Team USA.

### ***Qualification Criteria***

Athletes can achieve Bronze level status through any one or more of the following criteria:

- Actual top three finish at the IWF Junior World Championships in the twelve months preceding the qualifying period.
  
- Actual top two finish at the IWF Youth World Championships in the twelve months preceding the qualifying period.
  
- Actual top three finish at the Pan American Championships (Snr) in the last twelve months preceding the qualifying period.
  
- Actual Youth Olympian in the twelve months preceding the qualifying period.
  
- Actual medalist at the Pan American Championships (Snr) or Pan American Games (Snr) in the twelve months preceding the qualifying period.
  
- In the top five totals for junior (20 and under) athletes, according to the IWF results system for the bodyweight in the twelve months preceding.
  
- In the top 3 totals for youth (17 and under) athletes, according to the IWF results system for the bodyweight category in the twelve months preceding.
  
- Athlete of any age showing a total above Olympic medalists at the same age and bodyweight per IWF data (protected).

*\*Amount could change pending budget review*

*\*\* Where USOPC EAH1 is limited by the USOPC, the highest ranked athlete in accordance with the IWF Absolute Ranking will be given first priority. If the IWF Absolute Ranking is yet to be formed, the athlete with the highest rank by total in the body weight category.*

*\*\*\* One personal coach is considered per athlete, exclusively at the athlete's choice. Such a personal coach must have a minimum of USA Weightlifting Level 1, SafeSport certification, background check and USADA Coaches Advantage Certification. The personal coach selected by the athlete is intended to be the coach materially involved with their program, training and competition preparation, typically regarded as the coach of record in their USA Weightlifting membership.*

## **Additional Funding**

### **Competition Funding**

By a unanimous vote of the Funding Review Panel (together with the recommendation of USA Weightlifting Performance Staff, and a simple majority approval vote of the USA Weightlifting Athlete Advisory Council and USA Weightlifting Board of Directors), USA Weightlifting may approve competition funding or elite project plan funding for additional athletes in the following circumstances:

- A competition is considered critical to the qualification chances for the Olympic Games for a given athlete.
- Data, evaluated by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, shows a youth/junior athlete is likely to develop into an Olympic or world team athlete (for example, but not limited to, a 13/14 year old athlete who may show, by data and not by opinion, that they are likely to represent the United States at the Olympic Games).
- An athlete is projected to medal at an event of considerable prestige using data analytics. Such events are those that fall in the IWF Gold or Silver event categories only.

### **Athlete Support Project Funding**

USA Weightlifting may make available additional Athlete Support Project Funding, with the consent of the Funding Review Panel if one of the following is met:

- There is significant performance enhancement potential for the athlete.
- There is a one-off cost that would be performance impactful to the athlete.
- Data, evaluated by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, shows a youth/junior athlete is likely to develop into an Olympic or world team athlete (for example, but not limited to, a 13/14 year old athlete who may show, by data and not by opinion, that they are likely to represent the United States at the Olympic Games).
- The athlete has exceeded their limit as stated above, but there is still possible performance enhancement for that particular athlete that would have a potential effect on their total.

***The following is excluded from this document, but will be reviewed by the Funding Review Panel regularly:***

- Projects such as camps which are benefiting more than one athlete.
- Direct athlete preparation for international competition (for example, training with your personal coach if you are a remote athlete).

For the avoidance of doubt, athletes and coaches should not view the above figures as a limit if there is a strong performance enhancement possibility, but rather propose those projects anyway. It is the job of USA Weightlifting to support performance, not simply to fund performance. Therefore, where performance can be impacted towards IWF Gold and Silver events and/or towards the Olympic Games and Pan American Games, we will look at those projects in addition.

### **Appendix A: RTP Information**

To submit yourself to the USAW RTP, to meet the minimum six month requirement, you must add the “RTP – LiftClean RTP Athlete” certification to your membership profile. To do that, please follow the steps below:

Step 1: Log in to your USA Weightlifting membership profile

Step 2: Click “view” on your member card

Step 3: Click the certification tab

Step 4: Click “Add certification category”

Step 5: Click “Add” next to RTP certification: a form will appear for you to complete.

Step 6: Complete the required section and then click “add”. Your certification will be valid for two years from the date you completed the certification add. You will be eligible for competitions and the funding system six months from your start date.

If you have any questions about the certification please contact

[Lorene.halford@usaweightlifting.org](mailto:Lorene.halford@usaweightlifting.org).