

# Appeal Hearing of USAW v David Ester

**Summary:** The USA Weightlifting Board of Directors exercised its discretion to hear the appeal request submitted by Mr. David Ester's counsel on January 24, 2025. It held a special meeting on March 12, 2025 to fulfill this request.

**Location:** via Zoom.

**Present:** Michael Choi (Chair), Tayler Harris (Vice Chair), Meredith Alwine, Andy Coggins, Mario Dispenza, Elizabeth Grossman, Adam Kleinfeld, John McGovern, Sara Soto, Joe Triolo, Sean Waxman, Morgan McCullough

**Staff Present:** None.

**Guests:** None.

1. **Call to Order:** 6:35 pm ET, MC called the meeting to order, and welcomed everyone. Quorum was reached with all 12 Board members present.
2. **Declarations of Conflicts of Interest.** Each Board member declared their 1) conflicts of interest and 2) that their conversation with the Board was private.
  - Mario Dispenza: None, alone.
  - Joe Triolo: None, alone.
  - Meredith Alwine: None, alone.
  - Sara Soto: None, alone.
  - Andy Coggins: None, alone.
  - Michael Choi: None, alone.
  - Elizabeth Grossman: None, alone.
  - Tayler Harris: None, alone.
  - John McGovern: None, alone.
  - Adam Kleinfeld: None, alone.
  - Morgan McCullough: None, alone.
  - Sean Waxman: None, alone.
    - Amended declaration that he held strong feelings about the case. Board accepted this declaration with no changes.
3. **Scope:** MC reviewed the objective, which was to answer one question:

- Was Mr. David Ester afforded a fair process in his case, or was the process "arbitrary and capricious"?
4. **Executive Session:** 6:39 pm ET: MC motioned to enter Executive Session. MD seconded. Motion carried. Entered Executive Session. Discussion of the *USAW v Ester* case occurred in Executive Session. Motion made by MC to exit Executive Session; EG seconded. Motion carried and the Board exited Executive Session at 7:14 pm ET.
5. **Decision regarding** Mr. David Ester's request for Board Appeal of the Judicial Case (*USAW v David Ester*).
- MC's motion based on discussion from Executive Session, "I make a motion to deny the motion to vacate the Judicial Committee's findings for Mr. David Ester, and to uphold the decision of the Judicial Committee." TH second.
  - Board voted to deny the motion to vacate the Judiciary Committee's findings for Mr. David Ester, and to uphold the decision of the Judicial Committee.
6. **Motion to add individual voting record to minutes.**
- MD motions to suspend order and report in minutes how each Board member voted. SW second.
  - Motion failed.
  - MC reminds the Board that this motion:
    - is inconsistent with USOPC best practices as outlined by David Paterson, and that;
    - MD has made this request (and been denied) multiple times, and that;
    - such practice is inconsistent with our One Voice Board policy, reaffirmed on December 16, 2024.
7. **Adjournment.** MC made a motion to adjourn. AC second. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm ET.