

# **GIFTS AND ENTERTAINMENT POLICY**

**OF**

**USA Weightlifting, Inc.**

**Policy Owner(s): Chief Executive Officer**

**Board of Directors – [board@usaweightlifting.org](mailto:board@usaweightlifting.org)**

## **1. Purpose**

USA Weightlifting is committed to sustaining an ethical workplace free of conflicts of interest and perceived conflicts of interest. USA Weightlifting therefore has adopted this Gifts and Entertainment Policy to provide instruction to USA Weightlifting employees, board members, officers, committee members, task force members, hearing panel members, and volunteers regarding how to handle offers of gifts or other forms of entertainment from individuals or companies that do business with, or are interested in doing business with, USA Weightlifting. Additionally, it provides instruction on the NGB extending gifts to third parties.

This policy should not be considered in any way as an encouragement to make, solicit or receive any type of gift or entertainment. Indeed, USA Weightlifting employees, board members, officers, committee members, task force members, hearing panel members, and volunteers may not, under any circumstances, actively solicit any type of gift or entertainment. Further, USA Weightlifting will not under any circumstances permit or authorize participation in any business gifts or entertainment that might be considered lavish, inappropriate or illegal.

## **2. Applicability of Policy**

This Gifts and Entertainment Policy is applicable to all USA Weightlifting employees, board members, officers, committee/council members, task force members, hearing panel members, contractors, and volunteers, as well as their spouses and immediate family members (“Affiliated Individuals”).

## **3. Receiving Business Courtesies**

### **a. Current Business Partners**

Affiliated Individuals may accept gifts from individuals and companies that currently do business with, or make donations to USA Weightlifting as follows:

- i. Partner/sponsor/supplier products and partner/sponsor/supplier-branded products (e.g., logoed jackets) with a value of up to \$1,000 per Affiliated Individual, per year, per individual/company;

- ii. Other gifts with a value of no more than \$100 per Affiliated Individual, per year, per individual/company;
- iii. Invitations for the Affiliated Individual to attend sporting events with an individual/company representative including travel to and from such events only to the extent approved in advance by USA Weightlifting Ethics Committee.
- iv. On an infrequent basis, invitations for a spouse or family member to join the Affiliated Individual at sporting events with an individual/company representative;
- v. Invitations to attend fundraising events with an individual/company representative at no cost to the Affiliated Individual;
- vi. Invitations to attend other social, educational, or entertainment events intended to enhance the business relationship, provided that the cost of the event does not exceed \$100 per Affiliated Individual per event and \$400 total per individual/company per year; and
- vii. Invitations for site visits to potential host cities for USA Weightlifting events.
- viii. Perishable or consumable gifts provided that the gift is reasonable and not unduly lavish.

b. Prospective Business Partners

Affiliated Individuals may accept gifts from individuals and companies that are not current business partners of USA Weightlifting but that may or may not be seeking to engage in a business relationship with USA Weightlifting as follows:

- i. Gifts with a value of not more than \$100 per Affiliated Individual, per year, per individual/per company;
- ii. Invitations for the Affiliated Individual to attend sporting events with an individual/company representative (but not travel to and from such events);
- iii. Invitations to attend fundraising events with an individual/company representative;
- iv. Invitations to attend other social, educational or entertainment events intended to promote the business relationship provided that the cost of the event does not exceed \$100 per Affiliated Individual, per event and \$200 total per Affiliated Individual, per individual/company, per year.

### c. Limitations

Affiliated Individuals may never accept cash or financial instruments, such as checks or stocks. Under the guidelines set forth herein, Affiliated Individuals may accept gift certificates or gift cards.

## **4. Disclosure and Approval**

All gifts or invitations falling under Section 3(A)(1), Section 3(A)(3), and Section 3(B)(2) above, and all invitations that involve the third party paying for the Affiliated Individual's travel and/or overnight accommodations, must be promptly reported to the Ethics Committee. Where the gift or invitation is made to the CEO, the requisite disclosure must be made to the Ethics Committee. Prior to accepting invitations or gifts that include travel and/or overnight accommodations during business hours, written approval must be received from the CEO. In the case of the General CEO's request for approval, such approval must be received from the Ethics Committee.

Any potential gifts or invitations extended that exceed the limits and/or parameters noted above must be disclosed to, and approved in advance and in writing by Ethics Committee or CEO as appropriate, before they may be accepted.

In addition, the Ethics Committee and CEO may, in consultation with the Affiliated Individual, to require that any gift(s) be returned, donated to USA Weightlifting, or donated to another agreed-upon charity if the Ethics Committee or CEO believes that such gift(s) is not proper and/or creates an appearance of impropriety.

Gifts to athletes in the course of the USA Weightlifting high performance strategy are excluded from this policy (for example, a Theragun for use in High performance), as is outfitting, awards and similar associated items.

The Gift Disclosure form is attached, a register of Gifts will be made available to the USA Weightlifting Board of Directors.

## **5. Extending Business Courtesies**

### General Rules

There may be times when an Affiliated Individual wishes, as a business matter, to extend to a current or potential USA Weightlifting business associate (i.e., an individual or company) a gift or an invitation to attend a social event (e.g., reception, meal, sporting event, or theatrical event) to further or develop a business relationship. In such instances, gifts may not exceed \$150 in value per person per year, without the prior written approval of the CEO and/or the Ethics Committee.

Invitations to events must be reasonable and appropriate. Topics of a business nature must be discussed at the event, and the USA Weightlifting employee or Board Member must be present. The cost associated with such an event should

not exceed \$150 per person/company per year, except with regard to sporting events and fundraising functions, without the prior written approval of the CEO. Moreover, such business entertainment with respect to any particular individual must be infrequent, which, as a general rule, means not more than four (4) times per year. Frequency beyond the foregoing must be pre-approved in writing by the CEO. To the extent the USA Weightlifting employee or Board Member has knowledge of applicable restrictions by a recipient's organization on gifts and entertainment, the USA Weightlifting employee or Board Member must undertake best efforts for all business entertainment and gifts to comport with the restrictions imposed by the recipient's organization.

USA Weightlifting employees or Board members may give gift certificates within the limits set forth in this policy, but may never give cash or financial instruments, such as checks or stocks.

a. Events & Fundraising Activities.

USA Weightlifting recognizes that the limits set forth in Section 5 may hamper the ability of the Events and Fundraising to perform their job functions. In light of this, the foregoing limits will not apply to the invitation or event if it is part of normal and reasonable job duties and the event is not lavish or unreasonable. For these activities only, the cost of gifts and events for which no prior written approval is required is \$600 per person per year. To the extent any gift or invitation exceeds that limitation, the USA Weightlifting Development employees/staff must obtain the prior written approval from the CEO or USA Weightlifting Ethics Committee as appropriate.

b. Government Employees

The giving of gifts to federal, state, and local government employees is governed by a complex set of rules that is typically agency-specific. Generally, the giving of gifts to government employees is very limited or prohibited. Before offering a gift to a government employee, of any value, you must receive the approval of the CEO in advance and in writing.

c. Disclosure And Approval

All gifts or invitations offered by an Affiliated Individual must be covered by the appropriate USA Weightlifting budget and must be approved in advance by the appropriate USA Weightlifting supervisor. All gifts or invitations extended that exceed the limits and/or parameters noted above must be disclosed to, and approved in advance and in writing by, the [CEO/General Counsel/NGB Designee] before they may be offered.

d. USA Weightlifting Point of Contact

Affiliated persons in need of further information or guidance in relation to this policy should contact the CEO.



USA Weightlifting GIFT DISCLOSURE FORM

Please complete this form immediately upon receipt of personal gifts<sup>1</sup> received in your capacity as an employee or representative of USA Weightlifting.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- USA Weightlifting Employee                       USA Weightlifting Board Member
- USA Weightlifting Volunteer
- USA Weightlifting Committee Member                       USA Weightlifting Hearing Panel Member
- USA Weightlifting Task Force Member                       Athlete Representative
- Contractor
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the gift(s) received:

- The value of the gift is estimated at \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Note: This is a good faith estimate based on retail value. If the value cannot reasonably be estimated or determined, so state.
- Please describe the source of the gift (name and relationship to USA Weightlifting) and under what circumstances it was received:

- Current business partner:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Prospective business partner:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Other:  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Indicate below any matters pending or likely to arise in the future that might involve the donor: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> USA Weightlifting defines personal gifts as items of value provided by individuals and/or organizations with present or prospective business relationships with USA Weightlifting. Excluded from disclosure are promotional gifts of nominal value (less than \$50 retail value) such as coffee mugs, hats, pins, etc.

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Certification: I certify that this gift was not solicited.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this completed form to CEO with a copy to the Chair of the USA Weightlifting Ethics Committee.