

**USA WEIGHTLIFTING  
JUDICIAL COMMITTEE**

**THOMAS KRAUS**

**vs.**

**TROY PFEIFFER**  
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**USAW JUDICIAL COMMITTEE PANEL OPINION RE TROY PFEIFFER**

On September 5, 2018, the USAW Judicial Committee convened a three-delegate panel (Chair, Michael R. Sherwin; Elite Athlete Representative, Holley Mangold; Judicial Committee Member, Beau Schmookler) to review the Ethics Committee Opinion of June 29, 2018 re Thomas Kraus vs. Troy Pfeiffer ("Pfeiffer"). This panel was conducted via video-teleconference link and Troy Pfeiffer was present and participated with his counsel, Schuyler A. Ferguson of Winston & Strawn LLP.

This panel has reviewed the record and the USAW Ethic Committee Opinion of June 29, 2018 and sets forth the following:

1. There is no factual dispute in this matter. All parties agree that on January 13, 2018, at the Winter Open in Mattoon, Illinois, Troy Pfeiffer (an active and registered USAW member and coach of the Charleston-Mattoon Weightlifting Club) knowingly violated the USAW Code of Ethics. Specifically, "[s]ubmitting false competition totals" in the name of and on behalf of minor athlete H.A.<sup>1</sup> (Section 17.4(a) of the USAW Bylaws). Pfeiffer admitted to this Judicial Committee panel of September 5, 2018 that he did in fact falsify such results and violated the aforementioned USAW Code of Ethics.

2. This Judicial Committee panel gives notice and acknowledges the time and financial commitment Pfeiffer has sacrificed over the past several years in coaching his athletes at the Charleston-Mattoon Weightlifting Club; he has served as a trusted and valuable mentor to scores of junior athletes. These qualities are commendable and are not lost upon this panel. However, the falsification of competition records is an egregious offense, which undermines the basic edicts of fair play and honest sportsmanship. Such conduct harms the faith and trust our athletes place in the hands of coaches, meet directors and USAW officials.

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<sup>1</sup> At the 2018 Winter Open, H.A. competed in the female 63 kg weight class and achieved a total of 126 kg; Pfeiffer falsified the competition records to fraudulently indicate H.A. achieved a total of 135 kg.

3. Accordingly, it is the opinion of this panel that Pfeiffer shall be (a) banned for one (1) year from any and all USAW national team coaching duties; (b) banned for one (1) year from coaching athletes at any national or international weightlifting competition; (c) banned for one (1) year from serving as a meet director at any local, state, regional, national or international weightlifting competition; and (d) banned for one (1) year from serving as a referee at any local, state, regional, national or international weightlifting competition.<sup>2</sup> Each of these penalties are to be served concurrently and are effective October 1, 2018 to October 1, 2019.

4. Pfeiffer agrees and accepts the penalties and sanctions set forth above and will not challenge or appeal these findings and this opinion.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Sherwin  
Chair, USAW Judicial Committee

Holley Mangold,  
Elite Athlete Representative, USAW Judicial Committee

Beau Schmookler  
Member, USAW Judicial Committee

September 9, 2018

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<sup>2</sup> When discussing these sanctions to Pfeiffer and his counsel during the hearing of September 5, 2018, this panel further stated that in the event Pfeiffer violates these ethical rules again re falsification of competition results, these Judicial Committee panel members would recommend a lifetime ban for Pfeiffer from any and all activity with the USAW; we trust this recommendation will never be necessary in the future.