

## Ethics Advisory Opinion Re: Funding of Chair to Political/IWF Meetings

The USAW Ethics Committee was asked to provide an advisory opinion regarding whether it would be an ethical violation for the USAW to fund Ursula Garza Papandrea's travel and expenses to any USA Weightlifting and IWF events where she is representing USA Weightlifting. Ms. Papandrea is a coach and has athletes participating at the meets/events. The committee staffed the issue and have no issues with Ms. Papandrea's expenses being funded to attend such events, for example the Pan American Congress. However, she needs to be diligent that she not be compensated by USAW for the time that she is serving as a coach. For example, if there is an meeting relating to her position as Chair of the USAW, those expense would be fully funded. If she then stays extra days to coach one of her athletes, she will need to fund those days. The committee does ask that she keep careful track of her receipts so that she can establish what was funded by the USAW and which expenses she paid.

I will note that Ms. Batchelor, our athlete representative, did not take part in the discussion as Ms. Papandrea is her coach. Ms. Batchelor was extremely careful to immediately indicate her conflict of interest and did not offer any opinions regarding the situation.

The Committee promptly notified Mr. Andrews of our opinion. This memo simply serves to memorialize our advice and counsel.