



## USA Powerlifting Issues Statement on Partial Victory in MN Supreme Court Ruling re: Athletes Born with Male Physiology

### ***For Immediate Release***

October 22, 2025 - Saint Paul, Minn - Today the Minnesota Supreme Court issued its opinion in [JayCee Cooper vs. USA Powerlifting 62-CV-21-211](#), a case that turns on the ability of sporting organizations to maintain common-sense, science-backed competition categories that promote fairness based on sex. USA Powerlifting (USAPL) past president Larry Maile issued the following statement:

"We are pleased to have prevailed on one of the claims and disappointed with other findings in the ruling.

Our goal since litigation commenced against USA Powerlifting (USAPL) in 2021 was to present all the facts and evidence of our actions to a jury. We are pleased that both of Minnesota's state appellate courts agree we have a right to present a claim of business discrimination to a jury and look forward to offering our evidence toward that end

We are disappointed with the court's finding related to public accommodation. When fairness is the foundation of sport, categories matter. Taken to its logical conclusion, this determination means USAPL will be forced to become an agent of discrimination against the largest protected class in the country – women. It also demonstrates that Minnesota is trending against both federal law and broad public consensus.

USAPL acted for legitimate, non-discriminatory reasons to promote fairness in the sport when determining that Ms. Cooper should not compete in the women's division due to her male physiology. Ms. Cooper was born biologically male and went through puberty as a male. According to un rebutted scientific research, males have up to a [64 percent strength advantage](#) in powerlifting and suppressing testosterone only reduces the advantage by about [10 percent](#). This [difference in outcomes](#) makes it fundamentally unfair for a male-to-female transgender powerlifter to compete in the women's division.

In the interest of fairness and to better serve all of our competitors - including the protected class of female-born individuals - USAPL created an open MX division for transgender and nonbinary athletes. This common sense, inclusive approach is an indication of our continued commitment to fair play.

We are grateful for the outpouring of support we have received from across the country, as evidenced by the nearly [100 elite female athletes](#), Olympians, national champions, and parents who have stood with us to protect fairness in women's sports. So has the

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American public. A 2025 New York Times/Ipsos poll found [79 percent of Americans oppose](#) allowing transgender athletes to compete in women's sports.

Since the Minnesota Supreme Court heard oral arguments in our case, the U.S. Olympic Committee has [barred transgender](#) female athletes from competing in women's events and the U.K. Supreme Court [ruled](#) that the term 'woman' applied to biological females. We can no longer ignore this overwhelming and bipartisan consensus.

USAPL remains committed to serving every athlete with respect and integrity."

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