

TAS

Tribunal Arbitral du Sport



CAS

Court of Arbitration for Sport

MEDIA RELEASE

THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS) READY FOR THE SOCHI OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Lausanne, 20 January 2014 - The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) is preparing to open a temporary office in Sochi in order to resolve legal disputes which may arise during the Olympic Games. This special tribunal, called the CAS *ad hoc* Division, has operated at each edition of the Summer and Winter Olympic Games since 1996, as well as at numerous editions of the Commonwealth Games, the UEFA European Football Championships and the FIFA World Cup. In September this year and for the first time, it will also be present at the Asian Games in Incheon. The CAS *ad hoc* Division will provide all participants in the Games with free access to justice rendered within time limits that keep pace with the competitions.

The tribunal for the Sochi 2014 Games will be presided over by Mr Michael Lenard (USA) and Ms Corinne Schmidhauser (Switzerland), and composed of the following nine arbitrators who will be in charge of settling any dispute related to the Games: Robert Décary (Canada), Gary Roberts (USA), Matt Mitten (USA), David Wu (China), Annabelle Bennett (Australia), Alexandra Brilliantova (Russia), Patrick Lafranchi (Switzerland), Luigi Fumagalli (Italy), Brigitte Stern (France). The Presidents and the arbitrators have been selected by the International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS), an independent body, under the *aegis* of which the CAS operates. The office in Sochi will be headed by the CAS Secretary General, Mr Matthieu Reeb.

All members of the CAS *ad hoc* Division who will be present in Sochi during the Games are either lawyers, judges or professors specialized in sports law and arbitration. They are independent of the parties who appear before the CAS and apply a procedure (set out in the Arbitration Rules for the Olympic Games) that complies with fundamental principles of procedural fairness and due process.

According to the applicable rules, if during the Olympic Games a participant or sports entity wishes to submit a dispute to the *ad hoc* Division under the terms of the Olympic Charter, he/she/it must file a request with the CAS Court Office in Sochi.

The President of the *ad hoc* Division will then set up a Panel composed of either one or three arbitrators; following which a hearing is rapidly convened, at which all parties, witnesses and potentially affected third parties are given the opportunity to express their legal arguments and to produce evidence.

Generally, the *ad hoc* Division will render its decisions within 24 hours. This is made possible by specially designed logistics and organizational structures. The CAS will be operational in Sochi from 28 January 2014 until 23 February 2014.

The CAS offices will be located at:

Ayvazovsky Hotel
1 Morskoy Boulevard
Imeretinskaya Lowland
Adler District, Krasnodar Region, Russia
354340

Tel: +7-862-44 7 16 50

Fax: +7-862-44 7 16 56

Email: adhocdivision@tas-cas.org

The CAS is a permanent arbitration institution founded in 1984 and specialized in the resolution of sports law disputes. It has its headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, with decentralized offices in New York and Sydney, and Alternative Hearing Centres in Abu Dhabi, Shanghai, Kuala Lumpur and Cairo. It has nearly 300 arbitrators coming from 85 countries. The CAS handles approximately 400 cases per year.