



[2003] CAT 30

**IN THE COMPETITION  
APPEAL TRIBUNAL**

New Court,  
48 Carey Street,  
London WC2A 2JT.

Case No. 1019/1/1/03  
1020/1/1/03  
1021/1/1/03  
1022/1/1/03

12 December 2003

Before:  
SIR CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY  
(The President)  
BARRY COLGATE  
RICHARD PROSSER OBE

**BETWEEN:**

UMBRO HOLDINGS LIMITED Applicant  
and  
THE OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING Respondent

MANCHESTER UNITED PLC Applicant  
and  
THE OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING Respondent

ALLSPORTS LIMITED Applicant  
and  
THE OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING Respondent

JJB SPORTS PLC Applicant  
and  
THE OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING Respondent

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Miss Kelyn Bacon (instructed by Umbro Holdings Legal Department) appeared for Umbro Holdings Limited.

Mr Paul Harris (instructed by James Chapman) appeared for Manchester United PLC.

Mr Laurence West-Knights QC and Mr George Peretz (instructed by Messrs Addleshaw Goddard) appeared for Allsports Limited.

Lord Anthony Grabiner QC and Mr Mark Hoskins (instructed by DLA) appeared for JJB Sports PLC.

Mr Stephen Morris QC, Mr Jon Turner and Miss Anneli Howard (instructed by the Director of Legal Services, the Office of Fair Trading) appeared for the Respondent.

Transcribed of the Shorthand notes of  
Harry Counsell & Co.,  
Clifford's Inn, Fetter Lane, London EC4A.1LD  
Telephone: 0207 269 0370

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**RULING (Case Management Conferences)**  
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THE PRESIDENT:

If I may first of all briefly say something about the transcripts of these case management conferences. I think some confusion has arisen over the status of transcripts of the Tribunal's Case Management Conferences. Our practice has been to publish particular rulings but not the transcript as a whole in relation to Case Management Conferences. We think it better in future to publish all the non-confidential parts of the Case Management Conferences of the Tribunal, including the transcript of this Case Management Conference, and previous Case Management Conferences in this case, unless particular objection is taken. That, I think, will render the Tribunal's proceedings more transparent and will also act as an antidote to any potential mis-reporting of the proceedings that may arise.

In that latter connection our attention has been drawn to a recent Press article arising out of the last Case Management Conference. The Tribunal, of course, knows what it decided and goes on the basis of what it decided and not what may be reported in the Press. We therefore propose to ignore that particular incident at this stage while taking the opportunity to observe that legal disputes are, of course, to be fought out in the courtroom and not in the media. Fair and accurate reporting of legal proceedings is a long and honourable tradition in this country which, in our view, applies as much to this Tribunal as to any other, both as a matter of law and as a matter of public policy. That is all we propose to say about that particular aspect.