



COMPETITION APPEAL TRIBUNAL

NOTICE OF A CLAIM UNDER SECTION 47A OF THE COMPETITION ACT 1998

Case No: 1701/5/7/25

Pursuant to Rule 33(8) of the Competition Appeal Tribunal Rules 2015 (S.I. 2015 No. 1648) (the “Tribunal Rules”), the Registrar gives notice of the receipt of a claim for damages (the “Claim”) on 8 January 2025, under section 47A of the Competition Act 1998 (the “Act”), by NST Worldwide Limited (the “Claimant” / “NST Worldwide”) against: (1) World Snooker Limited, (2) World Snooker Holding Limited, and (3) World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association Limited (together, the “Defendants”). The Claimant is represented by London Litigation Partnership Limited, Tallis House, 2 Tallis Street, Temple, London EC4Y 0AB (Reference: Raj Mehta).

The Claimant is a new entrant in the market for organising and promoting professional snooker events.

The First Defendant, World Snooker Limited (“WSL”), is the organiser and promoter of the World Snooker Tour and its events, which make up materially all professional snooker tournaments and events globally. The Second Defendant, World Snooker Holding Limited (“WSHL”), is the parent company of WSL. The Third Defendant, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (“WPBSA”) is the world governing body for the sports of snooker and billiards. WPBSA has all, or virtually all, professional snooker players worldwide as its members and is the sole regulatory body for professional snooker outside of the state-controlled Chinese regulatory body, the Chinese Billiards and Snooker Association. WPBSA also holds 26% of the shares of WSHL (and thereby WSL).

The Claimant alleges that the Defendants have abused their dominant position in two sports markets contrary to section 18 of the Act (“the Chapter II prohibition”). Further, the Defendants have engaged in agreements, decisions, and/or concerted practices which have as their object or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition, contrary to section 2 of the Act (“the Chapter I prohibition”) – collectively the “Alleged Infringements”.

According to the Claim form, the Alleged Infringements relate to the setting of unlawful and anti-competitive provisions in the contractual relationships between WSL and professional snooker players, and WSL’s unlawful and anti-competitive practices that have prevented professional snooker players playing in tournaments, events, or matches organised by competitor promoters, including the Claimant.

The relevant product markets in which the Alleged Infringements occurred are: (a) the market for the supply and purchase of professional snooker players’ services to professional events/tournaments; and (b) the organisation and marketing of professional snooker tournaments, and the exploitation of various rights relating to those tournaments. The relevant geographic market in the case of the product markets identified above is, or includes, the United Kingdom.

The Claimant submits that the Alleged Infringements of competition law above constitute breaches of statutory duty which are actionable in damages under section 47A of the Act.

The Claimant seeks:

1. Damages. The Claimant alleges that as a result of the Defendants’ Alleged Infringements, the Claimant has suffered loss and damage. In particular, the Claimant has been prevented from entering the market for organising and promoting snooker events involving professional snooker players, and collecting the resulting profit from broadcasting rights, sponsorship deals, and ticket sales.

2. Interest. The Claimant claims compound interest. Should the claim for compound interest fail, the Claimant seeks, in the alternative, statutory interest or interest at such rate and for such period as the Tribunal determines appropriate.
3. Declaratory relief. Further and/or alternatively, the Claimant seeks declarations that various provisions of the relevant contracts between the Defendants and professional snooker players constitute unlawful breaches of the Act and are void or unenforceable accordingly.
4. Injunctive relief. Further and/or alternatively, the Claimant seeks injunctive relief and such other remedies as the Tribunal sees fit to support the declarations above.

Further details concerning the procedures of the Tribunal can be found on its website at www.catribunal.org.uk. Alternatively, the Tribunal Registry can be contacted by post at Salisbury Square House, 8 Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 8AP, or by telephone (020 7979 7979) or email (registry@catribunal.org.uk). Please quote the case number mentioned above in all communications.

Charles Dhanowa CBE, KC (Hon)
Registrar

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