

UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

HIGHTOWER, et al.,)	
)	
Complainants)	
)	
v.)	ORDER
)	CLOSING CASE
US BOWLING CONGRESS,)	
)	
Respondent.)	May 24, 2018

I. BACKGROUND

1. On October 29, 2015, Wayne Hightower, Donna Hall and Lawrence Digsby (“Complainants”) filed a Complaint with the United States Olympic Committee (“USOC”) against the United States Bowling Congress (“USBC”) pursuant to Section 220527 of the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (the “Act”) and Section 10 of the USOC Bylaws.

2. On February 23 and 24, 2017, the Hearing Panel held a full evidentiary hearing on Complainant’s claims.

3. On June 8, 2017, the Hearing Panel issued its Report, Decision and Recommendation (“Decision”)¹ which found that USBC was not meeting its National Governing Body (“NGB”) requirements and USOC membership obligations as set forth in the Act and USOC Bylaws relating to its grievance procedures. The Hearing Panel recommended that the USOC Board of Directors find USBC out of compliance and place USBC on probation for a period of six (6) months.

¹ A full history of this proceeding and a detailed explanation of the Hearing Panel’s findings are set out in the Decision.

4. The USOC Board adopted the Hearing Panel's recommendations on June 20, 2017. Additionally, the USOC Board directed that the Hearing Panel retain continuing jurisdiction over this matter and after six (6) months report back to the USOC Board on USBC's progress in meeting its NGB obligations.

5. The Hearing Panel reported back to the USOC Board at the Board's December 8, 2017, meeting and recommended that the Board extend USBC's probationary period for another six (6) months. The Board adopted the Hearing Panel's recommendation. The Board also directed the Hearing Panel continue providing guidance to USBC.

6. On April 9, 2018, USBC notified the Hearing Panel that it had approved revamped grievance procedures. USBC indicated that the revamped grievance procedures required USBC to amend its Bylaws and to revise its Legal and Legislative Manual, National Policy Manual and Association Policy Manual. USBC indicated that the amended Bylaws and revised Manuals would go into effect on April 30, 2018, following USBC's Annual Meeting.

7. The Hearing Panel reviewed USBC's revamped grievance procedures and issued a report to the USOC Board on April 12, 2018, indicating that USBC is able at this time to sufficiently fulfill its NGB requirements and meet its USOC membership obligations. The Hearing Panel also recommended that the USOC Board lift USBC's probation, return USBC to full NGB status and continue USBC's membership in the USOC.

8. However, the Hearing Panel also proposed that the USOC Board's action taking USBC off probation, returning USBC to full NGB status and continuing USBC's

membership should be contingent upon the revamped grievance procedures becoming effective on April 30, 2018.


9. The USOC Board adopted the Hearing Panel's recommendation on April 18, 2018.

10. USBC fulfilled its commitment to amend its Bylaws, and revise its Legal and Legislative Manual, National Policy Manual and Association Policy Manual. All were effective as of April 30, 2018. Additionally, USBC posted the revised documents on its website.

II. ORDER

11. As the USOC Board approved the Hearing Panel's April 12, 2018, Report and Recommendation, and as USBC's revamped grievance procedures became effective as of April 30, 2018, this matter is ended and the case is closed.

Dated this 24th day of May, 2018.



Bill Marolt, Chair

Glen Schorr, Panel Member
Han Xiao, Panel Member