

BEFORE THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION

Benjamin Hadden, Claimant

and AAA No. 01-16-0003-7006
United States Olympic Committee and
USA Table Tennis, Respondents

PRELIMINARY DECISION

THE UNDERSIGNED ARBITRATOR, having been randomly selected by the American Arbitration Association from the Arbitrator Pool and having been duly sworn and having duly heard the arguments and allegations of the parties on August 30, 2016, finds and decides as follows:

I. HISTORY

The Claimant, Benjamin Hadden, contends that he was not provided his requested accommodations that would allow him to properly compete in the 2016 Paralympics in Rio, Brazil, and that such denials violated the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title I and II, the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, and the by-laws of both USOC and USA Table Tennis. The Claimant requested a formal hearing on August 29, 2016, and that it be expedited.

On August 30, 2016, the undersigned was confirmed as the Arbitrator pursuant to the AAA Commercial Rules of Arbitration. USATT agreed to submit the issue to binding arbitration. Participants present for the telephone conference on August 30, 2016, included the Claimant, Benjamin Hadden and Respondents, United States Olympic Committee and USA Table Tennis. All parties were represented by counsel and presented testimony and exhibits.

II. DECISION

The Claimant's claims are denied. The statutes cited above do not support the Claimant's request for relief. A more detailed Opinion will follow within fourteen days.

The administrative fees and expenses of the American Arbitration Association shall be born as incurred. The compensation and expenses of the undersigned Arbitrator shall be borne equally by the three parties.

The parties shall bear their own costs and attorney's fees with respect to this hearing.

Signed this 30th day of August, 2016.



Carolyn B. Witherspoon
Arbitrator