

TAS

Tribunal Arbitral du Sport
Chambre ad hoc - Vancouver 2010



CAS

Court of Arbitration for Sport
Ad hoc Division - Vancouver 2010

PRESS RELEASE (4)

WOMEN'S BOBSLEIGH

THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS) DISMISSES THE APPEAL FILED BY THE BRAZILIAN ICE SPORTS FEDERATION

Vancouver, 12 February 2010 – The ad hoc Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has dismissed the application filed by the Brazilian Ice Sports Federation (CBDG) requesting that the Brazilian Women's bobsleigh team be admitted to compete in the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in place of the Irish Women's team. In the alternative, the CBDG requested the CAS to direct the IOC to offer an additional place in the competition for the Brazilian Women's team. The CBDG claimed that, on 26 January 2010, the International Bobsleigh and Tobogganing Federation (FIBT) wrongly admitted the Irish team to compete in the Games due to alleged errors committed in the ranking and point allocation during the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 qualifying seasons.

A CAS Panel composed of Prof. Michael Geistlinger, (Austria), President, Mr Henri Alvarez QC (Canada) and Prof. Ulrich Haas (Germany) heard the representatives of the CBDG (Applicant), the FIBT (Respondent) and of the IOC and Olympic Council of Ireland (Interested parties) on 11 February 2010.

The CAS Panel found that the source of the dispute between the parties was the FIBT's decision of 26 November 2009 to admit the Irish Women's bobsleigh team to the World Cup to replace the French team. This was the key decision which affected the entire qualification process. Such decision was not challenged by the CBDG. Accordingly, the CAS Panel decided that its scope of review did not extend to the decision of the FIBT Executive Committee of 26 November 2009 and that it would be inappropriate to review the FIBT's allocation decision of 26 January 2010 on the basis of alleged errors in that first decision.

Furthermore, the Panel found that, on the merits, the decision of 26 November 2009 was within the power of the FIBT Executive Committee and that it was neither unreasonable nor arbitrary to replace the withdrawing French team with the next ranked Irish team. The CAS Panel has also rejected a request of the CBDG to direct the IOC to offer an additional place in the Women's bob event.

On 9 February 2010, the CAS ad hoc Division had allowed the participation of an Australian women's bob team in the Games and recommended the inclusion of a 21st team. The following day, the IOC accepted the inclusion of the Irish bob team in the competition.

For further information related to the CAS activity and procedures in general, please contact Mr. Matthieu Reeb, CAS Secretary General. Renaissance Vancouver Hotel Harbourside, 1133 West Hastings Street Vancouver, B.C: V6E 3T3, Canada. Tel: (1 604) 403 9558; fax: (1 778) 328 5461, or consult the CAS website: www.tas-cas.org