

# AIOWF



Association of International Olympic Winter Sports Federations

Dr. Steven Crocker  
Board of Directors, Chair  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers  
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536

7th September 2015

**Ref: ICANN Independent Review Proceeding: 01-14-0001-6263 (Donuts, Inc. v ICANN)**

Dear Dr. Crocker,

The Association of International Olympic Winter Sports Federations (AIOWF) is the umbrella organisation of the seven International Sports Federations which govern the sports featured on the Olympic Winter Games programme.

AIOWF's mission is to co-ordinate, promote and support the common interests of the International Winter Sports Federations; to preserve their autonomy and to coordinate their common interests and goals. In this context AIOWF and its members have been following ICANN's new gTLD programme over the past several years. One of AIOWF's members, the Fédération Internationale de Ski (FIS), is both associated with the .SKI community TLD, and has actively participated in SportAccord's Policy Advisory Board for the .SPORT TLD over the last several years.

AIOWF therefore respectfully submits this letter to ICANN in connection with the above referenced Independent Review Proceeding (IRP) to offer its support for SportAccord, the applicant for .SPORT gTLD, who has worked in collaboration with the broader sport community in connection with its application, as well as for World Rugby, the applicant for RUGBY g.TLD.

SportAccord, FIS, and World Rugby all successfully filed Community Challenges with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in accordance with the procedures of ICANN's Applicant Guidebook. Unfortunately these applicants were delayed from proceeding to a timely launch of their TLD on behalf of their respective communities due to competing portfolio applicants exhausting various rights under ICANN bylaws. While Donuts has withdrawn its objections to .SKI in the above referenced IRP, SportAccord and World Rugby continue to have their respective TLD applications held in abeyance pending this proceeding. AIOWF respects the process provided for, but is concerned about the detriment this delay is causing to SportAccord and World Rugby, as also recognised recently by ICANN.

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In concluding, AIOWF would like to reiterate the advice of ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) to the ICANN Board calling for the protection and recognition of new TLDs applicants "associated with and supported by distinct communities". Otherwise there will be a namespace that disproportionality advances the commercial interests of portfolio applicants over the interests of a broad range of the distinct communities.

In the event that ICANN or the IRP panel have any additional questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact AIOWF directly.

Sincerely,

**ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC WINTER SPORT FEDERATIONS**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

Gian Franco Kasper  
President

Sarah Lewis  
Secretary General

CC: Thomas Schneider, Chair, GAC

CC: SportAccord

CC: World Rugby

CC: AIOWF Member Federations:

- IBU (Biathlon)
- IFBS (Bobsleigh and Skeleton)
- WCF (Curling)
- FIL (Luge)
- IIHF (Ice Hockey)