



SPORTS  
ARBITRATION  
MOOT

# The SAM Case

4TH EDITION (2024-2025)

Azaria Stark & Mimosa Olympic Committee (MOC)

v.

World Athletics (WA)

## A. DRAMATIS PERSONAE

1. The Republic of Mimosa ("**Mimosa**") is a country renowned for training the most talented athletes in the world. Its capital city is Mimosaland. Mimosa Athletics is the sport's national governing body as recognised by World Athletics ("**WA**" or the "**Respondent**") since 1925. Mimosa's National Olympic Committee ("**NOC**") is the Mimosa Olympic Committee ("**MOC**"). It is duly recognized by the International Olympic Committee (the "**IOC**").
2. Ms Azaria Stark (the "**Athlete**" or the "**Applicant**") is an elite professional track and field sprinter. She is 22 years old and of Mimosan nationality. She specialises in 100m and 200m and is regularly selected as part of the Mimosan 4x100m relay team. She has been an up-and-coming talent in Mimosa since breaking the world record in 200m during the last World Athletics Championships in 2023 at Orchid, the capital city of Orchidea.
3. The Respondent is a private law foundation registered and based in the principality of Monaco<sup>1</sup>. It is responsible for the governance of the sport of Athletics and is recognized by the IOC. The Respondent was founded to regulate Athletics and work towards a harmonized sport, with the core rules of the track and field disciplines being the Competition Rules (the "**CR**") and the Technical Rules (the "**TR**").
4. In an effort to facilitate the participation of athletes with physical impairments, World Athletics has adopted rules aiming to regulate the use of prosthetic devices or other aids and devices, namely the Mechanical Aids Regulations (the "**MAR**"). Applications to authorise the use of Mechanical Aids<sup>2</sup> are submitted for approval to the Mechanical Aid Review Panel (the "**MARP**").
5. World Para Athletics ("**WPA**"), formerly known as IPC Athletics, is the international federation for the sport of Para Athletics and it is recognized by the International Paralympic Committee (the "**IPC**").

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<sup>1</sup> World Athletics was created in 1912 as the International Amateur Athletics Federation and, as of 2001, as the International Association of Athletics Federation ("**IAAF**").

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to the [Mechanical Aid Regulations](#), a mechanical aid is defined as "(1) one or more passive prosthetic devices (including a running specific prosthetic) that is used by an athlete with a physical impairment to enable them to compete in athletic events, or (2) any other aid or device from time to time designated as a Mechanical Aid by World Athletics."

6. The Republic of Iridonia ("**Iridonia**") is a country renowned for its culture of sport. Its capital city is Iris. Iridonia Athletics has been a member of WA since 1953 and of WPA since 1955. Its NOC is Iridonia Olympics.
7. Ms Daniela Tareno is an elite Para athlete of 23 years old (the "**Para athlete**" or "**Contestant**") of Iridonian nationality. She is a bilateral amputee sprinter specialising in 100m, 200m and 400m events. After a tragic ski accident at the age of 6, Ms Tareno had her legs amputated. For many years, she has been using a special type of Running-Specific Prostheses ("**RSPs**") manufactured by Optimix to be able to participate in athletics events at a competitive level. More specifically, Ms Tareno is a double transtibial (below-the-knee) amputee and wears prostheses. She falls in the T61-64 classification as per [World Para Athletics Guidelines](#).<sup>3</sup>
8. For the first time in the history of Iridonia, in addition to competing in the 2025 Paralympic Games, Ms Tareno will also be competing with able-bodied athletes during the 2025 Olympic Games (the "**Competition**" or the "**Olympics**"), set to start on Friday 16 May 2025 until Sunday 1 June 2025, at Rosa, the capital city of Rosalia (the "**Host City**").

## B. UNCONTESTED FACTS

9. In 2021, Ms Tareno started competing in official Para athletics events and achieved outstanding results in just two years. In September 2023, confident in her skills, her coach, Mr Bobby, suggested that she pursue her training at the State University of Mimosa.
10. Ms Tareno always dreamed of also competing with able-bodied athletes and Mr Bobby was equally convinced that her performance was such that she should be allowed to.
11. Therefore, on 10 November 2023, Ms Tareno applied to be allowed to compete in able-bodied events using her Mechanical Aid (the "**Application**").
12. The State University of Mimosa is renowned for its excellent sports programme and rivalry with Mimosa Junior University. Ms Stark regularly trains at Mimosa Junior University and occasionally meets Ms Tareno during competitions.

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<sup>3</sup> For the sake of clarity, the type of prosthesis used by Ms Tareno is purely fictional and irrelevant for the purpose of the pleadings. The issues of the SAM Case do not relate to the technical and medical abilities of the blades worn by Ms Tareno.

13. On 26 January 2024, Ms Stark and Ms Tareno participated in the special Winter Mimosa Varsity competition. Both athletes astounded the audience with their performances. Ms Stark won the gold medal in 100m and 200m in the athletics events. Conversely, Ms Tareno brought home two gold medals in 100m and 200m, and the bronze in 400m in the Para athletics events.
14. On 12 February 2024, Ms Tareno successfully obtained authorisation from the MARP to compete in able-bodied athletics events using her model of prostheses (the "**MARP Decision**") (**Exhibit 1**). The MARP Decision was subject to Ms Tareno complying with the decided Maximum Allowable Standing Height ("**MASH**").<sup>4</sup> Following the MARP Decision, Ms Tareno immediately started training and participating in events with able-bodied athletes at national and international levels. She aimed to be ready for the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2025.
15. The qualification and ranking period for all individual events for the Rosa Olympic Games 2025 began on 20 April 2024 and ended on 20 April 2025. WA had until 22 April 2025 to publish the rankings and the qualified athletes.
16. On 17 April 2025, Ms Stark was successfully selected to represent Mimosa during the Olympics.
17. On 19 April 2025, Ms Tareno was successfully selected to represent Iridonia during the Olympics.<sup>5</sup>
18. The Olympic Games started on 16 May 2025. Four days later, on 20 May 2025, one of the most anticipated events of the Olympics was due to take place: the final of the Women's 200m race. Both Ms Stark and Ms Tareno were in the line-up. The media had been particularly vocal about this final, and eager to find out if Ms Tareno would make history by becoming the first Para athlete and Olympic medallist competing with able-bodied athletes. The world, on the other hand, was looking forward to seeing if Ms Stark would get the gold medal.
19. The city of Rosa is famous for its Mediterranean weather and the day promised to be marked by a heatwave. The public waited impatiently for the race to start, with some attendees chanting Ms Tareno's name.

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<sup>4</sup> According to the [Mechanical Aid Regulations](#), the MASH is "*the formula used by World Para Athletics to determine the maximum permitted standing height in competition of an athlete who is eligible for Para athletics on the basis of a bilateral lower limb deficiency and requires the use of two leg prostheses in order to compete. The formula is based on measurements of that athlete's other body segments.*".

<sup>5</sup> Please note that in real life scenarios, following their qualifications, athletes must be selected by their NOC in order to be able to compete at the Olympic Games.

20. The race started at 21:35 CEST. It ended at 21:36 CEST. The results and ranking were displayed twenty-three seconds after the end of the race, at 21:37 CEST. The public went crazy; Ms Tareno was announced as the winner, with the top four athletes being as follows (**Exhibits 2-3**):
  - a. **1<sup>st</sup> place:** Ms Daniela Tareno, Iridonia, 21.49 seconds (Gold)
  - b. **2<sup>nd</sup> place:** Ms Azaria Stark, Mimosa, 21.50 (.546) seconds (Silver)
  - c. **3<sup>rd</sup> place:** Lola Duhamel, Suisyland, 21.54 seconds (Bronze)
  - d. **4<sup>th</sup> place:** Ms Shanna Scott, Mimosa, 21.55 seconds
21. However, Ms Stark felt that she would have won the gold had she not been slowed down by Ms Tareno. Specifically, Ms Stark considered that her race had been hindered by Ms Tareno leaning towards her when they both reached the curve. She simply had been unable to make up for the lost time.
22. At 21:39 CEST, Ms Stark reached out to the Referee, Mr George Troublebottom, to make an oral protest about the race, alleging she had been unduly obstructed by Ms Tareno, who, in her view, should be disqualified.
23. The Referee then went to the Video Review Room to rewatch the race. Ms Stark was not allowed to enter, so simply waited outside. He came back and told Ms Stark: "*No obstruction, sorry*". The Referee informed the Technical Information Centre to record the time of his decision denying Ms Stark's protest as 21:45 CEST (the "**Advice**").
24. That night, as Ms Stark finished her recovery run and prepared for the final 4x100m athletics race taking place the next evening, she started scrolling on social media to see the fans' reactions. She also searched for the Referee's, Mr Troublebottom, account on X (*formerly Twitter*) and saw a tweet stating: "*Go Tarenooo!*".
25. When she clicked on the tweet, an error message appeared, and the tweet later disappeared from the account's main feed (**Exhibit 4**). She therefore searched for any reaction on Google and came across a Reddit thread mentioning said tweet (**Exhibit 5**).
26. On 21 May 2025, at 8:34 CEST, Ms Stark received an email from a journalist of Mimosa Daily Sports regarding an article he was writing on the race. The journalist asked Ms Stark to comment on the race and specifically on something which the journalist overheard from Mr Troublebottom in an informal conversation with other referees taking place immediately after the race:

*"I am so happy for Daniela, she really made me and Iridonia proud!"*

27. In this email, the journalist also told Ms Stark that the Review Officer<sup>6</sup> had given instructions for officials to verify Ms Tareno's MASH before the race. The Referee, Mr Troublebottom, had not acted upon the request (**Exhibit 6**).
28. That same day of 21 May 2025, at 10:35 CEST, the medal ceremony took place.
29. Shortly after the ceremony, at 11:24 CEST, Ms Stark requested and obtained from Mimosa's national channel the recording video of the race as shown on television.
30. The Olympic Games' Athletics events were due to finish on Sunday, 25 May 2025.<sup>7</sup>

## C. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

### Proceedings before the *ad hoc* Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (the "CAS")

31. On 21 May 2025, at 11:46 CEST, Ms Stark and the MOC filed an application before the *ad hoc* Division of CAS at the Rosa Olympic Games. In her application, Ms Stark named World Athletics as the respondent and enclosed the following documents:
  - a. A copy of the MARP Decision (**Exhibit 1**);
  - b. The email from Mimosa Daily Sports, dated 21 May 2025 (**Exhibit 6**); and
  - c. The television footage of the race as obtained on 21 May 2025 at 11:24 CEST.
32. In her application, Ms Stark sought the following relief:
  - a. Declare the Advice of Mr Troublebottom invalid;
  - b. Declare Ms Stark as the winner of the gold medal, or at least, a tie between her and Ms Tareno;
  - c. In the alternative, order for the final of the Women's 200m race to be rerun;

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<sup>6</sup> According to the [Mechanical Aid Regulations](#), the Review Officer is "the member of Staff (or their nominee) designated by the Chief Executive Officer (or their nominee) to act on World Athletics' behalf in matters arising under these Regulations".

<sup>7</sup> Unlike real-life Olympic Games, the SAM Case has been drafted so that Athletics events take place during the first week of the relevant period in order to match with the dates of the final rounds of the Sports Arbitration Moot.

- d. Order World Athletics to refer the matter to the Athletics Integrity Unit ("**AIU**") in order to open proceedings against Mr Troublebottom for failing to proceed with the MASH inspection prior to the race; and
  - e. Advise the IOC of the decision in this case.
33. On the same day, at 12:05 CEST, the CAS Court Office communicated the application to World Athletics and to the IOC, Ms Tareno, Iridonia Athletics, and Iridonia Olympics, as interested parties, granting them until 20:00 CEST to file an Answer, including any evidence and witness statements to their application.
34. Invited by CAS, all the interested parties declined to intervene.
35. At 12:37 CEST, the President of the *ad hoc* Division, acting pursuant to Article 11 of the CAS *ad hoc* Rules (the "**Rules**"), constituted a Panel of three arbitrators from the special list of arbitrators selected to be present in Rosa:
- a. Leo Massimo;
  - b. Katarina Esopeti (President); and
  - c. Wally Merault.
36. At 13:32 CEST, the Panel issued procedural directions as follows:
- a. Pursuant to Article 15 of the Rules, Mr George Troublebottom is to produce a witness statement with World Athletics' counsel addressing the allegations made against him.
  - b. The Parties are to attend a hearing on 22 May 2025 at 9:30 CEST.

## D. ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

37. With consideration for the entire case file at hand, the Parties are required to address the following issues as part of their submissions:
- a. Has Ms Stark exhausted the internal remedies available to her?
  - b. Should the television footage of the event be admitted as evidence by the Panel? If so, what weight should be given to such evidence?
  - c. Is Mr Troublebottom's Advice a reviewable decision by CAS?

- d. If so, is changing the results of the race within the scope of review of CAS?
38. The Parties should be prepared to address questions from the Panel in relation to the jurisdiction of the CAS *ad hoc* division, the admissibility of the appeal and the applicable standard(s) and burden(s) of proof.

## AVAILABLE EVIDENCE

1. **MARP Decision, dated 12 February 2024**
2. **Unit Report of the Women's 200m Final (medallists), published on 20 May 2025, 21:53 CEST**
3. **Event Report of the Women's 200m Final (results), published on 20 May 2025, 21:55 CEST**
4. **Screenshot of the notification of deletion of the tweet, dated 20 May 2025, 22:46 CEST**
5. **Screenshot of a Reddit thread including Mr Troublebottom's tweet, dated 20 May 2025**
6. **Email from the Mimosa Daily Sports, dated 21 May 2025**
7. **Witness Statement of Ms Azaria Stark, dated 21 May 2025**
8. **Witness Statement of Mr George Troublebottom, dated 21 May 2025**

## ORGANISATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. The Participating Teams are invited to provide their clarification questions in relation to the SAM Case by no later than 20 January 2025 pursuant to the [SAM Rules](#), via email to the organizing committee of the Sports Arbitration Moot.<sup>8</sup>
2. The final deadline for submission of the Skeleton of Arguments and the List of Legal Authorities is 19 February 2025, 23:59 in your local timezone. The instructions for the consolidation of the submissions are appended below in Appendix 1.

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<sup>8</sup> The SAM Organization can be contacted at [info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com](mailto:info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com).



**Exhibit 1**

**MARP Decision dated 12 February 2024**

**WORLD ATHLETICS**

**MECHANICAL AIDS REVIEW PANEL**

**IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION BY DANIELA TARENO**

**PANEL MEMBERS**

**ANGELINA MATTIOCCO - CHAIR (ITALY)**

**BLAIR WALDEN KC (AUSTRALIA)**

**LAURA HERNANDEZ (COLOMBIA)**

**HAMED BEN SALMAN (SAUDI ARABIA)**

**AKARI KIYAMA (JAPAN)**

## **OPERATIVE DECISION**

The Mechanical Aids Review Panel (“the Panel”) of World Athletics is satisfied that, on the balance of probabilities and following the Mechanical Aids Regulations, Daniela Tareno will not be provided with an overall competitive advantage by the use of her mechanical aids in the form of passive-elastic carbon-fibre running specific prostheses (RSPs). The Panel at the present time determines that Ms Tareno is authorised to compete both in Para athletics events and athletics events in 100m, 200m and 400m races. This decision is made pursuant to Rule 6.3.4 of the Technical Rules of World Athletics.

**Dated this 12th day of February 2024**



**ANGELINA MATTIOCCO - CHAIR (ITALY)**

**Chair, World Athletics Mechanical Aids Review Panel**

**BLAIR WALDEN KC (AUSTRALIA)**

**LAURA HERNANDEZ (COLOMBIA)**

**HAMED BEN SALMAN (SAUDI ARABIA)**

**AKARI KIYAMA (JAPAN)**

## Exhibit 2

Unit Report of the Women's 200m Final (medallists) published on 20 May 2025, 21:53



TUE 20 MAY 2025

**Athletics**  
Athlétisme

**Women's 200m**  
200m - femmes



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### Medallists

Médaillé(e)s

Medal	Name	NOC
GOLD	TARENO Daniela	IRI - Iridonia
SILVER	STARK Azaria	MIM - Mimosa
BRONZE	DUHAMEL Lola	SUI - Suisyland

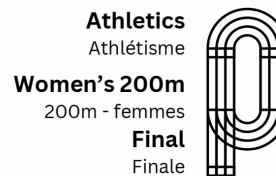
## Exhibit 3

### Event Report of the Women's 200m Final (results), published on 20 May 2025, 21:55



**Rosa National Stadium**  
Rosa National Stadium

**TUE 20 MAY 2025**  
Start Time 21:35



#### Results Résultats

<b>WORLD RECORD</b>	<b>21.44 STARK Azaria</b>	MIM	<b>Bigland</b>	<b>15 AUG 2023</b>
<b>OLYMPIC RECORD</b>	<b>21.50 JODIE Joe</b>	MIM	<b>Bigland</b>	<b>15 JUL 2021</b>

Wind: -0.6m/S

Rank	Athlete Bib	Name	NOC Code	Date of Birth	Lane	Reaction Time	Result
1	1253	TARENO Daniela	IRI	30 NOV 2002	2		<b>21.49</b>
2	5487	STARK Azaria	MIM	2 FEB 2003	3		<b>21.50 (.546)</b>
3	6597	DUHAMEL Lola	SUI	11 JUL 2002	7		<b>21.54</b>
4	3658	SCOTT Shanna	MIM	4 OCT 2001	8		<b>21.55</b>
5							
6							
7							
8							

**Weather conditions**  
Temperature:

**35°C**

Humidity:

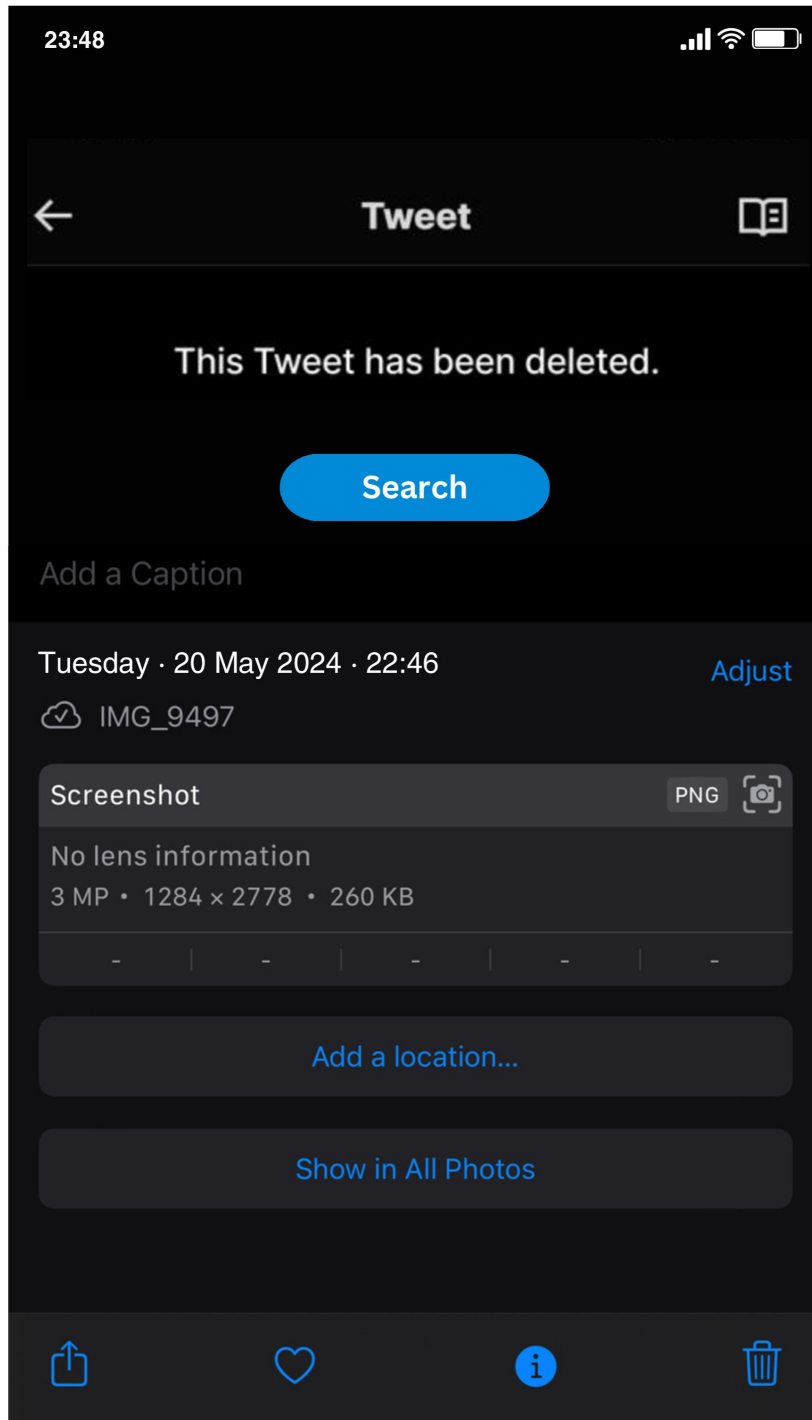
**38%**

Conditions:

**Heatwave**

Exhibit 4

Screenshot of the notification of deletion of the tweet dated 20 May 2025, 22:46



## Exhibit 5

Screenshot of a Reddit thread including Mr Troublebottom's tweet dated 20 May 2025

**r/rosaolympics** · 2h ago

### Did you guys see this?

**Post**

**Troublebottom**  
@troublebottomgeorge

Go Tarenooo!

22:34 · 20 May 2025

5 Reposts   1 Quotes   15 Likes   0 Bookmarks

19 Upvotes   25 Comments   Share

+ Add a Comment

Sort by: Best   Search Comments

**[User]** · 1h ago

Quite surprising coming from a referee..  
Isn't he supposed to be independent?

11 Upvotes   Award   Share

**[User]** · 1h ago

They were at the same uni...What did you expect?

1 Upvote   Award   Share

**[User]** · 1h ago

Those folks from Iridonia always support each other, stop creating drama.

10 Upvotes   Award   Share

**[User]** · 1h ago

There's no drama, we're just saying this is strange coming from a referee. Chill out.  
Plus, he's deleted it, if he had nothing to hide might as well leave it.

1 Upvote   Award   Share

## Exhibit 6

### Email from the Mimosa Daily Sports dated 21 May 2025

**From:** Dorian Linton <dorian.linton@mimosadailysports.com>  
**Sent:** 21 May 2025 8:34  
**To:** Azaria Stark  
**Subject:** Time for a quick chat!?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hey Azaria,

I hope you're well, in particular after your performance in yesterday's race!

I'm Dorian Linton, a journalist with Mimosa Daily Sports. I'm currently preparing a piece about the final of the Women's 200m race of the Rosa Olympic Games. This race was one for the books!

Ms Tareno's performance really caused a wave of support from everyone online. Her accomplishment is being praised by athletes and fans alike so I'd be keen to hear from you too. There's a particular comment from the Referee, Mr Troublebottom, that I overheard in the corridors after the race on which I would like you to comment:

*"I am so happy for Daniela, she really made me and Iridonia proud!"*

What's your take on this? Would you agree to answer some questions regarding your experience? In addition, do you have a statement regarding Mr Troublebottom's decision to not verify Ms Tareno's MASH, as instructed by the MARP Review Officer?

Looking forward to hearing your comments!

Best,

Dorian Linton

## Exhibit 7

### Witness Statement of Ms Azaria Stark dated 21 May 2025

1. I, Azaria Stark, with official address at 1499 Angels Avenue, Mimosaland, MI 20400, Mimosa, provide the following witness statement in the context of my pending arbitration before the CAS *ad hoc* Division against World Athletics ("**WA**").
2. I am 22 years old, a Mimosan national and have always lived in the city of Mimosaland. I have been competing in race events since my childhood and am now a professional track and field sprinter. I mostly compete in 100m and 200m events and 4x100m relay races. One of my proudest accomplishments has been to break the world record in 200m during the last World Athletics Championships in 2023 at Orchid.
3. The facts and matters I describe below are within my personal knowledge and are true to the best of my recollection. My counsel has assisted me in preparing this witness statement. I have reviewed the final text and confirm that this witness statement accurately sets forth my recollection and understanding of the facts involved.

#### **(i) My acquaintance with Ms Tareno**

4. I first met Ms Daniela Tareno while competing for Mimosa Junior University. Indeed, Ms Tareno trained at the State University of Mimosa and competed in some of the same events I participated in, but always in the Para athletes category. I was quite impressed by her then.
5. On 26 January 2023, I once again competed at the same event as Ms Tareno, in the special Winter Mimosa Varsity competition. I remember this event as I brought home the gold medal in 100m and 200m in the able-bodied category. I also witnessed Ms Tareno winning the gold medal in 100m and 200m as well as the bronze in 400m in the Para athletics category.
6. The Olympics being the ultimate goal for an athlete, I was eager to finally compete against her.



**(ii) *The final of the Women's 200m race of the 2025 Rosa Olympic Games***

7. The final of the Women's 200m race took place on 20 May 2025. Ms Tareno and I were both in the lineup. I felt confident that I could make it to the podium, as I had been training relentlessly to this end.
8. I was positioned in the lane next to Ms Tareno. I was not paying much attention to anyone at this point other than my race, although it was difficult to ignore the chants of the crowd for Ms Tareno. I tried to be completely focused on my performance. The race began without any notable issues. However, when reaching the bend during the race, I saw Ms Tareno swaying her arms and dangerously straying away from her lane into mine. She hindered my race, making me lose the advantage I had. I believe that this obstruction cost me the gold medal.
9. I immediately reached out to the Referee, protesting the results of the race and requested Ms Tareno's disqualification for obstruction. One can only imagine my distress when the Referee came back from the Video Review Room and blatantly stated that no obstruction had been committed. He did not add anything, seemed avoidant and I absolutely did not understand how easily he rejected my claim.

**(iii) *The facts I became aware of after the race***

10. As I attempted to see how the audience reacted to the race, I started scrolling on X. I surprisingly found a tweet posted by Mr Troublebottom stating "Go Tarenooo!". However, when I tried to click on the tweet to take a screenshot, it was no longer accessible. I started questioning the integrity of Mr Troublebottom's Advice, and whether he might have been influenced to act and decide as he did.
11. Then, I managed to find a mention of the tweet on a Reddit thread where one user alleged that Mr Troublebottom and Ms Tareno knew each other from university.
12. Today, at 8:34 CEST, I was contacted by a journalist of Mimoso TV Sports warning me about a comment from Mr Troublebottom. My distrust in the Referee's Advice only grew as he was expressing great pride over Ms Tareno's accomplishments in able-bodied events.
13. After receiving the video of the race as shown on television, I was convinced Mr Troublebottom's judgment had to be flawed and that he may have purposely denied the obstruction finding. Ms Tareno's obstruction was obvious and

undeniable, although I cannot claim that the video footage shown on television proves that I would have won this race but for her actions. His decision could not have been so straightforward.

## Exhibit 8

### Witness Statement of Mr George Troublebottom dated 21 May 2025

1. I, George Troublebottom, with official address at 54 Lily's Street, 48700 Rosalia, Rosa, provide the following witness statement.
2. I submit this witness statement in the context of Ms Azaria Stark's pending arbitration before the CAS against World Athletics ("**WA**"). In preparing this witness statement, I have reviewed Ms Stark's submissions and requests.
3. I am currently 26 years old and an Iridonian national. I have been living in the city of Rosalia for the past 3 years. I studied at the State University of Mimosa for 4 years.
4. The facts and matters I describe below are within my personal knowledge and are true to the best of my recollection. WA's counsel has assisted me in preparing this witness statement. I have reviewed the final text and confirm that this witness statement accurately sets forth my recollection and understanding of the facts involved.

#### **(i) *The obstruction claim made by Ms Stark***

5. On 20 May 2025, I acted as a Referee in the final of the Women's 200m race of the 2025 Rosa Olympic Games. This was a particularly hot day, even compared to the usual Mediterranean weather of Rosa.
6. Even though I had not seen any behavior contrary to the rules during the race, Ms Stark reached out to me after the results. She claimed that her race had been obstructed by Ms Tareno and requested Ms Tareno's disqualification.
7. I headed to the Video Review Room to evaluate the footage of the race and assess whether Ms Stark's claim under Article 17.1.2 TR was founded. However, due to the heatwave, the footage was not clear. Ms Tareno did not impede on Ms Stark's lane, however, I admit that it was difficult to assess if Ms Tareno swayed her arms so as to obstruct Ms Stark's progress. Considering the quality of the video, it could not be ascertained that any obstruction occurred.

8. After consulting the Umpires and the Video Referee, I came to the decision that the incident did not warrant the disqualification of Ms Tareno. I informed Ms Stark that there was no obstruction during the race. Nonetheless, due to the quality of the footage, I have to admit it was a close call, but I am afraid this is part of the job.

**(ii) *My relations with Ms Tareno***

9. I pledge that my decision was not influenced by any type of bias in favour of Ms Tareno. I knew Ms Tareno as we both attended the State University of Mimoso. I would see her at training and university sports events. We have also studied together on occasion because we had one friend in common and I was Ms Tareno's peer mentor. However, I have not been in contact with Ms Tareno in at least 3 years.
10. Moreover, I was not under any kind of pressure, nor had I been approached by anyone to find in favour of Ms Tareno. My decision was solely based on my assessment of the official footage of the race.



SPORTS  
ARBITRATION  
MOOT

4TH EDITION (2024-2025)

# PROCEDURAL ORDER N.1

5 FEBRUARY 2025

Azaria Stark & Mimosas Olympic Committee (MOC)

v.

World Athletics (WA)

[WWW.SPORTSARBITRATIONMOOT.COM](http://WWW.SPORTSARBITRATIONMOOT.COM)

1. The present Procedural Order No. 1 should be read in conjunction with the [SAM Rules](#). The oral rounds referred to in p. 9 of the SAM Rules shall be referred to as the "Hearing".
2. The Hearing will have the following rounds:
  - Online General Rounds - Monday 3 to Friday 21 March 2025
  - Round of 16 - Thursday 22 May 2025 (morning)
  - Quarter-Finals - Thursday 22 May 2025 (afternoon)
  - Semi-Finals - Friday 23 May 2025 (morning)
  - Final - Friday 23 May 2025 (afternoon)
3. The General Rounds will take place virtually. The Round of 16, quarter-finals, semi-finals and final will be elimination rounds and will take place in person in Madrid, Spain on 22 and 23 May 2025.

## ISSUES TO BE DETERMINED

4. With consideration for the entire case file at hand, the Parties are required to address the following issues as part of their submissions:
  - a. Has Ms Stark exhausted the internal remedies available to her?
  - b. Should the television footage of the event be admitted as evidence by the Panel? If so, what weight should be given to such evidence?
  - c. Is Mr Troublebottom's Advice a reviewable decision by CAS?
  - d. If so, is changing the results of the race within the scope of review of CAS?
5. The Parties should be prepared to address questions from the Panel in relation to the jurisdiction of the CAS *ad hoc* Division, the admissibility of the appeal and the applicable standard(s) and burden(s) of proof.

## SKELETON OF ARGUMENTS

6. On 19 February 2025, the Appellant and Respondent<sup>1</sup> shall each submit<sup>2</sup> a one-page document with bullet points (Times New Roman, size 11) structured in the order in which they intend to address their oral pleadings.
7. A model for skeleton arguments was appended as Appendix I to the SAM Case 2025.
8. Please refer to the [SAM Rules](#) for more details on the skeleton arguments.

## LIST OF LEGAL AUTHORITIES

9. On 19 February 2025, the Appellant and Respondent<sup>3</sup> shall each submit<sup>4</sup> a list with the case law, doctrine, commentary, etc. (“Legal Authorities”) on which they rely. This document should not exceed two pages and should contain a maximum of twenty (20) Legal Authorities.
10. Appellant and Respondent may submit an updated list of Legal Authorities on 30 April 2025, if they so wish, with up to 20 Legal Authorities. In the Round of 16, quarter-final and semi-final, the Appellant and the Respondent will be bound to the updated list of Legal Authorities.

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<sup>1</sup> For the avoidance of doubt, each SAM Team must prepare to act as Appellant and as Respondent. This means that each SAM Team is expected to file skeleton arguments on behalf of Appellant and of Respondent.

<sup>2</sup> Teams should send the documents to the SAM Organization at [info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com](mailto:info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com).

<sup>3</sup> For the avoidance of doubt, each SAM Team must prepare to act as Appellant and as Respondent. This means that each SAM Team is expected to file lists of legal authorities on behalf of Appellant and of Respondent.

<sup>4</sup> Teams should send the documents to the SAM Organization at [info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com](mailto:info@sportsarbitrationmoot.com).

11. A model list of Legal Authorities was appended as Annexe I to the SAM Case 2025.
12. Please refer to the [SAM Rules](#) for more details on the list of Legal Authorities.

## CONDUCT OF HEARINGS

13. In the Online General Rounds, each SAM team will plead three times, once as Appellant and once as Respondent. Each team will have to repeat one of the positions; this will be randomly determined.
14. Exactly two team members shall plead in any given round, or be subject to forfeiture for the given round. However, Teams are allowed to alternate oralists between rounds.
15. Please refer to the [SAM Rules](#) and the [FAQ](#) for more details on the conduct and structure of the hearings, scoring and awards.
16. The protocol for virtual Hearings is attached as Appendix I to the [SAM Rules](#).

## CLARIFICATIONS

17. The Parties have agreed on certain clarifications regarding the dispute's factual background. They are attached as Annexe I below.

Lausanne, 5 February 2025

On behalf of the Panel:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Esopeti', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Ms Katarina Esopeti  
President of the Panel



# Annexe I

## CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING THE FACTS

### *Important Note*

*The participating Teams shall note that the television footage of the event mentioned at point b. of the list of issues to address refers to the footage obtained by Ms Stark from the Mimosa national channel on 21 May 2025 at 11:24 CEST (see Uncontested facts of the SAM Case at ¶ 29).*

*It is referred to below as the “Mimosa footage”.*

The Sam Organization has reviewed all the questions submitted by the Teams. The SAM Organization has chosen to publish only helpful questions, which do not provide the Teams with an undue advantage and answers which cannot be inferred from the facts of the Case.

1. Have Ms Stark and Ms Tareno signed an entry form to the Rosa Olympic Games containing an arbitration clause?

**Yes.**

2. Is the Advice from Mr Troublebottom a field of play decision?

**Yes. The Advice was also duly recorded in writing.**

3. Did Mr Troublebottom fail to verify Ms Tareno’s MASH before the race as instructed by the MARP Review Officer, or did she refuse to submit to the inspection?

**Mr Troublebottom did not verify Ms Tareno’s MASH.**

4. Was the MASH requirement an official part of the decision of the Mechanical Aids Review Panel (“MARP”)?

**Yes. The MASH requirement was part of the reasoning behind the operative part of the MARP Decision (Exhibit 1).**

5. Is World Athletics seeking to adduce the official video of the race into evidence?

**No. Ms Stark is not arguing that an obstruction effectively occurred.**

6. Did Mr Troublebottom review the same video evidence as the television footage obtained by Ms Stark from the Mimosa national channel (hereafter the "Mimosa footage")?

**No.**

7. What does the Mimosa footage show?

**The Mimosa footage comes from an official television broadcast in Mimosa and was recorded from the stands. According to Ms Stark, the Mimosa footage is relevant as far as it focuses on the immediate aftermath of the race.**

**The Mimosa footage shows that Ms Stark was standing and skeptically looking at the slow-motion playback of the race while Ms Tareno was celebrating her win with the crowd. Then, it shows Ms Stark reaching out to Mr Troublebottom to lodge her protest and it changes the angle to show the crowd and other athletes, including Ms Tareno, anxiously waiting for the decision.**

**The television footage does not show the discussion between Mr Troublebottom and the other officials. The footage ends with Mr Troublebottom quickly coming back from the Video Review Room and announcing to Ms Stark that no obstruction occurred. The result is eventually confirmed on the official stadium screen.**

8. Is the Mimosa footage a Host Broadcast television coverage of the event?

**No.**

9. Are Exhibits 4 and 5 submitted by Ms Stark in her Application?

**Yes. As per Article 15 of the CAS ad hoc Rules, Ms Stark adduced those exhibits ahead of the hearing.**

10. With reference to Exhibit 6, was Mr Dorian Linton's article eventually published?

**No. Shortly after receiving the email, Ms Stark's counsel requested Mr Linton to refrain from publishing any article related to the race and revealed in strict confidence that Ms Stark intended to challenge the Advice of Mr Troublebottom. Such request was made during an informal conversation on the phone. Ms Stark's counsel insisted on the fact that any publication could be detrimental to Ms Stark's case as it could be seen as a tactic to assist her case.**

**Although the article was never released, the news of the pending proceedings had already been published by various media outlets shortly after Ms Stark officially lodged her appeal to the CAS ad hoc Division, following the information by the latter that a procedure had been initiated.**

11. Was Mr Troublebottom's comment that the journalist overheard made before or after his Advice was given?

**During his informal conversation with Ms Stark's counsel, Dorian Linton indicated that the comment made by Mr Troublebottom had been made after the race ended and after the Advice had been communicated.**

12. Are Dorian Linton and Mimosa Daily Sports known to be trustworthy and honest sources of information?

**Yes. Mr Linton is a respected journalist, and the magazine is known to be one of the most reputed sports journals.**

13. Was a Jury of Appeal established and available to hear protests arising from athletics events during the Rosa Olympic Games?

**Yes.**

14. Have there been any previous complaints concerning Mr Troublebottom's field of play decisions?

**No.**

15. Did Mr Troublebottom report any conflict of interest regarding any prior relationship or association before officiating the race?

**No.**

16. Do the Umpires and Video Referee support Mr Troublebottom's decision that no obstruction occurred?

**Yes.**

17. What is the level of experience of Mr Troublebottom?

**Mr Troublebottom is a highly-trained referee who has been entrusted with supervising numerous World Athletics events in the past.**

18. What were Mr Troublebottom's social media posts like in general?

**Mr Troublebottom is an avid fan of athletics and regularly posts about his daily life as a referee. However, he usually would not react to a given athlete's performance during a race.**

19. Were there any formal objections to Ms Tareno's inclusion with able-bodied athletes before the Olympics began?

**No. Nor is Ms Tareno's participation in the Women's 200m race contested as part of the current proceedings.**

20. What was Ms Stark's immediate reaction to Mr Troublebottom's Advice?

**Ms Stark was visibly disappointed by the decision of Mr Troublebottom.**

21. Was Ms Stark allowed to view the video evidence used by Mr Troublebottom in his decision-making?

**No.**

22. Did Ms Stark have Olympic competitions experience before?

**Yes. The Rosa Olympic Games are Ms Stark's second Olympic participation. During her first participation, Ms Stark failed to have an all-around gold win after finishing second in the 100m race.**

23. Had Ms Stark and Mr Troublebottom had any previous interactions?

**No.**

24. What did Mr Troublebottom's interactions with Ms Tareno entail in his capacity as her 'peer mentor' at university?

**As part of the mentorship, Mr Troublebottom and Ms Tareno met twice during one academic year, once at the start and once at the end. He**

**would check on her progress and challenges at university. However, due to Ms Tareno's busy schedule, they could not meet more often, except for a few weeks to study for their respective final exams together with their common friend.**

25. Were the cameras tested before the Athletics events started to ensure there were no technical errors or hardware malfunctions?

**Yes.**

With regards to the SAM Case 2025 and its exhibits, the following corrections should be noted:

1. When did the special Winter Mimosa Varsity competition take place?

**The special Winter Mimosa Varsity competition took place on 26 January 2024, not 26 January 2023. Any contrary mention should be disregarded.**

2. When was the screenshot of the notification of deletion of the tweet taken (Exhibit 4)?

**The screenshot was taken on 20 May 2025, 22:46. Any contrary mention should be disregarded.**

# APPENDIX 1

## Model Skeleton of Arguments and List of Legal Authorities



## MODEL SKELETON ARGUMENTS

The Skeleton Arguments must be sent in PDF format. Each of the PDFs must be named as follows:

- Team Name\_Skeleton\_Appellant
- Team Name\_Skeleton\_Respondent

Teams will find below a model for Skeleton Arguments, in a totally unrelated case to the present one. Teams are free to adapt this model as they deem fit, bearing in mind that Skeleton Arguments should not be more than one page per Party:

### A. Issue 1: Lack of jurisdiction

#### a. First argument: The arbitration agreement is not valid

- []
- []

#### b. Second argument: Even if the arbitration agreement were valid, the Tribunal was not properly constituted

- []
- []

### B. Issue 2: Claimant is liable for breach of contract

#### a. First argument: Claimant's failure to perform

#### b. Second argument: Claimant's delay in payment

### C. Issue 3: [...]



## MODEL LIST OF LEGAL AUTHORITIES

All lists of Legal Authorities must contain:

- The Legal Authority's number, ordered sequentially starting from 1 up to a maximum of 20, with "AL" for Appellant and "RL" for Respondent's list;
- The reference to the Legal Authority in sufficient detail; and
- A hyperlink to access the Legal Authority. If the Legal Authority cannot be accessed via a hyperlink (because it is not available online), it must be scanned and attached to the PDF; the "Access" column must indicate "attached".

The list of Legal Authorities must be sent in PDF format, making sure that all hyperlinks are working. Each of these PDFs must be named as follows:

- **Team Name**\_List of LA\_Appellant
- **Team Name**\_List of LA\_Respondent

See the Models below.



**Model for Appellant's list of Legal Authorities**

<b>Legal authority number</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Access</b>
<b>AL-1</b>	CAS 2019/A/6298 Manchester City FC v. UEFA, paras. 83-85	<a href="https://www.tas-cas.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Award_CAS_6298_internet.pdf">https://www.tas-cas.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Award_CAS_6298_internet.pdf</a>
<b>AL-2</b>	A. Duval, A. Rigozzi, Yearbook of International Sports Arbitration 2017, Asser Press, pp. 97-99	Attached
AL-3		
AL-4		
AL-5		
AL-6		
AL-7		
AL-8		
AL-9		
AL-10		
AL-11		
AL-12		
AL-13		
AL-14		
AL-15		

### Model for Respondent's list of Legal Authorities

Legal authority number	Reference	Access
RL-1	A. Rigozzi, E. Hasler, "Double Hatting, Sports Arbitration and Article 6(1) ECHR: A Recent Decision by the Paris Court of Appeal", Kluwer Arbitration Blog, 21 August 2021	<a href="http://arbitrationblog.kluwerarbitration.com/2021/08/21/doublehattingsports-arbitrationand-article-61echr-a-recentdecision-by-the-pariscourt-of-appeal/">http://arbitrationblog.kluwerarbitration.com/2021/08/21/doublehattingsports-arbitrationand-article-61echr-a-recentdecision-by-the-pariscourt-of-appeal/</a>
RL-2	<i>Mutu and Pechstein v. Switzerland</i> – ECHR Cases 40575/10 and 67474/10, Judgment 2 October 2018	<a href="https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#%22appno%22:%2240575/10%22,%22itemid%22:%22001-186828%22">https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#%22appno%22: [%2240575/10%22], %22itemid%22: [%22001-186828%22]</a>
RL-3		
RL-4		
RL-5		
RL-6		
RL-7		
RL-8		
RL-9		
RL-10		
RL-11		
RL-12		
RL-13		
RL-14		
RL-15		
RL-16		
RL-17		
RL-18		
RL-19		
RL-20		