

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Trademark Trial and Appeal Board
P.O. Box 1451
Alexandria, VA 22313-1451

Mailed: May 30, 2008

Opposition No. 91160945

Athletics Investment Group
LLC, d/b/a

v.

The Board of Trustees of the
University of Alabama

Clara Vela, Paralegal Specialist:

On April 22, 2008, opposer filed a motion to suspend for further settlement negotiations. The motion was filed with applicant's consent.

The parties have shown progress toward settlement. In view thereof, opposer's motion is granted to the extent that proceedings herein are suspended until THREE months from the mailing date of this action, subject to the right of either party to request resumption at any time.¹ See Trademark Rule 2.117(c). **However, inasmuch as this case was commenced in 2004 and applicant has yet to file its answer, no further request, for extension or suspension, will be granted.**

¹ The parties have not shown good cause for the requested six month suspension period.

In the event that there is no word from either party concerning the progress of their negotiations, upon conclusion of the suspension period, proceedings shall resume without further notice or order from the Board, upon the schedule set out below.

Applicant is allowed TEN DAYS from resumption to answer the notice of opposition.

Trial dates, including the close of discovery, are reset as follows:

Proceedings resume:	8/30/08
Applicant's answer due:	9/9/08
Discovery Period to close:	11/28/08
30-day testimony period for party in position of plaintiff to close:	2/26/09
30-day testimony period for party in position of defendant to close:	4/27/09
15-day rebuttal testimony period to close:	6/11/09

In each instance, a copy of the transcript of testimony together with copies of documentary exhibits, must be served on the adverse party within thirty days after completion of the taking of testimony. Trademark Rule 2.125.

Briefs shall be filed in accordance with Trademark Rule 2.128(a) and (b). An oral hearing will be set only upon request filed as provided by Trademark Rule 2.129.

If, during the suspension period, either of the parties or their attorneys should have a change of address, the Board should be so informed.

NEWS FROM THE TTAB:

The USPTO published a notice of final rulemaking in the Federal Register on August 1, 2007, at 72 F.R. 42242. By this notice, various rules governing Trademark Trial and Appeal Board inter partes proceedings are amended. Certain amendments have an effective date of August 31, 2007, while most have an effective date of November 1, 2007. For further information, the parties are referred to a reprint of the final rule and a chart summarizing the affected rules, their changes, and effective dates, both viewable on the USPTO website via these web addresses:

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/notices/72fr42242.pdf>
http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/notices/72fr42242_FinalRuleChart.pdf

By one rule change effective August 31, 2007, the Board's standard protective order is made applicable to all TTAB inter partes cases, whether already pending or commenced on or after that date. However, as explained in the final rule and chart, this change will not affect any case in which any protective order has already been approved or imposed by the Board. Further, as explained in the final rule, parties are free to agree to a substitute protective order or to supplement or amend the standard order even after August 31, 2007, subject to Board approval. The standard protective order can be viewed using the following web address:

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/ttab/tbmp/stndagmnt.htm>