

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Trademark Trial and Appeal Board
P.O. Box 1451
Alexandria, VA 22313-1451
General Contact Number: 571-272-8500

Mailed: July 17, 2014

Opposition Nos. 91201083 (parent)
91209135

Minnesota Twins, LLC

v.

Twins Special LLC

Veronica P. White, Paralegal Specialist:

On June 10, 2014, opposer filed a motion, with applicant's consent, to consolidate Opposition Nos. 91201083 and 91209135. The Board notes initially that applicant has not yet filed its answer in proceeding 91209135 for which consolidation is sought.

When cases involving common questions of law or fact are pending before the Board, the Board may order consolidation of the cases. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(a); *Regatta Sport Ltd. v. Telux-Pioneer Inc.*, 20 USPQ2d 1154 (TTAB 1991); and *Estate of Biro v. Bic Corp.*, 18 USPQ2d 1382 (TTAB 1991). In determining whether to consolidate proceedings, the Board will weigh the savings in time, effort, and expense which may be gained from consolidation, against any prejudice or inconvenience which may be caused thereby.

Consolidation is discretionary with the Board, and may be ordered upon motion granted by the Board, or upon stipulation of the parties approved by the Board, or upon the Board's own initiative. *See, e.g., Hilson Research Inc. v. Society for Human Resource Management*, 27 USPQ2d 1423 (TTAB 1993); and *Regatta Sport Ltd. v. Telux-Pioneer Inc.*, 20 USPQ2d 1154 (TTAB 1991).

It is noted that the parties to these proceedings are identical and the issues are similar or related. Accordingly, the motion to consolidate is granted. Opposition Nos. 91201083 and 91209135 are hereby consolidated and may be presented on the same record and briefs. *See Hilson Research Inc. v. Society for Human Resource Management, supra*; and *Helene Curtis Industries Inc. v. Suave Shoe Corp.*, 13 USPQ2d 1618 (TTAB 1989).

The Board file will be maintained in Opposition No. 91201083 as the “parent case.” From this point on, only a single copy of any motion and any paper should be filed, and each such motion or paper should be filed in the parent case only, but caption all consolidated proceeding numbers, listing the parent case first. However, inasmuch as these proceedings are being consolidated prior to joinder of the issues in each proceeding, applicant should file a separate answer in proceeding 91209135 before commencing the practice of filing a single copy of all motions and papers in the parent case.¹

¹ The parties should promptly inform the Board of any other Board proceedings or related cases within the meaning of Fed. R. Civ. P. 42, so that the Board can consider whether further consolidation is appropriate.

Despite being consolidated, each proceeding retains its separate character and requires entry of a separate judgment. The decision on the consolidated cases shall take into account any differences in the issues raised by the respective pleadings; a copy of the decision shall be placed in each proceeding file.

Upon consolidation, the Board will reset dates for the consolidated proceeding, usually by adopting the dates as set in the most recently instituted of the cases being consolidated. Answer, discovery, conferencing, disclosure and trial dates remain as set forth below.

Time to Answer ²	7/26/2014
Deadline for Discovery Conference ³	8/25/2014
Discovery Opens	8/25/2014
Initial Disclosures Due	9/24/2014
Expert Disclosures Due	1/22/2015
Discovery Closes	2/21/2015
Plaintiff's Pretrial Disclosures	4/7/2015
Plaintiff's 30-day Trial Period Ends	5/22/2015
Defendant's Pretrial Disclosures	6/6/2015
Defendant's 30-day Trial Period Ends	7/21/2015
Plaintiff's Rebuttal Disclosures	8/5/2015
Plaintiff's 15-day Rebuttal Period Ends	9/4/2015

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.

² Applies to Opposition No. 91209135 (the answer for Opposition No. 91201083 was filed on November 20, 2013).

³ Discovery conference and initial disclosure deadlines apply to Opposition No. 91209135 (regarding Opposition No. 91201083, it is noted that the parties have held their discovery conference and agreed to waive Initial Disclosures, as set forth in the record).

Opposition Nos. 91201083 and 91209135

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

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