



Introduction

Claimant:	Carrie Anton
Respondent:	Canadian Blind Sports Association (CBSA)
Affected Parties:	Kelley Hannett & Viviane Forest
Type of Dispute:	Selection to Paralympic Games
Arbitrator:	Jane H. Devlin
Date of Decision:	June 21 st , 2004



Dispute Summary

Carrie Anton contested a decision by the Canadian Blind Sports Association (CBSA) not to include her on the National Women's Goalball Team competing at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens.





Background Facts

Carrie Anton has been a member of the National Women's Goalball Team since 1997. She was a member of the gold medal team at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and won a silver medal at the 2002 World Championships.

In May 2004, she was advised by the coaching staff that she had not been selected for the team competing at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens. The Head Coach, Frank MacIntyre, noted that, about a year and a half earlier, he had distributed selection criteria to all athletes that were used for team selection in 2003 and 2004.

Based on the criteria and assessments by a total of seven coaches, Ms. Anton was ranked 7th overall. The top six athletes were chosen for the Paralympic team.

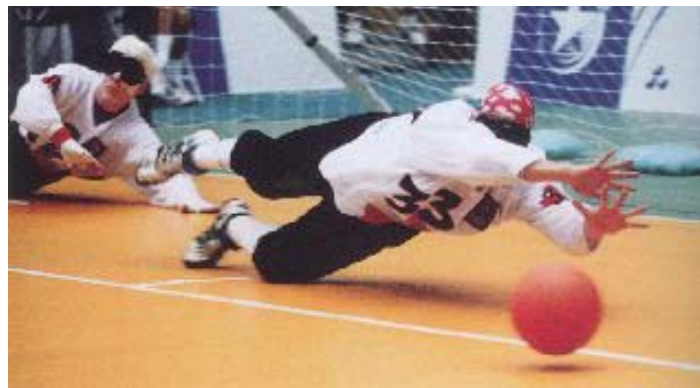
If Ms. Anton were to be reinstated, then one of two athletes would lose her place on the team. The two athletes were Kelley Hannett and Viviane Forest who were identified as "affected parties" in this case.



Claimant's Position

Ms. Anton's case was based on the following arguments:

- Some of the selection criteria were vague and subjective;
- She had been a member of the National Team since 1997 and, at a recent tournament in Montreal, had put in an outstanding performance; and,
- Her replacement had potential, but lacked international experience.





Respondent's Position

The CBSA's case was based on the following arguments:

- The selection criteria had been distributed to all athletes about 18 months prior to the decision;
- Team selection was not based on only one competition; instead, it involved assessments over an extended period of time; and,
- Seven different coaches, acting independently, concluded that Ms. Anton had not qualified as one of the top six athletes for the team.





Arbitrator's Analysis



Arbitrator, Jane H. Devlin, was satisfied that CBSA properly delegated responsibility for developing and applying selection criteria to the coaching staff.

She further concluded that the coaches properly considered both individual skills, as well as other factors such as team chemistry, when selecting the top six athletes.

While the arbitrator noted there had been differences of opinion between Ms. Anton and one of the coaches, she concluded there was no evidence of bias in the selection process.



Ruling

The arbitrator found that the team selection had been made in good faith and that there was no evidence of bias.

Ms. Anton's appeal was dismissed.



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ADRsportRED judgment.



Lessons Learned

When selecting athletes for a team sport, it is reasonable to consider “team chemistry” as well as individual skills.

Therefore, it is also reasonable that there would be subjectivity in the assessment by members of the selection committee.

