

ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION

Foundcom Limited v. Spyros Plati, meijuju, meijuju, Gena Genrihov, Christopher King, Newbie Li and zhao jiadi Case No. D2023-4297

1. The Parties

The Complainant is Foundcom Limited, Cyprus, represented by TB Business Support, LLC, Latvia.

The Respondents are Spyros Plati, Cyprus, meijuju, meijuju, Hong Kong, China, Gena Genrihov, Belarus, Christopher King, United Kingdom, Newbie Li, Singapore and zhao jiadi, Hong Kong, China.

2. The Domain Names and Registrars

The disputed domain names <brazino777.cfd> and <brazino777s.click> are registered with Spaceship, Inc. The disputed domain name <brazino777login.com> is registered with OwnRegistrar, Inc. The disputed domain name <brazino777-brazil.com> is registered with Dynadot Inc. The disputed domain names <brazinos777.org> and <brazino777.casino> are registered with NameCheap, Inc. (referred all together as the "Registrars").

3. Procedural History

The Complaint was filed with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the "Center") on October 16, 2023. On October 18, 2023, the Center transmitted by email to the Registrars a request for registrar verification in connection with the disputed domain names. On October 18, 19 and 20, 2023, the Registrars transmitted by email to the Center their verification response disclosing registrant and contact information for the disputed domain names which differed from the named Respondent (Redacted for Privacy) and contact information in the Complaint.

The Center sent an email communication to the Complainant on October 20, 2023, with the registrant and contact information of nominally multiple underlying registrants revealed by the Registrars, requesting the Complainant to either file separate complaints for the disputed domain names associated with different underlying registrants or alternatively, demonstrate that the underlying registrants are in fact the same entity. The Complainant filed an amended Complaint on October 24, 2023.

page 2

The Center verified that the Complaint together with the amended Complaint satisfied the formal requirements of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Policy" or "UDRP"), the Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Rules"), and the WIPO Supplemental Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Supplemental Rules").

In accordance with the Rules, paragraphs 2 and 4, the Center formally notified the Respondents of the Complaint, and the proceedings commenced on October 27, 2023. In accordance with the Rules, paragraph 5, the due date for Response was November 16, 2023. The Respondents did not submit any response. Accordingly, the Center notified the Respondents' default on November 17, 2023.

The Center appointed Edoardo Fano as the sole panelist in this matter on November 30, 2023. The Panel finds that it was properly constituted. The Panel has submitted the Statement of Acceptance and Declaration of Impartiality and Independence, as required by the Center to ensure compliance with the Rules, paragraph 7.

The Panel has not received any requests from the Complainant or the Respondents regarding further submissions, waivers or extensions of deadlines, and the Panel has not found it necessary to request any further information from the Parties.

Having reviewed the communication records in the case file provided by the Center, the Panel finds that the Center has discharged its responsibility under the Rules, paragraph 2(a), "to employ reasonably available means calculated to achieve actual notice to [the] Respondent". Therefore, the Panel shall issue its Decision based upon the Complaint, the Policy, the Rules and the Supplemental Rules and without the benefit of a response from the Respondents.

The language of the proceeding is English, being the language of the Registration Agreements, as per paragraph 11(a) of the Rules.

4. Factual Background

The Complainant is Foundcom Limited, a Cypriot company operating in the field of gaming and gambling software and services, and owning several trademark registrations for BRAZINO and BRAZINO777, among which the following ones:

- European Union Trade Mark Registration No. 018731200 for BRAZINO, registered on November 9, 2022, for goods in the Class 9 and services in Class 41;

- European Union Trade Mark Registration No. 018763876 for BRAZINO777, registered on January 19, 2023, for goods in the Class 9 and services in Class 41.

The Complainant also operates on the Internet since 2018 at the website "www.brazino777.com", registered on February 14, 2018, by the Complainant's parent company Alpha Games N.V.

The Complainant provided evidence in support of the above.

According to the Whols records, the disputed domain names were registered on the following dates: <brazino777.cfd> on August 26, 2023, <brazino777s.click> on September 10, 2023, <brazino777login.com> on August 1, 2023, <brazino777-brazil.com> on October 31, 2022, <brazinos777.org> on July 26, 2023, and <brazino777.casino> on February 21, 2022. When the Complaint was filed, the disputed domain names <brazino777.cfd>, <brazino777s.click>, <brazino777login.com>, and <brazinos777.org> resolved or redirected to websites purportedly providing the same services as the Complainant, namely online gaming and gambling, and reproducing the Complainant's trademarks, while the disputed domain names <brazino777.casino> and <brazino777-brazil.com> are inactive.

5. Parties' Contentions

A. Complainant

The Complainant contends that it has satisfied each of the elements required under the Policy for a transfer of the disputed domain names.

Notably, the Complainant states that the disputed domain names are confusingly similar to its trademarks BRAZINO and BRAZINO777.

Further to section 6.1 below, the Complainant argues that the disputed domain names are under common control and thus addresses the Respondents in the singular. The Complainant asserts that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain names since it has not been authorized by the Complainant to register the disputed domain names or to use its trademarks within the disputed domain names, it is not commonly known by the disputed domain names and it is not making either a *bona fide* offering of goods or services or a legitimate noncommercial or fair use of the disputed domain names. The disputed domain names either resolve or redirects to websites purportedly providing the same services as the Complainant, namely online gaming and gambling, and reproducing the Complainant's trademarks, or are inactive.

The Complainant submits that the Respondent has registered the disputed domain names in bad faith, since the Complainant's trademarks BRAZINO and BRAZINO777 are distinctive. Therefore, the Respondent targeted the Complainant's trademarks at the time of registration of the disputed domain names and the Complainant contends that the use of the disputed domain names to resolve or redirects to websites purportedly providing the same services as the Complainant, namely online gaming and gambling, and reproducing the Complainant's trademarks, or to inactive webpages, qualifies as bad faith registration and use.

B. Respondents

The Respondents have made no reply to the Complainant's contentions and are in default. In reference to paragraphs 5(f) and 14 of the Rules, no exceptional circumstances explaining the default have been put forward or are apparent from the record.

A respondent is not obliged to participate in a proceeding under the Policy, but if it fails to do so, reasonable facts asserted by a complainant may be taken as true, and appropriate inferences, in accordance with paragraph 14(b) of the Rules, may be drawn. WIPO Overview of WIPO Panel Views on Selected UDRP Questions, Third Edition ("<u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>"), section 4.3.

6. Discussion and Findings

6.1 Procedural issue - Consolidation of Multiple Respondents

The amended Complaint was filed in relation to nominally different domain name registrants. The Complainant alleges that the disputed domain name registrants are the same entity or mere alter egos of each other, or under common control. The Complainant requests the consolidation of the Complaint against the multiple disputed domain name registrants pursuant to paragraph 10(e) of the Rules.

The disputed domain name registrants did not comment on the Complainant's request.

Paragraph 3(c) of the Rules states that a complaint may relate to more than one domain name, provided that the domain names are registered by the same domain name holder.

page 4

In addressing the Complainant's request, the Panel will consider whether (i) the disputed domain names or corresponding websites are subject to common control; and (ii) the consolidation would be fair and equitable to all Parties. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 4.11.2.

As regards common control, the Panel notes that all the disputed domain names follow a very similar naming pattern, as they all incorporate the Complainant's trademark BRAZINO777; they all use the same (host) servers; they have been registered in a relative short period of time, namely between February 21, 2022 and September 10, 2023.

As regards fairness and equity, the Panel sees no reason why consolidation of the disputes would be unfair or inequitable to any Party.

Accordingly, the Panel decides to consolidate the disputes regarding the nominally different disputed domain name registrants (referred to below as "the Respondent") in a single proceeding.

6.2 Substantive Issues

Paragraph 4(a) of the Policy lists three elements, which the Complainant must satisfy in order to succeed:

- (i) the disputed domain names are identical or confusingly similar to a trademark or service mark in which the Complainant has rights; and
- (ii) the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain names; and
- (iii) the disputed domain names have been registered and are being used in bad faith.

A. Identical or Confusingly Similar

It is well accepted that the first element functions primarily as a standing requirement. The standing (or threshold) test for confusing similarity involves a reasoned but relatively straightforward comparison between the Complainant's trademark and the disputed domain names. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 1.7.

Based on the available record, the Panel finds the Complainant has shown rights in respect of a trademark or service mark for the purposes of the Policy. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 1.2.1.

The Panel finds the entirety of the marks BRAZINO and BRAZINO777 is reproduced within the disputed domain names. Accordingly, the disputed domain names are confusingly similar to the marks for the purposes of the Policy. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 1.7.

While the addition of other terms, here "s", "login", "brazil" and a hyphen, may bear on assessment of the second and third elements, the Panel finds the addition of such terms and elements does not prevent a finding of confusing similarity between the disputed domain names and the mark for the purposes of the Policy. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 1.8.

It is also well accepted that a generic Top-Level Domain ("TLD"), in this case ".com", "casino", ".org", "cfd", and "click", is typically ignored when assessing the similarity between a trademark and a domain name. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 1.11.1.

Based on the available record, the Panel finds the first element of the Policy has been established.

B. Rights or Legitimate Interests

Paragraph 4(c) of the Policy provides a list of circumstances in which the respondent may demonstrate rights or legitimate interests in a disputed domain name.

While the overall burden of proof in UDRP proceedings is on the complainant, UDRP panels have recognized that proving a respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in a domain name may result in the often impossible task of "proving a negative", requiring information that is often primarily within the knowledge or control of the respondent. As such, where a complainant makes out a *prima facie* case that the respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests, the burden of production on this element shifts to the respondent to come forward with relevant evidence demonstrating rights or legitimate interests in the domain names. If the respondent fails to come forward with such relevant evidence, the complainant is deemed to have satisfied the second element. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 2.1.

Having reviewed the present record, the Panel finds the Complainant has established a *prima facie* case that the Respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain names. The Respondent has not rebutted the Complainant's *prima facie* showing and has not come forward with any relevant evidence demonstrating rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain names such as those enumerated in the Policy or otherwise.

The disputed domain names <brazino777.cfd>, <brazino777s.click>, <brazino777login.com>, and <brazinos777.org> resolve or redirect to websites purportedly providing the same services as the Complainant, namely online gaming and gambling, and reproducing the Complainant's trademarks. Panels have held that the use of a domain name for illegal activity, here impersonation/passing off, can never confer rights or legitimate interests on a respondent. WIPO Overview 3.0, section 2.13.1.

Moreover, the Panel finds that the composition of the disputed domain names, all of them incorporating the Complainant's trademark BRAZINO777, carries a risk of implied affiliation as it effectively impersonates or suggests sponsorship or endorsement by the Complainant. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 2.5.1.

Based on the available record, the Panel finds the second element of the Policy has been established.

C. Registered and Used in Bad Faith

The Panel notes that for the purposes of paragraph 4(a)(iii) of the Policy, paragraph 4(b) of the Policy establishes circumstances, in particular but without limitation, that if found by the Panel to be present, shall be evidence of the registration and use of a domain name in bad faith.

Paragraph 4(b) of the Policy sets out a list of non-exhaustive circumstances that may indicate that a domain name was registered and used in bad faith, but other circumstances may be relevant in assessing whether a respondent's registration and use of a domain name is in bad faith. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 3.2.1.

In the present case, regarding the registration in bad faith of the disputed domain names, the Complainant (or its parent company) has been operating the online gaming website "www.brazino777.com" since 2018 and the reputation of the Complainant's trademarks BRAZINO and BRAZINO777 in the field of gaming and gambling is clearly established. The Panel finds that the Respondent likely knew of the Complainant and deliberately registered the confusingly similar disputed domain names, especially because the disputed domain names
specially because the disputed domain names
specially because the disputed domain names or redirect to websites purportedly providing the same services as the Complainant, namely online gaming and gambling, and reproducing the Complainant's trademarks.

As regards the use in bad faith of the disputed domain names <brazino777.cfd>, <brazino777s.click>, <brazino777login.com>, and <brazinos777.org>, resolving or redirecting to websites purportedly providing the same services as the Complainant, namely online gaming and gambling, and reproducing the Complainant's trademarks, panels have held that the use of a domain name for illegal activity, here impersonation/passing off, constitutes bad faith. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 3.4.

page 6

As regards the disputed domain names
brazino777.casino> and
brazino777-brazil.com>, being both inactive, panels have found that the non-use of a domain name (including a blank or "coming soon" page) would not prevent a finding of bad faith under the doctrine of passive holding. Having reviewed the available record, the Panel finds the non-use of the disputed domain names does not prevent a finding of bad faith in the circumstances of this proceeding. Although panelists will look at the totality of the circumstances in each case, factors that have been considered relevant in applying the passive holding doctrine include: (i) the degree of distinctiveness or reputation of the complainant's mark, (ii) the failure of the respondent to submit a response or to provide any evidence of actual or contemplated good-faith use, and (iii) the respondent's concealing its identity or use of false contact details (noted to be in breach of its registration agreement). WIPO Overview 3.0, section 3.3. Having reviewed the available record, the Panel notes the distinctiveness of the Gomplainant's trademarks, the failure of the Respondent to submit a response, and the composition of the disputed domain names, and finds that in the circumstances of this case the passive holding of the disputed domain names does not prevent a finding of bad faith under the Policy.

Furthermore, the Panel considers that the nature of the inherently misleading disputed domain names, all of them including the Complainant's trademarks BRAZINO and BRAZINO777 in their entirety with the mere addition of the terms "s", "login", "brazil" and a hyphen, further supports a finding of bad faith. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 3.2.1.

Having reviewed the record, the Panel finds the Respondent's registration and use of the disputed domain names constitutes bad faith under the Policy.

Based on the available record, the Panel finds the third element of the Policy has been established.

7. Decision

For the foregoing reasons, in accordance with paragraphs 4(i) of the Policy and 15 of the Rules, the Panel orders that the disputed domain names <brazino777.cfd>, <brazino777s.click>, <brazino777login.com>, <brazino777.brazil.com>, <brazino777.org>, and <brazino777.casino> be transferred to the Complainant.

/Edoardo Fano/ Edoardo Fano Sole Panelist Date: December 14, 2023