

GAC Early Warning – Submittal_Rugby-UK-2805

Application ID:	1-1612-2805
Entity/Applicant Name:	Atomic Cross, LLC
String:	RUGBY
Early Warning Issue Date:	20 November 2012

Early Warning Description – This will be posted publicly:

The applicant does not represent the global community of rugby players, supporters and stakeholders.

Reason/Rationale for the Warning – This will be posted publicly:

The United Kingdom Government has considered the three applications for the “.rugby” string. One of the applicants is the International Rugby Board (IRB) which is the sole world governing body for the sport of rugby. The IRB is responsible for developing the game of rugby across the world and for formulating and controlling the laws of the game. The IRB is recognized as the international federation for rugby by its 117 member unions across six global regions. It is also recognized internationally through its affiliation with the International Olympic Committee and the Commonwealth Games Federation.

Unlike the application by Atomic Cross, therefore, the IRB’s application has the demonstrable support of the international rugby community and as such it is in effect a community application (if not technically so under ICANN’s rules).

In the light of these considerations, the United Kingdom Government believes that the IRB’s application merits priority consideration by ICANN due to the applicant’s direct linkage to the sport’s players, supporters and stakeholders worldwide. Furthermore, consistent with their global governance responsibilities, the IRB can be expected to ensure measured and responsible growth for this new gTLD in the best interests of the sport and with the full support of the global rugby community it will aim to serve.

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Possible Remediation steps for Applicant – This will be posted publicly:

GAC Member(s) to identify possible remediation steps to be taken by the applicant

The applicant should withdraw their application based on the information provided above.

Further Notes from GAC Member(s) (Optional) – This will be posted publicly:

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

About GAC Early Warning

The GAC Early Warning is a notice only. It is not a formal objection, nor does it directly lead to a process that can result in rejection of the application. However, a GAC Early Warning should be taken seriously as it raises the likelihood that the application could be the subject of GAC Advice on New gTLDs or of a formal objection at a later stage in the process. Refer to section 1.1.2.4 of the Applicant Guidebook (<http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb>) for more information on GAC Early Warning.

Instructions if you receive the Early Warning

ICANN strongly encourages you work with relevant parties as soon as possible to address the concerns voiced in the GAC Early Warning.

Asking questions about your GAC Early Warning

If you have questions or need clarification about your GAC Early Warning, please contact gacearlywarning@gac.icann.org. As highlighted above, ICANN strongly encourages you to contact gacearlywarning@gac.icann.org as soon as practicable regarding the issues identified in the Early Warning.

Continuing with your application

If you choose to continue with the application, then the “Applicant’s Response” section below should be completed. In this section, you should notify the GAC of intended actions, including the expected completion date. This completed form should then be sent to gacearlywarning@gac.icann.org. If your remediation steps involve submitting requests for changes to your application, see the change request process at <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/customer-service/change-requests>.

In the absence of a response, ICANN will continue to process the application as submitted.

Withdrawing your application

If you choose to withdraw your application within the 21-day window to be eligible for a refund of 80% of the evaluation fee (USD 148,000), please follow the withdrawal process published at <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/customer-service/withdrawal-refund>. Note that an application can still be withdrawn after the 21-day time period; however, the available refund amount is reduced. See section 1.5 of the Applicant Guidebook.

For questions please contact: gacearlywarning@gac.icann.org

Applicant Response: