

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION

YVES SALOMON SAS v. shang guan ning

Case No. D2023-2294

1. The Parties

Complainant is YVES SALOMON SAS, France, represented by Me Haas, France.

Respondent is shang guan ning, Taiwan, Province of China.

2. The Domain Name and Registrar

The disputed domain name <yvessalmon.com> (the “Domain Name”) is registered with Gname.com Pte. Ltd. (the “Registrar”).

3. Procedural History

The Complaint was filed in English with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the “Center”) on May 26, 2023. On May 26, 2023, the Center transmitted by email to the Registrar a request for registrar verification in connection with the Domain Name. On May 30, 2023, the Registrar transmitted by email to the Center its verification response disclosing registrant and contact information for the Domain Name which differed from the named Respondent (Redacted for privacy) and contact information in the Complaint. The Center sent an email communication to Complainant on May 30, 2023 providing the registrant and contact information disclosed by the Registrar, and inviting Complainant to submit an amendment to the Complaint. Complainant filed an amended Complaint in English on June 2, 2023.

On May 30, 2023, the Center transmitted another email communication to the Parties in English and Chinese regarding the language of the proceeding. On June 2, 2023, Complainant confirmed its request that English be the language of the proceeding. Respondent did not comment on the language of the proceeding.

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 Respondent in English and Chinese of the Complaint, and the proceedings commenced on June 6, 2023. In accordance with the Rules, paragraph 5, the due date for Response was June 26, 2023. Respondent did not submit any response. Accordingly, the Center notified Respondent’s default on June 29, 2023.

The Center appointed Kimberley Chen Nobles as the sole panelist in this matter on July 24, 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.

4. Factual Background

Complainant is an established French furrier company registered with the Trade register in Paris. It was formerly named YVES SALOMON FOURREUR, and it changed its name YVES SALOMON SAS on April 22, 2021. Complainant has a presence worldwide, with stores in France in Paris, Saint-Tropez, Megève, in the United States of America (“United States”) in New York and Aspen, in Morocco in Casablanca.

Complainant owns numerous registered trademarks worldwide with the YVES SALOMON mark, including:

- International registered trademark number 1017913 for the YVES SALOMON word mark, registered on May, 28, 2009, designating various countries, including China, where Respondent resides and operates;
- European Union registered Trade Mark number 000767145 for the YVES SALOMON word mark, registered on October 14, 1999, protected in classes 18 and 25;
- French registered trademark number 3618683 for the YVES SALOMON word mark, registered on December 18, 2008;
- United States registered trademark number 3841646 for the YVES SALOMON word mark, registered on August 31, 2010;
- Chinese registered trademark number 4630084 for the YVES SALOMON word mark, registered on January 7, 2009; and
- Chinese registered trademark number 4630087 for the YVES SALOMON word mark, registered on December 7, 2010.

Complainant is also the owner of multiple domain names containing the YVES SALOMON mark, including:

- <yves-salomon.fr>
- <yves-salomon.com>
- <yves-salomon.cn>
- <yves-salomon.com.hk>
- <yves-salomon.eu>
- <yves-salomon.info>
- <yves-salomon.jp>
- <yves-salomon.net>
- <yves-salomon.org>
- <yves-salomon.tw>
- <yves-salomon.us>
- <yves-salomon.xyz>
- <yvessalomon.ca>
- <yvessalomon.com.hk>
- <yvessalomon.eu>
- <yvessalomon.fr>
- <yvessalomon.info>
- <yvessalomon.jp>
- <yvessalomon.net>

- <yvessalomon.org>
- <yvessalomon.tw>
- <yvessalomon.us>

The Domain Name was registered on October 13, 2022 and reverts to a website with adult content and online gambling.

5. Parties' Contentions

A. Complainant

Complainant contends that (i) the Domain Name is identical or confusingly similar to Complainant's trademarks; (ii) Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in the Domain Name; and (iii) Respondent registered and is using the Domain Name in bad faith.

In particular, Complainant contends that it has trademark registrations for YVES SALOMON and that Respondent registered and is using the Domain Name with the intention to confuse Internet users looking for *bona fide* and well-known YVES SALOMON products and services.

Complainant notes that it has no affiliation with Respondent, nor authorized Respondent to register or use a domain name, which includes Complainant's trademarks, and that Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in the registration and use of the Domain Name. Rather, Complainant contends that Respondent has acted in bad faith in acquiring and setting up the Domain Name, when Respondent clearly knew of Complainant's rights.

B. Respondent

Respondent did not reply to Complainant's contentions.

6. Discussion and Findings

6.1. Preliminary Procedural Issue – Language of the Proceeding

The Rules, in paragraph 11(a), provide that unless otherwise agreed by the parties or specified otherwise in the registration agreement between the respondent and the registrar in relation to the disputed domain name, the language of the proceeding shall be the language of the registration agreement, subject to the authority of the panel to determine otherwise, having regard to the circumstances of the administrative proceeding.

Complainant submitted its Complaint in English. In its Complaint and email dated June 2, 2023, and amended Complaint, Complainant requested that the language of the proceeding be English. According to the information received from the Registrar, the language of the Registration Agreement for the Domain Name is Chinese.

Complainant contends that the Domain Name is registered in Latin characters, with no specific meaning in Chinese; that the contact details provided by the Registrar are not in the Chinese language, but English, with an address provided in English; that Respondent is the registrant of other domain names composed of English words – all of which indicate that Respondent is familiar with English. Complainant also contends that the time and costs required for translation of the Complaint would unfairly burden Complainant and delay the proceedings in this matter. Complainant contends that for the above reasons, that the proceedings be conducted in English.

In exercising its discretion to use a language other than that of the Registration Agreement for the Domain Name, the Panel has to exercise such discretion judicially in the spirit of fairness and justice to both Parties, taking into account all relevant circumstances of the case, including matters such as the Parties' ability to understand and use the proposed language, time, and costs.

The Panel accepts Complainant's submissions regarding the language of the proceeding. The Panel notes that the Center notified the Parties in Chinese and English of the language of the proceeding as well as notified Respondent in Chinese and English of the Complaint. Respondent chose not to comment on the language of the proceeding nor did Respondent choose to file a Response.

The Panel is also mindful of the need to ensure that the proceeding is conducted in a timely and cost effective manner. Complainant may be unduly disadvantaged by having to translate the Complaint into Chinese and to conduct the proceeding in Chinese.

Having considered all the circumstances of this case, the Panel determines that English be the language of the proceeding.

6.2. Substantive Issues

Under paragraph 4(a) of the Policy, to succeed Complainant must satisfy the Panel that:

- (i) the Domain Name is identical or confusingly similar to a trademark or service mark in which Complainant has rights; and
- (ii) Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the Domain Name; and
- (iii) the Domain Name was registered and is being used in bad faith.

Section 4.3 of the WIPO Overview of WIPO Panel Views on Selected UDRP Questions, Third Edition ("[WIPO Overview 3.0](#)") states that failure to respond to the complainant's contentions would not by itself mean that the complainant is deemed to have prevailed; a respondent's default is not necessarily an admission that the complainant's claims are true.

Thus, although in this case Respondent has failed to respond to the Complaint, the burden remains with Complainant to establish the three elements of paragraph 4(a) of the Policy by a preponderance of the evidence. See, e.g., *The Knot, Inc. v. In Knot We Trust LTD*, WIPO Case No. [D2006-0340](#).

A. Identical or Confusingly Similar

Ownership of a trademark registration is generally sufficient evidence that a complainant has the requisite rights in a mark for purposes of paragraph 4(a)(i) of the Policy. See [WIPO Overview 3.0](#), section 1.2.1. Complainant provided evidence of its rights in the YVES SALOMON trademarks, as noted above. Complainant has also submitted evidence which supports that the YVES SALOMON trademarks are widely known and a distinctive identifier of Complainant's products and services. Complainant has therefore proven that it has the requisite rights in the YVES SALOMON trademarks.

With Complainant's rights in the YVES SALOMON trademark established, the remaining question under the first element of the Policy is whether the Domain Name, typically disregarding the Top-Level Domain ("TLD") in which it is registered (in this case, ".com"), is identical or confusingly similar to Complainant's trademark. See, e.g., *B & H Foto & Electronics Corp. v. Domains by Proxy, Inc. / Joseph Gross*, WIPO Case No. [D2010-0842](#).

Here, the Domain Name is confusingly similar to Complainant's YVES SALOMON trademarks. The absence of the letter "o" in the YVES SALOMON trademark or the misspelling of the YVES SALOMON trademark through the omission of the letter "o" - does not prevent a finding of confusing similarity between the Domain Name and the YVES SALOMON trademarks as it is recognizable in the Domain Name. Thus, the Panel finds that Complainant has satisfied the first element of the Policy.

B. Rights or Legitimate Interests

Under paragraph 4(a)(ii) of the Policy, a complainant must make a *prima facie* showing that a respondent possesses no rights or legitimate interests in a disputed domain name. See, e.g., *Malayan Banking Berhad v. Beauty, Success & Truth International*, WIPO Case No. [D2008-1393](#). Once a complainant makes such a *prima facie* showing, the burden of production shifts to the respondent, though the burden of proof always remains on the complainant. If the respondent fails to come forward with relevant evidence showing rights or legitimate interests, the complainant will have sustained its burden under the second element of the UDRP.

From the record in this case, it is evident that Respondent was, and is, aware of Complainant and its YVES SALOMON trademarks, and does not have any rights or legitimate interests in the Domain Name. Complainant has confirmed that Respondent is not affiliated with Complainant, or otherwise authorized or licensed to use the YVES SALOMON trademarks or to seek registration of any domain name incorporating the trademarks. Respondent is also not known to be associated with the YVES SALOMON trademarks and there is no evidence showing that Respondent has been commonly known by the Domain Name.

In addition, Respondent has not used the Domain Name in connection with a *bona fide* offering of goods or services or a legitimate noncommercial or fair use. Rather, the evidence demonstrates that the Domain Name resolves to a page featuring adult or pornographic, and online gambling games content, which has no connection with the terms “YVES SALOMON” or a misspelt version thereof. Such use does not constitute a *bona fide* offering of goods or services or a legitimate noncommercial or fair use and cannot under the circumstances confer on Respondent any rights or legitimate interests in the Domain Name. See, e.g., *Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A. v. Charles Duke / Oneandone Private Registration*, WIPO Case No. [D2013-0875](#).

Accordingly, Complainant has provided evidence supporting its *prima facie* claim that Respondent lacks any rights or legitimate interests in the Domain Name. Respondent has failed to produce countervailing evidence of any rights or legitimate interests in the Domain Name. Thus, the Panel concludes that Respondent does not have any rights or legitimate interests in the Domain Name and Complainant has met its burden under paragraph 4(a)(ii) of the Policy.

C. Registered and Used in Bad Faith

The Panel finds that Respondent’s actions indicate that Respondent registered and is using the Domain Name in bad faith.

Paragraph 4(b) of the Policy provides a non-exhaustive list of circumstances indicating bad faith registration and use on the part of a domain name registrant, namely:

“(i) circumstances indicating that you have registered or you have acquired the domain name primarily for the purpose of selling, renting, or otherwise transferring the domain name registration to the complainant who is the owner of the trademark or service mark or to a competitor of that complainant, for valuable consideration in excess of your documented out-of-pocket costs directly related to the domain name; or

(ii) you have registered the domain name in order to prevent the owner of the trademark or service mark from reflecting the mark in a corresponding domain name, provided that you have engaged in a pattern of such conduct; or

(iii) you have registered the domain name primarily for the purpose of disrupting the business of a competitor; or

(iv) by using the domain name, you have intentionally attempted to attract, for commercial gain, Internet users to your website or other on-line location, by creating a likelihood of confusion with the complainant’s mark as to the source, sponsorship, affiliation, or endorsement of your web site or location or of a product or service on your web site or location.”

The Panel finds that Complainant provided ample evidence to show that registration and use of the YVES SALOMON trademarks long predate the registration of the Domain Name. Complainant is also well established and known. Indeed, the record shows that Complainant's YVES SALOMON trademarks and related products and services are widely known and recognized. Therefore, Respondent was likely aware of the YVES SALOMON trademarks when it registered the Domain Name, or knew or should have known that the Domain Name was confusingly similar to Complainant's trademarks. See [WIPO Overview 3.0](#), section 3.2.2; see also *TTT Moneycorp Limited v. Privacy Gods / Privacy Gods Limited*, WIPO Case No. [D2016-1973](#).

The Panel therefore finds that Respondent's awareness of Complainant's trademark rights at the time of registration suggests bad faith. See *YVES SALOMON GmbH v. Crédit du Léman SA, Jean-Denis Deletraz*, WIPO Case No. [D2011-2209](#); *Nintendo of America Inc v. Marco Beijen, Beijen Consulting, Pokemon Fan Clubs Org., and Pokemon Fans Unite*, WIPO Case No. [D2001-1070](#); *BellSouth Intellectual Property Corporation v. Serena, Axel*, WIPO Case No. [D2006-0007](#).

Further, Complainant's YVES SALOMON trademarks are recognizable in the Domain Name, which suggests Respondent's actual knowledge of Complainant's rights in the YVES SALOMON trademarks at the time of registration.

Moreover, Respondent registered and is using the Domain Name to confuse and mislead consumers looking for well-known YVES SALOMON products and services of Complainant or authorized partners of Complainant. The use of the YVES SALOMON trademarks is intended to capture Internet traffic from Internet users who are looking for Complainant's products and services. Such use of the Domain Name to diverted users to the webpage with adult or pornographic, and online gambling games content could result in causing confusion with Complainant's business and activities. It may confuse Internet users who are looking for Complainant's legitimate website and deceive Internet users into thinking that Respondent is somehow connected to Complainant, which is not the case. Furthermore, the content provided in the website the Domain Name reverted to, may result in tarnishing Complainant's reputation.

Finally, the Panel also notes the failure of Respondent to submit a response or to provide any evidence of actual or contemplated good-faith use, the failure to provide its contact information through the use of a privacy service, and the implausibility of any good-faith use to which the Domain Name may be put.

Accordingly, the Panel finds that Respondent has registered and is using the Domain Name in bad faith and Complainant succeeds under the third element of paragraph 4(a) of the Policy.

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 Domain Name <yvessalmon.com> be transferred to Complainant.

/Kimberley Chen Nobles/

Kimberley Chen Nobles

Sole Panelist

Date: August 7, 2023