

competitions, with which the fulfilment of contractual obligations has nothing in common.

The fact is that clubs and players voluntarily selected the BAT as a competent forum for the resolution of their disputes. By imposing sanctions, FIBA strives to ensure compliance with such decisions. Another fact is that the Euroleague decided to observe the BAT Awards and thus also the sanctions imposed in the event that a client fails to comply with the BAT Award.

Allowing KK Zadar to participate in the ABA League in the 2016/17 season prior to the fulfilment of their obligations arising from the BAT Awards would constitute an illegal and illegitimate action by the League. The ABA League ownership structure consists of clubs that are committed to honour the FIBA rules (through the membership in their National Federations) and that even today conclude contracts using the BAT clause. That means that any breach of sanctions by the defaulting party shall constitute an action in contravention with their own commitments.

In addition to the above, any such action would raise a question regarding the legitimacy of the entire competition since all other clubs duly fulfil and comply with the BAT Awards.

It is also important to underline the fact that it is such compliance with BAT Awards that protects the players, coaches and agents as well as clubs as it ensures compliance with contractual obligations.

I expect that the ABA League management will act in accordance with the commitments of the participating clubs and keep on the side of the law, justice and equality.

Yours faithfully,

Blaž Bolcar

