MOTION TO COMPEL ARBITRATION

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I. INTRODUCTION.

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On March 2nd, 2021, the honorable Court issued an order denying without prejudice Defendants ClubCorp USA, Inc., ClubCorp Holdings, Inc., CCA Club Operations Holdings, LLC, ClubCorp Club Operations, Inc., ClubCorp Symphony Towers Club, Inc. ("Symphony"), and ClubCorp San Jose Club, Inc.'s ("SJC" and collectively, "Defendants") motion to dismiss, motion to strike, and motion to compel arbitration (the "Order"). More specifically, the motions to dismiss and strike were denied without prejudice as premature in light of the arbitrability issue. With regard to the motion to compel arbitration, the Court found relevant a perceived factual dispute about whether the University Club's Bylaws and the SV Club's Bylaws (collectively, the "Bylaws") were readily available to Jeffrey Cuenco and Linda Hong (collectively, "Plaintiffs") when they submitted their applications for membership—i.e., whether there was direct evidence that Defendants provided a copy of the Bylaws to Plaintiffs via mail or email. Defendants respectfully apprise the Court that there was clear error in denying Defendants' motion to compel arbitration for the reasons stated below, and additional discovery would be unjust.

Specifically, California case law is clear that a document need not be physically provided to the contracting parties to be incorporated into a document executed by the parties; the document to be incorporated need only be "easily available" to the parties. The law is also clear that a document is easily available if it is available upon request or soon after the parties' execution of the executed document. Defendants submitted undisputed evidence that the Bylaws were available to Plaintiffs upon request. Defendants also submitted undisputed evidence that the Bylaws were immediately available to Plaintiffs online on University Club's or SV Club's respective intranets after Plaintiffs executed and submitted their application memberships. Indeed, Mr. Cuenco conceded this fact and submitted a declaration stating that he retrieved the University Club's bylaws from

the University Club's intranet. Notwithstanding Defendants' undisputed evidence, the Court denied Defendants' motion to compel arbitration. In doing so, the Court found that there was a "factual dispute about whether the Bylaws were readily available to Plaintiffs when they submitted their applications..." because Defendants did not "provide[] any direct evidence that Defendants provided a copy of the Bylaws to Plaintiffs via mail or email" and because it is "unclear whether either Plaintiff had access to the Bylaws before their membership applications were approved." As detailed in Defendants' briefs in support of its Motion¹ and set forth below, whether Symphony and SJC actually provided a copy of the Bylaws to Plaintiffs and whether Plaintiffs actually requested or accessed the Bylaws on line before their membership applications were approved does not change the fact that the Bylaws were made available to Plaintiffs. Accordingly, under applicable case law, Defendants respectfully request that the Court reconsider the Order and grant Defendants' motion to compel arbitration.

II. LEGAL STANDARD.

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 59(e) provides for the filing of a motion to alter or amend a judgment. Fed. R. Civ. P. 59(e). A motion for reconsideration is "appropriate if the district court (1) is presented with newly discovered evidence; (2) committed clear error or the initial decision was manifestly unjust, or (3) if there is an intervening change in controlling law." *Aho v. AmeriCredit Fin. Servs., Inc.*, No. 10CV1373 DMS BLM, 2011 WL 5404026, at *1 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 8, 2011) (Sabraw, D) (citing *School Dist. No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon v. ACandS, Inc.*, 5 F.3d 1255, 1263 (9th Cir. 1993)). A motion for reconsideration may not be used to relitigate old matters, or to raise arguments or present evidence for the first time that reasonably could have been raised earlier in the litigation. *Exxon Shipping Co. v. Baker*, 554 U.S. 471, 486 n.5 (2008); *see Kona Enterprises, Inc. v. Estate of Bishop*, 229 F.3d 877, 890 (9th Cir. 2000) ("A [motion for reconsideration] may not

¹ See ECF 25-1 at 8 n. 4, 18; ECF 31 at 7-9; 14:17-20.

be used to raise arguments or present evidence for the first time when they could reasonably have been raised earlier in the litigation.").²

III. THE COURT MADE A CLEAR ERROR OF APPLICATION OF LAW TO THE FACTS.

A. The Terms of An Incorporated Document Need Not Be Actually Provided For The Document To Be Easily Available.

"For the terms of another document to be in corporated into the document executed by the parties[,] the reference must be clear and unequivocal, the reference must be called to the attention of the other party and he must consent thereto, 3 and the terms of the incorporated document must be known or easily available to the contracting parties." Lemberg v. LuLaRoe, LLC, No. EDCV1702102ABSHKX, 2018 WL 6927844, at *3 (C.D. Cal. Apr. 17, 2018) (quoting Wolschlager v. Fidelity Nat'l Title Ins. Co., 111 Cal. App. 4th 784, 790 (2003) (emphasis added)). "[T]he terms of an incorporated document must only have been easily available to [plaintiff]; they need not have actually been provided." Lucas v. Hertz Corp., 875 F. Supp. 2d 991, 999 (N.D. Cal. 2012) (emphasis added). As discussed in Defendants' reply brief (ECF 31 at 8 n. 5), courts have repeatedly held that an

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² In addition, Local Civil Rule 7.1(i)(1) provides that a motion for reconsideration must include an affidavit or certified statement of a party or attorney "setting forth the material facts and circumstances surrounding each prior application, including inter alia: (1) when and to what judge the application was made, (2) what ruling or decision or order was made thereon, and (3) what new and different facts and circumstances are claimed to exist which did not exist, or were not shown upon such prior application." Local Civ. R. 7.1(i)(1).

³ The Court acknowledged that Plaintiffs do not reasonably challenge the first two requirements. ECF 36 at 7: 16-18. Both Ms. Hong's and Mr. Cuenco's membership applications explicitly stated that Plaintiffs' "acknowledge the membership bylaws and the rules and regulations provide the details of the club's membership policies, conduct and obligations, including, but not limited to, provisions... for arbitration of disputes..." ECF 25-2, PAGE ID 257; ECF 25-3,

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incorporated document is easily available to the contracting party when the document is available upon request. See, e.g., Koffler Elec. Mech. Apparatus Repair, Inc. v. Wartsila N. Am., Inc., No. C-11-0052 EMC, 2011 WL 1086035, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 24, 2011) (holding that a document containing an arbitration clause that was not provided to the plaintiff, but was available upon request, was properly incorporated by reference into a purchase agreement); Botorff v. Amerco, No. 2:12-CV-01286-MCE, 2012 WL 6628952, at *5 (E.D. Cal. Dec. 19, 2012) ("the fact that Plaintiff had not been provided with the Rental Contract Addendum prior to signing the rental contracts has no bearing on the enforceability of the arbitration agreement contained within the Addendum so long as the Addendum was available to Plaintiff upon request."); Socialcom, Inc. v. Arch Ins. Co., No. 220CV04056RGKAGR, 2020 WL 6815039, at *3 (C.D. Cal. July 7, 2020) ("Although [plaintiff] contends that the Terms and Conditions were unavailable to them through Insperity's website, it does not contend that it was unavailable upon request. Even assuming that [plaintiff] was unaware that the Terms and Conditions contained a forum-selection clause, that fact does not render the clause unenforceable if it was made available and [plaintiff] simply did not seek out and read it."). Courts have also held that an incorporated document is easily available even when the documents are not provided to the contracting party until after the agreement that references the document is signed. Botorff, No. 2:12-CV-01286-MCE, 2012 WL 6628952, at *5; Lucas, 875 F. Supp. 2d at 998-99 (emphasis added) (holding that plaintiff was bound to an arbitration agreement in a "rental jacket" even though plaintiff "either was never given a copy of the folder jacket or was given it after he signed the rental agreement.").

In Lemberg, the court held that defendants' retailer agreements incorporated by reference defendants' policies and procedures, which included an arbitration provision, where the retailer agreements explicitly referenced and stated that the policies and procedures are incorporated by reference and defendants submitted a

declaration stating that "if a retailer or potential new retailer requested the Policies and Procedures, [defendants] would provide it to the retailer or potential new retailer" and the policies and procedure were available to the retailer on defendants' intranet. No. EDCV1702102ABSHKX, 2018 WL 6927844, at *3-*4. The court held that "while it seems that retailers are not able to access [the intranet] until they have agreed to the Retailer Agreement, courts have concluded that consumers assented to arbitration agreements in scenarios where the arbitration agreement was provided after the consumers had already agreed to receive the products or services. Id. at *4 (emphasis added) (citing Amirhamzeh v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., No. 14-cv-02123, 2014 WL 12610227, at *1-2 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 31, 2014) (holding that the consumer was bound to arbitrate where consumer "did not receive the Terms and Conditions materials that included the arbitration agreement until after enrolling in the service")). The court stated, "[r]egardless, [d]efendants put forth evidence stating that if a potential new retailer requested the Policies and Procedures, [defendants] would provide it to the [] new retailer, demonstrating that the Policies and Procedures were easily available to [p]laintiffs." *Id*.

In the Order, the Court acknowledged that terms of another document can be incorporated into the document executed by the parties if the terms of the incorporated document are "known or easily available to the parties." ECF No. 36 at 7:13-14. Notwithstanding, the Court mistakenly indicated that whether Plaintiffs actually received a copy of the Bylaws was relevant, if not necessary, to the finding of whether the Bylaws were available to Plaintiffs:

Defendants' Declarants, Mr. Lee and Ms. Bongatti, both state "[i]ndividuals have access to the Bylaws online and may ask for a copy via mail or email", (Lee Decl. ¶6; Bongatti Decl. ¶12), but neither provides any direct evidence that Defendants provided a copy of the Bylaws to Plaintiffs via mail or email. It is also unclear whether either Plaintiff had access to the Bylaws online before their membership applications were approved ...

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On this evidence, there is a factual dispute about whether the Bylaws were readily available to Plaintiffs when they submitted their applications, and 159138.00601/125315586v.2 6 3:20-ev-00774-DMS-AHG

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hence, whether the Bylaws were incorporated by reference into those applications.

ECF No. 36 at 7-9. Whether Plaintiffs actually received a copy of the Bylaws does not impact the availability of the Bylaws under the law.

B. Defendants Submitted Undisputed Evidence That the Bylaws Were Made Available To Plaintiffs.

The facts in this case are nearly identical to the ones in *Lemberg*. Like the defendants in Lemberg, Defendants here submitted declarations stating that individuals could receive copies of the Bylaws upon request via mail and email and that the Bylaws were available on Symphony's and SJC's respective intranet portals. ECF No. 36 at 7. Plaintiffs did not submit any evidence disputing these facts. Indeed, Ms. Hong merely submitted a declaration stating that she does "not recall receiving a copy of the Capital Club Bylaws when [she] submitted [her] membership application in 2019." ECF 29-7, ¶ 3. Similarly, Mr. Cuenco declares the he "did not receive a copy of the Bylaws for the University Club at the time when [he] submitted [his] second membership application in 2018." ECF 29-1, ¶ 6. Moreover, Mr. Cuenco concedes, and the Court acknowledged, that he had access to the Bylaws during his first membership and again after he had signed the online membership application a second time. ECF 36 at 8:1-7. Because Defendants submitted undisputed evidence that the Bylaws were available to Plaintiffs upon request, the Court made a clear error in denying Defendants' motion to compel arbitration. Lemberg, 2018 WL 6927844, at *4; Lucas, 875 F. Supp. 2d at 999; Koffler, 2011 WL 1086035, at *4; Botorff, 2012 WL 6628952, at *5; Socialcom, 2020 WL 6815039, at *3.

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IV. IN THE ALTERNATIVE, THE COURT SHOULD ISSUE AN ORDER PERMITTING LIMITED DISCOVERY ON THE AVAILABILITY OF THE BYLAWS.

Defendants acknowledge that the Order directed the parties to meet and confer and submit a joint report regarding how they would like to proceed with the case under Section 4 of the FAA, or otherwise. The parties met and conferred pursuant to the Court's order on March 8th. Defendants expressed concern that the Order regarding a trial related to arbitrability under Section 4 of the FAA is overbroad and potentially prejudicial, given that there are six affiliated defendants named in this case, and Plaintiffs have failed to differentiate between them as to liability and wrongdoing in the Complaint. If the Court denies Defendants' motion for reconsideration, Defendants request an order permitting only very limited discovery regarding the availability of the Bylaws. As set forth above, Plaintiffs' actual receipt of the Bylaws from Symphony and SJC is not required for a finding that the Bylaws were available to Plaintiffs. Thus, Defendants propose that Symphony and SJC submit additional declarations setting forth additional facts regarding how individuals, including Plaintiffs, could receive the Bylaws from Symphony and SJC upon request.

V. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Defendants respectfully request that the Court grant their Motion for Reconsideration and direct Plaintiffs to arbitrate their claims on an individual, non-class basis pursuant to the Bylaws. In the alternative, Defendants request an order permitting limited discovery regarding the issue of the availability of the Bylaws as set forth above.

⁴ For this reason, Defendants also moved to dismiss alter-ego allegations and superfluous allegations in the Complaint, but such motion was denied without prejudice by the Court.

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