



**National
Center of
Sport
Arbitration**

Chamber of Arbitration for Sport

**Autonomous Non-Profit Organization
"Sports Arbitration Chamber"
and the National Center of Sports Arbitration
under it**

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Information note

I. What is the National Center of Sports Arbitration and the Sports Arbitration Chamber?

The National Center of Sports Arbitration (NCSA), as a permanent arbitration institution, is established under the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber", the sole founder of which is the Russian Olympic Committee. NCSA is an effective mechanism for proper legal regulation in Russian sports.

The **National Center of Sports Arbitration** is a permanent arbitration institution (PAI) administering arbitration (arbitration proceedings) of disputes in professional and high-performance sports, including individual labor disputes of athletes and sports coaches.

This permanent arbitration institution was formed and operates in accordance with Parts 1 and 2 of Article 36.2 of the Federal Act dated December 04, 2007 No. 329-FZ (current edition) "On Physical Education and Sports in the Russian Federation", Article 44 of the Federal Act dated December 29, 2015 No. 382-FZ (current edition) "On Arbitration (Arbitration Proceedings) in the Russian Federation", article 348.13 "Peculiarities of Consideration of Individual Labor Disputes of Athletes and Coaches in Professional and High-Performance Sports" of the Labor Code of the Russian Federation dated December 30, 2001 No. 197-FZ (current edition), Order of the Ministry of Justice of Russia dated June 25, 2024 No. 212 "On Approval of the Procedure for Depositing the Rules of the Standing Arbitration Institution".

The status of NCSA is also defined by the [Provisions on the Permanent Arbitration Institution “National Center for Sports Arbitration” under the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization “Chamber of Arbitration for Sport”](#) (Approved by the Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization «Chamber of Arbitration for Sport» (Protocol No. 1 dated September 25, 2025). Deposited by the Order of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation dated November 01, 2025 No. 1453-p “On the Deposit of the Rules of a Permanent Arbitration Institution”).

The Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" is a non-profit organization, 1) under which a permanent arbitration institution of the NCSA is formed (created and functioning), which administers arbitration (arbitration proceedings) of disputes in professional and high-performance sports, including individual labor disputes, 2) the management bodies of which (in accordance with the statutory documents) are formed by the Russian Olympic Committee, the Russian Paralympic Committee, a professional union uniting workers of the oh physical education and sports and being part to an industry agreement concluded with the federal executive body in the field of physical education and sports, all-Russian sports federations for sports included in the program of the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, and professional sports leagues (in accordance with Parts 1 and 2 of Article 36.2 of the Federal Act dated December 04, 2007 No. 329-FZ "On Physical Education and Sports in the Russian Federation", Paragraph 9 of Article 2, Part 1 of Article 44 of the Federal Act dated December 29, 2015 No. 382-FZ “On Arbitration (Arbitration Proceedings) in the Russian Federation”).

II. On the Question of Concepts

Arbitration (arbitration proceedings) is the process of dispute resolution by the arbitration court and decision-making by the arbitration court (arbitral award) (Paragraph 2 of Article 2 of the Federal Act No. 382-FZ "On Arbitration (Arbitration Proceedings) in the Russian Federation" dated December 29, 2015).

Administration of arbitration means the performance by a permanent arbitration institution of the functions of organizational support of arbitration, including procedures for the selection, appointment or challenge of arbitrators, record keeping, organization of collection and distribution of arbitration fees, except for the direct functions of the arbitration court in resolving the dispute (Paragraph 3 of Article 2 of the

Federal Act dated December 29, 2015 No. 382-FZ "On Arbitration (Arbitration Proceedings) in the Russian Federation").

A dispute arising in professional or high-performance sports (including individual labor disputes) may be referred to an arbitration court in the presence of an arbitration agreement concluded in writing in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Act dated December 29, 2015 No. 382-FZ "On Arbitration (Arbitration Proceedings) in the Russian Federation" and Part 4 of Article 36.2 of the Federal Act dated December 04, 2007 No. 329-FZ "On Physical Education and Sports in the Russian Federation").

Arbitrator (arbitrator) – a natural person elected by the parties or elected (appointed) in the manner agreed by the parties or established by Federal Act to resolve the dispute by the arbitration court. The activity of arbitrators within the framework of arbitration (arbitration proceedings) is not entrepreneurial (Paragraph 1 of Article 2 Federal Act No. 382-FZ "On Arbitration (Arbitration Proceedings) in the Russian Federation" dated December 29, 2015).

Arbitration Rules – rules governing arbitration, including arbitration administered by a permanent arbitration institution (Paragraph 10 of Article 2 of Federal Act No. 382-FZ "On Arbitration (Arbitration Proceedings) in the Russian Federation" dated December 29, 2015).

Rules of a permanent arbitration institution - statutes, regulations, rules containing, among other things, rules of arbitration and (or) rules for the performance by a permanent arbitral institution of certain functions of administration of arbitration administered by an arbitration court formed by the parties to resolve a particular dispute (Paragraph 12 of Article 2 of the Federal Act dated December 29, 2015 No. 382-FZ "On Arbitration (Arbitration Proceedings) in the Russian Federation").

III. What categories of disputes may be considered within the framework of arbitration (arbitration proceedings) administered by the National Center of Sports Arbitration?

In accordance with Part 1 of Article 36.3 of the Federal Act dated December 04, 2007 No. 329-FZ "On Physical Education and Sports in the Russian Federation" (taking into account Paragraph 3 of Part 2 of Article 22.1 of the Civil Procedure Code of the Russian Federation dated November 14, 2002 No. 138-FZ (current edition)), the

following categories of disputes may be considered within the framework of arbitration (arbitration proceedings), administered by the National Center of Sports Arbitration (numbering - according to the paragraphs of Part 1 of Article 36.3 of Federal Act No. 329-FZ dated December 04, 2007):

- 1) on admission to sports competitions;
- 2) on violation of anti-doping rules;
- 3) on sports sanctions;
- 4) on the conclusion, amendment, termination, and fulfillment of agreements concluded between subjects of physical education and sports in professional and high-performance sport;
- 5) on membership in all-Russian sports federations, professional sports leagues;
- 6) on the status of an athlete and change of affiliation of an athlete to professional sports clubs, physical education and sports organizations;
- 7) on the powers of the organizers of sports competitions;
- 8) on the rights and obligations of members of sports national teams of the Russian Federation, subjects of the Russian Federation and [from September 01, 2025] the federal territory "Sirius";
- 9) on the delegation of rights to organize sports competitions;
- 10) disputes arising from the activities of sports agents;
- 11) individual labor disputes of athletes and coaches in professional and high-performance sports;
 - 11.1) disputes related to sports training;
- 12) disputes between a professional sports league and the relevant all-Russian sports federation on issues of joint jurisdiction (requiring mutual agreement) specified in Part 13 of Article 19.2 of Federal Act No. 329-FZ dated December 04, 2007;
- 13) other disputes arising between subjects of physical education and sports in professional and high-performance sports.

IV. Background

On March 19, 2003, by decision of the Bureau of the Executive Committee of the Russian Olympic Committee an Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" was established. The Charter of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" was approved on March 20, 2003 by the

General Meeting of the founders of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" (Minutes No. 1). On March 25, 2003, the mentioned organization was registered in the Unified State Register of Legal Entities, having started its work on the basis of the then effective Federal Act dated July 24, 2002 No. 102-FZ "On Arbitration Courts in the Russian Federation".

Due to the adoption of the Federal Act dated December 29, 2015 No. 382-FZ "On Arbitration (Arbitration Proceedings) in the Russian Federation", since September 01, 2016, the norms of the Federal Act dated July 24, 2002 No. 102-FZ became invalid, except - in respect of arbitration commenced and not completed before the date of entry into force of the Federal Act dated December 29, 2015 No. 382-FZ.

Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation dated June 25, 2016 No. 577 approved the rules for granting the right to perform the functions of a permanent arbitration institution and the Regulations on the deposit of the rules of a permanent arbitration institution (the document became invalid due to the issuance of Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation dated September 16, 2024 No. 1267. The Order of the Ministry of Justice of Russia No. 212 dated June 25, 2024 approved the new Procedure).

Federal Act No. 396-FZ dated November 22, 2016 introduced Chapter 5.1 "Consideration of Disputes in Professional and High-Performance Sports" into Federal Act No. 329-FZ dated December 04, 2007 "On Physical Education and Sports in the Russian Federation" (Article 36.2 "Permanent Arbitration Institution Administering Arbitration (Arbitration Proceedings) of Disputes in Professional and High-Performance Sports, Including Individual Labor Disputes", Article 36.3 "Categories of Disputes Considered by the Arbitration Court in the Framework of Arbitration (Arbitration Proceedings) of disputes in professional and High-Performance Sports", Article 36.4 "Foreign Arbitration Institutions", Article 36.5 "Pre-trial Procedure for the Settlement of Disputes in the Field of Physical Education and Sports").

On June 23, 2017, the President of the Russian Olympic Committee instructed the Vice-President of the Russian Olympic Committee to establish a permanent arbitration institution under the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" in order to administer arbitration (arbitration proceedings) of disputes in professional and high-performance sports, including individual labor disputes. The new version of the Charter of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" was approved on October 10, 2017 by the Presidium of the Autonomous Non-Profit

Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" (Minutes No. 1). By decision of the Supervisory Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" dated May 22, 2018 a structural subdivision - permanent arbitration institution "National Center of Sports Arbitration" was established. On October 03, 2018, the Supervisory Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" approved the Rules of Dispute Arbitration.

In total, during the period of existence of the sports arbitration at the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" about 213 cases were considered - until summer 2019, of which a significant part was related to challenging the decisions of the jurisdictional bodies of national sports federations.

In accordance with the Order of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation dated April 25, 2019 No. 520-p, the National Center of Sports Arbitration under the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" (NCSA under the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber") began to operate in the Russian Federation with the authority to administer arbitration of disputes in professional and high-performance sports.

On May 08, 2019, the rules of the NCSA at the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" were deposited by the order of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation: Rules of Arbitration of Disputes in Professional and High-Performance Sports (Annex No. 1 to the Minutes No. 3 of the Supervisory Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" dated October 03, 2018), Regulations on arbitration fees and expenses (annex to the Rules of Arbitration of Disputes in Professional and High-Performance Sports), Regulations on the permanent arbitration institution "National Center of Sports Arbitration" under the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" (annex No. 2 to the minutes No. 3 of the Supervisory Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" dated October 03, 2018).

Since 2020, in accordance with Article 348.13 of the Labor Code of the Russian Federation and in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Part 2 of Article 22.1 of the Civil Procedure Code of the Russian Federation, the NCSA is the only arbitration institution in Russia authorized to consider individual labor disputes of athletes and sports coaches in professional and high-performance sports. On January 14, 2021, by the order of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation were deposited: Rules of Arbitration of disputes in professional and high-performance sports (Minutes No. 3 of the Supervisory

Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" dated October 03, 2018 (as amended on December 23, 2020), the Supervisory Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber", Rules of Arbitration (arbitration proceedings of individual labor disputes of athletes and coaches in professional and high-performance sports (Minutes No. 6 dated December 23, 2020 of the Supervisory Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber").

Thus, NCSA became the only permanent arbitration institution in Russia, which has the right to consider individual labor disputes of athletes and coaches in professional and high-performance sports.

The new version of the Charter of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" was approved on December 23, 2020 by the Supervisory Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" (Minutes No. 6).

The National Center of Sports Arbitration under the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber", the founder of which is the Russian Olympic Committee, resumed the tradition of considering sports disputes on the territory of Russia, formed and spread in the field of sports since 2003.

The inclusion of the NCSA arbitration clauses in the regulations of the BRICS-2024 Games in Kazan allowed the NCSA to extend its competence to international formats of multi-sport competitions. For the first time, a Russian arbitration institution provided jurisdiction to hear disputes at international sports competitions, including anti-doping disputes. Separate rules were developed for the consideration of disputes, providing for:

- a new technological level - dispute consideration is conducted online without the need for the parties and arbitrators to be physically present at the place of arbitration;
- dispute resolution is free of charge for Games participants;
- accelerated procedure - 36 (thirty-six) hours from the moment of acceptance of the claim;
- possibility of consideration in English at the request of the parties;
- a special list of arbitrators, including foreign arbitrators (Austria, France, UK, USA, Belarus, Canada, PRC).

By Order of the Ministry of Justice of Russia No. 212 dated June 25, 2024 (registered with the Ministry of Justice of Russia on June 26, 2024 No. 78672) approved the new Procedure for depositing the rules of a permanent arbitration institution.

The new Charter (new version of the Charter) of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber", which, among other things, changed the structure of its governing bodies, was approved on May 14, 2025 by the Supervisory Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber". The decision on the state registration of the amendments to the founding documents of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" was adopted by the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation in Moscow on May 15, 2025.

On September 25, the following acts were approved by the Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization «Chamber of Arbitration for Sport»:

– [Provisions on the Permanent Arbitration Institution “National Center for Sports Arbitration” under the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization “Chamber of Arbitration for Sport”](#) (Approved by the Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization «Chamber of Arbitration for Sport» (Protocol No. 1 dated September 25, 2025). Deposited by the Order of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation dated November 01, 2025 No. 1453-p “On the Deposit of the Rules of a Permanent Arbitration Institution”);

– [Regulations for Arbitration of Disputes in Professional and High-Performance Sports](#) (Approved by the Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization «Chamber of Arbitration for Sport» (Protocol No. 1 dated September 25, 2025). Deposited by the Order of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation dated November 01, 2025 No. 1453-p “On the Deposit of the Rules of a Permanent Arbitration Institution”);

– [Rules of Arbitration \(Tribunal Proceedings\) for Individual Labor Disputes of Athletes, Coaches, Sports Referees, and Sports Doctors in Professional and High-Performance Sports](#) (Approved by the Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization “Chamber of Arbitration for Sport” (Protocol No. 1 dated September 25, 2025). Deposited by the Order of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation dated November 01, 2025 No. 1453-p “On the Deposit of the Rules of a Permanent Arbitration Institution”);

– [Provisions on Arbitration Fees and Costs / Appendix to the Regulations of Arbitration for Disputes in Professional and High-Performance Sports](#) (Approved by the Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization “Chamber of Arbitration for Sport” (Protocol No. 1 dated September 25, 2025). Deposited by the Order of the Ministry of

Justice of the Russian Federation dated November 01, 2025 No. 1453-p “On the Deposit of the Rules of a Permanent Arbitration Institution”);

– [Provision on Arbitration Fees and Costs / Appendix to the Arbitration Rules \(Tribunal Proceedings\) for Individual Labor Disputes of Athletes, Coaches, Sports Referees, and Sports Doctors in Professional and High-Performance Sports](#) (Approved by the Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization “Chamber of Arbitration for Sport” (Protocol No. 1 dated September 25, 2025). Deposited by the Order of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation dated November 01, 2025 No. 1453-p “On the Deposit of the Rules of a Permanent Arbitration Institution”);

– [Provisions on the Arbitrators’ Fees of the National Center for Sports Arbitration for Sole or Panel Arbitral \(Tribunal\) Dispute Resolution](#) (Approved by the Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization “Chamber of Arbitration for Sport” (Protocol No. 1 dated September 25, 2025)).

From June 2019 to date, the NCSA has received about 112 lawsuits.

V. Structure of the National Center of Sports Arbitration

According to the Regulation on the permanent arbitration institution "National Center of Sports Arbitration" under the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber", the head of the NCSA is the Chairman of the Presidium of the NCSA.

The NCSA consists of the Presidium (headed by the Chairman) and the Secretariat headed by the Secretary General of the NCSA.

The Presidium of the NCSA is formed by the Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" consisting of: Chairman of the National Center of Sports Arbitration, 3 (three) Vice-Chairmen of the National Center of Sports Arbitration, 7 (seven) members of the Presidium.

The Director of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber" is appointed by its sole founder, i.e. the Olympic Committee of Russia (Paragraph 3.2 of the Charter of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization").

The supreme collegial management body of the Organization is the Management Board, the main purpose of which is to ensure compliance with the objectives for which the Organization was established (Paragraph 4.1 of the Charter of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber").

The peculiarities of the model of organization of arbitration (arbitration proceedings) in the case of the NCSA are that the Management Board is formed from the members of the Advisory Council and is approved by the founder for a period of 1 year (in order to consistently involve all organizations specified in the Law).

The composition of the Management Board of the Organization is formed from the members of the Advisory Board of the Organization and is approved by the founder for a period of 1 (one) year in the number of 15 (fifteen) members taking into account the principle of rotation in the following order (Paragraph 4.2 of the Charter of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber"):

- representatives of the Russian Olympic Committee – 4 (four) members of the Management Board;

- representatives of the Russian Paralympic Committee – 1 (one) member of the Management Board;

- representatives of all-Russian sports federations for sports included in the Olympic Games program – 6 (six) members of the Management Board;

- representatives of all-Russian sports federations for sports included in the Paralympic Games program – 1 (one) member of the Management Board;

- representatives of professional sports leagues – 2 (two) members of the Management Board;

- a representative of a trade union that unites employees of physical education and sports and is a party to a sectoral agreement concluded with the federal executive body in the field of physical education and sports- 1 (one) member of the Management Board.

The Advisory Board is a collegial advisory body whose main task is to develop proposals and recommendations for the improvement of arbitration, as well as generalization of the practice of dispute resolution in professional and high-performance sports. The Advisory Board is approved for a period of 3 years (Paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 of the Charter of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber").

VI. What acts detail the procedure of arbitration (arbitration proceedings) of a particular dispute in the case of the NCSA?

Arbitration (arbitration proceedings) of a particular dispute in professional and high-performance sports (including individual labor disputes) shall be carried out by the arbitration court in accordance with the rules of the standing arbitration institution administering arbitration (arbitration proceedings) of disputes in professional and high-performance sports, approved by the standing arbitration institution in accordance with the legislation on arbitration (arbitration proceedings) and taking into account the peculiarities stipulated in the Rules of Arbitration of Disputes in Professional and High-Performance Sports:

– [Regulations for Arbitration of Disputes in Professional and High-Performance Sports](#) (Approved by the Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization «Chamber of Arbitration for Sport» (Protocol No. 1 dated September 25, 2025). Deposited by the Order of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation dated November 01, 2025 No. 1453-p “On the Deposit of the Rules of a Permanent Arbitration Institution”);

– [Rules of Arbitration \(Tribunal Proceedings\) for Individual Labor Disputes of Athletes, Coaches, Sports Referees, and Sports Doctors in Professional and High-Performance Sports](#) (Approved by the Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization “Chamber of Arbitration for Sport” (Protocol No. 1 dated September 25, 2025). Deposited by the Order of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation dated November 01, 2025 No. 1453-p “On the Deposit of the Rules of a Permanent Arbitration Institution”).

VII. Advantages of filing a claim with the NCSA, as a permanent arbitration institution administering arbitration (arbitration proceedings) of disputes in professional and high-performance sports, including individual labor disputes of athletes and sports coaches.

The National Center of Sports Arbitration (NCSA) under the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Sports Arbitration Chamber", due to the specificity of the model of sports arbitration (arbitration proceedings) of disputes in professional and high-performance sports (including individual labor disputes of athletes and sports coaches (ILD)), predetermines a number of significant advantages of filing a claim with the NCSA.

Even taking into account that an arbitration clause may leave no choice, it is important to analyze these advantages, taking into account the world practice of arbitration (arbitration proceedings) and reference scientific literature. At the same time,

a comparison with filing a claim with the Lausanne Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS/TAS) will be appropriate for a number of positions.

It is clear that any practicing lawyer will name many exceptions, but the weighted average reasonable assessment is exactly as shown below.

The objectively determined advantages of filing a claim with the NCSA for the protection of one's rights and legitimate interests and the consideration of a claim in such a procedure as compared to filing a claim with the state court system are the following:

1. Significant minimization of the terms of consideration and resolution of disputes (and, accordingly, of time and other costs), which is determined by the following circumstances:

– shortened terms of consideration of disputes (up to 60 calendar days in the NCSA versus possible prolongation of consideration of cases in state courts, as well as in the Lausanne Court of Arbitration for many months or even years) (however, in the NCSA, due to the unique specificity of a certain case, the terms of consideration may be reduced or, on the contrary, increased (summoning an expert or witness, requesting additional information), but, as a rule, the terms in the NCSA are;

– original and inherent to arbitration (arbitration proceedings) simplified procedures for consideration and resolution of disputes with deliberate avoidance of complex procedures and court procedures of state courts (e.g. stricter standards of proof, jury selection in such courts, institution of strict liability), objectively reducing the time of consideration of cases and significantly minimizing any possibility of postponing the consideration of a case; disclosure of information is limited to the main substantive issues, excluding the expansion of the scope of the case; and the disclosure of information is limited to the main issues, excluding the expansion of the scope of the case;

– the original and inherent to arbitration (arbitration proceedings) is a significant limitation of possibilities and conditions of appeals and related legal tricks for abuse of procedural rights and opportunities, which excludes the possibility of an unscrupulous party to maliciously manipulatively prolong disputes, for example, by endless appeals;

– arbitral awards (decisions of the arbitration court) are, as a rule, final, and final arbitral awards are very rarely canceled (on procedural grounds), i.e. the whole process is exhausted by one instance, which drastically reduces delays related to appealing the decision (in the state system of courts, multi-level proceedings may take years);

– the arbitration court takes measures for reconciliation of the parties, assists them in settling the dispute; due to the specific mechanism of selection and appointment of arbitrators, they often independently seek to encourage and stimulate early settlement of the dispute, which also significantly reduces the process;

– due to the specifics of the mechanism of selection and appointment of arbitrators from among highly qualified specialists in the field of sports law, this, in itself, significantly minimizes the time costs of immersing the arbitrator in complex specific problems of sports law, which would definitely be required for a state judge with corresponding increments of time costs;

– reducing the number of interruptions in the consideration of the dispute by the arbitration court and the length of time intervals between them due to limited procedurally permissible and therefore possible procedural obstacles (disputes on disclosure of information, etc.);

– the possibility for the parties to the arbitration (arbitration proceedings) to lay down flexible, accelerated planning of the schedule of the arbitration (arbitration proceedings) process - appointment of terms by mutual agreement, mutually avoiding overloading of this schedule;

– consideration of cases by the arbitration court shall take place on the principle of "de novo", within the framework of the filed claim a completely new hearing on the dispute between the parties will take place with the possibility for the parties to present new evidence and arguments, provided that this evidence and arguments are related to the subject matter of the dispute.

2. The finality of the arbitral awards for the parties to the arbitration (arbitration proceedings), which is determined by the following circumstances:

– substantial limitation of grounds and possibilities (respectively – legal prospects) of judicial review of the arbitral award, inadmissibility in arbitration (arbitration proceedings) of re-examination of the factual or legal circumstances of the case: arbitral awards (arbitration court decisions) are, as a rule, final in one this instance, and final arbitral awards are very rarely canceled, which excludes a lot of uncertainties and possible costs in the future (as compared to what would happen if this case continued to be considered in the appellate, cassation, supervisory instances, if it were considered in a state court);

- establishing shortened time limits for appealing arbitral awards (arbitral court awards) – on procedural grounds - to the competent state court;
- the finality of the arbitral awards ensures its faster enforcement, creating significantly greater legal certainty for the parties to the dispute in the future (all-Russian sports federations and professional sports leagues are obliged to establish and apply sports sanctions to the subjects of physical education and sports in professional and high-performance sports who do not comply with arbitral awards made as a result of arbitration administered by the National Center of Sports Arbitration, as well as to provide assistance to the parties to the dispute).

3. Procedural flexibility and adaptability of arbitration (arbitration proceedings), which is determined by the following circumstances:

- the initial inclusion in the arbitration (arbitral) process of a sufficient measure of flexibility and iterative customizability of procedural rules agreed upon by the parties to the arbitration (arbitration proceedings) (standards and limits of evidence, hearing formats - including online (videoconferencing), which reduces travel and logistics costs);
- initial inclusion in the arbitration (arbitral) process of adaptability and flexibility of procedural deadlines agreed upon by the parties to the arbitration (arbitration proceedings), avoiding rigid court calendars;
- simplicity of the arbitration (arbitral) process in terms of simplification of the submission of procedural documents by the parties to the arbitration (written arguments instead of lengthy oral pleadings); flexibility to focus on short oral arguments or detailed written statements;
- initial inclusion in the arbitration (arbitral) process of the possibility of combining the arbitration (arbitration proceedings) process with elements of mediation;
- inherent in the arbitration process are relaxed standards and rules of evidence: arbitrators may take into account documents, witness statements, or reports excluded in a state court; greater freedom for arbitrators to accept evidence positioned as relevant; allow informal exchanges of information (e.g., emails, expert opinions) to prove claims; focus on substance rather than form: prioritize dispute resolution over strict adherence to procedures;
- the initial inclusion of the arbitration (arbitral) process of less formality (formalization): witnesses can testify via videoconference or written statements; simplified procedural documents; no compulsory subpoenas to court;

- the initial inclusion in the arbitration process of the possibility of taking into account cultural peculiarities and differences in the resolution of disputes in the arbitration (arbitral) process;

- inherent in the arbitration (arbitral) process is the impossibility to form judicial precedents: arbitral awards do not create binding legal precedents for future cases (which, however, does not prevent a certain continuity in legal positions in arbitration practice).

4. Advantages in financial costs of arbitration (arbitration proceedings), which is determined by the following circumstances:

- substantial minimization of the volume of court costs due to simplified and chronometrically reduced procedures, which automatically entails a reduction in the volume of included and spent (and accordingly paid) hours of lawyers' work; absence of other costs inherent in the state judicial system;

- significant minimization of costs for the involvement of other participants in the process (payment for the work and participation of experts, travel, and accommodation of witnesses, etc.);

- substantially minimized arbitration procedural costs, which are initially included in the arbitration (arbitration proceedings) in the NCSA, which in principle are not comparable to the high costs of arbitration in the Lausanne Court of Arbitration for Sport; at the same time, the NCSA is preparing amendments to the regulations on exemption from arbitration fees for disputes during competitions (competition disputes), as well as on full exemption of individuals from paying arbitration fees;

- significant minimization of court costs due to the specifics of information disclosure and limited volumes of submitted documents (including a smaller number of petitions), all of which automatically saves financial costs;

- significant minimization of court costs due to the automatic avoidance of multiple jurisdictions, thus avoiding the costs associated with litigation in several jurisdictions.

5. Advantages in significantly higher security and more pronounced confidentiality of arbitration (arbitration proceedings), which is determined by the following circumstances:

- the closed nature of hearings in arbitration (arbitration proceedings) in contrast to trials in state courts, which, with exceptions, are open to the public; rare

- initially limited access of persons other than the parties to the arbitration, including lawful closure from the media at the will of the participants in the process (the media are free to operate only with available information);

- confidentiality of materials and records of the arbitration process, confidentiality of arbitral awards (arbitration proceedings) that are not included in public (including open access digital) judicial archives (legal databases of state judicial bodies and systems); such decisions may be either closed by the confidentiality regime or published with the exclusion of personal data (in NCSA, published decisions in the form of practice are given without personal data, which allows non-parties to arbitration to avoid mistakes and proprietary information about the parties to the arbitration).

- publication of information about the receipt of a claim in NCSA is allowed only if there are no objections from the parties to the arbitration;

- confidentiality of materials and records of the arbitration process, confidentiality of arbitral awards (arbitration proceedings) by virtue of their non-disclosure agreement and confidentiality of arbitration (arbitration proceedings) available to the parties; as a consequence – increased protection of reputation: winners cannot use a public victory to damage the reputation of opponents; prevention of malicious use of dispute details by competitors or interested parties; absence of public scrutiny, which makes it possible to avoid damage, as is quite possible in the case of public judicial proceedings (in a state court);

- confidentiality of materials and records of the arbitration process, confidentiality of arbitral awards (arbitration proceedings) due to special protection regimes of confidential financial and other business reputational information, trade secrets; negotiations during arbitration remain confidential even if they do not lead to the resolution of the dispute (in some jurisdictions confidentiality is ensured by law or arbitration rules (e.g. UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration)).

6. Direct reference of personal professional qualification and expert competence of the NCSA arbitrators to specific subject matter areas and specifics of the disputes being heard, unlike judges-"universalists" of state courts, who have only the most general legal and professional knowledge of the subject matter of sports law and are not familiar with its complex specifics; this entails an individual approach to decision-making, which can (and will) reflect industry practice and norms of *lex sportiva* (if necessary, other norms of extra-legal systems).

NCSA arbitrators are legal scholars, honored practicing lawyers, lawyers of federations/leagues/clubs, honored masters of sports, sports referees, which allows the NCSA (arbitrators) to consider cases qualitatively and taking into account the specifics of disputes. The confidence of the disputing parties in the arbitration court (arbitrators) is extremely important in arbitration proceedings (making lawful, justified, and convincing decisions for the parties). This trust is based on the professionalism of the person elected as an arbitrator, his/her knowledge of the subject matter of the dispute, his/her independence and impartiality in hearing the case and rendering an arbitral award.

7. Recognized autonomy of the will and interests of the parties to the arbitration (arbitration proceedings), which is determined by the following circumstances:

- the inalienable exclusive right of the parties to the arbitration (arbitration proceedings) to select and agree on the approval of the candidate arbitrator(s) with the necessary knowledge or experience, with the necessary potential of confidence in him (them);

- the inalienable exclusive right of the parties to the arbitration (arbitration proceedings) to choose and agree on the place of arbitration and the applicable regulatory system (these rights may be partially restricted, as for example in the field of sports - this is the world practice for sports);

- flexibility in the mutually agreed choice of the language of arbitration (arbitration proceedings);

- the right of the parties to arbitration (arbitration proceedings) to agree (clarify) the logistics and terms of the arbitration process;

- the right to clarify the arbitration clause taking into account specific needs and interests (clauses on expedited arbitration, etc.).

8. International enforceability of the arbitral awards by virtue of a number of national legal and international legal guarantees (the UN New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards of 10.06.1958, etc.), which determine the enforceability and cross-border certainty of arbitral awards without reconsideration of the merits of the case; a significant limitation of grounds and opportunities to appeal arbitral awards in foreign courts (on the basis of procedural fairness, rather than review of the merits of the case).

9. The pronounced orientation of arbitration (arbitral proceedings) towards preserving partnership relations between the litigants in an atmosphere of cooperation and confidentiality, with arbitrators endeavoring to facilitate negotiations during the proceedings, as well as the conclusion of an amicable settlement between the litigants.

10. The NCSA Secretariat (unlike the staff of state courts) is ready to provide consultations (free of charge) on technical issues, e.g. on the rules and peculiarities of filing a claim/cancellation.