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## APPENDIX

### CBSC Decision 06/07-0515 TSN re 2007 World Junior Hockey Championships (Interview)

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#### The Complaint

The CBSC received the following complaint via the CRTC in January 2007:

Hi,

On Friday, Jan. 6, 2007 TSN (The Sports Network, channel 400 on Starchoice) just before 5PM ADST, was broadcasting the IIHF World Junior Hockey Championship. Immediately following the game, TSN began an interview with Canadian player Jonathan Toews, during which TSN broadcast Jonathan Toews using the "f" word. I was shocked and offended as I listened to this with my nine-yr. old. I listened and looked for an apology from TSN, but have seen no acknowledgement. If you view the tape, you will see it is clearly there. Toews' interview is the very first one following the game.

#### Broadcaster's Response

TSN replied on January 18 with the following:

Thank you for your letter, which we received through the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council on January 12, 2007.

I understand your concerns regarding a comment by Team Canada player Jonathan Toews during TSN's coverage of the 2007 IIHF World Junior Championship – Gold Medal Game: Russia vs. Canada on January 5, 2007 (note: the game aired on Jan. 5, not Jan. 6 as your letter stated).

In no way does TSN condone this type of language. However, the broadcast was airing live from Sweden, with no tape-delay, and as such, it was impossible to anticipate or edit the content of the Mr. Toews' comments. When TSN re-aired the game at 7:30 p.m. ET later that night, the broadcast was edited and did not include Mr. Toews' interview.

While there are no excuses for Mr. Toews' use of language, it is important to remember that Mr. Toews is an 18-year-old, who having just won a gold medal for his country, got caught up in the excitement of the moment.

TSN is sensitive to these types of situations and had no intention of insulting our viewers. We regret that you and your nine-year-old child were offended. Please accept my apology on behalf of the network. We hope this letter clarifies the situation and conveys how seriously we take our programming and broadcast responsibilities.

**Additional Correspondence**

The complainant filed his Ruling Request on January 18 with the following note:

Given that this is not the first time a hockey player has used inappropriate language in an interview, I am of the conviction that it is incumbent upon broadcasters to anticipate this possibility and take necessary measures to insure they do not broadcast such language. I further believe that TSN's reasoning is weak: "an 18-year-old ... caught up in the excitement of the moment." I am of the conviction that someone at TSN must be tasked with the responsibility to make sure that when an "18-year-old" uses inappropriate language, the comments do not air. I would like to have assurances that TSN is taking measures to insure this does not happen again.