Our Experience With Team Ambition & Protts

Written by: Porsche, Leemo, Kachu, Levitate, Snow2, Enzo Nev, DestinySeal

We are the players and coaching staff of the Team Ambition NACLQ team during the Summer OQ1 and OQ2, and this is our story with Protts, Rey, and Team Ambition.

At the time of writing, our outstanding balance with Team Ambition (per the contracts we have signed with the org) is \$3950USD. Including the verbal agreements as well, our total outstanding balance at the time of writing (Sept 14, 2023) is \$6825USD.

Team Ambition org has dissolved as of September 13th 2023. The purpose of this document is to share our story and raise awareness concerning predatory contracts in tier 3 esports.

All five of us (players) were under the age of 20 at the time of signing, and were unable to afford legal representation/agents to help us understand the contracts we were signing. We trusted Team Ambition based on prior experiences with the org and the staff involved.

Where The Problems Began

These have been our latest DM's with Protts

DM(Snow2) DM(Leemo)

Prior to OQ2 Protts was a communicative and hard working owner who was involved with the team and met our needs (up until this point all contracts were paid in full). Then from mid July until September 13th, he was completely radio silent and did not communicate with anyone on the team.

We were told in mid August that Protts had been in a personal accident, and we were informed of some of the details. We are choosing not to include those details in this document out of respect for Protts' privacy.

Rey's Verbal Agreements After OQ2

Originally our contract stated that Team Ambition would take 30% of our prize pool earnings from OQ1 and OQ2, leaving the remaining 70% to be divided equally among the players. However, as our contract payments were two months late at this point, GM Luis Rey decided to provide reimbursement for the delay by delivering this 30% back to the players, meaning we would get 100% of OQ1 prize pool earnings (that 30% equates to \$1875USD) We were also told we would be paid an additional half-month's salary as additional compensation for late payment.

<u>Luis Verbal Agreement</u> <u>Luis Verbal Agreement 2</u> Eventually Rey backtracked on this because he discovered Protts had outstanding debts with some other people in the org. He said this 30% was needed to make whole those payments with other people.

Protts' Return

<u>Protts' First Communication</u> (Taken on September 13th - This was the first we had heard from Protts since July (posted in the TA public channel) and it was an announcement the org was dissolving)

Protts returned on September 13th, and we were told that the org would use the 30% of our OQ1 prize pool (which the org was no longer giving to the players) to fulfill some of the remaining debt from the salaries he still owed us. He claimed the balance not covered by that 30% would be paid in three months (lol).

<u>Protts Message 1</u> (By "100% already sent to players," he is seemingly referring to his fulfilling 100% of his contractual obligation concerning prize money, in other words 100% of the 70% of prize pool cash.)

(Also the math in the SS is wrong. It is an additional \$2075USD owed, not \$1794USD.)

After being pressed for details as to why we would need to wait another three months (at this point we are missing salaries from over two months ago), he said that the contract does not specify the payment due date. This is his way of claiming that the contract can still be upheld even if he delays his payments by another three months (totaling five months from the start of OQ2).

Protts Message 2

(what about him typing "chill out"?)

None of us believe Protts will pay that money in three months. This is the first communication we have had with Protts in two months. Team Ambition was an LLC, which is now dissolved. We believe he will run. He has already deleted his Twitter account, and his reputation is irreversible. The contract was clearly set up with the intention to fuck over players. Verbally, it was agreed that our salaries would be fulfilled monthly. It was our understanding that we would not have to wait three months from the end of our tournament to receive our salaries. Verbal agreements mean nothing. Even when things get written down, they sadly still mean nothing.

In total, we are still contractually owed \$3950USD as a team. When you add the verbal agreements, that total goes to \$6825USD. We were promised \$1875USD by this Friday, and the remaining \$2075USD 3 months from now.

Other Stories

This is unfortunately not the first time something like this has happened with Protts. Names have been blurred out by request of the people who shared these stories with us. Story 1.

1 (note the time difference of a month)

2

3 At this point the person in the screenshots received \$450 / \$2000 owed

4

Story 2.

More late / missed payment

Both of these events were around the same time last year, establishing a clear pattern of missing and delayed payments.

Conclusion

The purpose of this document was mainly to share our story and the story of others who have fallen victim to Protts. TA has dissolved, and Protts will hopefully never return to amateur League of Legends. This document also serves to warn players and coaches of verbal agreements and shady contracts. When money is involved, get everything in writing, and if you have the resources, get those written documents checked before you sign.

Acknowledgements

We feel it's important to mention that although we were screwed over by Team Ambition, there are still several people who contributed to the TA community and made it awesome. People like Emma (special shoutout to Emma who worked with us to try to get in contact with Protts after two months of radio silence), Wind, Jasoncript5, Eqq, BPotts, Reeves, Pig and many more helped to create that community. We do not want them to be attacked. This was a good community built by good people and sadly spoiled by an insidious owner.