IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OHIO

JUMP ROPE SYSTEMS, LLC, 1303 Empire Road Louisville, CO 80027 Plaintiff,

v.

COULTER VENTURES, LLC, d/b/a ROGUE FITNESS, 1080 Steelwood Road Columbus, OH 43212

> SERVE ALSO: Kevin M. Mueller, statutory agent 545 E. 5th Ave. Columbus, Ohio 43201

Defendant.

Case No. 2:18-CV-00731

COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff Jump Rope Systems, LLC ("JRS") alleges the following for its complaint of patent infringement against Defendant Coulter Ventures, LLC. d/b/a Rogue Fitness ("Rogue" or "Defendant"):

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the laws of the United States, Title 35, Section 271 of the United States Code, *et seq.* (the "Federal Patent Statute") seeking damages and injunctive and other relief. After years of intensive research and development, JRS developed the first dual-bearing shaft technology in a jump rope handle coupled with pivoting-eye technology in the handle-cable coupling. Previously, conventional

jump ropes' constructional form limited the rate at which the cable could be spun. Aspects of this problem included the level of resistance within the handle, the closeness or distance of the cable from the handle, and the failure to allow the cable to swivel or pivot during rotation. JRS solved this problem by developing a jump rope handle that contains a bearing element that permits a shaft to more easily rotate, the shaft extending from the handle an optimal distance, and a cable pivot at the end of the shaft that allows the cable to pivot and swivel.

THE PARTIES

- 2. JRS is a Colorado company with its principal place of business at 1303 Empire Road, Louisville, Colorado 80027. JRS is a leading developer of speed jump rope technology and jump rope handles in the United States. Its co-owners, Ms. Metz and Mr. Borth, have a combined 45 years of experience in this industry. JRS is the owner by assignment of the patents-in-suit.
- 3. On information and belief, Defendant Rogue is a company based in Columbus, Ohio with its principal place of business at 1080 Steelwood Road, Columbus, OH 43212.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) because this action arises under the Federal Patent Statute.
- 5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant Rogue because Rogue's headquarters and principal place of business is in the State of Ohio.
 - 6. Venue is proper in this Judicial District under 28 U.S.C §§ 1391 and 1400(b).

THE PATENTS IN SUIT

7. United States Patent Number 7,789,809 (the "'809 Patent"), entitled "Jump Rope System," was duly and lawfully issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office

("PTO") on September 7, 2010. JRS is the owner by assignment of the entire right, title, and interest in and to the '809 patent, including the sole and undivided right to sue for infringement. Exhibit 1 is a genuine and authentic copy of the '809 Patent.

8. The United States Patent Number 8,136,208 (the "'208 Patent"), entitled "Handle System" was duly and lawfully issued by the PTO on March 20, 2012. JRS is the owner by assignment of the entire right, title, and interest in and to the '208 Patent, including the sole and undivided right to sue for infringement. Exhibit 2 is a genuine and authentic copy of the '208 Patent.

BACKGROUND OF THE DISPUTE

Inventing the Fastest Jump Rope Handle in the World

- 9. Inventor Ms. Metz began jumping rope as a young girl and began competitive jump roping at the age of seven.
- 10. Ms. Metz had tremendous success locally, nationally and world-wide; ultimately becoming a five-time world jump rope champion.
- 11. In 2004, Ms. Metz, however, sustained an injury that required a special jump rope handle that would allow the jump rope cable to pivot relative to the handle.
- 12. Beginning in the fall of 2005, and after many prototypes and a lot of trial-anderror, Ms. Metz and Mr. Borth invented in the spring of 2007 a special jump rope handle that solved many of the limitations of conventional jump ropes and allowed for faster rotation.
- 13. On April 1, 2008, Ms. Metz and Mr. Borth filed an application with the United States Patent and Trademark Office requesting patent protection for their new invention. The '809 Patent and the '208 Patent were granted in 2010 and 2012, respectively.

- 14. Ms. Metz's and Mr. Borth's patented pivoting-eye speed rope ultimately became the fastest jump rope in the world.
- 15. With the patented pivoting-eye speed rope technology, Ms. Metz went on to set many personal records; for example, she is the current U.S. National Record Holder for speed and power for her age division.
- 16. Ms. Metz has also coached competitive jump rope teams who used the patented pivoting-eye speed rope technology to U.S. National Top 10 finishes in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Rogue Chose to Willfully Infringe Ms. Metz's and Mr. Borth's Patents

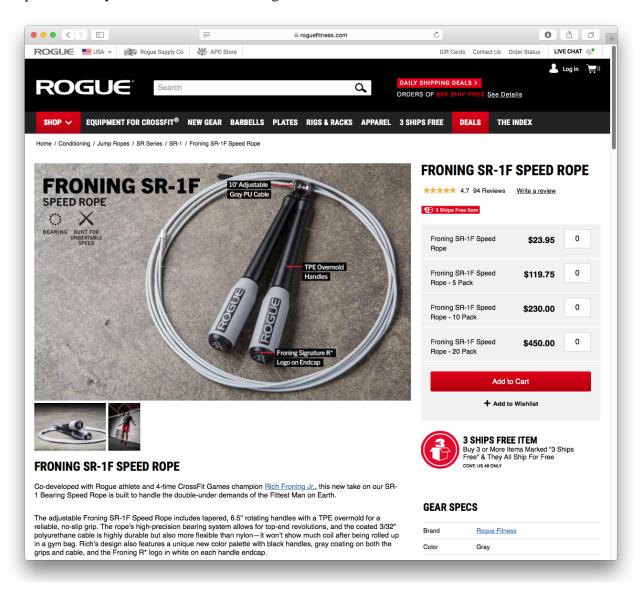
- 17. By mid-2008, Ms. Metz and Mr. Borth began manufacturing and selling their own line of speed jump ropes that incorporated their patented pivoting-eye speed rope technology.
- 18. In August 2011, Ms. Metz contacted Rogue's founder, William Henniger, about a potential business relationship related to her patented speed ropes.
- 19. By September 2011, Rogue had begun marketing but not selling a new speed jump rope through at least its social media and a YouTube video. Ms. Metz noted to Mr. Henniger that the design of Rogue's new prospective rope was strikingly similar to the one she was producing and covered by her U.S. Patent No. 7,789,809.
 - 20. Mr. Henniger stated that he:
 - "...was not in the business of violating patents and if there is a patent issue we will certainly address it."
- 21. In November 2011, Ms. Metz noted to Mr. Henniger that, based on a recent Rogue Facebook posting, it appeared Rogue was about to launch a new speed jump rope that incorporated her patented pivoting-eye speed rope technology.
- 22. Rather than address Ms. Metz's concerns, Mr. Henniger ignored her concerns and, instead, directed Ms. Metz to send all future communications to Rogue's attorney.

- 23. On or about December 12, 2012, Mr. Borth sent to a letter to Rogue's Mr. Henniger notifying him of Rogue's infringement of Ms. Metz's and his patents. Instead of ceasing to infringe the JRS Patents, Rogue chose to continue its infringement.
- 24. On or about April 20, 2015, Mr. Borth again sent a letter to Rogue's Mr. Henniger notifying him of Rogue's continued infringement of Ms. Metz's and his patents. Instead of ceasing to infringe the JRS Patents, Rogue chose to continue its infringement.
- 25. Rogue chose to willfully infringe Ms. Metz's and Mr. Borth's pivoting-eye speed rope patents.

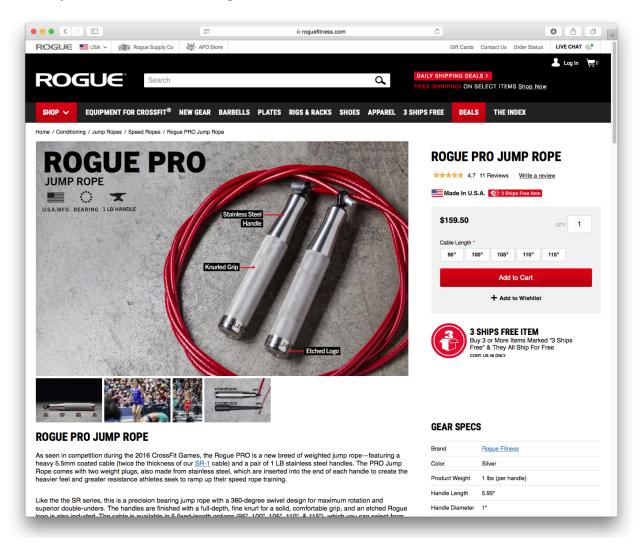
Rogue Continues to Willfully **Infringe Ms. Metz's and Mr. Borth's Patents**

- 26. Rogue makes, uses, sells, offers for sale, imports, or provides speed jump ropes that incorporate JRS's patented jump rope technology.
- 27. Rogue currently sells or recently sold the following fourteen (14) jump ropes (the "Accused Products") through its website www.roguefitness.com and/or www.amazon.com.

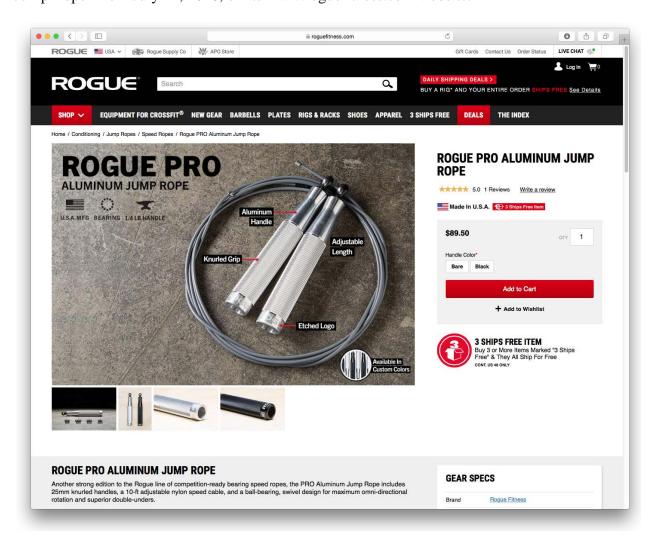
28. Below is a screen shot of Rogue's offer for sale of the "Froning SR-1F Speed Rope" from July 24, 2018, on its www.roguefitness.com website.



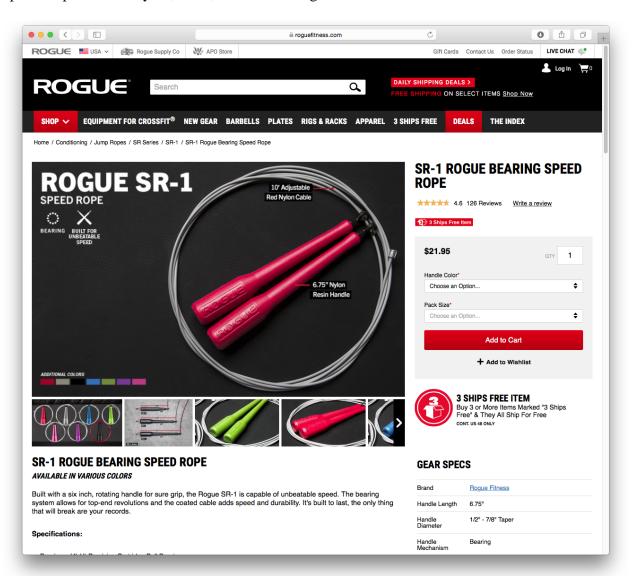
29. Below is a screen shot of Rogue's offer for sale of the "Rogue PRO Jump Rope" from July 24, 2018, on its www.roguefitness.com website.



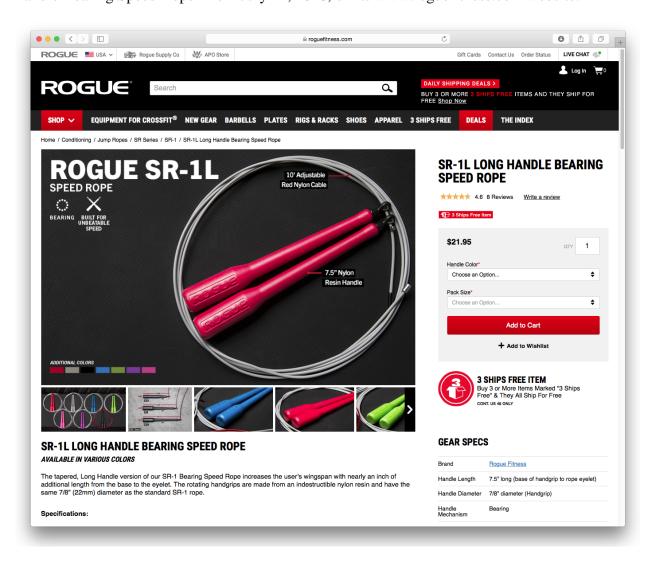
30. Below is a screen shot of Rogue's offer for sale of the "Rogue PRO Aluminum Jump Rope" from July 24, 2018, on its www.roguefitness.com website.



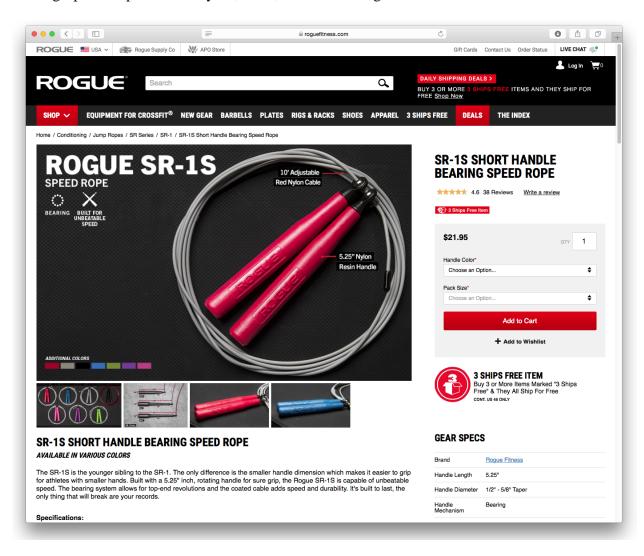
31. Below is a screen shot of Rogue's offer for sale of the "SR-1 Rogue Bearing Speed Rope" from July 24, 2018, on its www.roguefitness.com website.



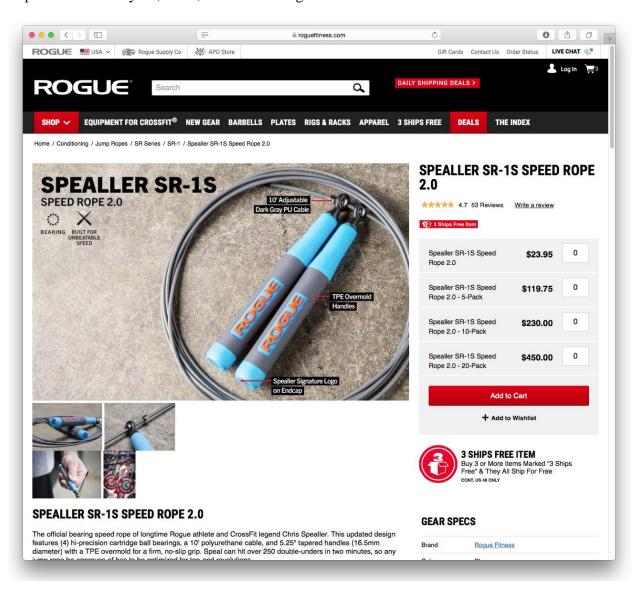
32. Below is a screen shot of Rogue's offer for sale of the "Rogue SR-1L Long Handle Bearing Speed Rope" from July 24, 2018, on its www.roguefitness.com website.



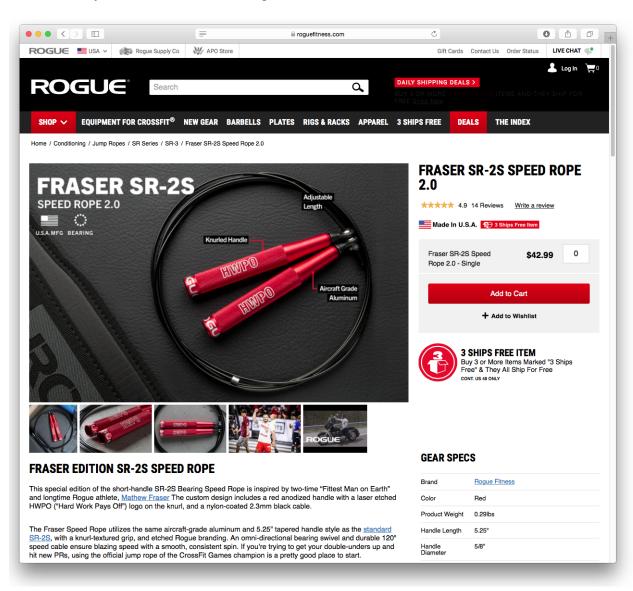
33. Below is a screen shot of Rogue's offer for sale of the "SR-1S Short Handle Bearing Speed Rope" from July 24, 2018, on its www.roguefitness.com website.



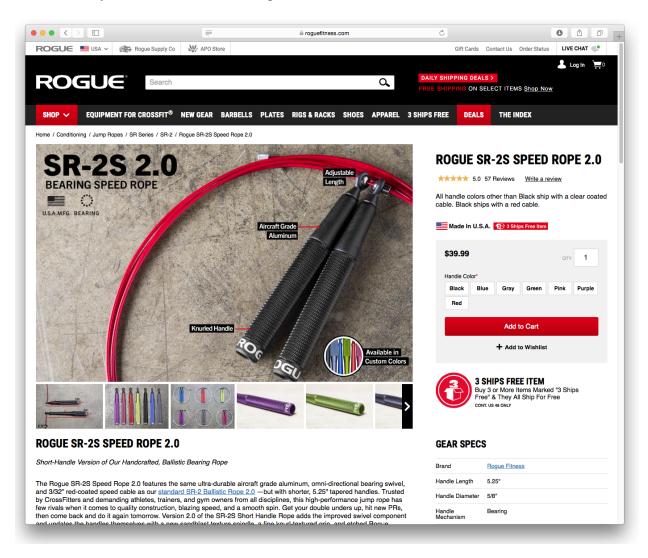
34. Below is a screen shot of Rogue's offer for sale of the "Spealler SR-1S Speed Rope 2.0" from July 24, 2018, on its www.roguefitness.com website.



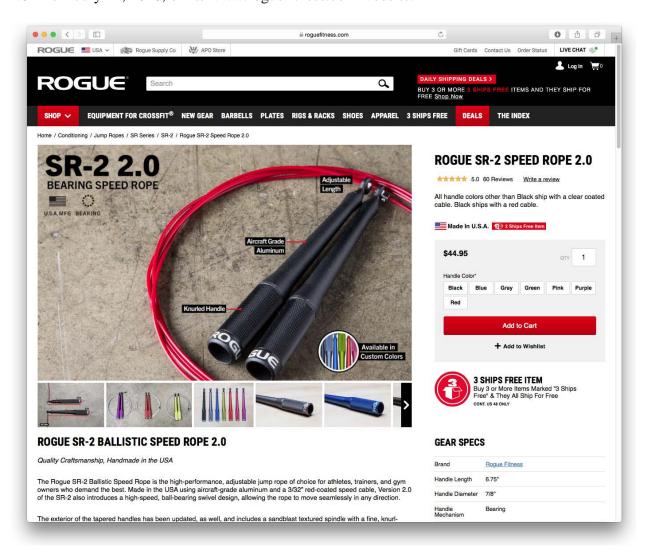
35. Below is a screen shot of Rogue's offer for sale of the "Fraser SR-2S Speed Rope 2.0" from July 24, 2018, on its www.roguefitness.com website.



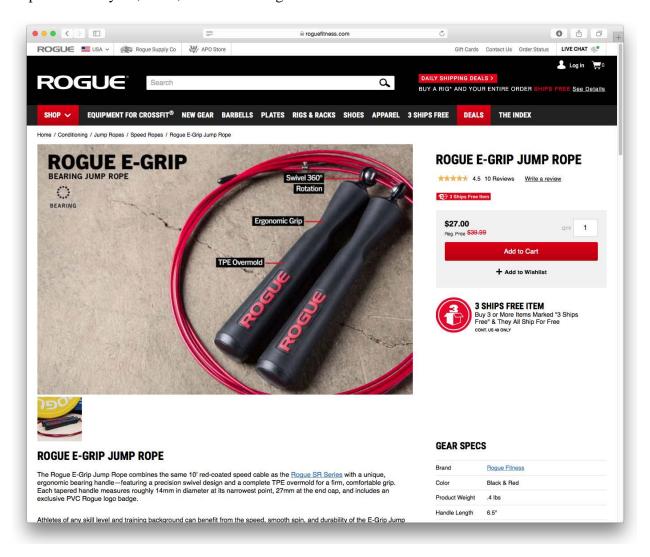
36. Below is a screen shot of Rogue's offer for sale of the "Rogue SR-2S Speed Rope 2.0" from July 24, 2018, on its www.roguefitness.com website.



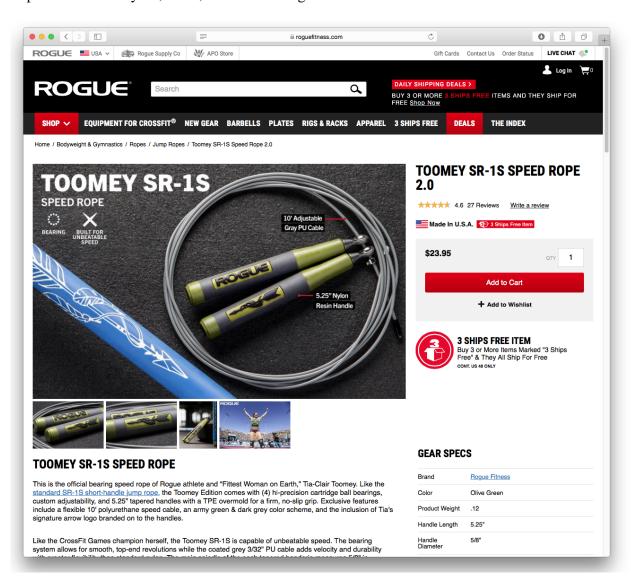
37. Below is a screen shot of Rogue's offer for sale of the "Rogue SR-2 Speed Rope 2.0" from July 24, 2018, on its www.roguefitness.com website.



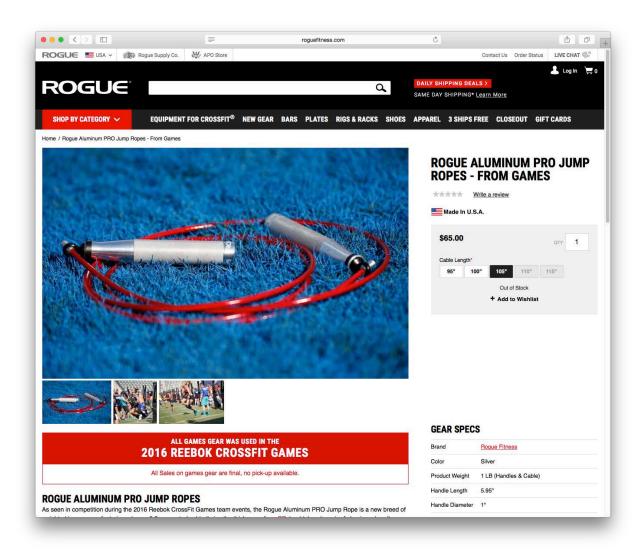
38. Below is a screen shot of Rogue's offer for sale of the "Rogue E-Grip Jump Rope" from July 24, 2018, on its www.roguefitness.com website.



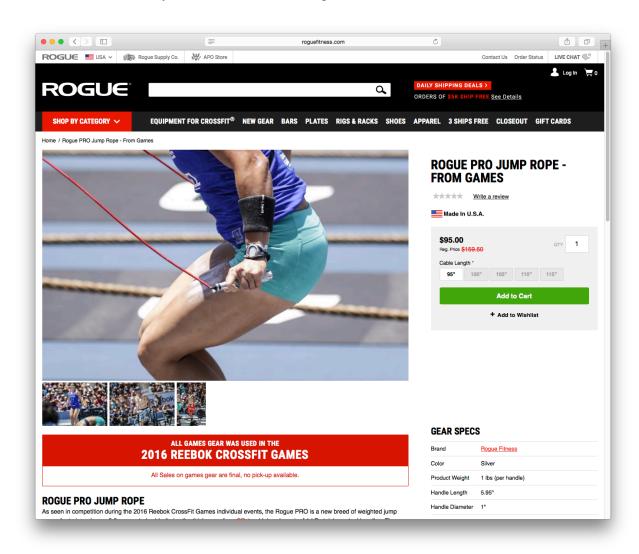
39. Below is a screen shot of Rogue's offer for sale of the "Toomey SR-1S Speed Rope 2.0" from July 24, 2018, on its www.roguefitness.com website.



40. Below is a screen shot of Rogue's offer for sale of the "Rogue Aluminum PRO Jump Ropes – From Games" from May 9, 2017, on its www.roguefitness.com website.



41. Below is a screen shot of Rogue's offer for sale of the "Rogue PRO Jump Rope – From Games" from May 9, 2017, on its www.roguefitness.com website.



42. JRS is informed and believes that Rogue will continue to sell and offer for sale its speed jump ropes on the Internet until it is enjoined from infringement.

COUNT 1: INFRINGEMENT OF THE '809 PATENT

- 43. The allegations of the preceding Paragraphs 1-42 are repeated, realleged, and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth herein.
- 44. Defendant Rogue, in violation of 35 U.S.C § 271(a), has been and is currently directly infringing, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, at least Claim 1 of the '809

Patent by making, using, selling, offering to sell, or importing, without license or authority, the Accused Products within this Judicial District or elsewhere in the United States.

- 45. Claim 1 of the '809 Patent recites as follows:
 - 1. A jump rope, comprising:
 - a) a pair of handles each comprising:
 - i) a shaft rotatably journaled in at least one bearing element;
 - ii) a handle adapted to retain said shaft rotatably journaled in said at least one bearing element;
 - iii) a blade element coupled to said shaft, said blade element extending axially from said shaft a distance outward from said handle;
 - iv) a ball element pivotally coupled within an aperture of said blade element a distance from said handle; and
 - b) a cable element having one of a pair opposed ends coupled to said ball element.
- 46. JRS is informed and believes that Rogue's Accused Products are jump ropes comprising a pair of handles each comprising a shaft rotatably journaled in at least one bearing element, a handle adapted to retain said shaft rotatably journaled in said at least one bearing element, a blade element coupled to said shaft, said blade element extending axially from said shaft a distance outward from said handle, with a ball element pivotally coupled within an aperture of said blade element a distance from said handle; and a cable element having one of a pair opposed ends coupled to said ball element.
- 47. Rogue's actions as alleged herein are without right, license, or permission under the '809 Patent from JRS.
- 48. JRS is informed and believes that Rogue has willfully, deliberately, and intentionally infringed the '809 Patent.
- 49. JRS is informed and believes that Rogue will continue to infringe the '809 Patent unless and until it is enjoined by this Court.

- 50. Rogue, by way of its infringing activities, has caused and continues to cause JRS to suffer damages in an amount to be determined, and has caused and is causing JRS irreparable harm. JRS has no adequate remedy at law against Rogue's acts of infringement and, unless Rogue is enjoined from its infringement of the '809 Patent, JRS will continue to suffer irreparable harm.
- 51. JRS is entitled to recover from Rogue the damages at least in an amount adequate to compensate for such infringement, which amount has yet to be determined, together with interest and costs fixed by the Court.
- 52. On information and belief, Rogue's infringement is willful, intentional, and deliberate. Accordingly, this case is exceptional under 35 U.S.C. § 285, and JRS is entitled to recover treble damages and its reasonable attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs incurred in this action.

COUNT 2: INFRINGEMENT OF THE '208 PATENT

- 53. The allegations of the preceding Paragraphs 1-52 are repeated, realleged, and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth herein.
- 54. Defendant Rogue, in violation of 35 U.S.C § 271(a), has been and is currently directly infringing, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, at least Claim 1 of the '208 Patent by making, using, selling, offering to sell, or importing, without license or authority, the Accused Products within this Judicial District or elsewhere in the United States.
 - 55. Claim 1 of the '208 Patent recites as follows:
 - 1. A handle, comprising:
 - a) a handle which retains within a shaft rotatably journaled in at least one bearing element;
 - b) a first shaft end extending axially outward of said handle, wherein said first shaft end comprises a blade element which bounds an aperture element at a distance from said handle; and

- c) a ball element pivotally coupled within said aperture element, said ball element adapted to couple to a cable element.
- 56. JRS is informed and believes that Rogue's Accused Products contain a handle which retains within a shaft rotatably journaled in at least one bearing element, a first shaft end extending axially outward of said handle, wherein said first shaft end comprises a blade element which bounds an aperture element at a distance from said handle; and a ball element pivotally coupled within said aperture element, said ball element adapted to couple to a cable element.
- 57. Rogue's actions as alleged herein are without right, license, or permission under the '208 Patent from JRS.
- 58. JRS is informed and believes that Rogue has willfully, deliberately, and intentionally infringed the '208 Patent.
- 59. JRS is informed and believes that Rogue will continue to infringe the '208 Patent unless and until it is enjoined by this Court.
- 60. Rogue, by way of its infringing activities, has caused and continues to cause JRS to suffer damages in an amount to be determined, and has caused and is causing JRS irreparable harm. JRS has no adequate remedy at law against Rogue's acts of infringement and, unless Rogue is enjoined from its infringement of the '208 Patent, JRS will continue to suffer irreparable harm.
- 61. JRS is entitled to recover from Rogue the damages at least in an amount adequate to compensate for such infringement, which amount has yet to be determined, together with interest and costs fixed by the Court.
- 62. On information and belief, Rogue's infringement is willful, intentional, and deliberate. Accordingly, this case is exceptional under 35 U.S.C. § 285, and JRS is entitled to

recover treble damages and its reasonable attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs incurred in this action.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, JRS respectfully requests the following relief:

- A. A judgment that Defendant has directly infringed the '809 Patent and the '208 Patent;
- B. A judgment in favor of Plaintiff and against Rogue for damages for patent infringement pursuant to 35 U.S.C § 284 in an amount to be determined at trial, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty for infringement of the '809 Patent and the '208 Patent;
- C. A preliminary and permanent injunction restraining and enjoining Rogue and its officers, agents, employees, affiliates, and all others acting in concert or privity with any of it from infringing, inducing the infringement of, or contributing to the infringement of the '809 Patent and the '208 Patent;
- D. An order directing that all items that infringe the '809 Patent and the '208 Patent be delivered up to Plaintiff or destroyed;
- E. An order finding that Rogue's infringement of the '809 Patent and the '208 Patent has been willful, and an award of treble damages under 35 U.S.C § 284;
- F. An order finding that this is an exceptional case and awarding JRS's attorney fees under 35 U.S.C § 285;
 - G. An order awarding JRS costs and expenses in this action;
 - H. An order awarding JRS pre- and post-judgment interest on its damages; and
- I. Such other and further relief in law or in equity as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 26, 2018 SEBALY SHILLITO + DYER

/s/Daniel J. Donnellon

40 N. Main Street

James A. Dyer (0006824) Daniel J. Donnellon (0036726) 1900 Kettering Tower

Dayton, OH 45423-1013 Tele: (937) 222-2500 Email: jdyer@ssdlaw.com Email: jdonnellon@ssdlaw.com

Christopher L. Limpus (*pro hac vice* pending) LIMPUS + LIMPUS, PC 7723 Arlington Drive Boulder, CO 80303 Tele: (303) 731-9540

Email: chris@limpuslaw.com

Counsel for Plaintiff

JURY DEMAND

Pursuant to Rule Thirty-Eight of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, JRS requests a trial by jury of any and all issues so triable.

/s/Daniel J. Donnellon

Daniel J. Donnellon (0036726)