



Advisory on Auction Tampering

Issued: 24-Mar-2008

It has been brought to our attention that some .ASIA auction participants and/or their agents may be attempting to engage in bid rigging. Pool.com and DotAsia take all attempts to tamper with auctions and other collusive behaviour very seriously. We will take appropriate steps to stop illegal behaviour and to maintain a fair and equitable platform for all participants to pursue their domain registrations.

If you have been contacted by another auction participant soliciting your collusion in a bid rigging scheme, we request that you notify Pool.com and DotAsia immediately. If we determine that an auction participant has attempted to engage in bid rigging or any other inappropriate behaviour, we reserve the right to remove the participant from current auctions and ban the participant from future auctions. If we determine that a completed auction has been affected by bid rigging, appropriate actions will be taken, which may include but are not limited to invalidating the auction, rescinding of the domain and re-auction of the domain. If we suspect any bid rigging activity during or before an auction commences, we may suspend an auction.

Based on our understanding, **tampering with an auction (or a collective of auctions) through bid rigging is a criminal offence** in the jurisdiction of the premises for which the .ASIA Sunrise and Landrush auctions are held, **and can result in fines and/or imprisonment**. In the event of bid rigging, Pool.com and DotAsia have the right to pursue all legal remedies and may refer the matter to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Bid rigging generally involves:

- an agreement or arrangement among auction participants not to submit a bid in an auction, or
- the submission of a bid arrived at by agreement or arrangement of two or more of the auction participants.

The most common forms of bid rigging include bid suppression, complementary bidding, bid rotation, and subcontracting between bidders.

Please forward any communication that appears to be a solicitation or offer to engage in bid rigging to service@dotasia.pool.com.

The .ASIA Sunrise and Landrush Auctions:

According to the .ASIA Sunrise Policies, for domain names receiving more than one qualified application in the corresponding phase of the .ASIA Sunrise (SR2a, SR2b, SR2c and SR3) or Landrush, an auction will be held between the qualified applicants. DotAsia Organisation, the registry operator for the .ASIA Registry has partnered with Pool.com, a Canadian company specializing in online domain name auctions. Pool.com is the technology, premises and customer service provider for domain auctions arising from the .ASIA Sunrise and Landrush processes.

This Advisory is issued jointly by Pool.com and DotAsia.

We thank you in advance for helping us to ensure the integrity of the auction is maintained.