 2 3 4 	JAIKARAN SINGH, CA BAR NO. 2013: jsingh@foley.com FOLEY & LARDNER LLP 11988 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 400 SAN DIEGO, CA 92130-2594 TELEPHONE: 858.847.6700 FACSIMILE: 858.792.6773	55			
5678	ROBERT T. STEWART, CA BAR NO. 330308 rstewart@foley.com FOLEY & LARDNER LLP 299 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 2000 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84111 TELEPHONE: 801.401.8900 FACSIMILE: 385.799.7576				
9	Attorneys for Defendant IFIT INC. erroneously sued as IFIT INC. d/b/a NORDICTRACK				
11 12 13	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA				
141516	MATTHEW TREINISH, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Plaintiff,	Case No. 2:22-cv-04687 DEFENDANT'S NOTICE OF REMOVAL			
17 18	VS.	[CAFA REMOVAL]			
19	IFIT INC. d/b/a NORDICTRACK and DOES 1-10 Inclusive,	Filed concurrently with: i. Declaration of Nick Kriz;			
20 21	Defendants.	i. Declaration of Nick Kriz;ii. Civil Cover sheet;iii. Disclosure Statement and Certification and Notice of			
22 23		Interested Parties; and iv. Proof of Service			
24					
25					
2627					

TO THE CLERK OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendant iFIT Inc. ("Defendant"), erroneously sued as IFIT INC. d/b/a Nordictrack, by its counsel, hereby gives notice of removal of this action, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d), 1441, and 1453, from the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles to the United States District Court for the Central District of California on the following grounds:

PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND TIMLINESS OF REMOVAL

- 1. On June 8, 2022, Plaintiff Matthew Treinish ("Plaintiff") filed a putative class action complaint in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles, captioned *Matthew Treinish*, *individually*, *and on behalf of all others similarly situated v. IFit Inc. d/b/a Nordictrack and DOES 1-10 Inclusive*, Case No. 22STCV18798 (the "Complaint"). A true and correct copy of the Complaint is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.
- 2. Defendant was served with the Complaint on June 9, 2022. A true and correct copy of the Summons is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.
- 3. This Notice of Removal is being filed within 30 days of Defendant's receipt of the Complaint. Thus, this notice is timely. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).
- 4. As discussed in more detail below, based on the allegations of the Complaint, there are at least 100 class members, there is minimal diversity, and Defendant's analysis of records shows that the amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, making removal under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) appropriate. *See Kuxhausen v. BMW Financial Services NA LLC*, 707 F.3d 1136, 1139 (9th Cir. 2013) (the time period starts to run only when the basis for removal is "revealed affirmatively in the initial pleading"); *Harris v. Bankers Life & Cas. Co.*, 425 F.3d 689, 694 (9th Cir. 2005) (notice of removability is determined by the "four corners of the applicable pleading, not through subjective knowledge or a duty to make further inquiry.")

///

BACKGROUND

- 5. The Complaint alleges five causes of action, both on behalf of Plaintiff individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated: (1) Violation of Unfair Competition Law (the "UCL"), California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200 et seq.; (2) Breach of Warranty in Violation of Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act, California Civil Code §§ 1790 et seq.; (3) Breach of Implied Warranty in Violation of Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act, California Civil Code §§ 1790 et seq.; (4) Breach of Warranty in Violation of Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2310 et seq.; and (5) Breach of Implied Warranty in Violation of Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2310 et seq. (See generally Complaint.)
- 6. By his Complaint, Plaintiff alleges that he "brings this class action Complaint against Defendant . . . to stop Defendant's practice of selling warranties with its treadmills which they have no intention of honoring, and to obtain redress for a class of consumers ("Class Members") who were misled by Defendants [sic] within the applicable statute of limitations period." (Compl. ¶ 1.) Plaintiff further alleges that "Defendants [sic] represented to consumers that a warranty would accompany the purchase of its treadmills ("the Class Products"), whereby Defendant would repair any of the Class Products for a certain period of time at no charge to consumers." (Compl. ¶ 2.) Plaintiff further alleges that he "and others similarly situated were exposed to these representations." (Compl. ¶ 4.) Plaintiff further alleges that "Defendants [sic] misrepresented to Plaintiff and others similarly situated by failing to disclose in either their representations or the contract itself that Defendants [sic] would not honor the warranty." (Compl. ¶ 5.)
- 7. Based on these allegations, Plaintiff seeks actual damages, punitive damages, "any and all statutory enhanced damages," attorneys' fees, and "[a]ll other relief, general or special, legal and equitable, to which Plaintiff and Class Members may be justly entitled as deemed by the Court." (Compl., Prayer for Relief ¶¶ (e)-(h) and (j).)

GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL

- 8. Under the Class Action Fairness Act ("CAFA"), United States District Courts have original jurisdiction over putative class actions where (1) there are at least 100 putative class members, (2) the amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000 and (3) any proposed class member and any defendant are citizens of different states. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d)(2), 1332(d)(5)(B), 1453. This includes any class action filed under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 or "similar State statute or rule of judicial procedure," such as California Code of Civil Procedure § 382. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(1)(B). (*See also* Compl. ¶ 22.) Each of the requirements for jurisdiction under CAFA is satisfied here.
- 9. Because CAFA was enacted to facilitate federal courts' adjudication of certain class actions, "no antiremoval presumption attends cases invoking CAFA." *Dart Cherokee Basin Operating Co., LLC v. Owens*, 135 S. Ct. 547, 554 (2014); *see also Greene v. Harley-Davidson, Inc.*, 965 F.3d 767, 772 (9th Cir. 2020); *Jordan v. Nationstar Mortg. LLC*, 781 F.3d 1178, 1184 (9th Cir. 2015) (reversing remand order "[i]n light of the Supreme Court's clear statement in Dart Cherokee that Congress intended for no antiremoval presumption to attend CAFA cases").

This Is A Class Action With More Than 100 Class Members

- 10. Plaintiff has alleged a nationwide class action. (Compl. ¶¶ 22-37.)
- 11. Plaintiff alleges that "the proposed class is composed of thousands of persons." (Compl. ¶ 27.)
- 12. Thus, the putative class that Plaintiffs purport to represent consists of at least 100 individuals.

There is Minimal Diversity

13. Although diversity removal ordinarily requires complete diversity between plaintiffs and defendants, removal of a class action under CAFA only requires "minimal diversity" — i.e., at least one member of a class of plaintiffs must be diverse from one defendant. See 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A). This requirement is readily satisfied here.

- 14. For purposes of diversity jurisdiction, a corporation is a citizen of each state where it is incorporated and the state where it has its principal place of business. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c). The "principal place of business" of a corporation is the corporation's "nerve center"— i.e., the place where a corporation's high level officers direct, control and coordinate its activities on a day-to-day basis. *Hertz Corp. v. Friend*, 559 U.S. 77, 91-95 (2010) (rejecting all prior tests in favor of the "nerve center" test).
- 15. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Logan, Utah. (Compl. ¶ 9.)
- 16. Plaintiff further alleges that he is a citizen and resident of California. (Compl. \P 8.)
- 17. In the Complaint, in addition to the named Defendant, Plaintiff also sued Defendant DOES 1 to 10 under fictitious names. For purposes of removal, "the citizenship of defendants sued under fictitious names shall be disregarded." 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b)(1).¹
- 18. Accordingly, minimal diversity of citizenship exists under CAFA. See 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A).

The Amount in Controversy Exceeds \$5,000,000

19. Under CAFA, the claims of class members are aggregated to determine if the amount in controversy, including statutory attorney fees, exceeds \$5,000,000. 28 U.S.C. \$\ 1332(d)(2), (d)(6); Galt G/S v. JSS Scandinavia, 142 F.3d 1150, 1156 (9th Cir. 1998) (statutory attorney fees added when calculating amount in controversy); Berry v. American Express Pub., Corp., 381 F.Supp.2d 1118, 1124 (C.D. Cal. 2005) (amount in controversy can be based either on the aggregate value of the class members' claims or on the costs to defendants of providing whatever relief is sought).

¹ Because the basis for federal jurisdiction is CAFA, which requires only minimal diversity, there is no need for consent to federal jurisdiction by any additional defendants, known or unknown. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1453(b) ("A class action may be removed to a district court of the United States in accordance with section 1446 . . . except that such action may be removed by any defendant without the consent of all defendants.").

- 20. The U.S. Supreme Court has held that, as specified in 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), a defendant's notice of removal need include only "a plausible allegation that the amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional threshold"; the notice need not contain evidentiary submissions. *Dart Cherokee*, 135 S. Ct. at 553. In assessing the amount in controversy, the court must assume that the allegations of the complaint are true and that a jury will return a complete verdict for the plaintiff. *Kenneth Rothschild Trust v. Morgan Stanley Dean Witter*, 199 F.Supp.2d 993, 1001 (C.D. Cal. 2002).
- 21. Plaintiff, on behalf of the putative class, asserts that "Defendants [sic] represented to consumers that a warranty would accompany the purchase of its treadmills ("the Class Products"), whereby Defendant would repair any of the Class Products for a certain period of time at no charge to consumers." (Compl. ¶ 2.) Plaintiff further alleges that he "and others similarly situated were exposed to these representations." (Compl. ¶ 4.) Plaintiff further alleges that "Defendants [sic] misrepresented to Plaintiff and others similarly situated by failing to disclose in either their representations or the contract itself that Defendants [sic] would not honor the warranty." (Compl. ¶ 5.) Plaintiff further alleges that these "misrepresentations to Plaintiff and others similarly situated induced them to purchase Defendants' Class Products." (Compl. ¶ 6.) With all of the above stated allegations, Plaintiff explains that "all claims in this matter arise from the identical, false, affirmative written statements that Defendant would provide warranties to the Class Members, when in fact, such representations were false." (Compl. ¶ 29.)
- 22. Plaintiff's Complaint seeks a wide range of damages, including actual damages, punitive damages, statutory enhanced damages, attorney's fees and "all other relief, general or special, legal and equitable, to which Plaintiff and Class Members may be justly entitled. . ." on behalf of virtually all persons who purchased a NordicTrack brand treadmill from June 8, 2018 (four years prior to the filing of this lawsuit) to the present. (Compl., Prayer for Relief ¶ (e)-(h) and (j).) But the Complaint does not specify the purported amount of these damages. And where a complaint does not specify the amount of the alleged damages, the removing defendant need only show by a

preponderance of the evidence that the amount in controversy exceeds the statutory minimum. *Lewis v. Verizon Communications, Inc.*, 2010 U.S. App. LEXIS 23725, *2 (9th Cir. 2010) (Verizon); *Guglielmino v. McKee Foods Corp.*, 506 F.3d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 2007).

- 23. This does not require that the removing defendant concede liability or prove the amount of damages plaintiff is likely to recover. Rather, "[t]he amount in controversy is simply an estimate of the total amount in dispute, not a prospective assessment of defendant's liability." *Verizon*, 2010 U.S. App. LEXIS 23725, *12; *McPhail v. Deere & Co.*, 529 F.3d 947, 956 (10th Cir. 2008). Thus, to carry its burden, the removing defendant merely needs to show "that the potential damages could exceed the jurisdictional amount." *Verizon*, 2010 U.S. App. LEXIS 23725, *2 (emphasis added).
- 24. Defendant expressly denies Plaintiff's allegations and denies that Plaintiff or any putative class members are entitled to any damages at all or other relief or recovery. But if Plaintiff's allegations were true, the potential damages, i.e., the amount in controversy, would easily exceed \$5,000,000.
- 25. Plaintiff seeks for himself, and all other purchasers of a NordicTrack treadmill nationwide from June 8, 2018 to the present, actual damages, punitive damages, statutory enhanced damages (civil penalty) of up to twice the actual damages, and any and all other relief, legal or equitable, available under the Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act, California Civil Code §§ 1790 *et seq.* (Compl., Prayer for Relief ¶¶ (e)-(h) and (j).) Among the available monetary remedies, the Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act allows consumers to be reimbursed the purchase price paid by the buyer, less the amount directly attributable to the buyer's use before discovery of the nonconformity. Cal. Civ. Code § 1793.2(d)(1).
- 26. Plaintiff also seeks for himself, and all other purchasers of a NordicTrack treadmill nationwide from June 8, 2018 to the present, any and all equitable relief available under the UCL for unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent business practices. (Compl. ¶ 55 (citing Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, Prayer for Relief ¶ (j).) Plaintiff alleges that

- Defendant's misrepresentations induced him and others similarly situated to purchase a NordicTrack treadmill. (Compl. ¶ 6.) Under the UCL, Plaintiff and other consumer purchasers can obtain restitution of the money they paid to buy a NordicTrack treadmill. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203; see also Korea Supply Co. v. Lockheed Martin Corp., 29 Cal. 4th 1134, 1144-45 (2003) (A UCL order for restitution is one "compelling a UCL defendant to return money obtained through an unfair business practice to those persons in interest from whom the property was taken, that is, to persons who had an ownership interest in the property or those claiming through that person.").
- 27. Plaintiff's individual and class claims under Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act and the UCL potentially encompass all sales of NordicTrack brand treadmills to consumers in the United States between June 8, 2018 (four years prior to the filing of this lawsuit) and the present. From June 8, 2018 to June 30, 2018, Defendant's sales of just the NordicTrack Commercial 2950 model treadmill (the same model allegedly purchased by Plaintiff) to consumers like Plaintiff were greater than \$60 million, and far in excess of the \$5 million threshold for CAFA jurisdiction. (Declaration of Nick Kriz, ¶ 7.) This amount does not even take into account the direct to consumer sales of other models of NordicTrack treadmills during the same time period.
- 28. The foregoing estimation—which presents "a plausible allegation that the amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional threshold," *Dart Cherokee*, 135 S. Ct. at 553—does not even include injunctive relief, which is equitable relief sought in the Complaint under the UCL. (Compl. ¶ 55, Prayer for Relief ¶¶ (c)-(d), (j).) The cost of injunctive relief is to be included in the amount in controversy. *Chavez v. JP Morgan Chase & Co.*, 88 F.3d 413, 416 (9th Cir. 2018) ("The amount in controversy may include 'damages (compensatory, punitive, or otherwise) and the cost of complying with an injunction, as well as attorneys' fees awarded under fee shifting statutes.") (*quoting Gonzales v. CarMax Auto Superstores, LLC*, 840 F.3d 644, 648 (9th Cir. 2016)).
- 29. Plaintiff's request for statutory attorney's fees further increases the amount in controversy. *Galt*, 142 F.3d at 1156 (statutory attorney fees are included for

determining amount in controversy).

Thus, the monetary relief in controversy far exceeds \$5 million, without 30. even considering the injunctive relief and attorney's fees that Plaintiff seeks.

COMPLIANCE WITH REMOVAL STATUTE AND LOCAL RULES

- 31. This Notice of Removal was properly filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California because the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles is located in this judicial district. See 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a).
- 32. This Notice of Removal is signed pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. See 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a).
- Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), a copy of all process, pleadings and orders 33. served upon Defendant in this action is attached hereto as **Exhibit C**.

Notice to State Court and Adverse Party

34. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), a copy of this Notice of Removal is being served upon counsel for Plaintiff and a copy, along with a Notice of Filing of the Notice of Removal, is being filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles.

WHEREFORE, Defendant hereby gives notice that this action is removed from the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles to this United States District Court for the Central District of California.

DATED: July 8, 2022

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP Jaikaran Singh

26

27

28

/s/ Jaikaran Singh Jaikaran Singh Attorneys for Defendant IFIT INC. erroneously sued as IFIT INC. d/b/a NORDICTRACK

EXHIBIT A

Assigned for all purposes to: Spring Street Courthouse, Judicial Officer: Stuart Rice Electronically FILED by Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles on 06/08/2022 12:59 PM Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court, by J. Covarrubias, Deputy Clerk Todd M. Friedman (SBN 216752) Adrian R. Bacon (SBN 280332) LAW OFFICES OF TODD M. FRIEDMAN, P.C. 2 21031 Ventura Blvd., Suite 340, 3 Woodland Hills, CA 91364 Phone: 323-306-4234 4 Fax: 866-633-0228 tfriedman@toddflaw.com 5 abacon@toddflaw.com 6 Attorneys for Plaintiff, MATTHEW TREINISH 7 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 8 UNLIMITED JURISDICTION 9 MATTHEW TREINISH, individually, and Case No. 22ST CV18798 10 on behalf of all others similarly situated, CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT 11 Plaintiff, Violation of Unfair Competition Law 12 VS. (Cal. Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 et seg.); 13 IFIT INC. d/b/a NORDICTRACK and Breach of Warranty in Violation of Song-(2) DOES 1-10 Inclusive, Beverly Consumer Warranty Act (Cal. 14 Civil Code §§ 1790 et seq.); Defendants. Breach of Implied Warranty in Violation (3) 15 of Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act (Cal. Civil Code §§ 1790 et seq.); 16 Breach of Warranty in Violation of (4) Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act (15 17 U.S.C. §§ 2310 et seg.); and Breach of Implied Warranty in Violation 18 of Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 2310 et seg.). 19 (Amount to Exceed \$25,000) 20 **Jury Trial Demanded** 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 Exhibit A - Page 9

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

tase 2:22-cv-04687 Document 1-225F(Web) 108/22 Page 2 of 14 Page ID #:11

Plaintiff MATTHEW TREINISH ("Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 1. Plaintiff brings this class action Complaint against Defendant IFIT INC. (hereinafter "Defendant") to stop Defendant's practice of selling warranties with its treadmills, which they have no intention of honoring, and to obtain redress for a class of consumers ("Class Members") who were misled by Defendants within the applicable statute of limitations period.
- 2. Defendants represented to consumers that a warranty would accompany the purchase of its treadmills ("the Class Products"), whereby Defendant would repair any of the Class Products for a certain period of time at no charge to consumers.
- 3. Warranties are of particular value to consumers because they provide a guarantee of the value of a good after it is purchased.
- 4. Plaintiff and other consumers similarly situated were exposed to these representations.
- 5. Defendants misrepresented to Plaintiff and others similarly situated by failing to disclose in either their representations or the contract itself that Defendants would not honor the warranty.
- 6. Defendants' misrepresentations to Plaintiff and others similarly situated induced them to purchase Defendants' Class Products.
- 7. Defendants took advantage of Plaintiff and similarly situated consumers unfairly and unlawfully.

THE PARTIES

- 8. Plaintiff MATTHEW TREINISH is a citizen and resident of the State of California, County of Los Angeles.
- 9. Defendant IFIT INC. is a corporation that does business in California under the fictitious name NORDICTRACK, including within Los Angeles County, and is incorporated in Delaware and headquartered in Logan, Utah.

- 10. Plaintiff alleges, on information and belief, that Defendant's marketing campaign, as pertains to this matter, was created by Defendants and was disseminated throughout California.
- 11. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all time relevant, Defendant's sales of products and services are governed by the controlling law in the state in which they do business and from which the sales of products and services, and the allegedly unlawful acts occurred, which is California.
- 12. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each and all of the acts and omissions alleged herein were performed by, or is attributable to, Defendant and/or its employees, agents, and/or third parties acting on its behalf, each acting as the agent for the other, with legal authority to act on the other's behalf. The acts of any and all of Defendant's employees, agents, and/or third parties acting on their behalf, were in accordance with, and represent, the official policy of Defendant.
- 13. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that said Defendant is in some manner intentionally, negligently, or otherwise responsible for the acts, omissions, occurrences, and transactions of each and all their employees, agents, and/or third parties acting on their behalf, in proximately causing the damages herein alleged.
- 14. At all relevant times, Defendant ratified each and every act or omission complained of herein. At all relevant times, Defendant, aided and abetted the acts and omissions as alleged herein.

PLAINTIFF'S FACTS

- 15. On or around October 27 of 2021 Plaintiff purchased a Commercial 2950 model treadmill from Defendant, along with in-home delivery and assembly for \$3442.69.
- 16. Accompanying Plaintiff's purchase was a warranty that the treadmill would be "free from defects in workmanship and material, under normal use and service conditions."

 The treadmill frame was warranted for ten years from the date of purchase, treadmill parts were warranted for two years from the date of purchase, and labor was warranted for one year

from the date of purchase. 1 2 17. On at least three occasions, Plaintiff's treadmill came to a complete stop while 3 he was running on it at full speed, and would not turn back on. 18. Plaintiff has contacted Defendant to have his treadmill fixed numerous times. 4 Each time Defendant agreed to send an employee to service the treadmill, however this 5 process took four weeks or longer each time Plaintiff's treadmill broke. 6 19. As a result, Plaintiff has had significant periods of time where he cannot use the 7 8 treadmill which he paid valuable consideration for. 9 20. The repeated malfunctioning of Plaintiff's treadmill constitutes a breach of 10 Defendant's warranty to Plaintiff. Had Plaintiff known that Defendant would breach its warranty, he would not 21. 11 have purchased the Commercial 2950 model treadmill from Defendant. 12 13 CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS 14 15 22. Plaintiff brings this action, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, and thus, seeks class certification under California Code of Civil Procedure Rule 382, et seq. 16 and Cal. Civil Code § 1781, et seq. 17 The class Plaintiff seeks to represent (the "Class") is defined as follows: 18 23. 19 All consumers, who, between the applicable statute of limitations and the present, purchased Defendant's Class Products, and had 20 that Class Product come to a complete stop while it was running, and would not turn back on. 21 As used herein, the term "Class Members" shall mean and refer to the members 24. 22 of the Class described above. 23 24 25. Excluded from the Class are Defendant, its affiliates, employees, agents, and 25 attorneys, and the Court. 26. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend the Class, and to add additional subclasses, 26 if discovery and further investigation reveals such action is warranted. 27

- 33. All claims of Plaintiff and the class are based on the exact same legal theories.
- 34. Plaintiff has no interest antagonistic to, or in conflict with, the class.
- 35. Plaintiff is qualified to, and will, fairly and adequately protect the interests of each Class Member, because Plaintiff was induced by Defendants' misrepresentations during the Class Period. Defendants' unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent actions concerns the same business practices described herein irrespective of where they occurred or were experienced. Plaintiff's claims are typical of all Class Members as demonstrated herein.
- 36. Plaintiff will thoroughly and adequately protect the interests of the class, having retained qualified and competent legal counsel to represent himself and the class.
- 37. Common questions will predominate, and there will be no unusual manageability issues

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of Unfair Competition Law

(Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq.)

- 38. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.
- 39. Actions for relief under the unfair competition law may be based on any business act or practice that is within the broad definition of the UCL. Such violations of the UCL occur as a result of unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business acts and practices. A plaintiff is required to provide evidence of a causal connection between a defendant's business practices and the alleged harm--that is, evidence that the defendant's conduct caused or was likely to cause substantial injury. It is insufficient for a plaintiff to show merely that the defendant's conduct created a risk of harm. Furthermore, the "act or practice" aspect of the statutory definition of unfair competition covers any single act of misconduct, as well as ongoing misconduct.

UNFAIR

40. California Business & Professions Code § 17200 prohibits any "unfair ... business act or practice." Defendant's acts, omissions, misrepresentations, and practices as alleged herein also constitute "unfair" business acts and practices within the meaning of the

UCL in that its conduct is substantially injurious to consumers, offends public policy, and is immoral, unethical, oppressive, and unscrupulous as the gravity of the conduct outweighs any alleged benefits attributable to such conduct. There were reasonably available alternatives to further Defendant's legitimate business interests, other than the conduct described herein. Plaintiff reserves the right to allege further conduct which constitutes other unfair business acts or practices. Such conduct is ongoing and continues to this date.

- 41. In order to satisfy the "unfair" prong of the UCL, a consumer must show that the injury: (1) is substantial; (2) is not outweighed by any countervailing benefits to consumers or competition; and, (3) is not one that consumers themselves could reasonably have avoided.
- 42. Here, Defendant's conduct has caused and continues to cause substantial injury to Plaintiff and members of the Class. Plaintiff and members of the Class have suffered injury in fact due to Defendant's decision to sell defective treadmills in breach of its warranty with Plaintiff and Class Members. Moreover, Plaintiff and Class Members were deprived of the use of their Class Products for significant periods of time. Thus, Defendant's conduct has caused substantial injury to Plaintiff and the members of the Class.
- 43. Moreover, Defendant's conduct as alleged herein solely benefits Defendant while providing no benefit of any kind to any consumer. Defendant warranted to Plaintiff and Class Members that it would provide them with treadmills that were free from defects. In fact, however, Defendant sold Plaintiff and Class Members treadmills which were substantially defective, in that the treadmills would shut off and come to a complete stop while in use, and would not turn back on. Thus, the injury suffered by Plaintiff and the members of the Class are not outweighed by any countervailing benefits to consumers.
- 44. Finally, the injury suffered by Plaintiff and members of the Class is not an injury that these consumers could reasonably have avoided. Plaintiff and Class Members had no way to determine that Defendant would actually sell them defective treadmills, as evidenced by Defendant's warranty that its treadmills were in fact no defective. Plaintiff and Class Members relied on this warranty, and changed their positions by purchasing Class Products. Defendants

failed to take reasonable steps to inform Plaintiff and class members that its treadmills were defective. As such, Defendants took advantage of Defendants' position of perceived power in order to deceive Plaintiff and the Class. Therefore, the injury suffered by Plaintiff and members of the Class is not an injury which these consumers could reasonably have avoided.

45. Thus, Defendants' conduct has violated the "unfair" prong of California Business & Professions Code § 17200.

FRAUDULENT

- 46. California Business & Professions Code § 17200 prohibits any "fraudulent ... business act or practice." In order to prevail under the "fraudulent" prong of the UCL, a consumer must allege that the fraudulent business practice was likely to deceive members of the public.
- 47. The test for "fraud" as contemplated by California Business and Professions Code § 17200 is whether the public is likely to be deceived. Unlike common law fraud, a § 17200 violation can be established even if no one was actually deceived, relied upon the fraudulent practice, or sustained any damage.
- 48. Here, not only were Plaintiff and the Class members likely to be deceived, but these consumers were actually deceived by Defendant. Such deception is evidenced by the fact that Defendant sold Plaintiff and Class Members defective treadmills despite warranting that its treadmills were in fact defect-free. For the same reason, it is likely that Defendant's fraudulent business practice would deceive other members of the public.
- 49. As explained above, Defendant deceived Plaintiff and other Class Members by falsely warranting that its treadmills were defect-free.
- 50. Thus, Defendants' conduct has violated the "fraudulent" prong of California Business & Professions Code § 17200.

UNLAWFUL

51. California Business and Professions Code Section 17200, et seq. prohibits "any unlawful…business act or practice."

1	obligations to refund or replace Plaintiff's treadmill, but failing to fulfill them.		
2	THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION		
3	Breach of Implied Warranty In Violation of the Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act		
4		(Cal. Civ. Code § 1790, <i>Et Seq.</i>)	
5	90.	Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.	
6	91.	The treadmill purchased by Plaintiff was subject to an implied warranty of	
7	merchantability as defined in Cal. Civ. Code §1790 running from the Defendants to the intende		
8	consumer, Plaintiff herein.		
9	92.	Defendant is a suppliers of consumer goods as persons engaged in the business	
10	of making a consumer product directly available to Plaintiff.		
11	93.	Defendant is prohibited from disclaiming or modifying any implied warranty	
12	under Cal. Civ. Code §1790.		
13	94.	Pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code §1790, Plaintiff's treadmill was impliedly warranted	
14	to be fit for the ordinary use for which the treadmill was intended.		
15	95.	The treadmill was warranted to pass without objection in the trade under the	
16	contract description, and was required to conform to the descriptions of the treadmill containe		
17	in the contracts and labels.		
18	96.	The above described defects in the treadmill caused it to fail to possess even the	
19	most basic degree of fitness for ordinary use.		
20	97.	As a result of the breaches of implied warranty by Defendant, Plaintiff have	
21	suffered and continue to suffer various damages.		
22		FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION	
23	Breach of Warranty In Violation of the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act		
24		(15 U.S.C. § 2310, Et Seq.)	
25	98.	Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.	
26	99.	Plaintiff is a purchaser of a consumer product who received the treadmill during	
27	the duration of	of a written warranty period applicable to the treadmill and who is entitled by the	
28			

1	terms of the written warranty to enforce against Defendant the obligations of said warranty.			
2	100. Defendant is a person engaged in the business of making a consumer product			
3	directly available to Plaintiff.			
4	101. Defendant, i.e., seller, are an authorized dealership/agent designed to perform			
5	repairs on treadmills under Defendant's warranties.			
6	102. The Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act, Chapter 15 U.S.C.A., Section, 2301 et. Seq.			
7	("Warranty Act") is applicable to Plaintiff's Complaint in that the treadmill was manufactured			
8	sold and purchased after July 4,1975, and costs in excess of ten dollars (\$10.00).			
9	103. Plaintiff's purchase of the treadmill was accompanied by written warranties for			
10	any non-conformities or defects in materials or workmanship, comprising an undertaking in			
11	writing in connection with the purchase of the treadmill and take remedial action free of charg			
12	to Plaintiff with respect to the treadmill in the event that the treadmill failed to meet the			
13	specifications set forth in said undertaking.			
14	104. Said warranties were the basis of the bargain of the contract between the Plaintiff			
15	and Defendant for the sale of the treadmill to Plaintiff.			
16	105. Said purchase of Plaintiff's treadmill was induced by, and Plaintiff relied upon,			
17	these written warranties.			
18	106. Plaintiff has met all of Plaintiff's obligations and preconditions as provided in			
19	the written warranties.			
20	107. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's failure to comply with its express			
21	written warranties, Plaintiff has suffered damages and, in accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 2310(d)			
22	Plaintiff is entitled to bring suit for such damages and other equitable relief.			
23	FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION			
24	Breach of Implied Warranty In Violation of the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act			
25	(15 U.S.C. § 2310, Et Seq.)			
26	108. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.			
27	109. The alignment purchased by Plaintiff was subject to an implied warranty of			
28				

1		Members of the unlawful and deceptive conduct herein;	
2	(d)	An order requiring Defendant to engage in corrective advertising	
3		regarding the conduct discussed above;	
4	(e) Actual damages suffered by Plaintiff and Class Members as applicable		
5		from being induced to call Defendants under false pretenses;	
6	(f)	Punitive damages, as allowable, in an amount determined by the Court or	
7		jury;	
8	(g)	Any and all statutory enhanced damages;	
9	(h)	All reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees and costs provided by	
10		statute, common law or the Court's inherent power;	
11	(i)	Pre- and post-judgment interest; and	
12	(j)	All other relief, general or special, legal and equitable, to which Plaintiff	
13		and Class Members may be justly entitled as deemed by the Court.	
14	REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL		
15	118. Plaintiff requests a trial by jury as to all claims so triable.		
16			
17	Dated: June 8, 2022	Respectfully submitted,	
18	LAW OFFICES OF TODD M. FRIEDMAN, PC		
19		Dry Tadd M Fair diagra	
20	By: <u>Todd W. Frisdman</u> TODD M. FRIEDMAN, ESQ.		
21			
22			
23			
24	Attorneys for Plaintiff		
25			
26			
27			
28			
		Page 12 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT Exhibit A - Page 21	
		CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT	

¢ase 2:22-cv-04687 Document 1-1 Filed 07/08/22 Page 14 of 14 Page ID #:23

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Calif. Consumer Claims NordicTrack Fails to Honor Treadmill Warranties</u>