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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

LEONNA BROWN, KATHERINE  
BURNETT, CHRIS GOLDEN, IRENE  
HARDIN, FIZA JAVID, JOJO  
JENKINS, KRYSTYNA MACHUTA,  
NICHOLAS MAHON, SAIRA  
MUELLER, and SHARVIA  
SULTANA, on behalf of themselves  
and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

FITNESS INTERNATIONAL, LLC,  
d/b/a LA FITNESS, ESPORTA

Case No.: 8:23-cv-2109

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT:**

1. Violations Of California Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*
2. Violations Of California False Advertising Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 ("FAL")
3. Breach of Contract

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

1 FITNESS, and CITY SPORTS CLUB,  
2  
3 Defendant.  
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9

### 10 **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

11 1. Plaintiffs Leonna Brown, Katherine Burnett, Chris Golden, Irene  
12 Hardin, Fiza Javid, JoJo Jenkins, Krystyna Machuta, Nicholas Mahon, Saira  
13 Mueller, and Sharvia Sultana (“Plaintiff(s)”), individually and on behalf of all others  
14 similarly situated, bring this action against Defendant Fitness International, LLC,  
15 d/b/a LA Fitness, Esporta Fitness, and City Sports Club (hereinafter “LA Fitness” or  
16 “Defendant”) to obtain damages, restitution, and injunctive relief from Defendant.  
17 Plaintiffs make the following allegations upon information and belief, except as to  
18 their own actions, the investigation of their counsel, and facts that are a matter of  
19 public record.

### 20 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

21 2. This is a class action on behalf of individuals who have acquired  
22 membership in a gym operated under the names of “LA FITNESS,” “Esporta  
23 Fitness,” or “City Sports Club,” all owned, managed and controlled by LA Fitness,  
24 to recover damages and other relief arising from Defendant’s violations of California  
25 Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (“UCL”);  
26 California False Advertising Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 (“FAL”), and  
27 breach of contract.  
28



1 was a member of LA Fitness from 2013 and attempted to cancel her LA Fitness  
2 membership but continued being charged. Plaintiff Hardin closed her bank account  
3 to stop LA Fitness from deducting funds from her bank account.

4 8. Plaintiff **Fiza Javid** (“Plaintiff Javid”) is and at all times mentioned  
5 herein was an individual citizen of the State of Illinois. Plaintiff Javid was a member  
6 of LA Fitness from early 2022 until November 9, 2022. However, Ms. Javid was  
7 still being charged. Finally, on January 4, 2023, Plaintiff Javid changed her credit  
8 card number to stop the deductions by LA Fitness.

9 9. Plaintiff **Jojo Jenkins** (“Plaintiff Jenkins”) is and at all times  
10 mentioned herein was an individual citizen of the State of Florida. Plaintiff Jenkins  
11 was a member of LA Fitness from April of 2022 until July 13, 2022, but continued  
12 to be charged membership fees. Finally, Plaintiff Jenkins called her bank and  
13 stopped all payments to LA Fitness.

14 10. Plaintiff **Krystyna Machuta** (“Plaintiff Machuta”) is and at all times  
15 mentioned herein was an individual citizen of the State of Michigan. Plaintiff  
16 Machuta joined LA Fitness at the beginning of January 2023, but she decided and  
17 attempted to cancel her membership. However, from January of 2023 until March 8,  
18 2023, LA Fitness continued to charge Plaintiff Machuta despite her efforts to cancel  
19 the membership in January 2023.

20 11. Plaintiff **Saira Mueller** (“Plaintiff Mueller”) is and at all times  
21 mentioned herein was an individual citizen of the State of New York. Plaintiff  
22 Mueller was a member of LA Fitness from 2019 until she tried to cancel in 2020 but  
23 LA Fitness continued to bill her. Ultimately, Plaintiff Mueller contacted her bank to  
24 stop all payments from her account to LA Fitness.

25 12. Plaintiff **Sharvia Sultana** (“Plaintiff Sultana”) is and at all times  
26 mentioned herein was an individual citizen of the State of New York. Plaintiff  
27 Sultana was a member of LA Fitness beginning in 2021. In April 2022, Plaintiff  
28

1 Sultana attempted to cancel her membership but was billed each month until January  
2 10, 2023, when she replaced her debit/credit card to stop LA Fitness deductions.

3 13. Plaintiff **Nicholas Mahon** (“Plaintiff Mahon”) is and at all times  
4 mentioned herein was an individual citizen of the State of Texas. Plaintiff Mahon  
5 was a member of LA Fitness from June 6, 2018, until he began trying to cancel his  
6 membership in early July 2019. His cancellation was finally processed by LA Fitness  
7 in August of 2019.

8 14. Defendant **Fitness International, LLC** has its principal place of  
9 business located at 3161 Michelson Dr., Ste 600, Irvine, California 92612. It can be  
10 served through its registered agent C T Corporation System at 28 Liberty Street New  
11 York, New York 10005. Defendant Fitness International, LLC does business as LA  
12 Fitness, Esporta Fitness, and City Sports Club (hereinafter “LA Fitness” or  
13 “Defendant”).

#### 14 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

15 15. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action under 28  
16 U.S.C. § 1332(d) because this is a class action wherein the amount in controversy  
17 exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, there are  
18 more than 100 members in the proposed class, and at least one member of the class  
19 is a citizen of a state different from Defendant, including all plaintiffs other than  
20 Plaintiff Golden.

21 16. The Court has general personal jurisdiction over Defendant because,  
22 personally or through its agents, Defendant operates, conducts, engages in, or carries  
23 on a business or business venture in Irvine, California; it is registered with the  
24 Secretary of State in California as a limited liability corporation; it maintains its  
25 headquarters in California; and committed tortious acts in California.

1           17. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because  
2 it is the district within which LA Fitness has the most significant contacts and LA  
3 Fitness's principal place of business is located in this District.

4                                   **APPLICABLE LAW**

5           18. Defendant is a citizen of California. Defendant Fitness International,  
6 LLC does business as LA Fitness, Esporta Fitness, and City Sports Club.

7           19. Upon information and belief, the contracts at issue in this matter were  
8 drafted, developed, and finalized in California.

9           20. Upon information and belief, some (if not all) of the contracts at issue  
10 in this matter include a "governing law" provision which indicates that the contracts  
11 "shall be governed and enforced in accordance with California law."

12           21. Upon information and belief, the contracts at issue in this matter must  
13 be cancelled in California when a Plaintiff and/or Class member mails in a  
14 cancellation form, which are sent to an address in Irvine, California.

15           22. As for the non-contract claims, Plaintiffs maintain that LA Fitness is a  
16 California corporation, established in California, and from California, it enforces a  
17 company-wide policy and/or procedure to prevent Plaintiffs and Class members  
18 from cancelling their memberships.

19           23. Upon information and belief, all contracts, online forms, and  
20 nationwide advertising decisions, and all company-wide employee and management  
21 training and policy decisions emanate from LA Fitness's headquarters located in the  
22 State of California.

23           24. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and Class members maintain that California law  
24 is the governing law for all causes of action.

## **COMMON FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

### ***Defendant's Business***

25. Defendant LA Fitness International, LLC, commonly known by the name "LA Fitness," is a North American gym chain. LA Fitness International, LLC also owns and operates Esporta Fitness and City Sports Clubs.

26. LA Fitness was founded in Southern California in 1984 and has expanded its locations across North America.<sup>1</sup> These locations include: Canada, Oregon, California, Arizona, Texas, Minnesota, Arkansas, Louisiana, Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee, Ohio, New York, Kentucky, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, District of Columbia, Michigan, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.<sup>2</sup>

27. LA Fitness, Esporta Fitness, and City Sports Club offer a variety of memberships based on how much a gym member is willing to pay.

28. Individuals are able to join LA Fitness while at a gym by signing a membership contract in person or are able to join online after selecting a membership plan. Members must rely upon information given to them in person by LA Fitness personnel or, alternatively, must rely on information provided on the publicly accessible pages of the website before signing up online.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.lafitness.com/Pages/about.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.lafitness.com/Pages/findClub.aspx>

29. Upon information and belief, LA Fitness personnel fail to provide a physical copy of the agreement to review the terms of the contract before members, including Plaintiffs, sign up for a membership. Similarly, if a member chooses to sign up for a membership online, they are unable to see the full terms of the contract before signing. *See* online form below:

Select Additional Features

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>\$39.99</b><br>Monthly Rate<br>12 Month Term<br>Signature | <b>\$49.99</b><br>Monthly Rate<br>12 Month Term<br>Signature |
|--|--|

Number of Persons<sup>1</sup>

Initiation Fee: \$99.00

Billing Frequency: Monthly

Initial Term: 12

Prepayment: N/A

Optional amenities can be selected in the next step.

Included Amenities


- ☒ Racquetball/Squash Courts: Included
- ☒ 1 guest per visit: Included
- ☒ Group Fitness: Included
- ☒ Cycle Class: Included
- ☒ Pool/Whirlpool Spa: Included
- ☒ Esporta Brand Access: Included
- ☒ City Sports Brand Access: Included
- ☒ LA Fitness Brand Access: Included

Your Dues<sup>2</sup>

|                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| First Month Dues <sup>3</sup> : | \$39.99 |
| Last Month Dues <sup>3</sup> :  | \$39.99 |

Your Home Club

BEAR  
900 EDEN CIRCLE  
BEAR, DE 19701  
<https://www.lafitness.com/locations/14379>



Club Access  
Signature  
Online - Easy Start - Term

Group Fitness Classes  
Group Fitness classes throughout the day, many at no additional charge.

1/ Other membership options may be available by visiting your local club.  
2/ If you cancel during your initial term, a cancellation fee will apply. Your membership will be for an initial term of 12 months. Thereafter it will continue on a monthly basis until cancelled in accordance with the terms of your Membership Agreement.  
3/ Total monthly dues = Monthly dues + Amenities.  
4/ Total initial payment = Initiation fee + First/last dues + Applicable taxes (if any).  
5/ The indicated Annual fee, per person, will be billed 14 days after enrollment, and every year thereafter. If your club is in pre-sale, the Annual fee will be billed 14 days after the club opens, and every year thereafter.

\*There is an additional charge for certain amenities, such as Racquetball, Kids Klub & Personal Training.  
\*Amenities may not be available at all locations.  
\*Must pay first & last month's dues plus initiation fee (if applicable) plus applicable tax to join. Membership will automatically renew on a monthly basis after the initial term and may be canceled in accordance with the terms of the membership agreement; a termination fee may apply.  
Offer based on the purchase of a new membership listed above per person.  
Dues must be paid by electronic funds transfer (EFT) from a checking, savings, Visa, MasterCard.

1 Select a Club to Join    2 Select a Membership Plan    3 Provide Membership & Payment Information    4 Review & Confirm Membership

Member Information

\*First Name:  \*Last Name:

\*Cell Phone Number:

\*Email Address:  \*Confirm Email Address:

\*Address:

\*City:  \*State:  \*Zip Code:

Add Amenities

☐ Towels: \$5.00  
☐ LES MILLS®. Each member is charged separately per amenity: \$5.00

Initial Payment Amount

A onetime fee will be charged to your account. This charge will include the initiation fee (if applicable), first and last dues (if applicable, which includes applicable amenities) and taxes (if any).

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Recurring Dues                                      | \$39.99         |
| Annual Fee Per Person <sup>2</sup>                  | \$49.00         |
| Initiation Fee                                      | \$99.00         |
| Prepaid Dues - first Month (& Last) - if applicable | \$79.98         |
| Tax for Initiation and Prepaid Dues (0.00%)         | \$0.00          |
| <b>Total Amount Due Today:</b>                      | <b>\$178.98</b> |

Included Amenities:

- Racquetball/Squash Courts: Included
- 1 guest per visit: Included
- Group Fitness: Included
- Cycle Class: Included
- Pool/Whirlpool Spa: Included
- Esporta Brand Access: Included
- City Sports Brand Access: Included
- LA Fitness Brand Access: Included



1           30. The contract provides that membership may be cancelled by sending  
2 notification to LA Fitness's corporate office in Irvine, California.

3           31. Despite this provision, LA Fitness personnel routinely tell Plaintiffs and  
4 Class members that if they choose to cancel their membership, they are able to cancel  
5 at any time without any hassle. Specifically, prospective gym members who inquired  
6 about cancellation were informed by LA Fitness personnel that the only requirement  
7 to cancel the membership was to verbally notify the gym, and they would be able to  
8 get out of the LA Fitness membership contract at any time.

9           32. Nonetheless, the fine print of LA Fitness's membership contract  
10 requires members to mail a notice letter to the corporate office in Irvine, California,  
11 in order to cancel a membership. All the Plaintiffs were unaware of this written  
12 notice requirement to end their membership despite discussions and representations  
13 from LA Fitness gym employees at the time of entering into the membership  
14 agreement, and even after notifying LA Fitness gym employees when they were  
15 actively trying to cancel memberships. *See* contract provision below:

16           day every Billing Period or as soon thereafter as practical, until canceled in the manner provided below.

17           **HOW TO CANCEL YOUR DUES MEMBERSHIP:** You may cancel your Membership and the continued billing of Dues via EFT or CC by mailing written notice  
18 of your cancellation request to: LA Fitness, P.O. Box 54170, Irvine, CA 92619-4170. A cancellation notice postmarked at least 5 business days before your next  
19 billing date should result in no further Dues billing. A cancellation notice postmarked less than 5 business days before your next billing date may result in one more  
20 Dues billing. In either case, if such an additional billing occurs, LA Fitness will refund that billing. Your prepaid last Billing Period Dues will be applied to the Billing  
21 Period following the final Billing Period paid for by your recurring EFT or CC Dues billings, and your Membership will expire at the end of that prepaid last Billing  
22 Period. **Until your Membership expires, you will have continued club access: PIF Memberships may not be cancelled in this manner.**

23           33. Specifically, after Plaintiffs and Class members notified LA Fitness  
24 personnel that they intended to cancel their memberships, LA Fitness repeatedly  
25 instructed Plaintiffs and Class members to come into the gym during certain business  
26 hours while a manager was present to cancel their membership. Yet following these  
27 instructions from LA Fitness personnel, Plaintiffs and Class members were still  
28 unable to cancel their memberships.

1           34. Additionally, some members like Plaintiff Sultana were informed they  
2 could cancel their membership through the online platform, which turned out to be  
3 false.

4           35. Plaintiffs and class members, like Plaintiff Javid, who tried to cancel  
5 by mailing a notice letter to the company fared no better. LA Fitness routinely  
6 delayed cancellation of memberships even when notified by mail.

7           36. Ultimately, many Plaintiffs and Class members had no other option but  
8 to cancel their debit and credit cards or bank accounts linked to the LA Fitness  
9 accounts in order stop incurring membership fee charges from LA Fitness.

10           37. LA Fitness's difficult and inconsistent requirements to cancel a  
11 membership agreement are contrary to the terms of the membership agreement,  
12 including, but not limited to: requiring cancellation in-person, requiring cancellation  
13 at certain times of the day, and requiring cancellation in the presence of a manager.

14           38. Members, including certain Plaintiffs, have reported that even after  
15 successfully going through the cancellation obstacles, and being told their  
16 membership is cancelled, they were still billed for months.

17           39. When LA Fitness employees sign members up in-person for gym  
18 services, they fail to provide a physical copy for members to review prior to  
19 enrollment. In addition, LA Fitness employees regularly inform members to  
20 disregard policies stated on the membership agreement. LA Fitness employees  
21 quickly get e-signatures proving little to no time for the enrolling member to review  
22 the electronic version of the agreement. In fact, LA Fitness personnel tell new  
23 members that "they can cancel at any time with no other obligations," in effect,  
24 coercing members into being locked into an agreement that they are unable to cancel  
25 without a fight.<sup>3</sup>

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>3</sup> See [https://www.bbb.org/us/ca/irvine/profile/health-club/la-fitness-1126-](https://www.bbb.org/us/ca/irvine/profile/health-club/la-fitness-1126-41156/complaints)  
28 [41156/complaints](https://www.bbb.org/us/ca/irvine/profile/health-club/la-fitness-1126-41156/complaints)



1           46. To date, Ms. Brown still continues to have her membership fees  
2 deducted from her bank account although she has tried to cancel her membership  
3 several times to no avail.

4           **Plaintiff Katherine Burnett**

5           47. Arkansas Plaintiff Katherine Burnett became an LA Fitness member in  
6 or around the year 2018 at the Little Rock, Arkansas location.

7           48. Since the inception of her membership, Ms. Burnett had been paying  
8 around \$50.00 per month for her monthly membership fees. The monthly price she  
9 was paying increased by approximately \$10.00-15.00 per month during her time as  
10 a member.

11           49. In addition to her monthly membership fees, she was charged a yearly  
12 fee that was over \$100.00 per year. Upon information and belief, LA Fitness failed  
13 to inform her about a recurring annual membership fee. The hidden yearly fees came  
14 as a shock to Plaintiff Burnett because LA Fitness employees represented that there  
15 were no additional fees to what was described to her as a “no-contract” monthly  
16 membership.

17           50. Upon entering her membership agreement, based upon information  
18 explained to her by LA Fitness personnel, Ms. Burnett was told that she would be  
19 able to cancel her membership at any time without any limitations and that it would  
20 be a simple process.

21           51. LA Fitness personnel explained her “no-contract” membership meant  
22 that she could start a membership and end it with ease at any time without any  
23 additional requirements for cancelation.

24           52. On or about April 19, 2019, Ms. Burnett attempted to cancel her LA  
25 Fitness membership over the phone and was told by LA Fitness personnel that she  
26 was required to come into the gym during certain business hours with a manager  
27 present to cancel her membership.

1           53. After going to the gym during certain business hours when a manager  
2 present, Ms. Burnett was instructed that her membership was cancelled. However,  
3 Ms. Burnett continued to be charged for her gym membership.

4           54. Plaintiff Burnett was charged a large yearly membership fee after  
5 canceling. In response, Ms. Burnett called her bank, made a complaint with the  
6 Better Business Bureau, attempted to contact LA Fitness about the reoccurring  
7 charges, and eventually had to get a new bank card so LA Fitness could not access  
8 her financial accounts.

9           55. On or around January 13, 2021, Plaintiff Burnett stopped being charged  
10 for the LA Fitness membership that she attempted to cancel over a year and a half  
11 before.

12           56. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff Burnett was not provided a copy  
13 of her membership contract and the other cancelation policies forced upon her were  
14 not provided in the small print within the contract.

15           **Plaintiff Chris Golden**

16           57. California Plaintiff Chris Golden obtained an LA Fitness membership  
17 on two separate occasions, once in 2014 and again in 2023 at the Irvine, California  
18 location.

19           58. Since the inception of both of his memberships, Mr. Golden was paying  
20 around \$50.00 per month for his membership.

21           59. Upon entering his membership agreement both times, Mr. Golden was  
22 under the impression based upon information explained to him by LA Fitness  
23 personnel, that he would be able to cancel his membership with ease at any time  
24 without any limitations and that he would just need to notify the gym.

25           60. On or around April 5, 2017, Mr. Golden attempted to cancel his first  
26 LA Fitness membership over the phone and was told by LA Fitness personnel  
27 initially that it was canceled. Despite this, LA Fitness continued to withdraw  
28

1 membership fees, and Mr. Golden subsequently followed up with a call. LA Fitness  
2 personnel then said he was required to come into the gym in order to cancel his  
3 membership during certain business hours with a manager present. Mr. Golden tried  
4 to come into the gym on several occasions, but a manager was not available during  
5 his repeated attempts at in-person cancellation.

6 61. In addition to making several trips to the gym to attempt to cancel his  
7 membership, Mr. Golden also made many calls and sent emails to get assistance with  
8 canceling his membership. He never received any feedback or response.

9 62. Around September 13, 2017, Mr. Golden believes the deductions  
10 finally stopped.

11 63. Again in 2023, after Mr. Golden joined LA Fitness a second time, Mr.  
12 Golden experienced a nearly identical situation when attempting to cancel despite  
13 being promised by LA Fitness personnel that it would be easy to cancel the  
14 membership with no penalties and that it would be a quick cancellation process.

15 64. After attempting to cancel his 2023 membership, Mr. Golden was  
16 required to follow the same rules as before in 2017 and get a manager's permission  
17 to cancel.

18 65. Plaintiff Golden has reported these actions by LA Fitness to agencies  
19 like the BBB as an attempt to prevent this behavior from continuing.

20 66. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff Golden was not provided a copy  
21 of his membership contract and the other cancelation policies forced upon him were  
22 not provided in the small print within the contract.

23 **Plaintiff Irene Hardin**

24 67. Georgia Plaintiff Irene Hardin became an LA Fitness member in or  
25 around the year 2013 at the Sandy Springs, Georgia location.

26 68. Since the inception of her membership, Ms. Hardin has been paying  
27 around \$35.00 to \$40.00 per month for her membership.  
28

1           69. Upon entering her membership agreement, based upon information  
2 explained to her by LA Fitness personnel, Ms. Hardin was under the impression that  
3 she would be able to cancel her membership at any time without any limitations and  
4 that it would be a simple process. Ms. Hardin was informed that she should not have  
5 any worries about cancelation.

6           70. Sometime after opening a membership, Ms. Hardin attempted to cancel  
7 her LA Fitness membership over the phone and was told by LA Fitness personnel  
8 that she was required to come into the gym in order to cancel her membership during  
9 certain business hours with a manager present.

10          71. Ms. Hardin was shocked at these requirements as she was not informed  
11 about them when she signed up for a gym membership. Moreover, she was not given  
12 a contract to review when signing the agreement. Upon information and belief, these  
13 odd requirements were not included in the small font printed contract.

14          72. Ms. Hardin attempted to follow the newly learned requirements for  
15 cancellation but was still unsuccessful in canceling her membership. More  
16 specifically, every time Ms. Hardin showed up in-person to cancel her membership,  
17 there was never a manager present.

18          73. Additionally, LA Fitness did not return any of Ms. Hardin's phone calls  
19 that she made to resolve the matter, and continually charged her for four to five  
20 months after she made it clear to LA Fitness that she wanted to cancel.

21          74. Ms. Hardin was forced to close her bank account and open up a new  
22 one to stop the deductions to her bank account that LA Fitness was charging.

23          75. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff Hardin was not provided a copy  
24 of her membership contract and the other cancelation policies forced upon her were  
25 not provided in the small print within the contract.



**Plaintiff Fiza Javid**

76. Illinois Plaintiff Fiza Javid became an LA Fitness member in or around the year 2022 at the Lawrence, Illinois location.

77. Since the inception of her membership, Ms. Javid has been paying around \$40.00 per month for her membership.

78. Upon entering her membership agreement, based upon information explained to her by LA Fitness personnel, Ms. Javid was under the impression that she would be able to cancel her membership at any time without any limitations and that it would be a simple process.

79. On or around November 9, 2022, Ms. Javid attempted to cancel her LA Fitness membership online; however, she was unable to do so. Accordingly, Ms. Javid printed out a “closing form” as indicated by LA Fitness personnel and mailed it to the company.

80. After canceling her gym membership pursuant to the direction of LA Fitness personnel, Ms. Javid was still being charged for her membership that she believed was canceled. LA fitness continued to bill her even after confirming with her that her membership was canceled.

81. Plaintiff Javid was still receiving bank deductions from LA Fitness after canceling, so she called LA Fitness and received assurance it would cancel her membership and stop the deductions.

82. Despite this, the deductions were still occurring, so Plaintiff Javid reprinted the “closing form” and mailed a second closing form to the company to cancel her membership.

83. On January 4, 2023, Ms. Javid had to change credit cards in order to stop the deductions from LA Fitness.



1           84. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff Javid was not provided a copy of  
2 her membership contract and the other cancelation policies forced upon her were not  
3 provided in the small print within the contract.

4           **Plaintiff JoJo Jenkins**

5           85. Texas Plaintiff JoJo Jenkins became an LA Fitness member on or  
6 around April of 2022 at the Plantation, Florida location.

7           86. Since the inception of her membership, Ms. Jenkins was paying  
8 approximately \$48.14 per month for her membership.

9           87. Upon entering her membership agreement, based upon information  
10 explained to her by LA Fitness personnel, Ms. Jenkins was told that she would be  
11 able to cancel her membership at any time without any limitations and that it would  
12 be a simple process.

13           88. On or around July 13, 2022, Ms. Jenkins attempted to cancel her LA  
14 Fitness membership over the phone and was told by LA Fitness personnel that she  
15 was required to come into the gym in order to cancel her membership during certain  
16 business hours with a manager present.

17           89. Shortly thereafter, Ms. Jenkins went to the LA Fitness gym to attempt  
18 to cancel her membership in person, during the requisite business hours, yet still, she  
19 still was unable to cancel her membership.

20           90. Instead, the LA Fitness personnel told Ms. Jenkins she was required to  
21 mail in a form to cancel her membership.

22           91. For several months after, Ms. Jenkins was continuing to be charged her  
23 membership fee for a gym membership she no longer wanted. Accordingly, Ms.  
24 Jenkins called her bank to stop the charges with LA Fitness.

25           92. Upon information and belief, the other cancelation policies forced upon  
26 her were not provided in the small print within the membership contract.

1           **Plaintiff Krystyna Machuta**

2           93. Michigan Plaintiff Krystyna Machuta became an LA Fitness member  
3 in or around January 2023 at the Shelby Township, Michigan location.

4           94. Since the inception of her membership, Ms. Machuta had been paying  
5 around \$30.00 per month for her membership.

6           95. Upon entering her membership agreement, based upon information  
7 explained to her by LA Fitness personnel, Ms. Machuta was under the impression  
8 that she would be able to cancel her membership with ease at any time without any  
9 limitations and that she would just need to notify the gym.

10          96. Plaintiff Machuta recalls LA Fitness advertising “it’s easy to join and  
11 easy to cancel.”

12          97. On or around January 3, 2023, Ms. Machuta attempted to cancel her  
13 LA Fitness membership by sending a letter that she wanted to cancel her  
14 membership, because she was unable to make any changes to her LA Fitness profile  
15 otherwise.

16          98. After her attempt to cancel her membership, LA Fitness attempted to  
17 charge her an annual enrollment fee of \$49.00. LA Fitness called her multiple times  
18 proceeding this letter to pay the annual enrollment fee.

19          99. Plaintiff Machuta felt harassed by LA Fitness through multiple phone  
20 calls made by their personnel after attempting to cancel. She contacted the LA  
21 Fitness headquarters to get her membership canceled, since her initial attempt was  
22 not successful.

23          100. On or about March 8, 2023, Plaintiff Machuta believes the membership  
24 deductions finally stopped.

25          101. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff Machuta was not provided a  
26 copy of her membership contract and the other cancelation policies forced upon her  
27 were not provided in the small print within the contract.

1           **Plaintiff Nicholas Mahon**

2           102. Texas Plaintiff Nicholas Mahon became an LA Fitness member on or  
3 around June 6, 2018, at the Spring, Texas location.

4           103. Since the inception of his membership, Mr. Mahon was paying  
5 approximately \$64.00 per month for his membership.

6           104. Upon entering his membership agreement, Mr. Mahon was assured by  
7 LA Fitness personnel that he would be able to cancel his membership at any time  
8 without any limitations.

9           105. Before July 8, 2019, Mr. Mahon attempted to cancel his LA Fitness  
10 membership over the phone and in-person at the gym but was informed by LA  
11 Fitness personnel that he was unable to cancel his membership over the phone or in-  
12 person, but instead was required to submit a cancellation form online or through the  
13 mail to cancel his membership.

14           106. Thereafter, in early July of 2019, Mr. Mahon submitted a cancellation  
15 form online, which was processed by LA Fitness in August of 2019.

16           107. Upon information and belief, Mr. Mahon was not provided a copy of  
17 his membership contract and the requirements to cancel that were forced upon him  
18 were not in the small print of the contract.

19           **Plaintiff Saira Mueller**

20           108. New York Plaintiff Saira Mueller became an LA Fitness member in or  
21 around the year 2019 at LA Fitness's Culver City, California location.

22           109. Since the inception of her membership, Ms. Mueller had been paying  
23 around \$280.00 periodically for her personal training sessions as a part of her  
24 membership.

25           110. Upon entering her membership agreement, based upon information  
26 explained to her by LA Fitness personnel, Ms. Mueller understood that she would  
27  
28

1 be able to cancel her membership at any time without any limitations and that she  
2 would just need to notify the gym.

3 111. On or around the beginning of 2020, Ms. Mueller attempted to cancel  
4 her LA Fitness membership over the phone and was told by LA Fitness personnel  
5 that her account was canceled. However, LA Fitness continued to bill her and would  
6 not return her phone calls. She attempted to email the company, but her emails were  
7 bounced back. Ultimately, Ms. Mueller contacted her bank to bar the charges from  
8 LA Fitness.

9 112. After canceling her gym membership as required by LA Fitness, Ms.  
10 Mueller was still incurring charges for her membership that she believed was  
11 canceled. LA fitness continued to bill her even after it confirmed with her that her  
12 membership was canceled.

13 113. Upon information and belief, the other cancelation policies forced upon  
14 her were not provided in the small print within the contract.

15 **Plaintiff Sharvia Sultana**

16 114. New York Plaintiff Sharvia Sultana became an LA Fitness member in  
17 or around the year 2021 at LA Fitness's Queens, New York location.

18 115. Since the inception of her membership, Ms. Sultana had been paying  
19 around \$50.00 per month as part of her membership agreement.

20 116. Upon entering her membership agreement, based upon information  
21 explained to her by LA Fitness personnel, Ms. Mueller understood that she would  
22 be able to cancel her membership at any time without any limitations and that she  
23 would just need to notify the gym through the website, email, or over the phone.

24 117. On or around the beginning of April of 2022, Ms. Sultana attempted to  
25 cancel her LA Fitness membership through the LA Fitness website and emailed the  
26 company over 10 times about cancelation. However, LA Fitness continued to bill  
27 her and would not respond to her contact attempts via email.

1           118. Ms. Sultana called the company, and LA Fitness personnel informed  
2 her that she would need to come-in person during certain hours while a manager was  
3 present or mail in a form which she did not have the ability to do at the time.

4           119. Ms. Sultana was unable to come-in person during the required hours  
5 while a manager was present and attempted cancellation through other avenues, as  
6 she was made to believe was possible at the time she signed up for a membership.  
7 All cancellations attempts were unsuccessful, and Ms. Sultana was continuously  
8 billed for her membership until January 10, 2023 when she was forced to cancel and  
9 replace her debit/credit card to stop the deductions.

10           120. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff Sultana was not provided a copy  
11 of her membership contract and the other cancellation policies forced upon her were  
12 not provided in the small print within the contract.

13  
14  
15           **COMMON CLASS MEMBER INJURIES AND DAMAGES**

16           121. To date, Defendant has failed to reimburse Plaintiffs and Class  
17 Members for overcharges on their memberships, and to compensate them for their  
18 injuries sustained by its unfair cancellation practices. Defendant completely  
19 downplays and disavows its retention of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' membership  
20 fees, when the facts demonstrate that its practices are common, intentional,  
21 uniformly applied, and unlawful.

22           122. Plaintiffs and Class Members have been injured and damaged by  
23 Defendant's failure to honor the terms of its contract, its failure to cancel  
24 memberships when requested, and its addition to its retention of unearned  
25 membership fees after a Plaintiff or Class member has no longer authorized  
26 automatic deductions from bank accounts and credit/debit cards.

1           123. Plaintiffs and Class Members faced out-of-pocket losses of money and  
2 lost time due to Defendant's unlawful practices.

3           124. Plaintiffs and Class Members spent and will continue to spend  
4 significant amounts of time cancelling their memberships, attempting to meet  
5 unreasonable requirements that are not in the parties' agreements nor required by  
6 law.

7           125. Plaintiffs and Class Members have spent many hours attempting to end  
8 their memberships and when unsuccessful, stop payments to Defendant through their  
9 financial and banking associates, as well as informing the Better Business Bureau of  
10 Defendant's unlawful practices.

11           126. Plaintiffs and Class Members suffered actual injury as a direct result of  
12 the Defendant's practices. Many victims suffered ascertainable losses in the form of  
13 out-of-pocket expenses and the value of their time reasonably incurred to remedy or  
14 mitigate the effects of Defendant's misrepresentations, and fraudulent practices.

15           127. Further, as a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiffs and Class  
16 Members have suffered anxiety from Defendant's continuation of charging  
17 membership fees after Plaintiffs and Class Members have attempted to (or actually)  
18 cancelled their memberships.

19           128. Defendant was unjustly enriched by its unlawful and fraudulent  
20 cancellation policies.

21           129. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's actions and inactions,  
22 Plaintiffs and Class Members have suffered common injuries and damages.

23                           **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

24           130. Plaintiffs seek certification of a Nationwide Class for the fullest period  
25 allowed by law (the "Relevant Time Period").

26           131. Plaintiffs seek certification of the **Nationwide Class** defined as  
27 follows:  
28

1 All persons in the United States who purchased an LA Fitness  
2 gym membership, then cancelled their membership and incurred  
3 post-cancellation membership fees within the Relevant Time  
4 Period.

5 132. Plaintiffs reserve the right to modify or refine the definition of the Class  
6 based upon discovery of new information and in order to accommodate any of the  
7 Court's manageability concerns.

8 133. Excluded from the Class are (a) Defendant, Defendant's board  
9 members, executive-level officers, and attorneys, and immediately family members  
10 of any of the foregoing persons; (b) governmental entities; (c) the Court, the Court's  
11 immediate family, and the Court staff; and (d) any person that timely and properly  
12 excludes themselves from the Class in accordance with Court-approved procedures.

13 134. **Numerosity (Rule 23(a)(1)).** The Class Members are so numerous that  
14 joinder of individual members herein is impracticable. The exact number of  
15 members of the Class, as herein identified and described, are not known, but upon  
16 information and belief, the Defendant sold its memberships to hundreds or thousands  
17 of individuals.

18 135. **Commonality (Rule 23 (a)(2) and 23(b)(3)).** Common questions of  
19 fact and law exist for each cause of action and predominate over questions affecting  
20 only individual Class members, including the following but are not limited to:

- 21 a. whether Defendant sold memberships that had deceptive and  
22 predatory cancellation policies;
- 23 b. whether Defendant advertised, represented, or held itself out as  
24 producing memberships that were hassle free and easy to cancel;
- 25 c. whether Defendant misrepresented the membership policies;
- 26 d. whether Defendant intended for Plaintiffs, the Class members,  
27 and others to purchase the memberships;

- e. whether Defendant intended or foresaw that Plaintiffs, the Class members, and others would not be able to cancel their membership without difficulties;
- f. whether Defendant has a policy or practice in deceiving Plaintiffs and the Class members such that prevented them from effectively cancelling their memberships;
- g. whether the Plaintiffs and Class members suffered direct losses or damages;
- h. whether the Plaintiffs and Class members suffered indirect losses or damages;
- i. whether the Plaintiffs and Class members are entitled to actual or other forms of damages and other monetary relief; and
- j. whether the Class members are entitled to equitable relief, including but not limited to injunctive relief and equitable restitution.

136. Defendant engaged in a common course of conduct in contravention of the laws Plaintiffs seek to enforce individually and on behalf of the Class members. Similar or identical violations of law, business practices, and injuries are involved. Individual questions, if any, pale by comparison, in both quality and quantity, to the numerous common questions that dominate this action. Moreover, the common questions will yield common answers that will substantially advance the resolution of the case.

137. **Typicality (Rule 23(a)(3)).** Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the other members of the proposed Class. Plaintiffs and members of the Class (as applicable) suffered injuries as a result of Defendant's wrongful conduct that is uniform across the Class.



1           138. **Adequacy (Rule 23(a)(4)).** Plaintiffs' interests are aligned with the  
2 Class they seek to represent. Plaintiffs have and will continue to fairly and  
3 adequately represent and protect the interest of the Class. Plaintiffs have retained  
4 competent counsel highly experienced in complex litigation and class actions and  
5 the types of claims at issue in this litigation, with the necessary resources committed  
6 to protecting the interest of the Class. Plaintiffs have no interest that is antagonistic  
7 to those of the Class, and Defendant has no defenses unique to Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs  
8 and their counsel are committed to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of  
9 the members of the Class. Neither Plaintiffs nor Plaintiffs' counsel have any interest  
10 adverse to those of the other members of the Class.

11           139. **Declaratory and Injunctive Relief – Federal Rule of Civil**  
12 **Procedure 23(b)(2).** Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally  
13 applicable to Plaintiffs and all Members of the Class, thereby making appropriate  
14 final injunctive relief and declaratory relief, as described below, with respect to the  
15 members of the Classes as a whole.

16           140. **Superiority - Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(3).** The class  
17 action mechanism is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient  
18 adjudication of this controversy for reasons including but not limited to the  
19 following: the damages individual Class members suffered are small compared to  
20 the burden and expense of individual prosecution of the complex and extensive  
21 litigation needed to address Defendant's conduct.

22           141. Further, it would be virtually impossible for the Class members  
23 individually to redress effectively the wrongs done to them. Even if Class members  
24 themselves could afford such individual litigation, the court system could not.  
25 Individualized litigation would unnecessarily increase the delay and expense to all  
26 parties and to the court system and presents a potential for inconsistent or  
27 contradictory rulings and judgments. By contrast, the class action device presents far  
28

1 fewer management difficulties, allows the hearing of claims which might otherwise  
2 go unaddressed because of the relative expense of bringing individual lawsuits, and  
3 provides the benefits of single adjudication, economies of scale, and comprehensive  
4 supervision by a single court.

5 142. The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members would  
6 create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications, which would establish  
7 incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant.

8 143. The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members would  
9 create a risk of adjudications with respect to them that would, as a practical matter,  
10 be dispositive of the interests of other Class members not parties to the adjudications  
11 or that would substantively impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.

12 144. **Manageability.** This proposed class action presents fewer management  
13 difficulties than individual litigation, and provides the benefits of single  
14 adjudication, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court.

15 145. Class certification, therefore, is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P.  
16 23(b)(3) because the above common questions of law or fact predominate over any  
17 questions affecting individual members of the Class, and a class action is superior to  
18 other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

19 146. **Notice.** Plaintiffs and their counsel anticipate that notice to the  
20 proposed Class will be effectuated through recognized, Court-approved notice  
21 dissemination methods, which may include United States mail, electronic mail,  
22 Internet postings, and/or published notice.

CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I

**VIOLATIONS OF CALIFORNIA UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW**

**Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.***

(By All Plaintiffs on behalf of Class)

147. Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of the Class, bring this claim and adopt and incorporate by reference all allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

148. The UCL prohibits any “unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice.” Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.

149. The acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices, and non-disclosures of Defendants as alleged herein constitute business acts and practices.

150. Unlawful: The acts alleged herein are “unlawful” under the UCL in that they violate at least the following laws:

a. The False Advertising Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500, *et seq.*;

and

b. The Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750, *et seq.*

151. Unfair: The following acts herein are “unfair” under the UCL:

a. Defendants’ conduct with respect to the labeling, advertising, and sale of the Memberships was “unfair” because Defendants’ conduct was immoral, unethical, unscrupulous, or substantially injurious to consumers and the utility of their conduct, if any, does not outweigh the gravity of the harm to their victims.

b. Defendants’ conduct with respect to the labeling, advertising, and sale of the Memberships was and is also unfair because it

1 violates public policy as declared by specific constitutional,  
2 statutory or regulatory provisions, including but not limited to  
3 the applicable sections of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act  
4 and the False Advertising Law.

- 5 c. Defendants' conduct with respect to the labeling, advertising,  
6 and sale of the Products was and is unfair because the consumer  
7 injury was substantial, not outweighed by benefits to consumers  
8 or competition, and not one consumer themselves could  
9 reasonably have avoided.

10  
11 152. Fraudulent: A statement or practice is "fraudulent" under the UCL if it  
12 is likely to mislead or deceive the public, applying an objective reasonable consumer  
13 test.

14 153. As set forth herein, Defendant's claims that its memberships were  
15 hassle-free and easy to cancel by simply informing an employee of the consumer's  
16 intent to cancel was likely to mislead or deceive the public.

17 154. Defendant profited from the sale of the falsely, deceptively, and  
18 unlawfully advertised and packaged Products to unwary consumers.

19 155. Plaintiffs and Class Members are likely to continue to be damaged by  
20 Defendant's deceptive trade practices, because Defendant continues to disseminate  
21 misleading information. Thus, injunctive relief enjoining Defendant's deceptive  
22 practices is proper.

23 156. Defendant's conduct caused and continues to cause substantial injury  
24 to Plaintiffs and Class members. Plaintiffs and Class members have suffered injury  
25 in fact as a result of Defendant's unlawful conduct.

26 157. In accordance with Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, Plaintiffs seek an order  
27 enjoining Defendant from continuing to conduct business through unlawful, unfair,  
28

1 and/or fraudulent acts and practices, and to commence a corrective advertising  
2 campaign.

3 158. Plaintiffs and Class members also seek an order for and restitution of  
4 all monies from the sale of the Products, which were unjustly acquired through acts  
5 of unlawful competition.

## 6 **COUNT II**

### 7 **VIOLATIONS OF CALIFORNIA FALSE ADVERTISING LAW**

#### 8 **Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 (“FAL”)**

9 (By All Plaintiffs on behalf of Class)

10  
11 159. Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of the Class, bring this claim and  
12 adopt and incorporate by reference all allegations contained in the preceding  
13 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

14 160. The FAL provides that “[i]t is unlawful for any person, firm,  
15 corporation or association, or any employee thereof with intent directly or indirectly  
16 to dispose of real or personal property or to perform services” to disseminate any  
17 statement “which is untrue or misleading, and which is known, or which by the  
18 exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading.” Cal. Bus.  
19 & Prof. Code § 17500.

20 161. It is also unlawful under the FAL to disseminate statements concerning  
21 property or services that are “untrue or misleading, and which is known, or which  
22 by the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading.” *Id.*

23 162. As alleged herein, the advertisements, labeling, policies, acts, and  
24 practices of Defendant relating to the gym memberships misled consumers acting  
25 reasonably as to Defendant’s representations about the ease of cancellation to coax  
26 consumers into trying out a membership, as stated above.



1           170. Plaintiffs and the Class members entered into contracts with Defendant  
2 which allowed Plaintiffs and the Class members to cancel their memberships at any  
3 time but were then prohibited from canceling their memberships as set forth in the  
4 contracts. *See* Saira Mueller Contract, attached hereto as Exhibit 1. *See also* Chris  
5 Golden Contract, attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

6           171. Upon information and belief, hundreds, if not thousands, of other  
7 membership holders across the country are being prohibited from canceling their  
8 memberships as set forth in the contracts.

9           172. Defendant's prohibition of Plaintiffs and Class members from  
10 canceling their memberships except with new conditions which were not  
11 incorporated into the 4-corners of the contract is in effect a modification of the  
12 contract that is not agreed upon by the parties, and therefore is in violation of their  
13 actual contracts.

14           173. When Defendant ignored requests for cancellation as provided in its  
15 contracts, it continued to bill monies to Plaintiffs and Class members as if the  
16 memberships were never cancelled.

17           174. Defendant required Plaintiffs and Class members to: 1) come to a gym  
18 location in person, 2) during certain hours, and 3) while a manager was present in  
19 order to attempt cancellation. These three requirements were not included in the  
20 contracts signed by members.

21           175. These requirements were widespread and difficult for Plaintiffs and  
22 Class members to complete as all three requirements had to be met. Thus,  
23 purposefully making it difficult for membership agreements to end due to needing  
24 manager approval, in person.

25           176. Additionally, Plaintiffs and Class members did not agree to be charged  
26 bi-annual or annual fees within the 4-corners of the written contracts.  
27  
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1 177. Defendant ignored the terms of its contracts and continued to bill  
2 monies to Plaintiffs and Class members for these hidden fees, which were never  
3 agreed upon by Plaintiffs or Class members.  
4

5 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

6 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs and those similarly situated request that this  
7 Honorable Court:

- 8 A. Issue an Order certifying a Class of LA Fitness as defined herein  
9 pursuant to Rule 23;
- 10 B. Designate Plaintiffs as representatives on behalf of all similarly  
11 situated persons (Class members) who were LA Fitness members  
12 who: 1) were unable to cancel their memberships after they  
13 followed instructions provided by LA Fitness personnel; 2) were  
14 still charged monthly membership fees after they mailed in a  
15 cancellation form pursuant to the contract; and/or 3) were  
16 charged annual or bi-annual membership fees;
- 17 C. Issue an Order appointing the undersigned counsel as class  
18 counsel pursuant to Rule 23(g);
- 19 D. Award Plaintiffs and Class Members all membership fees that  
20 were incorrectly withdrawn by LA Fitness after Plaintiffs  
21 attempted to cancel by mailing in a cancellation form, as set forth  
22 herein;
- 23 E. Award Plaintiffs and Class Members all membership fees that  
24 were incorrectly withdrawn by LA Fitness after Plaintiffs  
25 attempted to cancel pursuant to instructions provided by LA  
26 Fitness personnel;
- 27  
28



- 1 F. Provide lost time and other out-of-pocket expense compensation  
2 for all Plaintiffs and Class Members who were required to  
3 perform tasks outside of their contracts in their effort to cancel a  
4 membership;
- 5 G. Award Plaintiffs and Class Members a refund of all annual or bi-  
6 annual fees that were incorrectly withdrawn by LA Fitness;
- 7 H. Award Plaintiffs and all those similarly situated, further legal,  
8 statutory, equitable, and injunctive relief as this Court deems  
9 appropriate;
- 10 I. Award Plaintiffs and all those similarly situated pre and post  
11 judgment interest at the statutory rate as provided under  
12 California law;
- 13 J. Award Plaintiffs and all those similarly situated, attorneys' fees,  
14 costs and disbursements pursuant to California law;
- 15 K. Award service payments to Plaintiffs;
- 16 L. Award pre and post judgment payment and interest; and
- 17 M. Other relief as justice so demands.

18  
19 **TRIAL BY JURY IS DEMANDED**

20  
21  
22 DATED: November 9, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

23  
24 By: /s/ Jill J. Parker

25  
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*Counsel for Plaintiffs and Proposed Class*

18 *\*motion for pro hac vice forthcoming*  
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