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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION**

NICK KING, JR., DEENA FISCHER, and
ELENA WEINBERGER, Individually and on
Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

BUMBLE TRADING, INC., and BUMBLE
HOLDING LTD.,

Defendants.

Case No. 5:18-cv-06868-NC

**ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT,
CONDITIONAL CLASS
CERTIFICATION, NOTICE TO
SETTLEMENT CLASS MEMBERS AND
ENTRY OF SCHEDULING ORDER**

Courtroom: 5
Judge: Nathanael Cousins

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INTRODUCTION

Pending is the Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Class Action Settlement (the “Motion”) of Plaintiffs Nick King, Jr., Deena Fischer, and Elena Weinberger. For the reasons stated herein, the Court grants Plaintiffs’ Motion, conditionally certifies the Settlement Classes for settlement purposes only, preliminarily approves the Class Action Settlement Agreement, and enters the schedule set forth below for notice to Settlement Class Members, objection and opt-out deadlines, and for a final approval hearing.

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2020, the parties filed a Class Action Settlement Agreement (“Settlement Agreement,” or “Settlement,” or “Agreement”), which, together with the exhibits thereto, sets forth the terms and conditions for the settlement and release of certain claims against Bumble Trading Inc. and Bumble Holding Ltd. (collectively, “Bumble” or “Defendants”). *See* Dkt. No. 108-1, Ex. 1 (“Settlement Agreement”). The Settlement Agreement was entered into only after extensive arm’s-length negotiation by experienced counsel and in mediation under the guidance of the Honorable Edward A. Infante (Ret.);

WHEREAS, under the Settlement Agreement (which defines the capitalized terms used herein), Bumble agrees to establish a Settlement Fund of \$22,500,000 that will be used to pay (a) Settlement Payments to Settlement Class Members; (b) Fee and Expense Awards to Class Counsel; (c) Service Awards to the named Plaintiffs; (d) Settlement Administration Costs, including costs of notice (including CAFA Notice); and (e) *cy pres* payment(s) if any funds remain. *See* Settlement Agreement § 2. Bumble also agrees to make changes to their mobile application regarding its paid subscription service that clarify its users’ right to cancel their subscription. *See id.* § 2.8. In exchange, the named Plaintiffs and Settlement Class Members agree to release Bumble from all claims relating to the automatic renewal of Bumble’s paid subscription service and from all claims relating to the purchase or a denial of a refund of that service. *See id.* §§ 1.40, 1.41.

WHEREAS, the Court having considered the Settlement Agreement and all of the files, records, and proceedings herein, and it appearing to the Court that upon preliminary examination that the Settlement appears fair, reasonable, and adequate, and that a hearing should and will be held after Notice to the Settlement Classes to confirm that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and

1 adequate, and to determine whether a Judgment approving the Settlement and an Order dismissing
2 the Action based upon the Settlement be entered;

3 **NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

4 **I. THE SETTLEMENT CLASSES, CLASS REPRESENTATIVES, AND CLASS**
5 **COUNSEL**

6 1. For purposes of settlement only, the Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of
7 this action and personal jurisdiction over the parties and the members of the Settlement Classes
8 described below.

9 2. Pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and for the
10 purposes of settlement only, the Settlement Classes are preliminarily certified. The Settlement
11 Classes are defined as follows:

12 The ARL Settlement Class consists of:

13 All persons who purchased, within California, during the Settlement
14 Class Period, Bumble Boost and had their credit card, debit card,
and/or a third-party payment account charged as part of Bumble’s
automatic renewal program or continuous service program.

15 The DSL Settlement Class consists of:

16 All persons nationwide who purchased Bumble Boost during the
17 Settlement Class Period.

18 Excluded from the ARL Settlement Class and the DSL Settlement Class are (1) any
19 Judge, or mediator presiding over this Action and members of their immediate
20 families, (2) Bumble and Bumble’s employees; (3) persons who properly and timely
request exclusion from the Settlement Classes, (4) Class Counsel, and (5) the legal
representatives, successors or assigns of any such excluded persons.

21 3. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, and for settlement purposes only, Plaintiff Nick King,
22 Jr. is hereby appointed as the Class Representative for the ARL Settlement Class and Deena Fischer
23 and Elena Weinberger are hereby appointed as the Class Representatives for the DSL Settlement
24 Class. The following are hereby appointed as Class Counsel for the Settlement Classes:

25 David C. Parisi, Esq.
26 Suzanne Havens Beckman, Esq.
27 PARISI & HAVENS LLP
28 100 Pine Street, Suite 1250
San Francisco, CA 94111

Yitzchak Lieberman, Esq.
Grace E. Parasmó, Esq.
PARASMO LIEBERMAN LAW
7400 Hollywood Boulevard, #505
Los Angeles, CA 90046

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4. The Court preliminarily finds that the proposed Settlement Classes meet all the applicable requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and (b)(3), and hereby certifies the Settlement Classes for settlement purposes only. The Court hereby preliminarily finds, in the specific context of the Settlement Agreement, that:

(a) Numerosity: The Settlement Classes satisfy the numerosity requirement of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a). Joinder of these widely dispersed, numerous Settlement Class Members into one suit would be impracticable.

(b) Commonality: There are questions of law and fact, with regard to the alleged activities of Defendants, common to the Settlement Classes. For example, common questions of law and fact include whether Bumble provided adequate notice regarding the automatic renewal of their paid subscription service and whether that service’s terms and conditions were lawful.

(c) Typicality: The claims of the Class Representatives are typical of the claims of the Settlement Classes they seek to represent. Therefore, in the context of this settlement the element of typicality is satisfied.

(d) Adequate Representation: The Class Representatives’ interests do not conflict with, and are co-extensive with, those of absent Settlement Class Members. The Class Representatives will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Settlement Classes. Additionally, this Court recognizes the experience of Class Counsel and finds under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g) that the requirement of adequate representation of the Settlement Classes has been fully met.

(e) Predominance of Common Issues: The questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class Members predominate over any questions affecting only individual Settlement Class Members. In the context of this Settlement, these issues predominate over any individual questions, favoring class treatment.

1 (f) Superiority of the Class Action Mechanism: The class action mechanism is
2 ideally suited for treatment of the settlement of these matters. Class certification promotes
3 efficiency and uniformity of judgment, among other reasons, because the many Settlement Class
4 Members will not be forced to separately pursue claims or execute settlements in various courts
5 around the country. Therefore, the class action mechanism is superior to other available methods
6 for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

7 5. The Court further finds that: (i) the Settlement Class Members have a limited interest
8 in individually prosecuting the claims at issue; (ii) the Court is satisfied with Class Counsel's
9 representation that they are unaware of any other litigation commenced regarding the claims at issue
10 by the Settlement Class Members; (iii) it is desirable to concentrate the claims in this forum; and
11 (iv) it is unlikely that there will be difficulties encountered in administering this Settlement.

12 6. The Class Representative for the ARL Settlement Class is Nick King, Jr. and the
13 Class Representatives for the DSL Settlement Class are Deena Fischer and Elena Weinberger.
14 Based upon the Court's familiarity with the claims and parties, and the negotiation and mediation
15 process overseen by the Honorable Edward A. Infante (Ret.), the Court preliminarily finds that
16 these designated Class Representatives are appropriate for settlement purposes. The Court finds
17 that Nick King, Jr. is a member of the ARL Settlement Class and Deena Fischer and Elena
18 Weinberger are members of the DSL Settlement Class.

19 7. If the Settlement Agreement is terminated or is not consummated for any reason
20 whatsoever, the certification of the Settlement Classes shall be void, and Plaintiffs and Defendants
21 shall be deemed to have reserved all of their rights as set forth in the Settlement Agreement,
22 including but not limited to the issues related to all claims, defenses, and issues under Fed. R. Civ.

23 P. 23.

24 **II. THE SETTLEMENT FUND**

25 8. Bumble shall establish a Settlement Fund totaling twenty-two million, five hundred
26 thousand dollars (\$22,500,000.00), as per the terms of the Settlement Agreement. The Settlement
27 Fund will be maintained by the Settlement Administrator for the benefit of the Settlement Classes.
28 Bumble shall make deposits into the Settlement Fund in accordance with the following schedule:

1 a. Within thirty (30) days of the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order,
2 Bumble will disburse to the Settlement Administrator the Notice and Administrative Cost Estimate
3 portion of the Settlement Fund to be used by the Settlement Administrator for preliminary
4 Settlement Administration Costs, including the costs to complete the Notice, establish and maintain
5 the Settlement Website, establish and maintain a toll-free telephone number for questions by
6 Settlement Class Members, as well as any other initial administration costs to the Parties. To the
7 extent that additional Settlement Administration Costs are incurred after this initial payment, but
8 before deposit money into the Settlement Fund, the Settlement Administrator will bill, and Bumble
9 shall pay, such additional costs. For any additional costs of settlement administration that are paid
10 by Bumble, Bumble shall receive a credit against the amounts required to be paid into the
11 Settlement Fund.

12 b. All Settlement Administration Costs will be drawn from the Settlement Fund
13 by the Settlement Administrator, subject to the written approval of Bumble (via its counsel) and
14 Class Counsel.

15 c. Upon the Effective Date, Bumble will disburse to the Settlement
16 Administrator the remainder of the Settlement Fund necessary to make all payments in accordance
17 with Sections 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 8.4 and 9.4 of the Settlement Agreement.

18 9. The Settlement Fund will constitute Bumble's exclusive payment obligation under
19 the Settlement Agreement and will be used to satisfy: (a) Settlement Payments to Settlement Class
20 Members, as prescribed by the Settlement Agreement; (b) any Fee and Expense Award ordered by
21 the Court; (c) any Service Award to Nick King, Jr., Deena Fischer, and Elena Weinberger; (d)
22 Settlement Administration Costs, including costs of notice (including CAFA Notice); and (e) any *cy*
23 *pres* payment(s) pursuant to the procedures described in sections 2.4 and 2.6 of the Settlement
24 Agreement. No portion of the Settlement Fund will be returned to Bumble, except as provided in
25 section 7.5 of the Settlement Agreement, Effect if Settlement Not Approved.

26 10. Any distribution of the Settlement Fund to the Settlement Class Members or any
27 other person, other than the Settlement Administrator pursuant to the terms hereof, shall commence
28 only after the Effective Date.

1 11. If the Settlement Agreement is not approved or for any reason the Effective Date
2 does not occur, no payments or distributions of any kind shall be made, other than payments to the
3 Settlement Administrator for services rendered and costs incurred.

4 **III. NOTICE TO SETTLEMENT CLASS MEMBERS**

5 12. The Court has considered the proposed Exhibits A through F attached to the
6 Settlement Agreement and finds that the form, content, and manner of notice proposed by the
7 parties and approved herein meet the requirements of due process and Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c) and (e),
8 are the best notice practicable under the circumstance, constitute sufficient notice to all persons and
9 entities entitled to notice, and satisfy the Constitutional requirements of notice. As Bumble
10 represented at the July 15, 2020, hearing for preliminary approval of the Settlement, the notices at
11 Dkt. No. 108 contain incorrect URLs and Bumble will accordingly file corrected notices with
12 updated URLs. The Court therefore approves the notices in all respects, including the proposed
13 forms of notice and the notice provisions of the Settlement Agreement, and orders that notice be
14 given in substantial conformity therewith. The costs of disseminating the Notice shall be paid from
15 the Settlement Fund in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

16 13. All costs of providing the Notice as provided herein, including the costs of
17 identifying address information for Settlement Class Members and the costs of printing, web
18 hosting and/or disseminating the Notice, shall be paid for out of the Settlement Fund, subject to the
19 terms hereof. In the event that the Settlement Agreement is terminated pursuant to its terms,
20 Bumble shall bear any costs of providing Notice already incurred.

21 14. The Court hereby approves the form, content and requirements of the Notices
22 annexed to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibits A through F and the procedure for notice set forth
23 under section 4 in the Settlement Agreement.

24 15. The Court hereby finds that compliance with the procedures in Section 4 of the
25 Settlement Agreement is the best notice practicable under the circumstances and shall constitute due
26 and sufficient notice to members of the Settlement Classes of the pendency of the Action,
27 certification of the Settlement Classes, the terms of the Settlement Agreement, and the Final
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1 Approval Hearing, and shall satisfy the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the
2 United States Constitution, and any other applicable law, rule and/or regulation.

3 16. The Court finds that it will be necessary for Bumble to provide the Settlement
4 Administrator with contact information for members of the ARL Settlement Class and DSL
5 Settlement Class so as to effectuate Notice and the Settlement and orders Bumble to do so.

6 **IV. CONFIDENTIALITY**

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8 17. Any information received by the Settlement Administrator in connection with the
9 Settlement Classes that pertains to a particular Settlement Class Member, or information submitted
10 in conjunction with a Request for Exclusion (other than the identity of the person requesting
11 exclusion), shall not be disclosed to any other person other than Class Counsel, Defendants'
12 Counsel, and the Court, or as otherwise provided in the Settlement Agreement.

13 **V. REQUEST FOR EXCLUSION FROM THE SETTLEMENT CLASSES**

14 18. Settlement Class Members who wish to be excluded from Settlement Classes must
15 timely submit a completed Opt-Out Form or other written request for exclusion from the Settlement.
16 This Opt-Out Form, which will be available on the Settlement Website, may be completed
17 electronically on the Settlement Website or timely sent by U.S. mail to the Settlement Administrator.
18 If the Settlement Class Member chooses to request exclusion from the Settlement without an Opt-Out
19 Form, such request must be timely sent by U.S. mail to the Settlement Administrator, request
20 exclusion, providing their name, address, a signature, the name and number of the Action, and a clear
21 and explicit statement that they wish to be excluded from the Settlement. All requests for exclusion
22 whether using the Opt-Out Form or not must be submitted to the Settlement Administrator or
23 postmarked no later than sixty (60) days after the entry of the Notice Date (the "Objection and
24 Exclusion Deadline"). If submitted electronically, the Opt-Out Form or any written request to opt-
25 out must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on or before the Objection and Exclusion
26 Deadline. If submitted by U.S. mail, the Opt-Out Form or any written request to opt-out must be
27 postmarked no later than the Objection and Exclusion Deadline. The date of the postmark on the
28 envelope containing the written request to opt-out shall be the exclusive means used to determine

1 whether a request to opt-out has been timely submitted. In the event a postmark is illegible, the date
2 of mailing shall be deemed to be three (3) days prior to the date that the Settlement Administrator
3 received a copy of the request to opt-out of the Settlement. The Settlement Class Member must pay
4 for Postage.

5
6 **VI. OBJECTIONS TO THE SETTLEMENT CLASSES**

7 19. Settlement Class Members who intend to be object to the Settlement Agreement and/or
8 the request for a Fee and Expense Award, and/or Service Awards, must present the objection in
9 writing only to the Court, which must be personally signed by the objector, and (a) clearly identify
10 the case name and number; (b) include the objector's full name, address, telephone number, and email
11 address; and the email address and telephone number associated with the Bumble account through
12 which the objector purchased Bumble Boost; (c) include the full name, address, telephone number,
13 and email address of the objector's counsel (if the objector is represented by counsel); and (d) state
14 whether it applies only to the Objector, to a specific subset of the Settlement Classes, or to the entire
15 Settlement, and also state with specificity the grounds for the objection, including any legal and
16 factual support and any evidence in support of the objection. Any comments or objections from
17 Settlement Class Members regarding the proposed Settlement Agreement must be submitted in
18 writing, to the Court either by mailing them to the Class Action Clerk, United States District Court
19 for the Northern District of California, or by filing them in person at any location of the United States
20 District Court for the Northern District of California, and be filed or postmarked on or before the
21 Objection and Exclusion Deadline. If a Settlement Class Member does not submit a timely written
22 Objection, or if the Settlement Class Member does not request participation in the Final Fairness
23 Hearing, the Settlement Class Member will not be able to participate in the Final Fairness Hearing.
24 If submitted through the Settlement Website, objections must be submitted on this date by 11:59 p.m.
25 PST. If submitted by U.S. mail, objections must be postmarked by the Objection and Exclusion
26 Deadline. The date of the postmark on the envelope containing the written statement objecting to the
27 Settlement shall be the exclusive means used to determine whether an objection and/or intention to
28 appear has been timely submitted. In the event a postmark is illegible, the date of mailing shall be

1 deemed to be three (3) days prior to the date that the Class Action Clerk Settlement Administrator
2 received a copy of the Objection. The Settlement Class Member must pay for Postage.

3 **VII. APPOINTMENT OF SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR**

4 20. The Court appoints JND Legal Administration as the Settlement Administrator.
5 Responsibilities of the Settlement Administrator shall include the following: (a) completing Notice
6 to the Settlement Classes as provided in Section 4 of the Settlement Agreement; (b) where
7 applicable pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, obtaining complete address information for
8 Settlement Class Members (where possible) and new addresses for returned mail or email;
9 (c) creating and maintaining a Settlement Website, from which Settlement Class Members can
10 access copies of the Complaint, the Settlement Agreement, the Notices, the Website Notices, this
11 Preliminary Approval Order and other important documents and information about the Settlement;
12 (d) setting up and maintaining a toll-free telephone number and fielding telephone inquiries about
13 the Settlement; (e) reviewing, processing and approving Claims; (f) acting as a liaison between
14 Settlement Class Members and the Parties; (g) directing the mailing and/or otherwise processing of
15 payments to Settlement Class Members; (h) providing copies of any objections and/or requests for
16 exclusion that are received to Defendants' and Class Counsel as they are received; (i) preparing and
17 providing a declaration to Defendants' and Class Counsel, no later than seven (7) calendar days
18 prior to the Final Approval Hearing, that will attest to the compliance with the provisions of the
19 Settlement Agreement related to Notice and list each Settlement Class Member who timely and
20 validly opted out of the Settlement; and (j) performing any other tasks reasonably required to
21 effectuate the Settlement.

22 **VIII. FINAL APPROVAL HEARING AND SCHEDULE**

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24 21. A hearing (the "Final Approval Hearing") pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e) is hereby
25 scheduled to be held before the Court by Zoom **December 16, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom**. The
26 Court will provide further access details closer to the date of the Hearing.

27 22. The Final Approval Hearing pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e) is hereby scheduled to
28 be held before the Court for the following purposes:

1 (a) to determine whether the applicable prerequisites for settlement of a class
2 action under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and (b) are met;

3 (b) to determine whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate, and
4 should be approved by the Court;

5 (c) to determine whether any objections to the Settlement should be overruled;

6 (d) to determine whether the fee Cost and Expense Award requested by Class
7 Counsel and Service Awards to the Class Representatives should be approved, and whether a
8 Judgment finally approving the Settlement should be entered;

9 (e) to consider the distribution of the Settlement Fund pursuant to the Settlement
10 Agreement; and

11 (f) to rule upon such other matters as the Court may deem appropriate.

12 23. Class Counsel shall respond to any objections to the Settlement no later than fourteen
13 (14) days before the Final Approval Hearing. Class Counsel shall file a Motion for Final Approval
14 no later than fourteen days (14) before the Final Approval Hearing. The Final Approval Hearing
15 may be postponed, adjourned, transferred or continued by order of the Court without further notice
16 to the Settlement Classes. After the Final Approval Hearing, the Court may enter a Judgment
17 approving the Settlement Agreement and an Order dismissing the Action in accordance with the
18 Settlement Agreement that will adjudicate the rights of all Settlement Class Members.

19 24. No later than seven (7) calendar days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, the
20 Settlement Administrator will file with the Court and serve both Class Counsel and Defendants'
21 Counsel a declaration stating that the Notice required by the Settlement Agreement has been
22 completed in accordance with the terms of this Preliminary Approval Order.

23 25. On or before thirty-five (35) days prior to the Claim Deadline, Class Counsel shall
24 file and serve: (i) a motion for Attorneys' Fees and Expenses; and (ii) any application for any
25 Service Awards to the Class Representatives. For clarity, the deadlines the parties shall adhere to
26 are as follows:

27 Class Notice mailed and emailed by: **September 14, 2020** (the "Notice Date")

28 Claims Deadline: **November 23, 2020**

1 Class Counsels' Fee and Expense Application by **October 19, 2020**

2 Objection and Exclusion Deadline: **November 13, 2020**

3 Final Approval Submissions: **December 2, 2020**

4 Final Approval Hearing: **December 16, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.** The Court
5 will provide access details at a later date.

6 26. Pending final determination of whether the Settlement should be approved, the
7 Plaintiffs and/or Defendants shall cooperate in seeking orders that no Settlement Class Member
8 (either directly, in a representative capacity, or in any other capacity), and anyone who acts or
9 purports to act on their behalf, shall institute, commence or prosecute any action that asserts
10 Released ARL Claims and/or Released DSL Claims against the Defendants or other Releasees.

11 **IX. OTHER PROVISIONS**

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13 27. If the Settlement does not become effective, the order certifying the Settlement
14 Classes and all preliminary and/or final findings or stipulations regarding certification of the
15 Settlement Classes shall be automatically vacated, voided and treated as if never filed, and the
16 parties will retain and reserve all positions with respect to the litigation, and the litigation shall
17 proceed as if no settlement had been reached.

18 28. The Court finds that Defendants have made no admissions of liability or wrongdoing
19 of any kind associated with the alleged claims in the operative Complaint. Defendants have made
20 no admission of liability or wrongdoing regarding each and every material factual allegation and all
21 claims asserted against it in the Action. Nothing herein will constitute an admission of wrongdoing
22 or liability, or of the truth of any allegations in the Action. Nothing herein will constitute an
23 admission by Defendants that the Action is properly brought on a class or representative basis, or
24 that classes may be certified, other than for settlement purposes. The Court further finds that the
25 Settlement of the Action, the negotiation and execution of this Settlement, and all acts performed or
26 documents executed pursuant to or in furtherance of the Settlement: (i) are not and will not be
27 deemed to be, and may not be used as, an admission or evidence of any wrongdoing or liability on
28 the part of Defendants or of the truth of any allegations in the Action; (ii) are not and will not be

1 deemed to be, and may not be used as an admission or evidence of any fault or omission on the part
2 of Defendants in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding in any court, arbitration forum,
3 administrative agency, or other tribunal; and (iii) are not and will not be deemed to be and may not
4 be used as an admission of the appropriateness of these or similar claims for class certification.

5 29. The Court retains jurisdiction to consider all further matters arising out of or
6 connected with the Settlement.

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8 DATED: July 15, 2020



Nathanael Cousins
United States District Court Magistrate Judge

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