

For Immediate Release

## **CARU RECOMMENDS SWIMWAYS MODIFY ADVERTISING TO CLEARLY DEPICT ADULT SUPERVISION**

*New York, NY – March 10, 2009* – The Children’s Advertising Review Unit of the Council of Better Business Bureaus, Inc., has recommended Swimways Corporation modify future advertising to assure that broadcast advertising for its products depicts appropriate adult supervision. The company has agreed to do so.

Advertising for the Swimways Subskate, a swimming pool flotation board, came to the attention of the Children’s Advertising Review Unit (CARU) through its routine monitoring of advertising directed to children. The commercial appeared during children’s programming.

The commercial opened with a large crowd of children running out of school. One boy jumps in the air and into the camera frame. In the next frame, the same child lands in a swimming pool. In the next scene, another child also jumps into the pool. The scenes that follow show three children playing with Subskate flotation boards and performing maneuvers underwater that include balancing, performing flips and spinning around while balanced on the board. In some of the scenes, an adult is glimpsed in the background. Finally, the audio disclosure in the island shot stated “Always swim with an adult.”

CARU questioned whether the referenced commercial adequately depicted adult supervision and properly disclosed the need for adult supervision.

At the outset, the advertiser informed CARU that the commercial in question is no longer being run. The advertiser stated that should it decide to run this commercial in the future, it would modify it to make the parental supervision clearly apparent.

The company, in its advertiser’s statement, said it “appreciates CARU’s efforts and the opportunity to participate in the self-regulatory process” and noted that it is developing a new commercial for the 2009 summer season.

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*CARU’s inquiry was conducted under NAD/CARU/NARB Procedures for the Voluntary Self-Regulation of National Advertising. Details of the initial inquiry, CARU’s decision, and the advertiser’s response will be included in the next NAD/CARU Case Report.*

**About Advertising Industry Self-Regulation:** The National Advertising Review Council (NARC) was formed in 1971 by the Association of National Advertisers, Inc. (ANA), the American Association of Advertising Agencies, Inc. (AAAA), the American Advertising Federation, Inc. (AAF), and the Council of Better Business Bureaus, Inc. (CBBB). Its purpose is to foster truth and accuracy in national advertising through voluntary self-regulation. NARC is the body that establishes the policies and procedures for the CBBB’s National Advertising Division (NAD) and Children’s Advertising Review Unit (CARU), as well as for the National Advertising Review Board (NARB) and Electronic Retailing Self-Regulation Program (ERSP).

NAD and CARU are the investigative arms of the advertising industry’s voluntary self-regulation program. Their casework results from competitive challenges from other advertisers, and also from self-monitoring traditional and new media. The National Advertising Review Board (NARB), the appeals body, is a peer group from which ad-hoc panels are selected to adjudicate those cases that are not resolved at the NAD/CARU level. This unique, self-regulatory system is funded entirely by the business community; CARU is financed by the children’s advertising industry, while NAD/NARC/NARB’s sole source of funding is derived from membership fees paid to the CBBB. Funding for ERSP is derived from membership fees paid to the Electronic Retailing Association. For more information about advertising self regulation, please visit [www.narcpartners.org](http://www.narcpartners.org).