



WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

The present cause is heard upon the request of WBO Super Middleweight participant Jesse "Hardwork" Hart against the WBO Super Middleweight Champion Gilberto "Zurdo" Ramírez regarding their September 22, 2017 WBO Super Middleweight Championship Bout contested in Tucson, Arizona, United States of America. The WBO World Championship Committee having considered the complaint submitted by the petitioner on October 4, 2017 and the WBO Supervisor Report, having reviewed thoroughly the video of the sanctioned match <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYnenzYI9Z0>, having evaluated press reports of the championship contest, and having examined the nature of the alleged facts, and being full advised in the premises, it is determined:

WHEREAS, the World Boxing Organization Championship Committee recognizes and considers Mr. Jesse Hart as an elite professional fighter, who is a former WBO North American Boxing Organization Super Middleweight Champion, having won the title in May 2, 2015 against Mike Jimenez via Technical Knockout and successfully defending the title on numerous occasions, with an exceptional amateur record consisting of eighty-five (85) wins with eleven (11) loses, and with an impressive professional record of twenty two (22) wins with only one (1) defeat, eighteen by knockout; and,

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2017, Jesse Hart was unsuccessful against the WBO Super Middleweight Champion Gilberto "Zurdo" Ramirez during his Mandatory Title defense held in Tucson, Arizona. The WBO Super Middleweight Champion Ramirez was declared the winner by majority decision after a highly skilled competitive bout; and,

WHEREAS, on October 4, 2017 the WBO confirmed receipt of written communication via email stating numerous concerns presented by the petitioner regarding the aforementioned fight both prior and during the championship contest. In essence, the alleged facts consist of Ramirez's coach placing on the fighter's shoulder an ointment substance that allegedly affected Jesse Hart's eyes causing them to burn; Furthermore, states that he suffered a low blow and was hit behind the head; and,

WHEREAS, the petitioner argues consequently, that the majority decision should be ruled "No Contest" and in turn requests a "Return Fight" pursuant to Rule 18 of our WBO Championship Contests Regulations; and,

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2017, the WBO received written communication via email subscribed by WBO assigned bout supervisor, Mr. Genaro Rodríguez, providing the correspondent Supervisor Report which certified full compliance with



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all regulatory and supervising duties performed by the Arizona State Boxing Commission and the WBO officials during pre-fight and fight contest; and,

WHEREAS, all interested WBO Participants were given notice of this Petition and given opportunity to submit any information, documents, or arguments that they believe would assist the Committee in resolving the present matter; and,

WHEREAS, the WBO Championship Committee has full authority as per our WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests to resolve this matter with the following being within our powers and discretion, and shall be interpreted to include any or all powers necessary, helpful or convenient to accomplish the purposed, policies and the intent of these rules; and,

WHEREAS, the petitioner's complaint was solely based on a written communication email with no supporting evidence submitted to sustain the veracity of the alleged events nor the effects of the petitioner within his contest performance; and,

WHEREAS, the Committee reviewed the facts alleged by the petitioner, examined carefully the fight video and considered such championship bout between Gilberto "Zurdo" Ramirez and Jesse Hart, as a cleanly fought fight by both participants within the highest-level skill, well-officiated and fairly resolved in accordance to the Rules of Boxing and in compliance with the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the WBO World Championship Committee according to our Regulations of Championship Contests:

1. The Supervisor report of the sanctioned titled fight, was completed and submitted in compliance to our WBO Rules and Regulations for Championship Contest by the appointed supervisor, Mr. Genaro Rodríguez.
2. **The report certified both WBO Supervisor and the assigned referee Mr. Mike Ortega proceeding on questioning the boxer and his coach upon the nature of the referred allegations. Furthermore, the officials resorted the use of a towel and rubbing alcohol through Ramirez's body and shoulder to verify the absence of the alleged substance. In addition to this, the Jesse Hart camp also examined and wiped Ramirez's shoulder and torso on a second occasion;**



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thus, confirming the absence of any type of illegal or prohibited substances on his body. Moreover, the WBO Vice President of North America Mr. Richard De Cuir was also present and witness all procedures stated herein.

3. **Mr. Juan Estrada, Executive Director of Arizona's boxing commission, was also present during the abovementioned proceedings. In fact, the commissioner himself used his fingers to wipe the shoulder of Ramirez and rubbed such on his own eyes. The commissioner concluded there was nothing on Ramirez's body that could be considered illegal nor endanger any of the participants involved.**
4. The above-mentioned procedures were done in presence of all the parties stated herein and with the approval of Mr. Hart's camp. The fight proceeded accordingly and no further complaint was addressed neither to the referee, supervisor or the commission throughout the twelve-round contest. **There were no indications of discomfort nor visual impairment on behalf of Jesse Hart as results of the alleged substance in Ramirez's body. No assigned official or even Hart's camp indicated issues of such nature. Therefore, it is highly speculative to claim facts of which cannot be verified.**
5. The announced majority decision was not controversial nor subject to outrage by the general public or boxing media outlets.
6. With respect to the alleged fouls suffered by the petitioner, the ABC Unified Rules of Boxing states that the referee is the sole arbiter of a bout and is the only individual authorized to stop a contest. Furthermore, if an intentional foul causes an injury and the bout is allowed to continue, the referee shall notify the authorities and deduct two (2) points from the boxer who caused the foul. Point deductions for intentional fouls will be mandatory.
7. The Arizona State Boxing Commission is the only authorized entity that regulates professional boxing contests and has exclusive jurisdiction over all matters related to their functions. Hence, the



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World Boxing Organization has no inherece to overrule decisions subject to the power of the host commission.

8. **Rule 23 (i) of WBO Championship Contest Regulations provides:**

“The WBO recognizes and abides by Local Boxing Commission rules and regulations concerning the appointment of Officials to a World Title Contests”.

9. The aforementioned championship bout was not substantially irregular, subject to any clear intentional fouls or any misapplication of the rules of boxing that would have resulted in a manifest unfairness. On the contrary, the bout was highly competitive and well officiated by the respective officials.

Rule 18 of WBO Championship Contest Regulations provides:

“The WBO shall not allow direct return fights, unless recommended by the World Championship Committee and authorized by the Executive Committee. A direct return fight is a fight between the new Champion and the former Champion from whom the new Champion won the title or between a new Champion and the losing Contestant, before the new Champion defends his title against any of the other fighters classified in his category. If the World Championship Committee determines either that the resolution of a Championship Contest was substantially irregular, or that there was a clear misapplication of the rules of boxing resulting in a manifest unfairness, such that in either case the World Championship Committee determines that the Championship was substantially unresolved, the World Championship Committee may, in its discretion, recommend a direct return fight, which may be authorized only by the majority vote of the Executive Committee. The World Championship Committee may recommend a direct return fight for any other circumstance; in that event a direct return fight shall only be authorized by the affirmative vote of not less than 75% of the Executive Committee”



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10. Although the WBO World Championship Committee is honored to have a world-class participant and former WBO NABO Super Middleweight Champion, the arguments outlined by the petitioner are not sufficient to grant a "Return Fight" pursuant to our Championship Contests Regulations.
11. Therefore, the Committee does not recommend the WBO Executive Committee the concession of a direct Return Fight pursuant to Rule 18 of WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests. However, considering the stated accomplishments of the petitioner, we suggest the WBO classification's committee to consider Jesse Hart be ranked number one (1) within the Super Middleweight Division.
12. This is a final decision of the Championship Committee. The affected WBO participant may appeal such determination to the Complaint and Grievance Committee as per Rule 34, which as per Rule 3(e) of the WBO Appeals Regulation, must be submitted in writing to the WBO President within fourteen (14) days of this decision as its sole and exclusive remedy.

Dated in San Juan, Puerto Rico on this 8th day of November, 2017

WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

By: Luis Batista Salas, Esq.
Chairman
Championship Committee