



RESOLUTION OF THE WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE A VOLUNTARY DEFENSE FOR WBO CHAMPION ROBERT STIEGLITZ AND TO DESIGNATE ARTHUR ABRAHAM AS THE MANDATORY CHALLENGER FOR THE WBO SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

WHEREAS, Under the WBO Rules, the authority and responsibility of the World Championship Committee includes the powers and discretion to determine the format and venue for making any determination that is the subject of the WBO World Championship Rules; and to designate not more than two Mandatory Challengers for any category in accordance with the criteria specified in these Rules; and to determine if there is good cause to extend the time during which a Champion must make a Mandatory Challenge; and to approve the challenger for any Championship, including a replacement challenger where a challenger is unable to complete a previously scheduled World Championship fight; and to sanction all Championship Contests and Eliminary Bouts; and to designate a Mandatory Challenger; and

WHEREAS, The World Championship Committee has designated George Groves as the Mandatory Challenger to fight Robert Stieglitz for the WBO Super Middleweight Championship on May 5, 2012 pursuant to Section 6 of the Rules which provides:

“SECTION 6 DESIGNATION OF THE MANDATORY CHALLENGER

(a) The Mandatory Challenger may be selected and determined by the World Championship Committee according to the current list of the best-classified boxers, promulgated by the WBO Classification Committee. For the purpose of designating the Mandatory Challenger, the current list of the Classifications is that which corresponds to the month for which the determination is to be made that the World Champion is obliged to defend his Title against the Mandatory Challenger, or any other date in which the World Championship Committee may determine, for just cause.

(b)When a Champion must make a mandatory defense, the Mandatory Challenger shall be the highest classified available boxer who, in the judgment of the World Championship Committee, best satisfies the following criteria:

1. **(1)** Has a record acceptable to the World Championship Committee, and who, because of accomplishment and achievement, is recognized by the World Championship Committee as a class boxer; and
2. **(2)** Complies with the WBO and Association of Boxing Commissions Criteria for the Ratings of Professional Boxers; and
3. **(3)** In the event that the Champion has a contract with a major television network (HBO, SHOWTIME, ZDF, Sky or other similar broadcast



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company), is an acceptable challenger to the Champion's television network.

(c) A classified boxer may request recognition as Mandatory Challenger in writing to the WBO on forms which contain substantially the provisions that comply with the Application for Designation as Mandatory Contender contained on the WBO web site. Alternatively, the Committee may designate a Mandatory Challenger based on the above criteria. In either event, the Mandatory Challenger must agree to be subject to and to abide by the Regulations and to be bound to participate in and comply with the results of a purse bid if negotiation with the World Champion does not result in a contract for the Championship fight. The World Championship Committee may deny a request for recognition based on any of the above referred criteria or because the Champion has an approved unification bout or an approved unification tournament scheduled, or for other good cause.

(d) If a fighter is classified higher than the Mandatory Challenger, and is not designated the Mandatory Challenger because of criteria three (3), or for other good cause, the Championship Committee has the authority to order an eliminatory bout between the higher classified boxer or boxers provided that at least one of the elimination bout contestants is considered an acceptable challenger to the Champion's broadcast company. The winner of the elimination bout shall be then designated the Mandatory Challenger the next time a mandatory fight in that category is ordered if the winner of the elimination bout retains his rating subsequent to the elimination bout.

(e) The designation of a Mandatory Challenger creates an obligation on behalf of the Champion to defend against the designated Mandatory Challenger as a condition to the Champion's retention of the title. This obligation may be subject to modification or extension by the Championship Committee for good cause, such as (but not limited to) participation by the Champion in a unification bout or a unification tournament on such terms and conditions as the Championship Committee approves. The designation of Mandatory Challenger does not create rights in the Challenger, and may be subject to such conditions, modification, or extension as the Championship Committee determines.

(f) That a Champion has signed a contract for the defense of his championship, even against a Mandatory Challenger approved and designated by the Committee, shall not of itself constitute compliance with these Regulations, unless the Championship defense actually takes place within the stipulated time period."



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And;

WHEREAS, George Groves has reported an injury that will make him unable to participate in the May 5, 2012 WBO Championship; and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED:

- 1. Arthur Abraham is hereby designated as the Mandatory Challenger for the WBO SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP; and**
- 2. Robert Stieglitz is granted the authority to fight a voluntary defense on May 5, 2012 against an opponent who is determined to be acceptable to this Committee; and**
- 3. The winner of the WBO SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP contest on May 5, 2012 is hereby ordered to fight the Mandatory Defense against Arthur Abraham within ninety (90) days of May 5, 2012.**

Dated at San Juan, Puerto Rico this 18th day of April, 2012

THE WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

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