



WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION

Francisco Valcárcel, Esq.
President

August 19, 2020

VIA EMAIL:

Mr. Nestor Tobias
MTC Sunshine Production
Private Bag 24506, Windhoek
Namibia, Africa

Re: WBO Jr. Lightweight Participant – Mr. Jeremiah Nakathila

Dearest Nestor:

I refer to your letter dated Sunday, August 16, 2020, regarding the subject matter. As you are aware, current WBO Jr. Lightweight Champion Jamel Herring is scheduled to fight WBO Jr. Lightweight contender Jonathan Oquendo in a voluntary title defense scheduled for Saturday, September 5, 2020, at "The Bubble," Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. Said bout was originally scheduled to take place on Saturday, July 2, 2020, but unfortunately, Herring tested positive for Covid-19, and consequently, the fight was postponed and rescheduled for July 14 of said year. However, on July 13 of the referenced year, Herring tested again for Covid-19 once again, causing another postponement. Furthermore, as you are aware, professional boxing came to a halt for over five months (March-July 2020). In light of such extraordinary circumstances, the WBO granted all WBO Champions 5-month extension to fulfill mandatory title defense obligations. Therefore, if Herring is successful against Oquendo, his next mandatory will be due by January 2021.

Conversely, according to Boxing Scene's article published on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, you refer to a possible fight between Herring/Frampton by December 2020. Indeed, Herring is first scheduled to face Oquendo, as previously stated herein. At this time, the bout has not taken place and therefore, any ruling of an uncertain outcome on behalf of the WBO regarding this matter would be speculative. Whereas, you also point out to consecutive, voluntary defenses and WBO Champions being limited to only one voluntary defense. As you know, any WBO Champion during the interim period of a mandatory title defense can defend his title against any opponent selected from the fifteen best boxers in his weight category (See, Section 9 WBO Regulations). For example, former WBO Jr. Featherweight Champion Emanuel Navarrete made consecutive, voluntary title defenses of his WBO Jr. Featherweight Championship within his interim period as he was highly active against WBO world rated contenders. Certainly, consecutive title defenses are sanctioned subject to approval by the WBO World Championship Committee.

Concerning the Oscar Valdez and Shakur Stevenson installments, these were responded accordingly on our letter dated July 20, 2020, and pursuant to the WBO rules and regulations, and therefore such matters are moot.



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pacoval@wboboxing.com



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Notwithstanding the foregoing, our rulings shall not be construed as undermining Nakathila's accomplishments as a WBO Regional Champion. We greatly appreciate Nakathila's continued interest and support in the World Boxing Organization and your undisputed loyalty to our institution for many years.

Lastly, we reiterate our position and advise keeping Nakathila active in competition and complying with the WBO and ABC rating criteria for professional boxing. We thank you for your continued support and wish you and Team Nakathila all the best in your future endeavors.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if your any questions or concerns.

Take care,

Paco

Cc: Luis Batista Salas, Esq./Chairman Championship Committee

O: +1 787-765-4628 | F: +1 787-758-9053



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