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# WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION

## REGULATIONS OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTESTS

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## **REGULATIONS OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTESTS**

The World Boxing Organization was organized by national delegations and representatives from countries throughout the boxing world. The WBO is the most democratically representative institution in professional boxing, and accordingly its Champions and Championships are accorded the greatest esteem in professional boxing.

The World Championship has been established for generations as the highest objective in professional boxing. A World Championship is not the property of any boxer. The Championship is a trust, subject to the conditions defined herein, for the use and benefit of all boxers and boxing fans, who through their contribution of time, effort, risks and resources sustain the existence of the profession. The World Boxing Organization encourages each World Champion and Challenger to be an example of the highest ideals and spirit of sportsmanship. A World Champion is an integral part of the sport of boxing, but he is not greater than the sport of boxing. A World Champion's sportsmanship shows his respect for the profession he has chosen, including the Champion himself, his opponent, the World Boxing Organization, and, most importantly, boxing fans worldwide.

The World Boxing Organization's Regulations of World Championship Contests are intended to reconcile the interests of all necessary elements of World Championship Boxing in a manner that is in the best interests of the sport. The most important interests are those of the Championship contestants themselves and their worldwide fans. World Championship boxing in the Twenty First Century has become a global sport. World Championships are regularly contested in numerous cities and countries around the world on every populated continent. Due to the travel distances and costs of attending World Championship boxing contests, the majority of boxing fans are not able to personally attend these events; they must follow the sport through television, and increasingly through premium and pay-per-view broadcasts. Moreover, the purses for the contestants in World Championship Boxing contests are often substantially dependent upon television revenue. These rules are intended to reconcile the interests of all WBO Participants for the overall good of sport of boxing, and are to be interpreted and applied to that end.

### **SECTION 1. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE**

(a) The World Championship Committee (hereinafter the Committee) shall be composed of five members: the WBO President, ex-officio, and four (4) members, including the Chairman of the Committee (hereinafter the Chairman), who shall be appointed by the President. The members of this Committee, upon appointment, shall hold office until their successors have been appointed. In the event that the Chairman is

unavailable, the WBO President shall have all powers and authority of the Chairman.

(b) The World Championship Committee shall have the following powers and discretion:

- (1) To determine the format and venue for making any determination that is the subject of the WBO World Championship Rules; and
- (2) To designate not more than two Mandatory Challengers for any category in accordance with the criteria specified in these Rules; and
- (3) To determine whether a challenger seeking a Mandatory Challenger designation is acceptable to the Champion's television network; and
- (4) To determine if there is good cause to extend the time during which a Champion must make a Mandatory Challenge; and
- (5) To approve the terms and conditions under which a Champion may extend the time for a Mandatory challenge so as to compete in a Unification Bout or a Unification Tournament; and
- (6) To order the WBO Champion fulfillment of his Mandatory title defense immediately after participating in a WBO Non-Championship or non-title fight in spite of the WBO Champion being within his voluntary title defense period.
- (7) To order an eliminatory bout or bouts for good cause, including, but not limited to circumstances such as when a higher classified boxer has been denied the designation of Mandatory Challenger because he was not acceptable to a Champion's television network or where a box off is determined for a vacant championship; and
- (8) To recommend to the President and the Executive Committee that a Title should be vacated if a Champion fails to comply with the WBO World Championship Rules; and
- (9) To order a Purse Bid; and
- (10) To recommend to the President to reduce the minimum purse bid by up to 50% and to rebid a purse bid or to grant an extension to the Champion of up to 120 days for a voluntary fight If there are no qualified bids for a purse bid
- (11) To determine if a Promoter has defaulted on a Purse Bid; and
- (12) To select contestants for a Vacant Championship or a box off for a Vacant Championship; and
- (13) 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
- (14) To determine whether a Champion is entitled to a disability extension to make a Mandatory Challenge, and the terms and conditions for such a disability

extension; and,

(15) To determine whether the Promoter which is the successful bidder for a Purse Bid may assign its rights to conduct the Championship match, and the terms and conditions for any approved assignment of the Promoter's rights to a Purse Bid; and

(16) To recommend to the Executive Committee whether a boxer should be designated as a Super Champion; and

(17) To sanction all Championship Contests and Eliminary Bouts; and

(18) To recommend to the Executive Committee whether a direct return fight should be authorized; and

(19) To determine if an Interim Championship is warranted and to sanction an Interim Championship Bout; and

(20) To determine the contestants for an Interim or Vacant Championship; and

(21) To make or recommend exceptions or variations from the Rules as the World Championship Committee determines are necessary, and

(22) To vacate the Championship of a Champion who has had his/her boxing license suspended for the use of performance enhancing drugs or illegal drugs, and

(23) To vacate a championship title regardless of cause or fault if the Champion has not defended within a nine (9) month period.

(24) To designate a Mandatory Challenger; and

(25) To determine whether a Challenger is entitled to a disability extension to complete his qualifying to comply with the ABC Guidelines for Ratings of Professional Boxers; and

(26) To recommend to the President and the Executive Committee amendments to these Rules.

(c) The above powers shall be interpreted to include any or all powers necessary, helpful or convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies and intent of these rules

## **SECTION 2. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee shall meet in the places and at the time and manner as are scheduled by the WBO President or the Chairman. Three members shall constitute a quorum for matters that come before the Committee. The majority vote of the members of the Committee that constitute the quorum of the meeting shall constitute the action of the Committee. The Committee is authorized to meet remotely, by telephone conference, and/or by written submittals, and the Chairman may, in his discretion request the vote of

the members of the Committee by telephone, fax, or e-mail. A member need not participate in all discussions of the Committee on a matter to participate in its determination. In the cases in which the Committee acts by written submittals, the Chairman shall recommend the adoption or rejection of any measure. If the Committee does not receive the vote of any member of the Committee within two (2) days of the Chairman's recommendation, the vote of the member of the Committee not cast shall be considered as a vote approving the recommendation of the Chairman. The Chairman shall submit a report indicating the results of voting on the particular matter to each of the members of the Committee and to the WBO. In the event there is a tie vote of the Committee, the vote of the WBO President shall determine the action of the Committee.

### **SECTION 3. WEIGHT CATEGORIES**

The World Championships shall be recognized in the following weight categories of divisions:

<b>Weight Division</b>	<b>Maximum Weight</b>
Mini Flyweight	Up to 105 lbs or 47.63 kgs.
Jr. Flyweight	Up to 108 lbs or 48.99 kgs.
Flyweight	Up to 112 lbs or 50.80 kgs.
Jr. Bantamweight	Up to 115 lbs or 52.16 kgs.
Bantamweight	Up to 118 lbs or 53.52 kgs.
Jr. Featherweight	Up to 122 lbs or 55.34 kgs.
Featherweight	Up to 126 lbs or 57.15 kgs.
Jr. Lightweight	Up to 130 lbs or 58.97 kgs.
Lightweight	Up to 135 lbs or 61.24 kgs.
Jr. Welterweight	Up to 140 lbs or 63.50 kgs.
Welterweight	Up to 147 lbs or 66.68 kgs.
Jr. Middleweight	Up to 154 lbs or 69.85 kgs.
Middleweight	Up to 160 lbs or 72.57 kgs.
Super Middleweight	Up to 168 lbs or 76.20 kgs.
Light Heavyweight	Up to 175 lbs or 79.38 kgs.
Jr. Heavyweight	Up to 200 lbs or 90.72 kgs.

Heavyweight	Over 200 lbs or 90.72 kgs.
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## **SECTION 4. WEIGHT**

(a) In General. Weight determines the championship contests. If the Champion and/or the challenger fails to make the prescribed weight at the time of the official weigh-in, either or both of them shall have two hours from that time to make the prescribed weight. If either or both contenders fail to make the prescribed weight within the additional two hour period of time, these regulations remain in full force and effect and the contest shall be held as an overweight title fight or a non-title fight as the case may be. The scales that are to be used in the official weigh-in should be available to both the Champion and the challenger at least two hours before the time of the official weigh-in.

(b) Weigh-ins for Postponements. If a Championship is postponed after a weigh-in for not more than 48 hours, a new weigh-in will not be necessary.

(c) Overweight Contestants.

(1) If a World Champion fails to make the prescribed weight for his category, the Champion shall lose the title at the scales, and the Championship shall then and there be declared vacant, whether or not the challenger makes weight. The Championship may not, however, be won at the scales. The fight shall be carried out as planned, and if the challenger, having made the weight, wins the contest, the challenger shall be the successor of the Championship; but if the prior Champion whose Championship was vacated at the scales wins the contest, the championship shall remain vacant.

(2) If the Champion makes the weight and the challenger fails to do so, and the fight goes forward as an overweight fight, the challenger is not eligible to win the Championship; if the Champion loses the overweight fight, the Championship shall be vacated.

(3) If both the Champion and the challenger fail to make weight, the Championship shall be vacated at the scale and the fight will go forward as a non-title fight.

## **SECTION 5. DEFENSE OF THE TITLE**

(a) Each WBO World Champion except in the Heavyweight Division shall defend his title at intervals not greater than nine (9) months counting from the date of the acquisition thereof or from the last compulsory defense, as the case may be, in a twelve (12) round fight, against the Mandatory Challenger, as determined by the Championship Committee according to these Regulations, unless an exception is made pursuant to these Regulations. For reasons unique to the Heavyweight Division, the WBO World Champion in the Heavyweight Division shall defend his title at intervals not greater than

twelve (12) months counting from the date of the acquisition thereof or from the last compulsory defense as the case may be in a twelve (12) round fight, against the Mandatory Challenger, as determined by the Championship Committee according to these Regulations, unless an exception is made pursuant to these Regulations.

(b) In the interim period, the World Champion may defend the title against any contender classified within the fifteen (15) best by the World Boxing Organization, always with the approval of the World Championships Committee.

(c) The WBO World Championship Committee may, in its discretion, vacate a Champion's title (including the Heavyweight Division) regardless of cause or fault if the Champion fails to defend his title within a nine (9) month period. This decision will be final unless appealed to the Grievance Committee within ten (10) days of Notification to the Champion as provided for in these Rules. A Champion so stripped of his Title shall be classified using the WBO rating criteria, and he shall be classified in his division or in such other weight division as the Classifications Committee for good cause determines, provided that he has complied with the WBO and ABC rating criteria.

(d) No WBO Champion may hold WBO titles in more than one Weight Division. If a WBO Champion wins a WBO Championship in a higher or lower division, the WBO Champion shall have Ten (10) Days to determine which Weight Division the WBO Champion will retain. The other Weight Division will be declared vacant.

(e) In any circumstance in which a Mandatory Defense does not occur within the designated time period, the World Championship Committee may order an Interim Championship between contenders determined by the World Championship Committee.

## **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. The World Championship Committee shall for good cause designate the date on which the determination of the Mandatory Challenger shall be determined. For the purpose of designating the Mandatory Challenger, the current list of the Classifications is that which corresponds to the month for which the designation of the Mandatory Challenger 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) 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) Complies with the WBO and Association of Boxing Commissions Criteria for the Ratings of Professional Boxers; and

(3) In the event that the Champion has a contract with a major television network (HBO, SHOWTIME, ZDF, Sky or other similar broadcast 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 a form which contain substantially the provisions of 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. 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 is scheduled, or if the Champion is contesting the Championship with a WBO Super Champion or a WBO Champion, 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.

(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.

## **SECTION 7. UNIFICATION BOUTS AND UNIFICATION TOURNAMENTS AS MANDATORY TITLE BOUTS**

(a) The World Championship Committee has the power and authority to sanction a Unification Bout or participation in a unification tournament as a Mandatory Title Bout. A

Unification Bout is a championship bout with the champion of another world sanctioning organization recognized by the WBO, including the WBA, the WBC and the IBF. A Unification Tournament is a tournament of single elimination bouts involving 4 Champions or top contenders of 2 or more WBO recognized world sanctioning organizations.

(b) When a Champion has been granted an extension of his Mandatory Obligation to participate in a Unification Bout or a Unification Tournament, his next mandatory obligation must be completed within 9 months of completion of the Unification Bout or Unification Tournament.

## **SECTION 8. CRITERIA TO MAINTAIN RATING AS A CLASSIFIED FIGHTER**

(a) To keep his position on the official WBO classification list and to be eligible to be designated by the World Championship Committee as the Mandatory Challenger, contender number 1 and contender number 2 shall defend his classification at least annually against any of the classified contenders in his weight category, according to the current list of classifications promulgated by the Classifications Committee, and he shall comply with the Association of Boxing Commissions Criteria for Ratings of Professional Boxers. If contender number 1 and/or contender number 2 fails to comply with this Rule, contender number 1 and/or contender number 2 may lose his classification. It is the responsibility of each classified boxer to know the WBO and ABC Criteria for Ratings, to meet the criteria for ratings, and to keep the WBO Classification Committee informed of all facts relevant to his rating.

(b) If any of the classified boxers (with the exception of contender number 1 and/or contender number 2) rejects the World Champion in an optional title fight or refuses to fight contender number 1 and/or contender number 2 in a ten round fight, without just cause, he may be eliminated from or lowered in the list of classifications.

## **SECTION 9. VOLUNTARY DEFENSES**

In the interim period of the compulsory defense of his title against the Mandatory Challenger, the World Champion may defend his title against any opponent selected from the list of the fifteen best boxers in his weight category or division, according to the current list of classifications of the Organization.

## **SECTION 10. COMPULSORY DEFENSES**

(a) Within the sixty (60) days prior to the date of the compulsory defense, no World Champion shall sign a Contract for the defense of his title, nor defend it against a boxer other than the Mandatory Challenger, unless authorized by the World Championship Committee.

(b) If a World Champion loses his title against a contender other than the Mandatory Challenger, the new World Champion shall defend his title in a bout, within a period not

greater than one hundred eighty (180) days counting from the dated of the acquisition of the title, against the Mandatory Challenger in his category according to the current list of the Classifications Committee, and from then on, shall defend his title at intervals not greater than nine (9) months against the Mandatory Challenger, unless an exception is approved by the World Championship Committee.

(c) The World Championships Committee shall inform each World Champion recognized as such by the Organization in his respective weight category of division, in writing, with at least sixty (60) days of previous notice, of the obligation to defend the title in a compulsory fight against the Mandatory Challenger. It is contemplated that the Champion and the Mandatory Challenger shall attempt in good faith to reach an agreement within the first thirty (30) days of the sixty (60) days mentioned herein. The President or the Championship Committee may increase or decrease the time in which the Champion and the Mandatory Challenger should reach an agreement, which period shall be not less than five (5) days. If the Champion and the Mandatory Challenger fail to reach agreement within such time as is determined by the President consistent with these regulations, the President may order a Purse Bid as hereinafter provided. Either the Champion or the Mandatory Challenger may end this negotiation period by written notice to the WBO at any time during the Thirty (30) day negotiation period. The WBO President shall have the discretion to reduce the negotiation period to not less than five (5) days. The WBO President may call the Purse Bid within ten (10) days of the end of the negotiation period.

## **SECTION 11. PURSE BIDS**

(a) Purse Bids for championship fights shall contain the elements required by these rules. Only those proposals submitted by Promoters registered with and in good standing with the WBO shall be accepted by the WBO.

(b) Bid Deposits. Each Promoter shall submit a Purse Bid Deposit of One Thousand (\$1,000.) Dollars with its bid at the time the Promoter submits its proposal. The Purse Bid Deposit for all bidders shall be retained by the WBO, and applied as the Purse Bidders Service Fee to cover the expenses incurred by the World Boxing Organization on calling the contest to bid.

(c) Proposals. The proposals shall be submitted to the office where the President of the World Boxing Organization indicates that the bid shall be held, in two sealed envelopes as follows:

(1) ENVELOPE NO.1– DOCUMENTS. A Promoter whose bid does not meet the requirements of this section shall be automatically disqualified from the Purse Bid and cannot participate in the Purse Bid. The World Boxing Organization shall retain the disqualified Promoter's Bid Deposit as the disqualified bidder's Purse Bidders Service Fee, and shall also return Envelope No. 2 "Proposal" which shall not be opened. Envelope Number 1 shall contain the following documents:

(A) Certified check, cashier's check or bank money order payable to the World Boxing Organization, or money in cash, in the legal tender of the

United States of America (dollars) for the Purse Bid Deposit in the sum of US\$1,000.00 to cover the Promoter's Purse Bid Service Fee.

(B) WBO Receipt or a copy thereof evidencing payment of the Annual Registration fee as WBO Championship Contest Promoter, or a copy of the Promoter's cancelled check or wire transfer to the WBO for the Annual Promoter's Registration Fee. The WBO President may waive this requirement for any Promoter known to the WBO President to have paid its Annual Registration fee.

(C) A letter of authority for a representative of a proponent, for those bidders who cannot attend the bid and sends a representative who is not an officer or employee of a bidder. This letter may be an original letter or may be sent by the proponent by facsimile, e-mail or telegraph.

## (2) ENVELOPE NO. 2 - PROPOSAL

(A) A written proposal indicating the total purse offered to the Champion and the Challenger, the proposed sites for the Championship Contest, and the proposed date for the Championship Contest. This amount will be net, with no deductions except for the Sanction Fees to be paid by the Champion and the Challenger pursuant to these WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests and tax withholdings required by the law of the country where the fight is to be held.

(B) The Proposal shall include a Purse Bond in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or bank money order payable to the World Boxing Organization, or money in cash, in the legal tender of the United States of America (dollars) totaling Ten (10%) Percent of the total of the proposed purse. The Purse Bond of the successful bidder shall be retained by the World Boxing Organization to secure the Champion, Challenger and the WBO in the event that the successful bidder fails to promote the Championship Contest pursuant to the Purse Bid without just cause.

(C) The Proposal shall indicate the place or places where the fight is to be held; the Proposal shall not identify more than three (3) potential sites.

(D) The Proposal shall Indicate the date the fight is to be held, which shall not be later than ninety (90) days nor earlier than forty-five (45) days from the date of the Purse Bid, counting from the date of adjudication of the bid, unless the interested parties agree to hold the bout prior to the forty-five (45) days established as minimum. The World Championship Committee may extend the 90 days during which a fight ordered by purse bid may be held for a period not to exceed 45 days for just cause shown.

(d) In the event that no qualified bid is made, the Championship Committee may recommend to the President that the minimum bid be reduced by up to 50% and the

purse bid rebid or that the Champion be granted a 120 day extension to make a voluntary defense. The President shall determine which option will be pursued within 30 days and the President will notify the contestants of his decision in writing on or before the expiration of the 30 day period.

(e) When a Championship has been completed, the Purse Bond will be refunded to the Promoter, net of any collection costs or bank charges incurred by the WBO, upon receipt by the WBO of evidence of satisfaction by the Promoter of all obligations secured by the Purse Bond, including all WBO Sanction Fees for the Championship.

## **SECTION 12. PROMOTER DEFAULT ON PURSE BID**

(a) If the Promoter fails to comply with the Purse Bid commitment on the date indicated on the accepted Proposal without a justified cause, the World Championship Committee may declare the right of the Promoter in and to the Purse Bid extinguished and proceed to the distribution of the Purse Bond (the security deposit) as herein provided.

(b) If the Championship Committee declares a default by the Promoter, the Promoter's Purse Bond shall be forfeit and it shall be distributed as follows:

Champion	68%
Challenger	17%
WBO	15%

(c) If a successful Promoter defaults on a Purse Bid without justified cause, the Forfeiture of the Purse Bond provided for herein shall be sole and exclusive remedy of any party against the Promoter, and shall be retained and distributed in the proportions provided for herein as liquidated damages.

(d) If the fight is not to be presented, without a justified cause as determined by the Championship Committee, the Promoter shall forfeit the Purse Bond and the World Boxing Organization may proceed to call a new Purse Bid for said championship contest, or the WBO Championship Committee or the WBO President may offer the contest to the second highest bidder at the original purse bid, or the Champion may be granted a 120 day extension to fight a voluntary defense, as determined by the World Championship Committee.

## **SECTION 13. DIVISION OF PURSE FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD PURSUANT TO PURSE BID**

(a) The purse for Championship Contests held and completed pursuant to Purse Bids (except those Championship Contests involving situations described in Section 14(e)(1) hereof, the Purse Bid division for which shall be distributed as per Section 14(e)(2)) shall be distributed as follows:

- (1) CHAMPIONSHIPS with an EXISTING CHAMPION

(A) In fights for the Title between the Champion and the Mandatory Challenger held in the country of origin, residence or nationality of the Champion, the Champion shall receive 75% of the purse and the Challenger shall receive the remaining 25%.

(B) In fights for the title held in any other country, the Champion shall receive 80% of the purse and the Challenger shall receive the remaining 20%.

(2) VACANT CHAMPIONSHIPS or ELIMINATORY FIGHTS

(A) In fights for a vacant title or eliminatory fights (except in the case where one of the contestants is a Super Champion in which case the Super Champions provision for purse bid division shall apply) the distribution shall be as follows:

(B) If the fight is held in the country of origin, residence or nationality of one of the contender, the resident contestant shall receive 40% and his opponent shall receive 60% off the total purse offered.

(C) If the fight is held in a neutral place or if the contenders are from the same country of origin, residence or nationality, in such a way that neither have an advantage over the other, the purse shall be divided in equal parts between the contenders. USA Residents shall be considered of the same country of residence, regardless of which State they reside in for Purse Bid purposes.

(b) The Promoter who has been awarded the promotion rights of a World Championship, an interim World Championship or an Eliminatory contest through a Bid, cannot sell, transfer or assign its rights to a third person without the written consent of the WBO.

(c) The Purse Bid shall be directed by the President or by the person designated by him. All WBO Participants directly involved in the bid may be present when the bid envelopes are opened.

(d) MINIMUM PURSE BIDS: The following minimums are hereby established for Purse Bids:

<b>Division</b>	<b>Minimum Purse Bid</b>
Mini-Flyweight to Flyweight	US\$80,000.00
Junior Bantam to Junior Featherweight	US100,000.00
Featherweight to Jr. Welter	US150,000.00
Welter to Middleweight	US200,000.00
SuperMiddleweight to Jr. Heavyweight	US300,000.00

Heavyweight	US1,000,000
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## **SECTION 14. SUPER CHAMPIONS**

(a) It is the policy of the World Boxing Organization to encourage its Champions to pursue recognized status as undisputed World Champions and to unify the Championships of the four major world sanctioning organizations (the WBO, WBA, WBC and IBF). A World Champion who has achieved preeminent status may require and be entitled to additional scheduling flexibility to achieve his place in boxing history and for the good of the sport. A boxer may be considered for designation for Super Champion status when he meets the following criteria:

(1) The boxer presently or previously has or had a multiple bout contract with a major television network (HBO, SHOWTIME, ZBF, Sky or other similar broadcast company), for multiple years; and

(2) As a WBO Champion,

(A) The boxer has successfully defended his title cumulatively a minimum of ten (10) title bouts, or;

(B) In the event of less than ten (10) successful defenses has defended his/her title against opponents of high recognition and high skills; and

(C) Has substantially met the other standards set forth herein.

(3) The boxer's amateur history will be considered; and

(4) The quality of prospective Super Champion's record including the quality of his opponents and their records will be considered.

(5) Additionally, the following factors will be considered in determining Super Champion designation:

(A) If the prospective Super Champions has been a WBO World Champion in more than one (1) weight division; or

(B) If the Prospective Super Champion has held more than one (1) Championship of the four major world sanctioning organizations; or

(C) If the prospective Super Champion has unified the Championships of more than one (1) of the four (4) major world sanctioning bodies

(b) Current champion status is not required to qualify or continue as a Super Champion.

(c) The Championship Committee may recommend Super Champion status for the boxer to the Executive Committee, if a boxer has substantially complied with the conditions set forth herein. Super Champion status shall be determined by the vote of the Executive Committee.

(d) PRIVILEGES AFFORDED SUPER CHAMPIONS. Those fighters recommended by the Championship Committee and approved by the Executive Committee qualify for the following rights and privileges:

(1) EXTENSION OF MANDATORY TITLE DEFENSE.

The Championship Committee may extend a Super Champion's mandatory title defense for good cause shown one or more times beyond the time provided for in the WBO Regulations for World Championship Contests for the purpose of giving a Super Champion opportunity or opportunities to unify the titles of more than one major sanctioning body either in a unification bout or a unification tournament, or any other important match or matches that the Committee determines would contribute to the Super Champion's legacy or would be of great interest to boxing fans.

(2) ELIGIBILITY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR DESIGNATION AS THE MANDATORY CHALLENGER IN HIGHER OR LOWER DIVISION.

If requested by a Super Champion, the Championship Committee may designate the Super Champion as the mandatory challenger for the higher or lower division.

(3) ELIGIBILITY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR DESIGNATION AS THE MANDATORY CHALLENGER IN SAME DIVISION.

If requested by a Super Champion who has lost his title and who wishes to fight for the title again, the Championship Committee may designate the Super Champion as the mandatory challenger in the Super Champion's division.

(4) An Honorary member of the WBO for life

(e) PURSE BID

(1) In case of a purse bid involving a contest between contestants one or more of whom are WBO Super Champions, or a contest between a current WBO Champion and another current WBO Champion or a contest between a WBO Champion and a WBO Interim Champion, or a contest between two WBO Interim Champions, the following rules shall be applied in conjunction with the purse bid rules contained in the WBO Regulations for World Championship Contests; these provisions concerning the division of purse bids shall supersede the rules for division of purse bids contained within Section 13 of these WBO Rules, "DIVISION OF PURSE for CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD PURSUANT TO PURSE BID"

(2) In any of the situations described in Section 14(e)(1) above and a purse bid takes place, the division shall not be greater than 80/20 in any case and shall be calculated by the Championship Committee using a ratio based upon the average purse of each fighter's last three (3) fights. The WBO may rely upon the purses reported to the WBO on the WBO Participant's Promoter's receipts for the

fights that are used to calculate the Purse Division for this purpose. By way of example, if contestant A has had his last 3 purses of \$1,000,000, \$500,000, and \$400,000 (a total of \$1,900,000) and contestant B has had his last 3 purses of 1,000,000, \$2,000,000, and \$2,500,000 (a total of \$5,500,000), the purse division would be  $\$1,900,000/\$7,400,000$  or 25.68% for contestant A and  $\$5,500,000/\$7,400,000$  or 74.32% for contestant B. If by way of further example, if contestant A has had his last 3 purses of \$500,000, \$400,000, and \$300,000 (a total of \$1,200,000) and contestant B has had his last 3 purses of 1,000,000, \$2,000,000, and \$2,500,000 (a total of \$5,500,000) the purse division would be 20% for contestant A and 80% for contestant B (as the ratio of the purses is  $\$1,200,000/\$6,700,000$  or 17.91% for contestant A to  $\$5,500,000/\$6,700,000$  or 82.09% for contestant B and the purse division cannot be more that 80/20.

(f) **LOSS OF PRIVILEGES**

(1) All Super Champion privileges referred to in Section 14(d) shall be terminated in the event (a) a Super Champion violates any of the WBO Rules and Regulations, (b) for unsportsmanlike conduct or activities unbecoming to a professional boxer, (c) for drug abuse (of either illegal drugs or performance-enhancing drugs), or (d) conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude.

(2) The Super Champion Privileges referred to in Section 14(d)(1) to 14(d)(3) shall be terminated in the event of the loss of any boxing contest or in the event a WBO Champion relinquishes the WBO World Championship Title unless the World Championship Committee recommends that Super Champion status be retained and a majority of the WBO Executive Board resolves that Super Champion status be retained.

## **SECTION 15. NONCHAMPIONSHIP FIGHTS or NON-WBO CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHTS**

(a) A WBO champions shall not participate in a non-championship fight that is not a WBO Championship without the prior authorization of the WBO World Championship Committee. This authorization shall be subject to such conditions as the WBO World Championship Committee determines. In addition, this authorization will be granted only on the condition that the WBO Champion pay a fee to the WBO that is the equivalent of the amount that he WBO Champion would have paid to the WBO if the non-championship fight were conducted as a WBO Championship fight.

(b) If a WBO Champion participates in a non-WBO Championship or Non-title fight as the case may be, the WBO World Championship Committee may order the WBO Champion fulfillment of his Mandatory title defense immediately thereafter in spite of the WBO Champion being within his voluntary title defense period.

(c) A WBO Champion who wins a non-WBO Championship in weight class that is different than the weight class in which he holds his WBO Championship must decide

within ten (10) days of the non-WBO Championship which title in which weight class he will retain. No WBO Champion may hold a non-WBO Championship in a weight class that is different from the weight class of his WBO Championship.

(d) The WBO may vacate the title of any Champion who conducts a contest in the Champion's Weight Division which is not a defense of the title.

## **SECTION 16. SANCTION FEES**

The WBO shall be paid a Sanction Fee of a rate according to the following schedule:

a) Champion and Challenger:

(1) Three percent (3%) of their purses with a minimum of \$1,000.00 and a maximum of \$250,000.00 per boxer.

(2) A Unified Champion is a WBO Champion who holds more than one World Championship of World Sanctioning Bodies recognized by the WBO (the WBO, the WBA, the IBF and the WBC). The WBO sanctioning fee for a Unified Champion shall be two percent (2%) of his purse with a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$250,000. The WBO Sanctioning fee for the Challenger to a Unified Champion shall be three percent (3%) of his purses with a minimum of \$1,000.00 and a maximum of \$250,000.00.

b) Promoter:

(1) The Promoter's Sanction Fees for fights which are neither a Unified nor a Unification Championship shall be:

(A) \$3,000.00 in fights in which the combined purses of the boxers is up to \$500,000.00 plus \$1,000 for the Welfare Fund.

(B) \$4,000.00 in fights in which the combined purses of the boxers exceeds the sum of \$500,000.00 and is up to \$1,000,000.00 plus \$3,000 for Welfare Fund.

(C) \$5,000.00 in fights in which the combined purses of the boxers exceeds the sum of \$1,000,000.00 and is up to \$3,000,000 plus \$10,000 for Welfare Fund.

(D) \$6,000.00 in fights in which the combined purses of the boxers exceeds the sum of \$3,000,000.00 and is up to \$5,000,000 plus \$15,000 for Welfare Fund.

(E) \$7,000.00 in fights in which the combined purses of the boxers exceeds the sum of \$5,000,000.00 plus \$18,000 for Welfare Fund.

(F) The above notwithstanding, the Promoter's Sanction Fees for a Championship in the Heavyweight Division shall be \$15,000 plus \$10,000 for Welfare Fund

(2) The Promoter's Sanction Fees for fights involving a Unified or a Unification Championship shall be:

(A) \$4,500.00 in fights in which the combined purses of the boxers is up to \$500,000.00 plus \$1,000 for the Welfare Fund.

(B) \$6,000.00 in fights in which the combined purses of the boxers exceeds the sum of \$500,000.00 and is up to \$1,000,000.00 plus \$3,000 for Welfare Fund.

(C) \$7,500.00 in fights in which the combined purses of the boxers exceeds the sum of \$1,000,000.00 and is up to \$3,000,000 plus \$5,000 for Welfare Fund.

(D) \$9,000.00 in fights in which the combined purses of the boxers exceeds the sum of \$3,000,000.00 and is up to \$5,000,000 plus \$7,000 for Welfare Fund.

(E) \$10,000.00 in fights in which the combined purses of the boxers exceeds the sum of \$5,000,000.00 plus \$10,000 for Welfare Fund.

(F) The above notwithstanding, the Promoter's Sanction Fees for a Unification or Unified Championship in the Heavyweight Division shall be \$15,000 plus \$10,000 for Welfare Fund

c) Welfare Fund:

The World Boxing Organization is a not-for-profit corporation committed to aid other institutions in the areas of education, rehabilitation, research that relates to boxing and boxing safety, and other social causes according to our constitution and bylaws. The Welfare Fund is devoted solely to the not-for-profit purposes of the World Boxing Organization.

d) Sanction Fees are due whether or not a Championship is awarded:

In the event a sanctioned fight results in a no contest or a sanctioned fight is held as an overweight fight, all sanctioning fees are due regardless of whether a Championship is awarded.

e) The term "Purse" shall mean all gross payments of any or all consideration paid to a boxer for participation in a WBO Championship, including any or all gross purse, compensation derived from pay-per-view, cable or satellite transmission, television broadcast, or internet distribution, shared promotion fees (in the case where the boxer is promoter or co-promoter) including amounts calculated and paid following the contest and emoluments directly or indirectly of every kind.

f) It shall be the responsibility of the Promoter who receives the WBO Sanction to collect from the contestants and remit to the WBO all fees owed pursuant to these Rules.

## **SECTION 17. PROMOTER'S ANNUAL WBO REGISTRATION**

(a) A promoter who is not registered with the World Boxing Organization as a Promoter and who has not paid its annual registration fee cannot promote WBO World Championship contests or participate in the bids on WBO World Championships. The Promoter's Annual Registration Fee is US \$1,000.00 if paid on or before January 31 of the current year and US \$1,500.00 if paid after January 31 of the current year.

(b) The WBO President and/or the Chairman of the World Championship Committee shall have the authority and be responsible for collecting all the registration fees from the promoter and all sanction fees regarding WBO World Championship fights and shall remit them to the Treasurer of the Organization.

## **SECTION 18. RETURN FIGHTS**

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 in a Vacant Title Fight), 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.

## **SECTION 19. FAILURE OF THE CHAMPION TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTRACT OR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RULES**

(a) If any WBO Participant, including WBO World and Regional Champion(s) fails to comply with his contractual obligation to fight in any WBO Championship Contest without justifiable cause, or is determined by a Host Commission, a licensing commission or otherwise has tested positive for an illegal or any performance enhancing drug, or fails to inform the WBO of any medical condition, impairment or any other circumstance which jeopardizes his participation in a WBO World Championship contest, or if a WBO Participant or any of his team members misleads, attempts to mislead, or petitions a Local Boxing Commission to illegally or incorrectly license said WBO Participant, the Committee may recommend to the WBO President and to the Executive Committee that the fighter be stripped of the title and that the title be declared vacant, or take any action deem proper, equitable and just against the WBO Participant

in accordance with these regulations.

(b) Prohibited Conducts

- (1) Domestic Violence
- (2) Sexual Assault
- (3) Child Abuse
- (4) Usage off illegal drugs and/or any performance enhancing substances including, but not limited to Steroids/Anabolic Steroids
- (5) Any criminal conduct (Misdemeanor and/or Felony) that implies moral turpitude
- (6) Any other conduct deemed by the World Boxing Organization contrary to the fundamental principles of the organization

(c) Procedures - In General

The WBO World Championship Committee shall have all powers and authority to request, examine, evaluate and consider any and all relevant facts and supporting evidence from any WBO Participant pertaining to any allegation(s) of violation(s) of these prohibitions.

(1) Show Cause Notice

In the event the WBO World Championship Committee determines there is cause to believe there is the possibility of a violation of any of the prohibitions of these Championship Rules by a WBO Participant, it shall notify the WBO Participant through the methods set forth in these Regulations, that the WBO Participant must Show Cause why the enforcement of this provision, or as otherwise provided for in these Regulations, should not be imposed. The Show Cause Notice shall established the potential violation that must be responded to and the evidence, documentation, and procedure established by the WBO World Championship Committee to responde to the Show Cause Notice. Failure to address and/or submit any required or supporting evidence by the WBO Participant within the time frame set forth in the Show Cause Notice will constitute waiver of any right to contest the Show Cause Notice. Upon receipt of the WBO Participant's response to the Show Cause Notice, the WBO World Championship Committee shall determine whether there has been a violation of a prohibition contained in the WBO World Championship Regulations, and issue a ruling on the consequences for such a determination of a violation(s).

All Notifications of rulings shall have immediate effect upon issuance. Methods of verifiable notifications are as follows:

- (1) Posting on the official WBO Web Page - This means of notification suffice for purposes of this rule

- (2) Personal Service
- (3) Email
- (4) Notice to WBO Participant in care of his Promoter, Manager, or Advisor
- (5) Any other verifiable methods

(d) Rulings

(1) Automatic - Vacant Title

If the WBO Champion is found guilty or pleads guilty of any of the prohibitions set forth herein by a competent court with jurisdiction, the WBO World Championship Committee may recommend to the WBO President and Executive Committee that it withdraw the WBO Champion recognition and declare the title "Vacant", effective as of the date of the official registered guilt.

If the affected former WBO Champion challenges his conviction(s) in a competent Court of Appeals with jurisdiction, and the Appeals Court reverses the conviction(s), the WBO Participant may request the WBO World Championship Committee reinstatement in the WBO Ratings according to his weight division and be classified at the number one (1) position. Such request must comply with the ABC and WBO Ratings Criteria.

(2) Vacant Title based on facts determined by the WBO World Championship Committee

In the event a possible violation of any of the prohibitions of these Championship Rules by a WBO Participant subject of a governmental procedural process, such as a criminal proceeding, the WBO World Championship Committee may make its determination of the Show Cause process established by these Rules without regard to the verdict of the governmental process. The WBO World Championship Committee may recommend to the WBO President and Executive Committee, which shall make its determination of the Show Cause process and its ruling independent of any governmental procedure process that arises from, or relates to the same nexus of operable facts.

(e) Other Rulings

In connection with any Show Cause process, the WBO World Championship Committee shall have the power and discretion to issue all determinations and rulings including, but not limited to:

- (1) A lower rated position in the WBO or Regional Ratings
- (2) Exclusion from the WBO or Regional Ratings
- (3) Banned from WBO or Regional Ratings for a period no less than two (2) years
- (4) Suspension from all WBO or Regional Contests

(5) Withdraw WBO or Regional Sanction

(6) Any other rulings deem necessary, helpful, or convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies and intent of the World Boxing Organization

(f) However, if the Champion is unable to defend his Championship within the time periods provided in these Rules because he is physically disabled for a justified cause, and said disability has been verified and accepted by the World Championships Committee, the Champion may be granted a reasonable time to recover from the disability and retrain to competitive condition, which shall not in total exceed 180 days. The disability extension will be granted only if the Committee determines, based on competent medical advice, that the Champion is reasonably expected to recover from his disability within the maximum allowable term of the disability extension. The Committee may condition its approval of a disability extension upon the Champion providing interim medical certifications that he is reasonably expected to recover within the term of the disability extension.

(g) A disability extension shall be approved only by the vote of the World Championships Committee. If the Champion's recover time exceeds the maximum term of the disability extension, or if upon receipt of an interim medical certification the World Championship Committee determines that the Champion is not reasonably likely to recover and be prepared to defend his Championship within the term of the disability extension, the title shall be declared vacant and a Vacant or Interim Championship fight or fights, such as a box off, as the case may be, shall be held for the title pursuant to the provisions of the World Championships Regulations.

(h) The Championship Committee may order an Interim championship bout or bouts when the Champion is incapacitated, inactive, or when a Champion is moving out of his division to fight for another championship. In this case the interim Champion must defend his interim title against the Champion, if the Champion who vacated his Title due to disability is medically able and prepared to compete for the Championship within 180 days of the Interim Championship. If an interim Championship is held due to a Champion's inactivity, the Champion must defend his title against the Interim Champion within 120 days of the interim Championship or the Interim Champion shall become Champion.

(f) In any of the above mentioned circumstances, a former Champion must meet the WBO and ABC Rating Criteria to be classified.

## **SECTION 20. PROCEDURE WHEN A TITLE IS DECLARED VACANT**

(a) A World Championship may be lost for breach of contract, for disability to fight or to make the required weight, inactivity, or for any other reason established in the Regulations that govern World Championships, but a World Championship shall only be obtained as the result of a bout or bouts duly authorized by the World Championship Committee. In the case that a World Championship is declared vacant, The Committee

shall determine if the Vacancy should be filled by a contest between the two Best Classified Contenders Available, or a box off among the four Best Classified Contenders Available. In either event, the contestants as determined by the Championship Committee shall be granted a period not to exceed thirty (30) days to negotiate a contract for the vacant World Championship or an Interim World Championship, as the case may be with a duly qualified promoter. The WBO President may, upon the request from either contestant in a championship or any of the contestants in a box off for which a purse bid has been ordered, order a purse bid to be held within ten (10) days from the date of the request. In the event that the contestants fail to negotiate the contract within the 30 day period, the President may also order a Purse Bid for that Vacant or Interim Championship, pursuant to the procedure established in these Regulations.

(b) When a boxer obtains the World Championship title or an Interim World Championship title. Or after a box off in any category in a fight for a vacant title, he shall defend the title against the Mandatory Challenger within a term which shall not exceed one hundred eighty (180) days counting from the date he acquired the title.

## **SECTION 21. DRAW DECISION**

If a World Championship fight is declared a draw or a no contest or if for any reason both contestants in a Championship fight simultaneously cannot continue fighting, or if for any reason not under the control of the contestants the fight ends prematurely while both contestants are still, in the judgment of the Referee, prepared to continue, or, if for any other reason, the official or officials duly designated for such purpose fail to render, or are prevented from rendering a decision after the bout, the Champion shall retain the Championship title.

## **SECTION 22. RINGS**

The rings used in World championship fights shall not measure less than eighteen (18) feet (5.486 m) nor more than twenty-four (24) feet (7.315 m) per side of the rope, and the floor of the ring shall extend beyond the ropes not less than eighteen (18) inches (457.2 cm). The floor of the ring shall be padded with a one inch (25.4 mm) layer of Enslolite or its equivalent, placed on a one inch (25.4 mm) construction wood base or other appropriate material stretched and secured under the platform. The ropes of the ring may be three (3) or four (4) in number and not less than one (1) inch (25.4 mm) of diameter. All the ropes shall be covered with a soft material. When three ropes are used, the same shall extend in three parallel lines at two (2) feet (.610 m), three (3) feet (.914 m) and four (4) feet (1,219 mm) from the floor, the second at thirty (30) inches (762.0 mm), the third one at forty-two inches (1066.8 mm) and the fourth rope at fifty-four (54) inches (1371.6 mm) from the floor of the ring.

## **SECTION 23. OFFICIALS**

(a) The WBO International Officials Committee shall keep a list of officials -- Judges and

Referees -- qualified to act in WBO World Championship contests for the purpose of the appointments to be made by the President. The President shall appoint in an impartial manner and according to availability, the officials for the World Championship contests, which shall be three (3) JUDGES who shall keep the score and ONE non-scoring Referee. However, where it may be necessary for a Referee to keep score, the President may appoint TWO (2) JUDGES and ONE (1) REFEREE to consign the score.

(b) The officials shall be remunerated for their services in the fights according to the following schedule:

<b>Total Purse</b>	<b>Referee</b>	<b>Judge</b>
Up to \$250,000	\$1,600	\$1,300
From \$250,000 to \$500,000	\$2,000	\$1,600
From \$500,001 to \$1,000,000	\$2,400	\$1,800
From \$1,000,001 to \$3,000,000	\$2,800	\$2,000
From \$3,000,001 to \$5,000,000	\$3,200	\$2,250
From \$5,000,001 to \$8,000,000	\$3,600	\$2,500
Over \$8,000,000	\$5,000	\$3,500

(c) The Promoter shall also be responsible to pay the Supervisor's fee in an amount equal to the fee payable to a Judge based on the above remuneration schedule. The Officials fees as herein provided shall be paid by the Promoter at or before the date that all purse deposits are required to be made by the Local Boxing Commission, but in no event later than the Rules Reading Ceremony.

(d) No official shall be authorized to collect any other sum of money under penalty of suspension or cancellation of his license. It is the responsibility of the Local Boxing Commission or the Authority in whose jurisdiction the contest takes place to require that the officials be paid according to the schedule determined herein. No official who is not a licensed member of the World Boxing Organization and who has not been appointed by the President shall be authorized to act as an official in a WBO World Championship contest.

(e) The officials appointed by the WBO President shall be present at the place where the championship contest shall be held two (2) days before the Championship Contest, except when there are special circumstances. The Promoter shall remit coach class round trip airline tickets to the Officials and to the Supervisor. The Promoter shall also make the necessary arrangements for lodging and meals for these officials at the Promoter's expense. In all World Championship contests, the WBO President shall endeavor to appoint neutral officials, that is, officials who are not of the same nationality of place of residence or origin of the Champion or the Challenger(s), or of their respective agents. USA residents shall be considered neutral if they are residents of

different states or commonwealths as the contestants. When the contestants are of the same nationality, the officials that are also of the same nationality, residence or origin of the contestants, shall be considered neutral for the purposes of these Regulations.

(f) The WBO President shall appoint a Supervisor and such assistants as he determines necessary or convenient for World Championship contests.

(g) The WBO Supervisor is empowered to resolve, with the information and advice that may be offered by the Local Boxing Commission, any problem, matter or incident that has to be solved with respect to the holding of the fight that relates to the awarding of the WBO Championship and these Rules, including the resolutions required to deal with unforeseen events or acts of God that require immediate solutions that may not be practically referred to the President or the Executive Committee of the World Boxing Organization. If an atmospheric phenomenon or a circumstance that may be resolved in less than 2 hours results in delay in commencement of a World Championship, no decision shall be made to postpone a Championship prior to the expiration of 2 hours. Any decision to postpone a Championship shall be made after consultation among the Supervisor, the Local Boxing Commission, the Promoter and the contestants.

(h) The decision of the Supervisor in such exceptional case shall be final.

(i) The WBO recognizes and abides by Local Boxing Commission rules and regulations concerning the appointment of Officials to a World Title Contests. The WBO President shall have the discretion to accept or reject officials so selected.

(j) No member of the Executive Committee of the WBO, whether elected or appointed, shall be allowed to act as a Judge or a Referee in a WBO World Championship or a WBO Regional or WBO Zone Championship fight.

## **SECTION 24. REFEREES**

(a) The Referee shall be the chief official in all Championship contests and shall be in charge of the control of the fight.

(b) Before the Championship contest begins, the Referee shall identify the Chief Second for each one of the Contestants. The Chief Seconds shall be responsible for the conduct of his or her Contestant's corner.

(c) It is the customary act of sportsmanship that the Contestants shake hands before the fight immediately after the Referee's Instructions and when the fight is over.

(d) The Referee shall examine the bandages and gloves of each Contestant before the fight begins to make sure that the gloves are free of any extraneous substance that could be harmful to the opponent, and that the bandages of each contestant are in conformity with the WBO World Championship Regulations.

(e) The Referee may stop the fight and consult with the ringside physician on whether,

in the physician's opinion, a contestant is physically able to continue.

(f) The Referee may impose discipline and enforce the WBO Rules and the Uniform Rules regarding the conduct and behavior of the Contestants and Seconds.

## **SECTION 25. COUNT**

(a) When a contestant is down, the Referee shall order the opponent to retire to the farthest neutral corner and shall immediately begin the count on the fallen contestant. The Referee shall audibly announce the count while he moves his arm downward indicating the end of each second of the count.

(b) If the opponent refuses to remain in the neutral corner farthest from the fallen boxer, the Referee shall stop the count until the boxer returns to the corner and shall then resume the count at the point in which it was interrupted. The fallen fighter shall take the compulsory eight (8) count.

(c) If, when reaching the count of eight (8), the fighter is up, the Referee, if he deems it necessary, may examine said contestant taking all the time needed to evaluate whether the contestant is fit to continue. If the Referee determines that the fighter is fit to continue, the Referee shall promptly order the contest to continue.

(d) If the contestant taking the count is still down when the Referee calls the count of ten (10), the Referee shall wave both arms indicating that the contestant has been knocked out.

(e) A fighter may not be saved by the bell in any round. If a contestant is down when a round's three-minute duration has expired, the timekeeper shall not ring the bell, and the Referee shall continue the count until the contestant rises or is counted out. If the Referee determines that the contestant is on his feet and fit to continue the fight before he reaches the ten count, he shall indicate to the timekeeper to ring the bell and the round will thereupon terminate. The one-minute rest period will then commence at the termination of the round as determined by the Referee. Only the Referee may make the determination when the round ends when there is a knockdown within 10 seconds of the end of the round. If a timekeeper inadvertently rings the bell before the Referee determines that the knocked down fighter is fit to continue, the Referee will continue his count and resolve the knockdown and determine the end of the round without regard to the inadvertent bell. If the Referee determines that the knocked down fighter is fit to continue before the ten count, he will thereupon terminate the round and will instruct the timekeeper to commence the one-minute rest period from the point of that determination.

(f) A contestant shall be considered down when any part of his body, other than his feet, is on the floor, or if he is hanging helplessly over the ropes, and only is held up by the ropes, as the result of a legal blow. Only the Referee may determine whether there has been a knockdown.

## **SECTION 26. FOULS**

(a) The WBO adopts and incorporates by reference the Uniform Rules of the Association of Boxing Commissioners (the Uniform Rules) as amended from time to time for all WBO World Championships and Regional or Zone Championships.

(b) Each WBO Participant acknowledges that the Uniform Rules are published on the Association of Boxing Commissioners Website. Each WBO contestant shall acknowledge receipt of the Uniform Ruler

## **SECTION 27. SECONDS**

Each contestant in a Championship contest shall be allowed not more than four (4) Seconds. One of these Seconds shall be designated the Chief Second, responsible for the conduct of the corner during the fight.

## **SECTION 28. DRUGS OR STIMULANTS**

a. (a) The use of illegal drugs or performance enhancing drugs or stimulants before or during the Championship contest by any of the contestants shall be sufficient cause for the disqualification of the contestant guilty of said use.

a. (b) The determination of illegal drug use or performance enhancing drug use or stimulants use under this Section or Section 19 (a) may be made only by the Host Commission for the Contest or the WBO Participant's Licensing Commission if supported by test results by WADA, VADA or any internationally recognized anti-doping entity.

a. (c) Only plain water may be given to a contestant in the course of the bout. Lubricants around the eyes is allowed in amounts within the Referee's discretion; the use of lubricants, or any other substance on a contestant's arms, legs and body is prohibited in Championship fights.

(b) The use of hemostats such as Thrombin, Avetine or Adrenalin 1/1000 solution shall be allowed between rounds to control the bleeding from minor cuts and lacerations sustained by a contestant as permitted by the rules and regulations of the Local Boxing Commission. If the Local Boxing Commission has no rule concerning permissible hemostats, then only Adrenalin 1/1000 is permitted. Each contestant is obligated to know and comply with the rules and regulations of the Local Boxing Commission as to use of hemostats.

(c) The World Boxing Organization encourages all Local Boxing Commissions to conduct anti-doping tests before or after the fight. If the Local Boxing Commission conducts the tests, they shall be administered in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Local Boxing Commission.

## **SECTION 29. BANDAGES**

In all weight classes hand bandages shall be restricted to twelve (12) yards of soft gauze bandage per hand not more than two (2) inches in width, held in place by not more than eight (8) feet (2.438 m) of surgical tape of One (1) inch (25.4 mm) of width. The surgical tape shall not be applied within one (1) inch (25.4 mm) of the knuckles of the contestant's hands.

## **SECTION 30. WEIGHT OF THE GLOVES**

(a) The weight of the gloves to be used in World Championship contests shall be as follows:

(1) From Mini Flyweight to Welterweight, eight (8) ounce gloves shall be used.

(2) From Jr. Middleweight to Heavyweight, ten (10) ounce gloves shall be used.

(b) The weight of gloves to be used is determined by the weight classification at the official weight-in, not the weight of the Contestants at the time of the contest.

(c) The Contestants may, by agreement, determine which brand of gloves are to be used. The Contestants may agree that different brands of gloves may be used by each Contestant. In the absence of agreement, the Promoter shall be responsible to provide not less than four (4) identical pairs of new gloves to be selected by the Contestants for use in the championship contest and for back-up. The weight of the gloves shall be as per Section 20(a) based on the Weight Division of the championship contest.

## **SECTION 31. PRESENCE OF A WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION SUPERVISOR AT ALL SANCTIONED WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTESTS**

The President of the Organization shall attend or designate a WBO Supervisor to attend every World Championship contest sanctioned by the WBO. The duties of said Supervisor shall be to represent the WBO at the Championship Match and prefight events including the weigh in, the Rules Reading Ceremony, and the dressing room instructions, to interpret and enforce the WBO Rules, and to award the Championship belt. The Supervisor of the World Boxing Organization shall submit to the President a complete report, which shall include expenses incurred, and other matters pertinent to the designation within the ten (10) days following the contest. The President shall submit this written report to the Executive Committee.

## **SECTION 32. PROTECTORS**

The protective cups and mouth protectors shall be compulsory for all boxers participating in championship contests. A World Championship contest is not to be terminated by a low blow, as the protector that contestants use must be sufficient to withstand any low-blow which might incapacitate a contestant (Please refer to Section 27(b)(13)). All contestants are required to have 2 mouthpieces at the start of the contest.

## **SECTION 33. INSURANCE**

With the approval of the Executive Committee, the President of the World Boxing Organization may enter contracts with one or several life insurance companies, to cover the boxers involved in world title contests, as well as to cover the officials of the organization and its Supervisors, and the member of the organizations as the case may be. The amount and types of the insurance shall have such limits and coverage as the WBO determines. Upon review of insurance premium the President shall have the authority to increase the money charged to the promoter for payment of the insurance fee for the fighter.

## **SECTION 34. GRIEVANCES**

Any WBO Participant, including, but not limited to a Boxer, Manager, or Promoter who is or could be affected by a determination of the World Championship Committee who wishes to contest such a determination must, as his or her sole and exclusive remedy, file a complaint or grievance pursuant to the WBO Appeal Regulations. In all cases the complaint shall be referred to the WBO President, who may attempt for a reasonable period to resolve the complaint or grievance amicably. The WBO President may reject a complaint or he may refer it to the Grievance Committee which shall determine the complaint or grievance in accordance with the WBO Appeals Regulations.

## **SECTION 35. MISCELLANEOUS**

(a) It is the WBO's Policy that all of the activities of the WBO shall be conducted without discrimination based on race, creed, religion, nationality or political belief. No WBO Participant may engage in, encourage, abet, or take sides, direct or indirectly, in controversies between contestants on account of race, creed, religion, nationality, political belief or any other difference other than the natural ability of the contestants. The World Boxing Organization reserves the right to cancel a sanction granted to a World Championship contest or to withdraw its recognition as Champion to a Title Holder or the sanctioning of a Challenger, or to cancel the Promoter's license to promote World Championship contests for a violation of this prohibition. The Organization may also suspend, or withdraw its recognition to the agents of a WBO Participant who is in violation of this prohibition.

(b) Any member of the World Boxing Organization who violates these regulations or collaborates in the violating thereof, may be subjected to deprivation of his position as regular member of the Organization. A WBO World Champion or Regional Champion who violates these rules may lose the recognition of the Title, which shall then be declared vacant.

(c) Any notice to a boxer required under these rules shall be to the boxer or in care of his Manager or Promoter at his or his Manager's or Promoter's address by personal service, or first class mail, or by certified mail, or by private delivery service, such as UPS, Fed Ex, DHL or other similar services, or by e-mail address or fax number to whom such notices may be sent. Any notice by the WBO to a boxer shall be effective when dispatched in any

of the alternate manners provided under this paragraph or when posted on the WBO Web Site. Notices to managers, promoters or any other WBO participant may be made in the same manner. It is the obligation of all WBO participants to advise the WBO of his or her current contact information for notification purposes. Electronic notification, fax notice, or posting on the WBO web site shall be as effective as written notice under these Regulations.

(d) These Regulations are to be interpreted in conformity with the Laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. All WBO Participants agree and consent that the exclusive venue for any or all action in which the WBO is made a party, whether it is to enforce, interpret or declare the application of these Regulations or to appeal from any determination of the WBO, including, but not limited to a determination of the Grievance Committee, may be maintained only in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or, if applicable, in the U.S. District Court for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(e) All WBO participants acknowledge and agree that the mandatory resort to the WBO Appeals Regulation is the sole and exclusive remedy for any claim, appeal, grievance or contest that arises from any right or status that is or could be subject to these Regulations or which results or could result from or relate to the interpretation or application of these Regulations. These WBO Grievance Committee determinations are Arbitrations within the contemplation of the Arbitration Law of Puerto Rico, 32 LPRA Section 3201 et. seq. and the US Arbitration Act, Title 9 of the United States Code and the Inter-American Convention on International Commercial Arbitration of July 30, 1975 and the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitration Awards of June 10, 1958. All WBO participants stipulate and agree that the nature of the sport requires a prompt, final and uniform resolution of all disputes concerning application of these Regulations by a tribunal experienced with the application of these Regulations and with special knowledge and experience in world championship professional boxing.

(f) These Regulations apply to all WBO Participants. The term WBO Participant includes any and all person or company who participates in any WBO activity, including, but not limited to any and all current or former WBO World Champions, WBO Regional Champions, or WBO Zone Champions; WBO World Championship contenders or WBO Regional Championship contenders, or WBO Zone Championship contenders; all WBO World, Regional or Zone ranked or rated boxers; Manager and/or Promoters of any of the foregoing; all WBO Members, and all WBO Officials. The WBO is a voluntary not-for profit organization. All WBO Participants who participate in any WBO sanctioned activity do so on the express condition that such WBO Participant is bound by and subject to these WBO World Championship Rules and all WBO Rules and Regulations.

(g) All WBO Participants by their participation acknowledge that the activities of the WBO Regional and Zone affiliates are conducted by separate not for profit corporate entities organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The activities of NABO are conducted by the North American Boxing Organization, Inc. The Activities of WBO Inter-Continental, WBO Latino, WBO Asia Pacific, WBO Oriental, WBO Asia Pacific Youth, and WBO Africa Zone and WBO China Zone are conducted by WBO Inter-Continental, Inc. All of these World Championship Rules, except for those specific to the World Championship itself and the Super Champion Rules, including, but not limited to

the Appeals Regulations of the Appeals and Grievance Committee, apply, to the extent not inconsistent with rules specifically adopted by the respective Regions or Zones, to these Regional and Zone participations. With respect to Regional or Zone Activities, where the term WBO Participant is used, it shall refer to the participation in the WBO affiliated Region or Zone. For example, where these Regulations apply to activities of the North American Boxing Organization, the term WBO Participant shall be interpreted to mean NABO Participant, and shall be intended to apply these Regulations to the NABO Activity to the extent not inconsistent with specifically adopted NABO Regulations.

(h) The Section or Sub-Section Headings, Table of Contents and Index in these Regulations are for convenience only and are not intended to limit the interpretation of the provisions of these Regulations.

## **SECTION 36. EXCEPTION TO THE REGULATIONS**

The World Championships Regulations may be amended at any time, with respect to any aspect, through an exception or special case, provided the amendment is approved by the majority vote of the World Championship Committee and the Executive Committee. If any of these Rules are determined to be unenforceable, the balance of these Rules shall remain in full force and effect.

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