



WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

INTRODUCTION

The present ruling emanates from an order issued by the WBO President Mr. Francisco "Paco" Valcárcel, Esq., on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, granting Teams Tszyu and Kurbanov five (5) days to file their respective arguments as to why they deserved the Mandatory Challenger designation in the WBO Jr. Middleweight Division (154 lbs).

Accordingly, on Saturday, August 7, 2021, this Committee confirmed receipt of email correspondence by Team Tszyu in compliance with the referenced order and addressing their merits and arguing why said fighter deserved the Mandatory Challenger designation. Whereas on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, Team Kurbanov filed their brief and arguments as to why said participant's accomplishments outweighed his counterpart and therefore deserved the Mandatory Challenger recognition. Also, on August 11, 2021, this Committee acknowledged receipt of additional correspondence filed by Team Tszyu responding to Team Kurbanov's submittal and ratifying their position for the Mandatory Challenger designation.

On Thursday, August 12, 2021, Team Kurbanov filed a sur-reply to Team Tszyu's final submittal and clarified their position as to the arguments addressed on their initial filing. Shortly after that, on the same date, Team Kurbanov filed two (2) additional points for this Committee's consideration.

Wherefore, having this Committee examined both parties' arguments, having reviewed each participant's professional record and accomplishments, and having examined the WBO regulations of World Championship Contests and their applicability and enforcement in this matter, and having the power, authority, rights, and ample discretion conferred by our rules, it is hereby determined as follows:

STATEMENT OF FACTS

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, the WBO President Mr. Francisco "Paco" Valcárcel, Esq., issued a notice letter ordering that Teams Tszyu and Kurbanov file their respective arguments within five (5) days as to why each participant deserved the Mandatory Challenger designation in the Jr. Middleweight Division; and,

WHEREAS, in compliance with the WBO's President's order, on Saturday, August 7, 2021, Team Tszyu filed written correspondence addressing Tszyu's professional accomplishments and argued the merits of why he deserved the Mandatory Challenger designation; and,

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, Team Kurbanov filed their arguments and conveyed their position as to why Kurbanov was more deserving of the Mandatory Challenger Designation; and,



WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, Team Tszyu replied Team Kurbanov's arguments and ratified their contention as to being more deserving for the Mandatory Challenger position; and,

WHEREAS, on Thursday, August 12, 2021, Team Kurbanov filed a sur-reply to Team Tszyu's reply correspondence and clarified their position addressed in their initial filing. Shortly thereafter, Team Kurbanov filed two additional points for the Committee's consideration; and,

WHEREAS, Team Tszyu's contention is that said participant is the highest classified available boxer in the WBO Jr. Middleweight Ratings that best satisfies the criteria pursuant to the WBO Mandatory Challenger provisions outlined in the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests. In support of their contention, Team Tszyu argues the following:

- (i) Tim Tszyu's professional record is a perfect one comprised of nineteen (19) wins with no defeats nor draws and with fifteen (15) of said wins by way of Knock Out (KO); and,
- (ii) Tim Tszyu is already a PPV Star in Australia and currently recognized as one of the emerging superstars in professional boxing; and,
- (iii) The only boxer in the world to headline two (2) stadium shows during 2020; and,
- (iv) Tim Tszyu's professional fights are broadcast live in the USA through ESPN, as well as in Russia, U.K., South America, and Asia, respectively; and,
- (v) Currently holds the WBO Global Jr. Middleweight Championship Title; and,
- (vi) Has successfully defended his WBO Jr. Middleweight Regional Championship five (5) times in eighteen (18) months, making Tszyu the most active and dominant contender in the Jr. Middleweight Division; and,
- (vii) In the past eleven (11) months, during the Covid-19 pandemic, Tszyu has successfully defended the WBO Global Jr. Middleweight Title on four (4) occasions; and,
- (viii) Tszyu defeated former WBO World Welterweight Champion Jeff Horn via TKO in round eight (8) and did so faster and in more dominant fashion than Terence Crawford; and,
- (ix) At the time of the Tszyu/Horn bout, Tszyu occupied the ninth (9) position and Horn fifth (5) position, respectively in the WBO Jr. Middleweight Ratings and thus, fulfilled his classification at least annually per the applicable provision; and
- (x) Tszyu is highly respected in the boxing community and an exemplary professional with a perfect reputation, who carries himself with class and distinction of a future world champion; and,
- (xi) Tszyu is a very active fighter who has displayed great loyalty to the WBO and continues to defend his WBO Global Jr. Middleweight Title; and,



WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

- (xii) Tszyu's resume is comprised of world-ranked opposition, former world champions, and world title challengers; and,
- (xiii) Tszyu's last eleven (11) professional bouts have taken place over ten (10) to twelve (12) rounds; and,
- (xiv) Tszyu's last six (6) successful professional bouts were against the following:
 - 1. Dwight Ritchie 19-1-0 (2 KO's) via Unanimous Decision (UD) (WBO Jr. Middleweight Global Title Defense)
 - 2. Jack Brubaker (16-2-2) via TKO in round four (4) (WBO Jr. Middleweight Global Title Defense)
 - 3. Jeff Horn (20-2-1) via TKO in round eight (8) – Horn was rated at the number five (5) position in the WBO Jr. Middleweight Ratings (WBO Jr. Middleweight Global Title Defense)
 - 4. Bowyn Morgan (21-1-0) via TKO in round one (1) (WBO Jr. Middleweight Global Title Defense)
 - 5. Dennis Hogan (28-3-1) via TKO in round five (5) – Former Two (2) Time World Title Challenger (WBO Jr. Middleweight Global Title Defense)
 - 6. Steve Spark (12-1-0) via TKO in round three (3) (WBO Jr. Middleweight Global Title Defense)
- (xv) Tszyu's last four (4) opponent's total combined record consists of 81-7-2. In comparison, the combined record of Kurbanov's last four (4) opponents, across the same period, is 70-8-2, but with twenty-nine (29) of those wins belonging to Liam Smith, who suffered a controversial decision in Kurbanov's native Russia in May 2021; and
- (xvi) The Smith/Kurbanov bout was widely criticized by the boxing media and considered questionable judging; and,
- (xvii) In 2020, Kurbanov fought three (3) times and each time against very low-level opposition; and,
- (xviii) Kurbanov struggled to a ten (10) round decision against fellow Russian Ismail Illiev (12-1-1), stopped underwhelming Russian-based Kazakh Iliya Ochkin (6-1-0) in round one (1), and beat an aging Dmitry Mikhaylenko (23-6) via TKO in round two (2), having said opponent lost eight (8) of his last ten (10) bouts and having been stopped in his past three (3) fights; and,
- (xix) Tszyu has occupied the number one (1) position in the WBO Jr. Middleweight Division Ratings since March 2021 and, prior before that, was the number two (2) contender from September 2020. In contrast, Kurbanov has only been the number two (2) contender since June 2021 and previously was outside the division's top five (5); and,



WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

- (xx) None of Tszyu's current television deals would conflict with the WBO Champion's television deals; and,
- (xxi) Tszyu sits at the number one (1) position in WBO Jr. Middleweight Ratings because his opponents have been superior and has stayed completely loyal to the WBO; and,
- (xv) Kurbanov has fought for three (3) WBO titles but routinely fails to defend them; and,
- (xvi) Tszyu's victories have all come without controversy, and generally via emphatic knockouts; and,
- (xvii) Team Tszyu underlines that both Jeff Horn (former WBO World Champion) and Dennis Hogan (former world title challenger) victories were key moments in Tszyu's ascent in the WBO Ratings based on their respective professional accomplishments and considering their positions in the WBO World Ratings; therefore, Tszyu's opposition is far beyond the level of Kurbanov has faced; and,

WHEREAS, Team Kurbanov's arguments are based on Section 6 of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests and in consideration of said fighter's record and accomplishments. In doing so, RCC Promotions, believes that Kurbanov is more deserving of the Mandatory Challenger position in light of the following:

- (i) Kurbanov has an extensive and impressive record of accomplishments and achievements certifying him as a class boxer; and
- (ii) Undefeated during his six (6) year professional career and has held the WBO Youth, WBO Inter-Continental, and WBO International Championship Titles; and,
- (iii) In May 2021, Kurbanov defeated then rated at the number two (2) position in the Jr. Middleweight Ratings, former WBO World Champion Liam Smith; and,
- (iv) Liam Smith's only previous defeats were to pound-for-pound king Canelo Alvarez and the highly rated Jaime Munguia; and
- (v) Kurbanov's activity weighs entirely in his favor when compared to that of Tim Tszyu; Kurbanov put his then number five (5) rated position at risk and challenged then number two (2) rated Liam Smith winning via unanimous decision (UD); and,
- (vi) Kurbanov has fought three (3) times in the last year, with his last twelve (12) bouts having been scheduled for ten (10) or more rounds; and
- (vii) His amateur record in the Russian National Boxing Team is compiled of two-hundred twenty-five (225) wins in two-hundred fifty 250 amateur bouts; and,
- (viii) Kurbanov entered the WBO top ten (10) ratings prior to Tszyu until Tszyu's bout with then rated at number five (5) Jeff Horn; and,



WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

- (ix) Tszyu moved from the number nine (9) to number two (2) position in the WBO Ratings after defeating Horn, and subsequently, upon Brian Castaño winning the WBO Jr. Middleweight Championship, Tszyu moved up to fill the number one (1) position in the WBO Jr. Middleweight ratings; and,
- (x) Kurbanov challenged then rated at number two (2) Liam Smith, but after Tszyu defeated Jeff Horn was demoted to the number three (3) position and subsequently elevated back to the number two (2) position in the ratings after Brian Castaño's victory; and,
- (xi) Kurbanov has moved up step-by-step to the number two (2) position in the WBO Jr. Middleweight ratings; whereas Tim Tszyu vaulted from the number nine (9) to number two (2) position off the victory over Jeff Horn and thereafter elevated to the number one (1) to fill the vacancy in the Jr. Middleweight Division ratings; and,
- (xii) Tim Tszyu has contested three (3) "stay busy" fights while lobbying that the WBO will allow him to fill the vacant mandatory contender without being required to face any further challenger of any significance; and,
- (xiii) The quality of opposition of both Tszyu and Kurbanov is similar, but there are some important differences as follows:
 - 1. Kurbanov's opponents have represented fifteen (15) different countries, while Tszyu's resume indicates the "Best of Australia/NZ"; and,
 - 2. Tszyu's most recent opposition was Dennis Hogan of Ireland (a resident of Australia), who was coming off a fifteen (15) month layoff after his KO loss to Jermall Charlo in his last outing; and
 - 3. Kurbanov's top win came in 2021 against then number two (2) rated contender and former WBO Champion at 154 lbs Liam Smith; and
 - 4. Tim Tszyu's top win came a year ago in August 2020 against then number five (5) rated and former WBO Champion at 147 lbs Jeff Horn; and
 - 5. Kurbanov has had positive TV exposure, most importantly in his last bout against Liam Smith, but it is a fact that, because of Tszyu's name and captive market (Australia/NZ) in which he operates, Tszyu has had the opportunity to participate in bouts that have captured the attention of local fans; and,
 - 6. Kurbanov is an outstanding citizen and has not reported to having been involved in any outside of the ring issues; and,
 - 7. Kurbanov has complied with Section 8. of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, while Tszyu's position and defending



WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

- such classification is fast approaching the one-year anniversary as outlined in said provision. Failure to make said defense can result in a loss of the classification; and,
8. There are no current TV deals that would conflict with Kurbanov's participation in a bout with anyone who is recognized as the WBO Jr. Middleweight Champion; and,
 9. Team Kurbanov believes that said fighter's professional record, long affiliation with the WBO, and his consistent rise through the WBO Jr. Middleweight Ratings via WBO Regional Titles and his challenge of and victory over former WBO Jr. Middleweight Champion and number two (2) contender Liam Smith tip the scales in his favor; and,
 10. RCC Promotions and Team Kurbanov are ready, willing, and able to contest a bout with Tim Tszyu to determine the identity of the Mandatory Challenger for the WBO Jr. Middleweight Title considering that both participants have strong arguments and support in different categories and absent a ruling in favor of Kurbanov, the next best option available is to order a box-off between the number one (1) and number two (2) contenders and with the winner being declared Mandatory Challenger in the Jr. Middleweight Division;

WHEREAS, having this Committee considered the facts states herein, having reviewed the arguments presented by the parties, and having examined our WBO Rules and Regulations of World Championship Contests, their applicability, and enforcement in this matter, and having the power, authority and discretion conferred by our rules, it is hereby determined as follows:

APPLICABLE PROVISIONS

It is an uncontested fact that WBO Jr. Middleweight Participants Tim Tszyu and Magomed Kurbanov are bound by the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests. Specifically, Section 35 (f)ⁱ provides in relevant: "*These Regulations apply to all WBO Participants. The term WBO Participant includes, but not limited to, WBO World Champions and WBO World Championship Contenders. 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*". As such, this Committee has jurisdiction and the authority conferred by its rules to resolve the matter at issue accordingly.

The WBO World Championship Committee's authority to consider the issue at hand is governed under Section 1(b)(3), and (24) of the WBO Rules and Regulations of World Championship Contests, which provide, in relevant as follows:

SECTION 1. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE



WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

(3) To determine whether a challenger seeking Mandatory Challenger designation is acceptable to the Champion's television network; and,

(24) To designate a Mandatory Challenger; and,

Furthermore, the criteria to be met for the designation of Mandatory Challenger is governed by Section 6 of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, which provides as follows:

SECTION. 6 DESIGNATION OF 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 WBO 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 judgement 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 ABC Criteria for Ratings of Professional Boxers; and,

(3) In the event that the Champion has a contract with a major television network (HBO, Showtime, ZDK, 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 of Mandatory Challenger contained in the WBO web site. Alternatively, the Committee



WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

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 referee criteria, or because the Champion has an approved unification bout, or an approved unification tournaments 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 Mandatory Challenger because of criteria three (3), or for other good cause, the Championship Committee has the authority to order an elimination 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 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 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 a signed contract for the defense of his championship, even against the Mandatory Challenger approved and designated by the Committee, shall not itself constitute compliance with these Regulations, unless the Championship defense actually takes place within the stipulated time period.

Conversely, once a WBO Participant enters the WBO World ratings, said contender shall comply and meet the criteria outlined in Section 8 of the governing WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests. The preceding provision states as follows:

SECTION 8. CRITERIA TO MAINTAINING 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 WBO 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 classification promulgated by the Classifications Committee, and he shall comply with the Association of Boxing Commissions' Criteria for Ratings of



WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

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 10-round fight, without just cause, he may be eliminated from or lowered in the list of classification.

Furthermore, our WBO Ratings Criteria state as follows:

- 1. Positive professional record with special emphasis on boxers' recent activities*
- 2. For a boxer to receive a top rating, the boxer shall have competed in at least (2) bouts scheduled for 10 rounds or 4 bouts scheduled for 8 rounds*
- 3. Regional title in any one of our organizations, such as North American Boxing Organization (NABO), Intercontinental Boxing Organization (WBO-INT), WBO Latino, and WBO Asia Pacific*
- 4. Quality of competition*
- 5. Frequency of competition*
- 6. Positive TV exposure*
- 7. Good relationship with the community*
- 8. No drug related problems*

ANALYSIS

Before this Committee are two requests for the WBO Mandatory Challenger designation in the Jr. Middleweight Division filed by the division's two (2) highest classified available contenders Tim Tszyu, rated at the number one (1) position, and Magomed Kurbanov, who occupies the number two (2) spot, respectively. In addition, the Committee has before its consideration an alternative request by Team Kurbanov in which absent a ruling favoring Kurbanov, the Committee shall order a box-off between both fighters to determine the mandatory position.

Therefore, having carefully examined the parties' submissions, the uncontested facts stated herein and having reviewed the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests and applicable provisions, we are of the position that Tim Tszyu best satisfies the required criteria for



WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

the designation of Mandatory Challenger in the Jr. Middleweight Division. Consequently, we explain our foundation below.

MANDATORY CHALLENGER HIGHEST AVAILABLE CLASSIFIED AVAILABLE BOXER

It is an undisputable fact that per the WBO Jr. Middleweight ratings, Participant Tim Tszyu occupies the highest classified position occupying the number one (1) spot. In contrast, Participant Magomed Kurbanov sits at the number two (2) highest position in the division. Furthermore, there is no controversy as to the timely filing by both petitioners requesting mandatory challenger designation.

ACCEPTABLE RECORD, ACCOMPLISHMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT – CLASS BOXER

There is also no dispute as to each participant having perfect and respectable professional records to date. Regarding Tszyu, his record comprises nineteen (19) wins, no losses, and no draws; with fifteen (15) of those wins by way of knockout (KO). Kurbanov's resume, it consists of twenty-two (22) wins, no losses, and no draws; with thirteen (13) of those wins coming via knockout (KO). Notwithstanding the foregoing, we must distinguish which record stands out the most considering both participant's last five (5) opponents.

TIM TSZYU

1. Steve Spark (12-1-0) – Had won his previous six (6) bouts
Bout Date: 7/7/21
Result: Tszyu via TKO in round three (3)
WBO Title Defense: Number five (5)
2. Dennis Hogan (28-3-1) – Former WBO Mandatory and Title Challenger
Bout Date: 3/31/21
Result: Tszyu via TKO in round five (5)
WBO Title Defense: Number four (4)
3. Bowyn Morgan (21-1-0) – Had won his previous six (6) bouts
Bout Date: 12/26/20
Result: Tszyu via TKO in round one (1)
WBO Title Defense: Number three (3)
4. Jeff Horn (20-2-1) Former WBO World Champion and rated number five (5)
Bout Date: 8/2/20
Result: Tszyu via TKO in round eight (8)
WBO Title Defense: Number two (2)



WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

5. Jack Brubaker (16-2-2) Had three (3) wins and one (1) draw before the bout
Bout Date: 12/6/19
Result: Tszyu via TKO in round four (4)
WBO Title Defense: Number one (1)

Tszyu's Total Combined Record for his last five (5) opponents

Wins: 97

Losses: 9

Draws: 4

Based on the foregoing, we believe that the above-referenced opponents, two (2) of which were a former WBO World Champion and WBO Mandatory Title Challenger, possess respectable records and shall be considered quality opposition. Further, this Committee must underline that Tszyu's last five (5) bouts were consecutive WBO Global Jr. Middleweight Championship Title defenses won impressively by way of Technical Knockout (TKO). Moreover, Tszyu's TKO average on these bouts was within four (4) rounds.

Lastly, the Committee believes that Tszyu's activity has been significant considering that upon winning the Vacant WBO Global Jr. Middleweight Championship Title on August 14, 2019, Tszyu has successfully defended his Regional Championship on five (5) occasions within a two (2) year term.

MAGOMED KURBANOV

1. Liam Smith (29-2-1) – Former WBO Jr. Middleweight Champion, rated number two (2) and had won five (5) of his last six (6) bouts
Bout Date: 5/7/21
Result: Kurbanov via Unanimous Decision (UD)
Title Contested: Vacant WBO International
2. Dmitry Mikhaylenko (23-6-0) – Had lost five (5) out of his six (6) previous bouts
Bout Date: 11/7/20
Result: Kurbanov via TKO in round two (2)
Non-Title Bout
3. Ilya Ochkin (6-1-0) – Although Ochkin had won five (5) out of his six (6) last bouts, the opposition is questionable and undeserving
Bout Date: 8/22/20
Result: Kurbanov via KO in round one (1)
Non-title bout
4. Ismail Illiev (12-1-1) – Had won four (4) of his last six (6) bouts



WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Bout Date: 3/7/20

Result: Kurbanov via Unanimous Decision (UD)

Non-title bout

5. Diego Gabriel Chaves (27-4-1) – Had loss two (2) of his last six (6) bouts

Bout Date: 11/2/19

Result: Kurbanov via Unanimous Decision (UD)

Vacant WBO International

Kurbanov's total combined record

Wins: 97

Losses: 14

Draws: 3

Bear in mind that although Kurbanov's total combined record of his last five (5) opponents is similar to Tszyu's, there are particular distinctions we must address. First, the level of opposition faced by Kurbanov is questionable, with only the former WBO Jr. Middleweight Champion Liam Smith being a legitimate opponent. Further, this Committee cannot overlook that the Kurbanov/Smith bout decision was considered highly controversial, including Team Smith filing a request for "Return Fight" (Rematch), which the WBO denied. Secondly, three (3) out of the last five (5) participants lost via unanimous decision (UD), including the controversial decision with Liam Smith. Whereas against Mikhaylenko and Ochkin, Kurbanov won via TKO and KO, respectively.

Concerning Kurbanov's level of activity, even against disputable opposition, he fought on five (5) occasions from 2019 to 2021, like his counterpart Tszyu. Nonetheless, it is unquestionable that the WBO sanctioned only one (1) bout, which was against Liam Smith for the Vacant International Title. Nevertheless, we must recognize that Kurbanov won the WBO Youth, InterContinental, and International Regional Titles, respectively, but never pursued a title defense from either of them.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE WBO AND ABC RATING CRITERIA

There's no controversy as to both petitioners complying with the applicable ratings criteria timely, but Tszyu occupies the highest rated position in the Jr. Middleweight Ratings at number one (1) with Kurbanov at number two (2), respectively. Tszyu's position was merited based on his convincing TKO victory over former WBO World Champion and then rated at number five (5), Jeff Horn. Further, we must stress that the Tszyu/Horn bout was his second successful WBO Regional Championship Title defense via TKO. Thereafter, upon Brian Castaño becoming the new WBO Jr. Middleweight Champion, Tszyu moved up, filling the vacancy of the number one (1) spot left by Brian Castaño. In contrast, Kurbanov occupied the number five (5) position and contested the



WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Vacant WBO International Championship against then rated number two (2) Liam Smith. The bout resulted in a Unanimous Decision (UD) in favor of Kurbanov.

Finally, concerning the TV deal conflicts, neither Tszyu nor Kurbanov are subject to contractual agreements that conflict with the WBO Champions' network. Nevertheless, we must emphasize that Tszyu's most recent fights have been broadcast and steamed both domestically and internationally through highly regarded sports platforms, and his positive TV exposure certainly outweighs Kurbanov. In closing, both fighters have good a relationship with their community and have no drug related issues.

THE WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE'S POWERS AND DISCRETION

This ruling shall not be understood as an automatic enforcement of the mandatory title defense obligation as such obligations may be subject to modification or extension by the WBO World Championship Committee for a good cause, including but not limited to, granting sanction approval for a Unification Championship Bout(s) as such terms and conditions determined by the Championship Committee. Furthermore, this ruling shall not be interpreted to grant nor create additional rights to Tim Tszyu. The scope of this "Resolution" is hereby limited to the designation of Mandatory Challenger in the Jr. Middleweight Division. Therefore, in the event that the Jermell Charlo/Brian Castaño rematch bout is agreed, the WBO World Championship Committee reserves its right to grant sanction approval considering that Unification Championship Bouts trump WBO mandatory title defense obligations.

Lastly, this Committee reserves its right to issue all further rulings and determinations necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests.

Therefore, having carefully examined both fighters' records, accomplishments, and achievements, having reviewed their level of activity and opposition, having confirmed compliance with the applicable rating requirements, having considered other relevant criteria, this Committee believes that participant Tim Tszyu as the highest classified contender in the Jr. Middleweight Division, best satisfies the criteria outlined in our Regulations of World Championship Contest for Mandatory Challenger Designation.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, this Committee will rule as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The WBO World Championship Committee hereby designates Tim Tszyu the official Mandatory Challenger in the Jr. Middleweight Division pursuant to the terms and conditions outlined herein.



WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

2. This "*Resolution*" is hereby final, definitive, and enforceable.

This is a final decision of the WBO Championship Committee. The affected WBO participant may appeal such determination to the Complaint and Grievance Committee as per Rule 34, which as per Article 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 27th day of August 2021

WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luis Batista Salas", is written over a horizontal line.

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

Cc: Francisco Valcárcel, Esq./President

ⁱ See, § 35 (f) of the WBO Regulations