



**WBO RATINGS COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION**

**In the Matter of a challenge of WBO ranking classifications of:
Jack Catterall, Teofimo Lopez and Jose Carlos Ramirez**

Parties:

Peter Aguayo, Esq.

Jeffrey Benz, Esq.

David Berlin Eq.

Attorney for
Jose Carlos Ramirez

Attorney for
Jack Catterall

Attorney for
Teofimo Lopez

Issues Presented

Whether the WBO Ratings Committee erred on conceding the ranking positions of Jr. Welterweight Contenders Jack Catterall, Teofimo Lopez and Jose Ramirez, per March 2022 WBO World Jr. Welterweight Ratings.

Factual Analysis

The controversy before this Committee is the questioning by WBO Jr. Welterweight Participants Jack Catterall, Teofimo Lopez, and Jose Carlos Ramirez with respect to their ranking positions in the WBO Jr. Welterweight (140 lb.) ratings, as published for March 2022¹. Each fighter, through their counsel, questions their positions and, by their application, seek that the WBO supply applicable explanation as to the basis for the ranking of their clients and that their current ranking standing should be modified upward, to reflect to their true standing.

On March 27, 2022, Francisco Valcárcel, Esq., President of the World Boxing Organization (WBO), ordered the parties to submit in writing their arguments and supporting evidence as to why the WBO Ratings Committee shall grant their requests. On Friday, April 1, 2022, the WBO confirmed receipt of email correspondence on behalf of all the parties in compliance with President Valcárcel's order. Consequently, the matter was referred to this Committee for the corresponding evaluation and ruling.

On March 14, 2022, the WBO confirmed receipt of email correspondence by Mr. Jeffrey Benz, Esq., on behalf of Jr. Welterweight Participant Jack Catterall seeking that Catterall's world rating not be affected by his loss against Josh Taylor on Saturday, February 26, 2022. On March 14, 2022, the WBO In House Counsel Gustavo Olivieri, Esq., responded via email to Mr. Benz's correspondence advising him that unless the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBofC) annuls the official registered bout result of Taylor/Catterall, the WBO could not maintain Catterall at the number one position in the WBO Jr. Welterweight Ratings. Mr. Olivieri referred to a similar scenario whereby former Unified Lightweight Champion Vasyl Lomachenko was rated at the number two position after losing to Teofimo Lopez considering the competitiveness of the bout and his extraordinary professional accomplishments, including but not limited to his "WBO Super Champion" status. Lastly, Mr. Benz was informed that the WBO President would recommend to the Ratings Committee that Catterall be afforded a top rating in the Jr. Welterweight Division; and,

¹ See, WBO World Ratings March 2022 <https://www.wboboxing.com/wp-content/themes/wbo21/pdf.php>



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On March 24, 2022, the WBO confirmed email correspondence by Mr. Benz, on behalf of Mr. Jack Catterall, challenging his client's rating as per the WBO World Ratings published in March 2022, and requesting the written responses/explanations as to: (i) the basis for the WBO's Rating Criteria as to Mr. Jack Catterall, and the justification for its rating; (ii) specific explanation on how Teofimo Lopez occupied a higher position in the ratings than Catterall after losing the last fight in a controversial decision. The boxing official, a member of the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC), Ian John Lewis, was demoted as a result of incompetence, demanded a list of names, email addresses and business addresses of the WBO's officials who vote on the rating of boxers, the identification of all communications between the WBO personnel and any third parties, including but not limited to any promoters, in particular Top Rank and Bob Arum, and any other Top Rank principals or employees concerning the ranking of Catterall and Lopez in the past 60 days whether written, electronic or verbal; as well as a the written process by which Catterall may appeal his decision of the WBO in respect of his ranking; and,

On March 26, 2022, the WBO acknowledge receipt of email correspondence by Mr. Peter Aguayo, Esq., on behalf of Jr. Welterweight Participant Mr. Jose Ramirez questioning his client's rating as per the WBO World Ratings for the month of 2022, requesting the applicable explanation and rationale, and claiming that Ramirez should be in the top two of the ratings, if not number one in the Jr. Welterweight division. Mr. Aguayo's contended: that the WBO's rating criteria and ABC Guidelines for objective and consistent criteria for ratings of professional boxers; that Mr. Ramirez possesses positive professional record with special emphasis on boxer's recent activities; that Mr. Ramirez's professional record is comprised of 27 wins with only 1 defeat; that; that Ramirez's most recent win was against Jose Pedraza whereas the most recent fights for Catterall and Lopez were losses; that Mr. Ramirez defeated Pedraza, rated 6th position in the WBO Jr. Welterweight Ratings at the time; that the boxer shall have competed in at least 2 fights scheduled for ten rounds or 4 bouts scheduled for eight; that boxer Teofimo Lopez has not fought at Jr. Welterweight, and it is unknown if he will be the same fighter at a higher weight class; that Ramirez's quality of competition, which includes defeating Maurice Hooker-unifying the WBO/WBC Championship; that Pedraza previously held the WBO and IBF Championships; that Ramirez defeated former WBC Champion Viktor Postol; that Ramirez defeated current number five WBO contender Jose Zepeda; that Catterall has fought and won against regional title holders; that Catterall's only world title bout was against Josh Taylor, whereas Lopez had one successful world title defense as IBF Lightweight Champion; whereas Ramirez successfully defended his WBC Championship on four occasions and the WBO once; that Ramirez's good relationships within the Community, including raising money for children's hospitals and cancer awards; public service announcements about Covid-19 precautions as his community was being greatly affected by the virus; and that Ramirez has no drug-related issues, and requesting that Mr. Ramirez be rated in the top two of the WBO World Jr. Welterweight Ratings.

On March 29, 2022, the WBO President Valcárcel, Esq., notified Mr. Benz, by letter, requesting that he submit issues by March 24, 2022, and in compliance with Section 11 (b)(1) of the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act². Subsequently, on March 29, 2022, Mr. Benz requested an extension to the WBO President's order dated Sunday, March 27, 2022, to file his client's position due to his personal participation in an arbitration proceeding. Mr. Benz requested until Friday, April 1, 2022, to comply with the WBO's order. Accordingly, the extension was granted to all the interested parties.

² See, Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act <https://www.congress.gov/106/plaws/publ210/PLAW-106publ210.pdf>



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On March 31, 2022, the WBO confirmed receipt of email correspondence by Mr. Peter Aguayo, on behalf of Jose Ramirez, regarding the granting of WBO's extension of time to submit arguments. Mr. Aguayo claim that Ramirez satisfies the WBO Ratings Criteria, emphasizing that: (i) Ramirez (27-1-0) has 11 more wins than Teofimo Lopez; that Ramirez had recent win against then contender, and former world champion Jose Pedraza; that Lopez and Catterall's last fights, were losses against Kambosos, Jr., and Taylor, respectively; that (ii) that Lopez has not fought at the Jr. Welterweight division nor has an upcoming fight scheduled in the division; (iii) Ramirez's positive amateur record, including participating for the United States of America 2012 Olympics, having won the Junior Golden Gloves National Championship, and becoming a Junior Olympic National Champion; (iv) the quality of opposition faced by Ramirez, including his recent victory over then #6 world-rated contender Jose Pedraza, having Unified the WBO/WBC Championships upon defeating Maurice Hooker; that Ramirez defeated former WBC Champion Viktor Postol and contenders Jose Zepeda, Antonio Orozco, and Mike Reed, respectively; that (v) in support of his contention regarding the quality of opposition, Mr. Aguayo argued that Jack Catterall has only fought against regional titleholders and that his only fight with a World Champion was against Undisputed Jr. Welterweight Champion Josh Taylor; that Teofimo Lopez had only one title defense of his Lightweight IBF Championship against Vasyl Lomachenko; that (vi) Ramirez's TV exposure is a positive one whereby seven (7) of his last eight (8) fights have been televised on ESPN platforms, with the exception of Ramirez vs. Hooker Unification, that was transmitted via DAZN, and that (vii) Ramirez's good relationship with the community actively participating raising money for children's hospital, and cancer wards; and (viii) Ramirez has no drug-related problems. Team Ramirez's contends that Teofimo Lopez's designation as "WBO Super Champion", and the privileges and rights afforded by such designation, does not satisfy the criteria set forth in the applicable provision; and requests that this Committee install Ramirez in the top two positions, if not at the number one accordingly.

on April 1, 2022, the WBO acknowledged receipt of email correspondence by Mr. David Berlin, Esq., on behalf of Teofimo Lopez requesting that this Committee reaffirms its decision concerning Lopez's position as per the March 2022 WBO World Ratings; that in support of their contention, Mr. Berlin contends that (i) Lopez is a former WBO and Undisputed Lightweight Champion by dethroning Mr. Vasiliy Lomachenko, widely considered the best "pound for pound" boxer in the world at the time; (ii) Lopez was named 2020 Boxing Writers Association of America's Boxer of the year; (iii) Lopez ring accomplishments a result of his impressive boxing skills and devastating power matched by his star power headlining both ESPN and DAZN platforms in the past two years; (iv) Lopez has been a regular headliner at the Madison Square Garden Arena over the past four years; and (v) Lopez is one of the most accomplished and recognized stars in the sport. Mr. Berlin also pointed out that Teofimo Lopez lost a split decision loss against George Kambosos, Jr. as result of a life threatening, undiagnosed medical condition that, in addition to threatening his life, caused him to him to be admitted to a hospital for treatment. Despite the foregoing circumstances, Lopez went ahead to honor the contract for the event, evincing tremendous courage during the hard-fought 12 round world title fight. Mr. Berlin reasoned that, in recognition of Lopez's professional accomplishments, he was necessarily entitled move to the number three position at Jr. Welterweight, which the WBO granted. Mr. Berlin also emphasized that upon Lopez's installment at the number three position, per the February 2022 WBO World Ratings without protest from Jack Catterall or Jose Ramirez protested.

Mr. Berlin showed that the three (3) subject participants, Mr. Catterall, Mr. Lopez, and Mr. Ramirez, each suffered one (1) loss against commendable opponents, albeit not at the level of Lopez's opposition particularly given the latter's historic win over Vasyl Lomachenko. Consequently, Mr. Berlin request that this Committee



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reaffirm Teofimo Lopez's position at number two, Jack Catterall at number three, and Jose Ramirez at number four, respectively; and,

On April 1, 2022, the WBO confirmed receipt of email correspondence by Mr. Jeffrey Benz, Esq., on behalf of Jack Catterall that raised the following issues: that (i) Catterall has always been loyal to the WBO and thankful when the WBO made him the mandatory challenger in the Jr. Welterweight Division; that (ii) Catterall has only ever fought for the WBO winning the European and Inter-Continental Regional Championships; that (iii) at the end of 2018, Catterall occupied the number one position at Jr. Welterweight but agreed to step aside for the good of the sport and allowed the champions to unify the division; that (iv) Catterall fought Josh Taylor on Saturday, February 26, 2022, and most observers agree that he won and should have been named the Undisputed Jr. Welterweight Champion as a result; and that (v) there was tremendous controversy surrounding the decision on the cards, which resulted in Taylor winning the bout and as a result thereof, on March 10, 2022, the British Boxing Board of Control sent the WBO and the other recognized sanctioning bodies a letter reporting that one of judges, Ian John Lewis had been demoted and requesting that Catterall maintain the mandatory challenger status designation; and,

Mr. Benz asserts that, even though Lopez recently fought at Lightweight and lost against Kamposos, Jr., he, nonetheless, occupies a higher position than Catterall, whose bout result was highly controversial, and where one of the officials was demoted as a result of poor judging, and where sustaining Catterall, as mandatory challenger, was supported by the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBofC), and, as such, it is inexplicable how the WBO could rank Lopez ahead of Catterall. Mr. Benz argued that Jose Ramirez lost his fight against Taylor via unanimous decision on May 22, 2021, in Las Vegas, Nevada; that the Nevada State Athletic Commission (NSAC), did not demote any of the officials or make any request to keep Ramirez at the number one position or as mandatory challenger in the Jr. Welterweight Division nor there Taylor/Ramirez bout outcome was controversial. Consequently, Team Catterall pointed out the basis for the WBO ranking Ramirez ahead of Catterall. Mr. Benz concluded that Jack Catterall has been loyal to the WBO for many years, has followed the rules, and has been doping-free; that the unfortunate outcome of the Taylor/Catterall bout, his marketing value and name recognition have decreased increased dramatically; that there is no objective or evidence indicated as to basis for the WBO ranking Catterall behind Lopez and Ramirez, respectively, and that that Catterall be ranked at the number one position in the Jr. Welterweight Division and be designated mandatory challenger accordingly.

Having this Committee considered the facts herein, having considered the arguments submitted by the parties, having reviewed the applicable WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests and other relevant rules, their applicability, and enforcement in this matter, and having the power, authority and discretion conferred by our rules, it is hereby determined as follows:

(1) Applicable Provisions

All parties agree that they are bound by the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests.

Section 35(f)¹ 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**



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Regulations". [Emphasis Added]. As such, this Committee has jurisdiction and the authority conferred by its rules to resolve the matter at issue accordingly.

The question presented before the WBO Ratings Committee, is whether the WBO Ratings Committee exercised proper judgment, pursuant to WBO and ABC Rating Criteria, in considering ranking positions of Mr. Jack Catterall, Mr. Teofimo Lopez and Mr. Jose Ramirez as per the March 2022 WBO World Jr. Welterweight Ratings. This Committee must emphasize that any ratings structure is subjective in nature³ and therefore, the World Boxing Organization sets forth specific criteria to be evaluated in conjunction with the Association of Boxing Commissions' guidelines regarding ratings of professional boxers. Based on the foregoing assessment, this Committee issues its monthly ratings in compliance with the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act.⁴

The following are the applicable WBO Rating Criteria and other relevant criteria pertaining to this matter:

Criteria Requirement: Positive Professional Record with Special Emphasis on Boxers Recent Activities

a) Jack Catterall

- 26 Wins / 1 Loss / No Draws
- 13 Wins via Knockout (KO)
- His most recent bout was against Undisputed Jr. Welterweight Champion Josh Taylor (18-0-0) on Saturday, February 26, 2022, at The SSE Hydro Glasgow, Scotland, U.K.
- Catterall lost the bout via Split Decision (SD)

b) Teofimo Lopez

- 16 Wins / 1 Loss / No Draws
- 12 Wins via Knockout (KO)
- Lopez's most recent outing was against then IBF Lightweight Mandatory Challenger George Kamposos, Jr., on Saturday, November 27, 2022, at the Madison Square Garden Arena, New York, New York
- The Unified WBO, WBA & IBF Lightweight Championship Titles were at stake
- Lopez loss via Split Decision (SD)

c) Jose Ramirez

- 27 Wins / 1 Loss / No Draws

³ See, ABC Rating Criteria <https://www.abcboxing.com/abc-ratings-criteria/>

⁴ See, Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-106hr1832enr/pdf/BILLS-106hr1832enr.pdf>



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- 17 Wins via Knockout (KO)
- Ramirez's last fight was against then world rated contender Jose Pedraza on Saturday, March 4, 2022, at the Save Mart Arena, Fresno, California
- Ramirez defeated Pedraza via Unanimous Decision (UD)

1) Criteria Requirement: [WBO Regulation §35(f)]

Positive Amateur Record with Special Emphasis on Medals Obtained in International and Olympic Tournaments:

a) Jack Catterall

- Amateur record comprised of 48 Wins / 18 Losses

b) Teofimo Lopez

- Amateur record of over 170 Wins / 20 Losses
- Won US Olympic Trials
- Represented Honduras and reached the finals of the Olympic qualifying tournament for the Americas
- Competed at the 2016 Summer Olympic in Rio de Janeiro

c) Jose Ramirez

- Amateur record of 85 Wins / 8 Losses
- Competed for the United States in the 2012 Olympics
- Junior Golden Gloves National Champion
- Junior Olympic National Champion

2) Criteria Requirement: [WBO Regulation §35(f)]

WBO Regional Titles of Any of Our Organizations:

With respect to this criteria, Jack Catterall won WBO Regional Championship Titles, to wit: A WBO European Jr. Welterweight Championship and (b) WBO Inter-Continental Jr. Welterweight Championship respectively. Teofimo Lopez and Jose Ramirez won regional titles from other non-WBO recognized sanctioning organizations.

4) Criteria Requirement: [WBO Regulation §35(f)] Quality of Competition:

a) Jack Catterall

- Catterall's professional record consists of 26-1-0 (13 KO's)
- Catterall's total combined record sums 412 wins 583 losses and 42 draws
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- Since Catterall's installment in the WBO World Ratings in December 2014, Mr. Catterall has not fought a world rated contender, as required by WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, per WBO guidelines for objective and consistent written criteria for professional boxers, as set forth by the Association of Boxing Commissions
- Since Catterall's ranked at the number #1 position in the WBO Jr. World Ratings in December 2018, he has not defended his classification against a world rated contender as required by our governing rules and regulations

b) **Teofimo Lopez**

- Lopez's professional record consists of 16-1-0 (12 KO's)
- Lopez's total combined record: 287 wins, 61 losses, and 7 draws
- Lopez Unified the WBO, WBA & IBF Lightweight Championship Titles defeating former three division WBO World Champion Vasyl Lomachenko via unanimous decision (UD) on Saturday, October 17, 2020, at the MGM Grand, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Lopez's 4 of the last 6 opponents were World Champions and/or World Championship Contenders (Masayoshi Nakatani, Richard Commey, Vasyl Lomachenko, George Kambosos, Jr.)
- Lopez's has fought against world rated contenders
- Lomachenko is considered by many one of the top three pound for pound best boxers in professional boxing

c) **Jose Ramirez**

- Ramirez's professional record is comprised of 27-1-0 (17 KO's)
- Ramirez's total combined record consists of 454 wins, 99 losses and 18 draws
- Ramirez Unified the WBO/WBC Jr. Welterweight Championships defeating former World Champion Maurice Hooker via TKO on Saturday, July 27, 2019, at Arlington, Texas, USA
- Ramirez's last four opponents are former world champions (Jose Pedraza, Josh Taylor, Viktor Postol, and Maurice Hooker)
- Ramirez's has fought world rated opposition

5) **Section 8. Criteria to Maintain Rating as a Classified Fighter**

To maintain his position on the official WBO Classification list and 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 role, contender number 1 and/or contender number 2 may lose his classification. It is the responsibility of each classified boxer



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to know the WBO and ABC Criteria for Ratings, to meet the criteria and to keep the WBO Classification Committee informed of all facts relevant to his rating.

6) **ABC Guidelines for Objective and Consistent Criteria for the Ratings of Professional Boxers**

- 1) Ratings must be based solely on win/loss records, level of competition and activity. The record of any top-rated boxer shall be verified by the ABC's official boxing registry.
- 2) No boxer can be rated in more than one division.
- 3) For a boxer to receive a top rating, the boxer shall have competed in at least (2) bouts scheduled for ten rounds or (4) bouts scheduled for eight rounds.
- 4) In order to maintain a top rating, the boxer:
 - a) shall compete at least once during **each** 12-month period from the time the boxer gets rated; and
 - b) shall have competed against another top-rated boxer within **each** 18-month period from the time the boxer gets rated.

A boxer who does not meet this level of competition shall not retain the boxer's rating. Exceptions can be made only for injuries, verified in writing by a licensed physician (M.D. or D.O.).

- 5) If a top-rated boxer loses to an un-rated boxer:
 - a) the top-rated boxer shall be lowered at least one position in the ratings; and
 - b) the un-rated boxer shall be considered for a rating somewhere in the top rating.
- 6) If two boxers are rated and compete against each other, and the lower rated boxer wins:
 - a) The lower rated boxer shall be elevated in the ratings and;
 - b) The higher rated boxer shall be lowered in the ratings.

a) **Catterall's WBO Rating Track Record at Jr. Welterweight**

- December 2014 – WBO Rankings moved Catterall to number 13 position upon winning the Vacant WBO Inter Continental Championship Title against unrated Thomas Stalker (9-0-0)
- March 2015 - WBO Rankings moved up Catterall to number 12 position. Successfully defends his WBO Inter Continental Championship Title against unrated Cesar David Inalef (18-4-1)
- May 2015 - WBO Rankings moved up Catterall to number 11 position
- June 2015 - WBO Rankings moved up Catterall to number 10 position



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- July 2015 - WBO Rankings moved up Catterall to number 9 position. Successfully defends his WBO Inter Continental Championship Title against unrated Gabriel Fernando Punalef Calfin (22-6-3)
- November 2015 – WBO Rankings moved up Catterall to number two positions, occupying the number 7 position and successfully defends his WBO Inter Continental Championship Title against unrated Jarkko Putkonen (12-0-0)
- January 2016 – WBO Rankings moved up Catterall two positions, occupying the number 5 position.
- March 2016 – WBO Rankings moved up Catterall to number 4 position and successfully defended his WBO Inter Continental Championship Title against unrated Joe Hughes (14-1-0).
- June 2016 – WBO Rankings demoted Catterall to number 5 position, and fought unrated Lukasz Janik (16-20-1), in a non-titled bout, in August 2016.
- December 2016 – WBO Rankings moved up Catterall three positions, occupying the number 2 world ranking position, and successfully defends his WBO Inter Continental Championship Title against unrated Diego Gonzalo Luque (20-3-1).
- April 2017 – WBO Rankings demotes Catterall two positions, to the 4 spot and successfully defends his WBO Inter Continental Championship Title against unrated Martin Gethin (28-8-1)
- September 2017 – WBO Rankings Catterall moves up one spot occupying the number 3 position.
- November 2017 – WBO Rankings demotes Catterall demoted one position and installed at the number 4 spot. In October, Catterall fought a non-title bout against unrated Tyrone Nurse (35-2-2)
- May 2018 – WBO Rankings demotes Catterall one position to number 5. In March 2018, Catterall fought a non-title bout against unrated Kevin McCauley (15-163-12). Thereafter successfully defended his WBO Inter Continental Championship Title against unrated Christopher Sebire (26-10-1)
- June 2018 – WBO Rankings promotes Catterall to the number 3 position. Catterall successfully defended his WBO Inter Continental Championship Title against Unrated Tyrone McKenna (16-0-1)
- July 2018 – WBO Rankings promotes Catterall up one spot, occupying the number 2 position
- December 2018 – WBO Rankings promotes Catterall to the number 1 ranking position. Two months prior, in October 2018, Catterall successfully defended his WBO Inter Continental Championship Title against Unrated Ohara Davies (18-1-0)
- Catterall’s next three bouts prior to fighting Josh Taylor in February 2022, where against unrated and highly questionable opposition, namely Oscar Amador (10-17-0 and coming from 6 consecutive losses), Timo Schwarzkopf (20-3-0), and Abderrazak Houya (14-2-0)

DECISION - WBO RATINGS COMMITTEE

The question presented before this Committee by representatives of Welterweight Participants, Catterall (#3), Lopez (#2), and Ramirez (#4), is whether the WBO’s present world ranking in the Jr. Welterweight Ratings, for March 2022, should be reaffirmed, reversed, or modified.

Now, having carefully reviewed and appraised the facts and circumstances submitted by Mr. Jeffrey Benz, Esq., representative for Mr. Jack Catterall, and representative Peter Aguayo, Esq., representative for Mr. Jose Ramirez, and representative David Berlin, Esq., representative for Mr. Teofimo Lopez, and having duly having examined the records of and accomplishments of each fighter, having reviewed their level of activity and opposition, having reviewed the applicable WBO rating criteria, and our governing rules and regulations this Committee reaffirms in part and modifies in part accordingly.



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Jack Catterall's main contention is that he should retain his number one ranking position and, as such, be the mandatory challenger status at the WBO Jr. Welterweight World Ratings, based upon the result of the Taylor/Catterall scorecards; that the fight was controversial; that most observers considered that he had won the bout, and that the British Boxing Board of Control demoted one of the appointed judges, must be denied. The WBO Ranking Committee cannot agree with a reasoning as it contradicts the WBO governing rules and regulations. WBO believes that the Taylor/Catterall bout was a very close fight and the official scorecards rendered by the judges supported this contention by way of a split decision (SD) victory in favor of Taylor.

The British Boxing Board of Control conducted its own internal investigation and concluded that the overall result of the bout was correct, but for the amplitude of Ian-John Lewis' 114-111 scorecard. Nevertheless, the British Boxing Board of Control did not annul, reverse, or terminated the official bout result. Moreover, the "BBBofC" published an official press release, dated March 10, 2022, which in relevant parts, conclude, as follows: "Whilst the Board were satisfied that Mr. John-Lewis' scorecard did not affect the overall result of the contest, the Stewards of the Board did have issue with his margin." [Emphasis Added]. The WBO organization respects the British Boxing Board of Control's decision however, the BBBofC's decision is not binding upon the WBO organization. The request for Mandatory Challenger designation, this decision lies exclusively within the authority and discretion of the WBO Championship Committee.

Similarly, there have been many instances whereby controversial scorecards have been challenged. Most recently, the Lomachenko/Lopez WBO, WBA & IBF Lightweight Unification Championship Contest was subject to debate, in which one of the judges rendered a 109-119 score in favor of Lopez. As a result, and after considering his extraordinary professional accomplishments and "WBO Super Champion" status recognition, this Committee installed Vasiliy Lomachenko at the number two position in the November 2022 WBO World Lightweight Ratings. At the time, the number one contender was George Kambosos, who was in compliance with Our rules and regulations. By comparison, the present instance serves as a due comparison to the matter before this Committee. Furthermore, Mr. Catterall does not satisfy the professional achievements of Mr. Vasiliy Lomachenko. Mr. Catterall failed to fight a world-rated contender since his installment in the WBO World Jr. Welterweight Ratings, in December 2018. In fact, Mr. Catterall was demoted, from the number one position to the number three position in the WBO March 2022 World Ratings.

Additionally, Mr. Catterall has been non-compliant with the WBO's provision concerning the criteria imperative to maintain WBO rating. Furthermore, per the ABC's guidelines, Mr. Catterall failed to fight a classified fighter within the mandated 18-month period. Despite Mr. Catterall's multiple regional title defenses and the monthly rating changes in his division, Mr. Catterall was promoted to the number one ranking position and was granted an opportunity to fight for the WBO Championship Title. Mr. Jose Ramirez is a former WBO/WBC Jr. Welterweight Champion. Mr. Ramirez also fought Josh Taylor in a highly contested fight and was later ranked in the number six position in his division, as of June 2021, notwithstanding that Mr. Ramirez' achievements were superior to that of Mr. Catterall, he was, nonetheless, ranked below the top five positions in the world ratings. Based on the foregoing facts, this Committee reaffirms its position regarding Catterall retaining his number three spot in the WBO Jr. Welterweight Ratings.

Regarding the respective positions of Mr. Teofimo Lopez and Jose Carlos Ramirez in the WBO Jr. Welterweight Ratings, Mr. Lopez's professional accomplishments in the ring, and his status as "WBO Super Champion", establishes a robust foundational basis for his installment as the number three (3) rated Jr.



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Welterweight in the WBO World Ratings. Mr. Lopez lost a Split Decision (SD) to George Kambosos, albeit fighting with an undiagnosed medical condition, per representative's statement. Mr. Lopez asserts that, that considering the overall merits of all the parties involved, Lopez shall retain his position at the number two spot in the WBO Jr. Welterweight Ratings.

Mr. Jose Ramirez argues that he fully complied with applicable WBO Rating criteria; that he successfully defended his WBO/WBC Unified Championship; that his last four bouts have been against former world champions and highly qualified opposition; and that his most recent outing, after losing to Josh Taylor, was defeating, then number six rated contender, Jose Pedraza via Unanimous Decision (UD). Mr. Ramirez believes that, under such circumstances, he is entitled to a higher-ranking consideration than Lopez, who's last bout was a lost in October 2021.

This Committee agrees that both Lopez and Ramirez significantly satisfy the applicable rating criteria. Furthermore, it is undisputed that their amateur records, their impressive professional records, world championship accomplishments, quality of opposition, their level of activity, their TV exposure, recognitions, and other relevant factors merits that their applications be fairly decided. Emphasizing each of the participants' most recent fights, were, for Ramirez, was a victory against then number sixth ranked contender and former two division world champion, Jose Pedraza, on March 4, 2022.

Mr. Teofimo Lopez's last fight was in October 2021, against George Kambosos. Mr. Lopez suffered a Split Decision loss. Mr. Lopez has not fought in five months albeit his representative alleges, by implication, that claims that it may be the result of his alleged prior pre-existing medical condition. Certainly, the win/loss status in the boxer's career is a significant factor where fighters have similar, but subtle distinctions regarding their professional merits. Thus, Jose Ramirez win over Pedraza, and Teofimo Lopez' loss against George Kambosos, creates, therefore, a balance favoring Jose Ramirez higher ranking over Teofimo Lopez in the in the WBO World Jr. Welterweight Ratings.

Thus, this Committee, having considered all of the arguments raised by the representatives of Jack Catterall, and Teofimo Lopez, and José Ramirez, as analyzed heretofore, and having reviewed the applicable WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, and the Association of Boxing Commissioners guideline relevant to the enforceability of the instant appeal, and having the power, authority and discretion conferred by the WBO Rules and Regulations, now, therefore, resolve as follows:

1. The WBO Ratings Committee hereby rules as follows:
 - a) The Committee reaffirms Mr. Jack Catterall's number three (3) ranking position in the Jr. Welterweight World Ratings
 - b) Mr. Teofimo Lopez is hereby demoted to the number four (4) position in the Jr. Welterweight Ratings
 - c) Jose Ramírez is hereby promoted to the number two (2) position in the Jr. Welterweight Ratings
2. This "*Resolution*" is hereby final, definitive, and enforceable.



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This is a final decision of the WBO Ratings 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: April 17, 2022
San Juan, Puerto Rico

WBO RATINGS COMMITTEE

By: Samuel Viruet, Esq.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Viruet", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Chairman/Ratings Committee
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Luis Batista Salas, Esq./Championship Committee Chairman
Jeremy Koegel/Top Rank
Carl Moretti/Top Rank
David McWater/Team Lopez
Ron Rizzo/Team Lopez
Rick Mirigian/Team Ramirez

ⁱ See, WBO Regulation §35(f).