



**WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION**

In the Matter of WBO Female Featherweight Champion Amanda Serrano

Parties:

Mr. Jordan Maldonado
Manager & Trainer
Amanda Serrano

ISSUE PRESENTED

Whether WBO Participant Amanda Serrano lost her status as WBO Featherweight Champion in wake of her controversial split decision loss to the Undisputed WBO/WBA/WBC & IBF Lightweight Champion Katie Taylor, on Saturday, April 30, 2022, at the Madison Square Garden Arena in New York, New York, United States of America. Pursuant to her privileges as “WBO Super Champion” and this Committee’s powers and discretion conferred by the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, we respond in the negative and explain below accordingly.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On Saturday, September 10, 2011, with just 12 professional fights, Amanda Serrano won her first world title winning the “Vacant” International Boxing Federation (IBF) World Jr. Featherweight (130 lbs) Championship against Kimberly Connor via TKO in round 2. This bout was held at the Aviator Sports Complex, Brooklyn, New York, United States of America. After three consecutive successful bouts, Serrano challenged then World Boxing Council Jr. Lightweight (130 lbs) Champion Frida Wallberg, losing via a controversial unanimous (UD) decision at the Cloetta Center, Linkoping, Sweden.

In just 15 professional bouts, Serrano had contested two world championships at Jr. Lightweight from two of the four recognized sanctioning organizations. Thereafter, Amanda transitioned to the Lightweight (135 lbs) division challenging then World Boxing Organization (WBO) Lightweight Champion Maria Elena Maderna. Serrano won the bout via KO in round 6 at the Estadio F.A.B., Buenos Aires, Distrito Federal, Argentina, winning her first WBO World Championship.

Having Amanda continue to reap success in the pro ranks, on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, she moved down two weight categories fighting for the “Vacant” World Boxing Organization (WBO) Featherweight (126 lbs) Championship against Olivia Gerula at the BB King Blues Club & Grill, New York, New York, United States of America. Within ten seconds of round 1, Serrano won via TKO becoming a three division (126 lbs, 130 lbs & 135 lbs) world champion with two of the three world championships from the World Boxing Organization (WBO). At the time, Serrano held an impressive professional record comprised of 26-1-1.

On Saturday, July 30, 2016, Amanda successfully defended her World Boxing Organization (WBO) Featherweight Championship against Calista Silgado at the Barclays Center, Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A., winning via TKO in round 1. Thereafter, on Tuesday, October 18, 2016, accomplished another feat in becoming a three-division (122 lbs, 126 lbs, 135 lbs) WBO World Champion moving down one weight category to vie for the “Vacant” World Boxing Organization (WBO) Jr. Featherweight (122 lbs) Championship against Alexandra Lazar. Serrano stopped Lazar.



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with forty-four seconds left in round 1 winning via TKO. This bout took place during the annual World Boxing Organization (WBO) Convention held at the Caribe Hilton Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Amanda's following bout was a successful title defense of her World Boxing Organization (WBO) Jr. Featherweight Championship against the highly experienced veteran Yazmin Rivas winning via unanimous decision (UD). This bout was conducted at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York, United States of America. Notwithstanding Serrano's successful title reign at Featherweight, she decided to pursue another world title but in a lower weight class. On Saturday, April 22, 2017, Amanda won the "Vacant" World Boxing Organization (WBO) Bantamweight (118 lbs) Championship defeating fringed contender Dahianna Santana via TKO in round 8 and becoming a four-division WBO World Champion. This fight was also held at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York, United States of America.

After Amanda conquered the WBO Bantamweight title, she relinquished the championship and again move up to defend her World Boxing Organization Jr. Featherweight Championship against Edina Kiss on Friday, July 21, 2017, at the Sheraton Puerto Rico Hotel & Casino in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Serrano won by TKO in three rounds. One year later, Serrano took a huge step by jumping from Jr. Featherweight to Jr. Welterweight (140 lbs) contesting the "Vacant" World Boxing Organization (WBO) Jr. Welterweight Championship against the tough contender Yamila Reynoso.

Once again, Serrano wrote history by becoming a five-division WBO World Champ, however, these accomplishments did not suffice Amanda's pursuit for more. Therefore, she vacated the WBO Jr. Welterweight title and moved down six weight classes to the Jr. Bantamweight (115 lbs) division and won the "Vacant" World Boxing Organization Jr. Bantamweight Championship title defeating Eva Voraberger via KO in round 1 at the Madison Square Garden Theater in New York, New York, United States of America. Having Amanda won her sixth WBO World Championship, she returned to Featherweight and had successful title defenses against then contenders Heather Hardy, Daniel Romina Bermudez, and Yamileth Mercado, respectively within a two-year period.

At this time, Amanda held an outstanding pro record comprised of 42 wins with only 1 loss and 1 draw, and with 30 of said wins coming by way of knockout and considered by many boxing experts as Women's boxing pound per pound best fighter. However, some pundits debated such recognition considering the accomplishments of current Undisputed WBO, WBA, WBC & IBF Lightweight Champion Katie Taylor. Contrary to Serrano, Taylor had a decorated amateur career winning five consecutive gold medals at the Women's World Championships, gold six times at the European Championships, gold five times at the European Union Championships, and won gold at the 2012 London Olympics in the Lightweight Division, respectively.

Pertaining to Taylor's professional career, at present, she is a two-division WBO World champion having won the Lightweight and Jr. Welterweight Championships, and currently reigns as the Undisputed WBO, WBA, WBC & IBF Lightweight Champion. Her record is a perfect one consisting of 21 wins with no defeats nor draws.

Originally, the Taylor/Serrano bout was scheduled to take place in 2020, but in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, everything came to a halt. Nonetheless, upon boxing resuming in June 2020, each fighter took interim bouts to eventually face each other for undisputed supremacy in the Lightweight Division.



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However, we must stress that Serrano a natural Featherweight, again aspired to make history by moving to Lightweight challenging Taylor at her natural weight category. After much expectation, the parties agreed to fight each other and the stage was set for Saturday, April 30, 2022, at the iconic Madison Square Garden Arena in New York, New York, United States of America. The official bout result was a controversial split decision (SD) in favor of Katie Taylor. The scores rendered by the judges were (i) Benoit Roussel 96-94 in favor of Serrano; (ii) Glen Feldman 97-93; and (iii) Guido Cavalleri 96-93, respectively. Unfortunately, as result of the controversial outcome, mixed opinions of who really won the bout flourished creating a thirst for a future Taylor/Serrano rematch.

Conversely, the Taylor/Serrano bout was sanctioned subject to specific provisions considering that Serrano held the WBO Featherweight Champion and consequently if she was unsuccessful against Taylor, the WBO World Championship Committee should declare her WBO Featherweight title “Vacant.” Nonetheless, sanctioned the fight reserving its right to issue all rulings deem necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of our rules, including serving the best interests of the sport, the fighters, and the World Boxing Organization (WBO).

Now, on May 9, 2022, this Committee confirmed receipt of email correspondence by Mr. Jordan Maldonado, on behalf of Amanda Serrano requesting that Serrano’s recognition as WBO Featherweight Champion be retained considering her privileges as “WBO Super Champion,” her professional accomplishments, and the controversial decision of the historic Taylor/Serrano Undisputed Championship Contest.

Now, having this Committee considered the facts herein, having considered the arguments submitted by Team Serrano, and having reviewed the WBO 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

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

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”. [Emphasis Added]. 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 Sections 1(b)(15)(20) and (c), respectively of the WBO Rules and Regulations of World Championship Contests, which provide, in relevant as follows:



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SECTION 1. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

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

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

(20) To make or recommend exceptions or variations from the Rules as the WBO World Championship Committee determines are necessary; and

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

Furthermore, pertaining to WBO Participants recognized as “WBO Super Champions,” Section 14 of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests sets forth the applicable criteria for consideration and the rights and privileges afforded upon granting such distinction. The rule states as follows:

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



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(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.**



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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/\$7,400.00 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.



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ANALYSIS

We begin our *ratio decidendi* referencing an excerpt of the WBO preamble¹, which states, in relevant as follows: *“The World Boxing Organization’s Regulations are intended to reconcile the interests of all necessary elements of World Championship Boxing in a manner that is in the best interest of the sport. The most important interests are those of the Championship contestants themselves and their worldwide fans.” [Emphasis Added]*

The first question before this Committee is whether Serrano’s “WBO Super Champion” status is terminated based on her split decision (SD) loss to Katie Taylor. The provision governing the preceding has an exception whereby unless the WBO World Championship Committee recommends that “Super Champion” status be retained and a majority of the WBO Executive Committee resolves that such status be retained. Accordingly, this Committee convened to discuss the matter at issue and unanimously voted in favor of recommending the WBO Executive Committee that Serrano’s status as “WBO Super Champion” be retained considering her unquestionable professional accomplishments as referenced herein.

Now, the second issue at hand is whether pursuant to Serrano’s status as “WBO Super Champion” this Committee should extend the scope of the applicable provision and maintain her recognition as WBO Female World Champion in the Featherweight division after her controversial loss to Taylor. This Committee is of the opinion that per the powers and discretion conferred by our governing provisions, we can make exceptions from the rules, when necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO Regulations, including serving the best interests in the sport, the fighters, and the WBO.

In support of today’s ruling, we must highlight Amanda’s unprecedented professional merits as a basis for our decision. A summary of the foregoing is as follows:

- Professional record 42-2-1 (30 KO’s)
- 71% KO Ratio
- Total Combined Record 561 wins / 288 losses / 41 draws
- Considered Top 1 or 2 Pound for Pound Best Female Boxers
- 7- Division World Champion (*Record) / From Jr. Bantamweight – Jr. Welterweight
- 6-Division WBO World Champion
- Won World Championships from WBO/WBC/WBA
- Current Unified WBO/WBC Featherweight Champion
- Future Hall of Famer
- Serrano had not suffered a loss in 10 years (2012)
- First-Ever Women’s Main Event in Madison Square Garden Arena, New York, U.S.A.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned achievements, we must stress another important factor in our evaluation. The Taylor/Serrano bout is considered by most of the public and fight fans as the fight of the year to date. Matchroom Boxing, who promoted the event in conjunction with YouTube Star Jake Paul’s Most Valuable Promotions, reported that the live streaming platform that showcased the bout sold an

¹ See, Preamble of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests



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unprecedented 1.5 million PPV buys for a women’s boxing event as well as a complete sell-out with over an approximate 20,000 fans in attendance. Furthermore, the amount of domestic and international media coverage was extraordinary as well as the post-fight impressions and trends produces via social media considering the controversial outcome of the bout.

Having the Taylor/Serrano being highly competitive but with controversial decision, there are unofficial reports that the rematch could potentially take place at the end of this year or early 2023 whether in Ireland or the USA. Therefore, in the meantime, Team Serrano has expressed interest in pursuing Undisputed World Championship status at Featherweight considering her status as WBO/WBC Unified Featherweight Champion. Serrano’s intentions intertwine with the WBO’s policy encouraging our Champions seeking Undisputed Championship status to achieve their place in boxing history and for the good of the sport. Amanda certainly exemplifies the foregoing.

Therefore, it is our position that granting Serrano’s requests to retain her status as WBO Featherweight Champion best serves the interests of the sport, the petitioner (Team Serrano), and our institution. Today’s ruling permits Amanda her continued quest for Undisputed status at the Featherweight division, but also the opportunity for a rematch against Taylor between undisputed champions in their respective weight classes.

DECISION - WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

Now, having carefully reviewed and appraised the facts stated herein, having examined the arguments submitted by Team Serrano and having examined our governing rules and regulations, this Committee resolves as follows:

1. The WBO Championship Committee hereby rules:
 - a) WBO Featherweight Participant Amanda Serrano retains her “WBO Super Champion Status.”
 - b) WBO Featherweight Participant Amanda Serrano retains her WBO Female World Featherweight Champion status.
 - c) This “Resolution” is definitive, final, and enforceable.
 - d) The WBO Championship Committee reserves the right to issue all further rulings, deem necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, including serving the best interests in the sport, the fighters and the WBO.

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.



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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luis Batista Salas".

Dated: May 18, 2022
San Juan, Puerto Rico

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

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ⁱ See, WBO Regulation §35(f).