



WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION

Luis Batista Salas, Esq.
Founder
Chairman
WBO Championship Committee

May 8, 2024

VIA EMAIL:

Mr. Ben Shalom Boxxer Promotions Team Buatsi	Mr. Frank Warren Queensberry Promotions Team Yarde
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Re: Negotiations – Interim Light Heavyweight Championship Contest
Joshua Buatsi vs. Anthony Yarde

Gentlemen:

Please be advised that on Friday, May 3, 2024, Top Rank, Inc., confirmed via official press release that the WBO Light Heavyweight Champion, Artur Beterbiev suffered a ruptured meniscus in training thus postponing the scheduled Undisputed Light Heavyweight Championship Contest against Dmitry Bivol on June 1, 2024, at the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. According to the press release, the Beterbiev-Bivol bout is planned to be rescheduled before the end of 2024.

Conversely, on May 8, 2024, this Committee issued an “*Interim Medical Certification*” notice to Top Rank, Inc., requesting that Team Beterbiev submit a detailed medical explanation of his injury, findings, recovery prognosis, and his physician’s opinion as to when will he be physically and medically cleared to compete and return to active competition.

In compliance with our order, on May 8, 2024, Top Rank, Inc., provided the medical certification contents of which are confidential (medical-patient); however, according to the foregoing document, Beterbiev’s scheduled recovery time for active competition shall be either in September or October 2024.

Therefore, because of Beterbiev’s unavailability due to injury and required recovery time, this Committee hereby determines that is in the best interests of boxing and the contenders in the WBO Light Heavyweight Division, that an interim championship¹ is justified subject to specific provisions by this Committee in order to terminate the interim champion status within a required

¹ The WBO’s policy is to recognize only one world champion per each weight division; sanction approval of interim championships is exceptional and based on a case-by-case analysis.

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time in accordance with our policy of only one world champion in each weight class. Therefore, by virtue of today's ruling, the activity in the referenced weight category is not interrupted and consequently, safeguards and protects the rights and interests of the remaining contenders.

Wherefore, in light of the above and per the relevant WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, the parties² are hereby ordered to commence negotiations for the Interim Light Heavyweight Championship according the following terms and conditions: (i) the camps are granted 10 days to negotiate and reach an agreement as ordered; (ii) Failure to reach an accord within the period outlined herein, will result in the Committee ordering purse bid proceedings pursuant to WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests. The minimum bid for the Light Heavyweight Division is \$300,000 (Three Hundred Thousand Dollars). Any of the parties involved may request a purse bid proceedings at any time during the negotiation process.

Lastly, this Committee reserves its right to issue all further rulings deemed necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, including serving the best interests of boxing and those in the WBO Light Heavyweight Division.

Yours truly,

Luis Batista Salas, Esq.

Cc: Francisco "Paco" Valcárcel, Esq./ WBO President
 George Warren/Queensberry
 John Wischhusen/Boxxer
 Jeremy Koegel/Top Rank

² Number one world-rated contender Joshua Buatsi and number three world-rated contender Anthony Yarde, respectively, are the highest two available contenders in the Light Heavyweight Division. Whereas number two world-rated contender Oleksandr Gvozdyk is committed to fighting David Benavidez for the WBC Interim Light Heavyweight Championship on June 15, 2024, and therefore, unavailable.



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