



**WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE  
RESOLUTION**

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**In the Matter of the WBO Welterweight Division**

**Parties:**

Terence “Bud” Crawford  
WBO World Champion  
Interim WBO Jr. Middleweight Champion

Bob Arum  
Promoter  
Top Rank, Inc.  
On behalf of WBO Interim Welterweight Champion, Brian Norman, Jr.

**Factual Record**

On August 3, 2024, WBO Welterweight Champion, Terence “Bud” Crawford accomplished another milestone in his exceptional professional career, by winning a WBO world championship title in his fourth weight class<sup>1</sup> by defeating then-world champion Israil Madrimov via unanimous decision (UD). This bout was conducted at the BMO Stadium in Los Angeles, California, United States of America.

The Crawford/Madrimov bout was sanctioned to specific provisions, namely (i) Crawford would be allowed to enter the right to face Madrimov as WBO Welterweight Champion pursuant to his status as “***Super Champion***” (**not a title, but rights and privileges**); (ii) if Crawford won the fight, he would have up to 10 days after the bout to determine whether he stays in the Jr. Middleweight division or return to the Welterweight division, and (iii) if Crawford lost the fight, the WBO World Championship Committee would reserve its right to determine whether the WBO Welterweight Championship be declared vacant.

Furthermore, it is important to highlight that the bout was sanctioned for the Interim version of the WBO title in the Jr. Middleweight division due to current WBO Jr. Middleweight Champion, Sebastian Fundora being injured and suspended by the Nevada State Athletic Commission (NSAC) until November 2024. Therefore, to keep the division active, a sanction request for the WBO Interim Jr. Middleweight title was lodged by Team Crawford and authorized accordingly.

Conversely, in light of Crawford’s world title pursuit in a fourth weight category, the WBO approved an interim championship in the Welterweight division between the first two available world-rated contenders, in Giovanni Santillan and Brian Norman, Jr., on May 18, 2024, at the Pechanga Arena in San Diego, California, United States of America. After ten competitive rounds, Brian Norman, Jr., won via KO in round ten and became the WBO Interim Welterweight Champion.

Now, on Sunday, August 12, 2024, the WBO President, Paco Valcárcel, Esq., received official communication from Terence “Bud” Crawford confirming his decision that he will no longer stay in the

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<sup>1</sup> Terence Crawford has won WBO World titles in the Lightweight, Jr. Welterweight, Welterweight and Jr. Middleweight divisions, respectively.



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Welterweight Division. Therefore, Crawford’s decision triggers our intervention to act regarding the status of the “*Interim Champion*” status in the Welterweight Division.

Therefore, having this Committee considered the facts stated herein, and having reviewed the applicable 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 parties agree that they are bound by the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests. Section 35(f)<sup>i</sup> 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)(21) and (c), respectively of the WBO Rules and Regulations of World Championship Contests, which provide, in relevant as follows:

### SECTION 1. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

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

(21) To make or recommend exceptions or variations from the Rules as the 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 the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests.

### ANALYSIS

We begin our *ratio decidendi* referencing an excerpt of the WBO preamble<sup>2</sup>, 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]

Today’s ruling requires a straight-forward approach. Simply put, determine the next steps in the WBO Welterweight Division based on Terence Crawford’s decision to no longer stay in the aforementioned weight category.

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<sup>2</sup> See, WBO Preamble



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At the outset, we must stress that the WBO sanctions Interim Championships only under exceptional circumstances such as (i) when a WBO Champion suffers an injury that prevents his participation for up to 180-days and the division is thereby inactive; (ii) when a WBO Champion requests to contest another world title in a superior or inferior weight division; (iii) any other circumstances deemed by this Committee as extraordinary.

Moreover, it is important to emphasize that Crawford was allowed to enter the ring as WBO Welterweight Champion not only due to his status as “WBO Super Champion” but also because of his extraordinary accomplishments and professional merits. These are the following:

- Perfect professional record of 41 wins with 0 losses
- 31 KO’s
- WBO Lightweight Champion
- WBO Jr. Welterweight Champion
- WBO Welterweight Champion
- WBO Jr. Middleweight Champion (Interim)
- 2-Division WBO Undisputed Champion
- Boxing’s Pound x Pound King
- 19 World Championship Bouts
- 15 of 19 World Title Bouts by KO or TKO
- WBO Super Champion
- 2-WBO Special Rings for Consecutive Title Defenses
- 4-Division WBO World Champion

The above-mentioned milestones are a testament to Crawford’s extraordinary professional career. The World Boxing Organization (WBO) is honored and proud of having Crawford as our Champion and looks forward to many more years of making history.

Lastly, pertaining to the current Interim WBO Welterweight Champion, Brian Norman, Jr., is also entitled to the same protection of rights and interests as his counterparts. Nonetheless, considering that Crawford has determined to no longer participate in the Welterweight Division, by default, the Interim Champion, Brian Norman, Jr., must be elevated to “Full Champion” status to eliminate the Interim Champion status, effective immediately.

### **DECISION - WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE**

Thus, this Committee, having considered the facts stated herein and having reviewed the applicable WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, and having the power, authority and discretion conferred by the WBO Rules and Regulations, now, therefore, resolve as follows:

1. The WBO Championship Committee hereby rules as follows:



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2. Terence “Bud” Crawford confirms to the WBO President, Paco Valcárcel, Esq., that he will no longer stay and participate in the Welterweight Division.
3. Brian Norman, Jr., is elevated from “*Interim Champion*” to “*Full Champion*” status in the WBO Welterweight Division with the rights conferred by such designation.
4. 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: August 12, 2024  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

**WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE**  
By: Luis Batista Salas, Esq.

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<sup>i</sup> See, WBO Regulation §35(f).