



WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION

Luis Batista Salas, Esq.
Founder
Chairman Championship Committee

January 16, 2025

Electronic Email:

Mr. Frank Warren
Promoter
Queensberry Promotions
United Kingdom

**Re: Show Cause Notice–WBO Jr. Featherweight Intercontinental Champion
Dennis McCann - Adverse Analytical Finding Reported by VADA**

Dear Mr. Warren:

On December 13, 2024, the boxing news outlet “Boxing Scene” published an article reporting that the subject fighter allegedly tested positive for a banned substance. Consequently, his scheduled bout against Peter McGrail on December 21, 2024, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, was canceled. The publication cited an advisory notice issued by the Voluntary Anti-Doping Agency (VADA), which conducted the tests prior to the bout in question.

In accordance with WBO policy, when any WBO Champion or Participant tests positive for banned or prohibited substances, it is not necessary for the WBO to demonstrate intent, fault, negligence, or knowing use on the fighter’s part. This is because it is the fighter’s duty to ensure that no prohibited substances enter their body. Fighters are fully responsible for any prohibited substances found in their system.

When a WBO Champion or Participant tests positive for banned or prohibited substances, Sections 19 and 28 of our governing regulations mandate intervention. The alleged offender must “Show Cause” by providing reliable evidence as to why this Committee should not take affirmative action in light of the alleged violations of the aforementioned provisions. See Sections 19 and 28 of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests.

**SECTION 19. FAILURE OF THE CHAMPION TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS
OF A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTRACT OR THE WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIP RULES**

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(a) If any WBO Participant, including WBO World and Regional Champion(s) fails to comply with his contractual obligation to fight in any WBO Championship Contest without justifiable cause, or is determined by a Host Commission, a licensing commission or otherwise has tested positive for an illegal or any performance-enhancing drug, or fails to inform the WBO of any medical condition, impairment or any other circumstance which jeopardizes his participation in a WBO World Championship contest, or if a WBO Participant or any of his team members misleads, attempts to mislead, or petitions a Local Boxing Commission to illegally or incorrectly license said WBO Participant, the Committee may recommend to the WBO President and to the Executive Committee that the fighter be stripped of the title and that the title be declared vacant, or take any action deem proper, equitable and just against the WBO Participant in accordance with these regulations.

(1) Prohibited Conducts

(2) Domestic Violence

(3) Sexual Assault

(4) Child Abuse

(5) Usage off illegal drugs and/or any performance enhancing substances including, but not limited to Steroids/Anabolic Steroids

(6) Any criminal conduct (Misdemeanor and/or Felony) that implies moral turpitude

(7) Any other conduct deemed by the World Boxing Organization contrary to the fundamental principles of the organization

(8) Procedures - In General

The WBO World Championship Committee shall have all powers and authority to request, examine, evaluate, and consider any and all relevant facts and supporting evidence from any WBO Participant pertaining to any allegation(s) of violation(s) of these prohibitions.

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

In the event the WBO World Championship Committee determines there is cause to believe there is the possibility of a violation of any of the prohibitions of these Championship Rules by a WBO Participant, it shall notify the WBO Participant through the methods set forth in these Regulations, that the WBO Participant must Show Cause why the enforcement of this provision, or as otherwise provided for in these Regulations,

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should not be imposed. The Show Cause Notice shall establish the potential violation that must be responded to and the evidence, documentation, and procedure established by the WBO World Championship Committee to respond to the Show Cause Notice. Failure to address and/or submit any required or supporting evidence by the WBO Participant within the time frame set forth in the Show Cause Notice will constitute a waiver of any right to contest the Show Cause Notice. Upon receipt of the WBO Participant's response to the Show Cause Notice, the WBO World Championship Committee shall determine whether there has been a violation of a prohibition contained in the WBO World Championship Regulations and issue a ruling on the consequences for such a determination of a violation(s).

All Notifications of rulings shall have immediate effect upon issuance. Methods of verifiable notifications are as follows:

- (1) Posting on the official WBO Web Page - This means of notification suffice for purposes of this rule
 - (2) Personal Service
 - (3) Email
 - (4) Notice to WBO Participant in care of his Promoter, Manager, or Advisor
 - (5) Any other verifiable methods
- (b) Other Rulings
- (1) Automatic - Vacant Title

If the WBO Champion is found guilty or pleads guilty of any of the prohibitions set forth herein by a competent court with jurisdiction, the WBO World Championship Committee may recommend to the WBO President and Executive Committee that it withdraw the WBO Champion recognition and declare the title "Vacant", effective as of the date of the official registered guilt. If the affected former WBO Champion challenges his conviction(s) in a competent Court of Appeals with jurisdiction, and the Appeals Court reverses the conviction(s), the WBO Participant may request the WBO World Championship Committee reinstatement in the WBO Ratings according to his weight division and be classified at the number one (1) position. Such requests must comply with the ABC and WBO Ratings Criteria.

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(2) Vacant Title based on facts determined by the WBO World Championship Committee

In the event a possible violation of any of the prohibitions of these Championship Rules by a WBO Participant subject of a governmental procedural process, such as a criminal proceeding, the WBO World Championship Committee may make its determination of the Show Cause process established by these Rules without regard to the verdict of the governmental process. The WBO World Championship Committee may recommend to the WBO President and Executive Committee, which shall make its determination of the Show Cause process and its ruling independent of any governmental procedure process that arises from or relates to the same nexus of operable facts.

(3) Other Rulings

In connection with any Show Cause process, the WBO World Championship Committee shall the power and discretion to issue all determinations and rulings including, but not limited to:

- 1) A lower rated position in the WBO or Regional Ratings
- 2) Exclusion from the WBO or Regional Ratings
- 3) Banned from WBO or Regional Ratings for a period no less than two (2) years
- 4) Suspension from all WBO or Regional Contests
- 5) Withdraw WBO or Regional Sanction
- 6) Any other rulings deem necessary, helpful, or convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the World Boxing Organization

SECTION 28. DRUGS OR STIMULANTS

- (a) The use of illegal drugs or performance enhancing drugs or stimulants before or during the Championship contest by any of the contestants shall be sufficient cause for the disqualification of the contestant guilty of said use.
- (b) The determination of illegal drug use or performance enhancing drug use or stimulants use under this Section or Section 19 (a) may be made only by the Host Commission for the Contest or the WBO Participant's Licensing Commission if supported by test results by WADA, VADA, or any internationally recognized anti-doping entity.

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Therefore, based on the alleged facts and potential violations of the relevant governing provisions, Mr. McCann is **HEREBY ORDERED** to “**SHOW CAUSE**” within 30 days from the issuance of this notice as to why the WBO should not:

1. Declare the WBO Inter-Continental Lightweight Championship vacant;
2. Exclude him from the WBO World Lightweight Ratings;
3. Impose a ban from the WBO World Lightweight Ratings for a period of no less than two years; and/or
4. Issue any other ruling deemed appropriate in accordance with WBO policies, rules, and regulations.

Failure to comply with this order will result in the Committee proceeding accordingly, with Mr. McCann waiving all rights to a further hearing and/or citation.

Lastly, the WBO Championship Committee reserves the right to issue any further rulings deemed necessary, appropriate, and convenient to fulfill the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO rules and regulations, while serving the best interests of boxing, the WBO, and the Lightweight Division.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the WBO main office.

Yours truly,

Cc: Gustavo Olivieri Esq./President
George Warren/Queensberry Promotions
Lee Eaton/Queensberry Promotions

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