



## IBA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10:00 – New Delhi, India

### 1. Opening remarks by IBA President

Mr Umar Kremlev greeted the Board members and reiterated his gratitude for their active work and involvement in boxing development all over the globe. He wished a productive meeting and hoped that IBA will continue working in the best interests of the key boxing stakeholders and organizing events at the highest level.

### 2. Roll call

The quorum was reached. Members present online: Ms Elise Seignolle and Mr Tauhiti Nena (joined the meeting at point 6 of the agenda). Members absent: Dr Ioannis Filippatos, Mr Bertrand Mendouga, Mr Abner Teixeira and Ms Lovlina Borgohain.

In addition, the meeting was attended by Mr Abdulmutalim Abakarov, IBA Vice President, Mr George A. Yerolimpos, IBA Secretary General and CEO, and Mr Yury Zaytsev, IBA Legal Counsel.

### 3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Following feedback from some Board members, the drafted minutes were slightly amended.

**The amended version of the previous meeting minutes (Marrakesh, February 9, 2023) was unanimously approved by the Board.**

### 4. Summary of mail votes decisions

Decisions taken by mail vote:

- authorization given to the IBA Secretary General and CEO to reply to the recent IOC requests and to provide them with the necessary documents excluding the ones containing confidential or personal information that would be in breach of GDPR;
- appointment of Ms Pearl Dlamini from Eswatini as the IBA Observer so that the President can choose her, to attend the upcoming elections in Cameroon and further elections in National Federations when required.

### 5. National Federations issues

Mr Yerolimpos presented the list of National Federations who did not submit the Yearly Report by February 28, 2023, as per the IBA Membership Policy and proposed to give them the final deadline until April 15, 2023, informing them that a failure to comply will imply consequences according to the IBA Constitution and Regulations.

In the absence of an answer, or in case of a clearly unsatisfactory report, the IBA Head Office will seek more information from the National Olympic Committee, Ministry of Sport or the like about the situation of boxing in the country.

Depending on the outcome of the proposed steps, the Board may be requested to open a formal proceeding according to article 13 of the IBA Constitution. Mr Jose Laureano suggested that IBA requests more information about National Federations' activities and makes sure that the provided data is valid. Mr Zaytsev confirmed that this will be the responsibility of the newly formed IBA Member Federations Committee.





**The suggested steps of actions on the National Federations who did not submit the Yearly Report were unanimously approved by the Board.**

Ms Pearl Dlamini requested that the IBA Head Office should share the presentation with the Board after each Board meeting, to ensure that the Board members have all the necessary information at hand. Mrs. Anastasiya Dlala was instructed to implement the suggestion.

**6. Update on sport & development related matters**

Mr. Marko Petric, IBA Head of Sport, presented two cases of the athletes from Algeria, Imane Khelif, and Chinese Taipei, Lin Yu-ting, who, competing at the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in India, failed to meet eligibility rules, following a test conducted by an independent laboratory.

It was proposed to ratify the decision made by the IBA Secretary General and CEO to disqualify both athletes and reinstate the athlete from Thailand, Janjaem Suwannapheng, who lost to the Algerian boxer in the semi-finals. This decision would allow Janjaem Suwannapheng to fight in the finals in the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships.

The Board asked for clarification as to why this issue was being brought up at the end of the Championships when the concerned athletes already made their way through different stages of the event.

IBA Secretary General and CEO explained that testing was conducted upon the request of the Technical Delegate and Medical Jury of the Championships. The results became available in seven days and the IBA Secretary General and CEO, acting on behalf of IBA, notified the athletes immediately about their disqualification, giving them twenty-one days to appeal the decision to CAS.

Mr. Yerolimpos confirmed that similar testing was conducted by a different independent laboratory with the same athletes at the previous edition of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in Istanbul, Turkey in 2022. However, the results were received only upon conclusion of the event, hence the athletes were not disqualified back then.

Mr. Kremlev asked the IBA Secretary General and CEO and Sport Department if it was possible to take preventive actions not allowing the concerned boxers to compete in New Delhi, provided that the results of the first test were received shortly after the Championships in Istanbul. He also emphasized the importance of safeguarding athletes' health. IBA President also stated that he is in support of the two proposals because it is high priority for IBA to act on the received test results and thus protect the competition's integrity and ensure compliance with the IBA Rules and Regulations.

Mr. Yerolimpos confirmed that IBA has the results from two independent laboratories in two different countries at its disposal, both of which indicate that the athletes do not meet one of the eligibility criteria to continue competing at the Championships. Referring to the President's question, IBA Secretary General and CEO claimed that the situation was closely followed by him personally and the IBA Sport Department from the moment of athletes' registration to their arrival to India, which is when IBA could legally act on the matter. Another test was not possible to conduct when the athletes were outside IBA control until they arrived to New Delhi, where they passed medical check and passed necessary tests.





Mr Adel Bouda, Acting Ambassador of Algeria in New Delhi, was invited to present the position of the Algerian side and requested a second opinion on the issue.

**The proposal to ratify the decision taken by the IBA Secretary General and CEO on behalf of IBA to disqualify Imane Khelif and Lin Yu-ting from the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships was approved by the majority vote with 1 abstention by Mr. Abdeljaouad Belhaj and 1 vote against by Mr. Jose Laureano.**

**The proposal to reinstate Janjaem Suwannapheng who lost to Imane Khelif in the semi-finals for Janjaem Suwannapheng to compete in the finals was approved by the majority vote with 3 abstentions by Mrs. Marta Forcen Celaya, Mr. Yousuf Al-Kazim and Mr. Jinqiang Zhou and 2 votes against by Mr. Jose Laureano and Mr. Abdeljaouad Belhaj. It was also agreed that IBA should reinstate and move up all boxers who were competing in medal contests (QF onwards). This would automatically give them WR points as well.**

The Board requested that the IBA Head Office establishes the procedure to follow in similar cases in the future and to be reflected in the IBA Regulations.

Mr. Petric continued with an overview of the upcoming competitions, including the 2024 IBA Youth World Boxing Championships. The bid was presented by Croatia to host the event in Zagreb in November 2024.

**The proposal to award hosting of the 2024 IBA Youth World Boxing Championships to Croatia was unanimously approved by the Board.**

The bid to host the 2023 Junior World Boxing Championships was presented by Mexico. Since this event will be held for the first time after a long break, it was proposed to waive the host fee.

**The proposal to award hosting of the 2023 Junior World Boxing Championships to Mexico and waive the host fee was approved by the Board by the majority vote.**

Mr. Petric also notified the Board about the intention to organize World Boxing Tour events in 2023 in Cali, Colombia, which is currently pending the confirmation of funding from local authorities, and in 2023 or 2024 in India.

The Board was also requested to waive the period of 3 years and confirm the change of nationality from Niue to New Zealand of the boxer Xavier Jack Joshua Mata' Afa – Ikinofu.

**The proposal to accept application of Xavier Jack Joshua Mata' Afa - Ikinofu to change sports nationality from Niue to New Zealand without a 3-year period and be implemented with immediate effect was unanimously approved by the Board.**

Mr. Alberto Roigé Godia, IBA Head of Legal, presented an amendment to Rule 4 of the IBA Technical and Competition Rules, expanding the reaction in case of disqualification for ineligibility based on change of nationality criteria to all cases of ineligibility.

Mr. Chris Roberts, IBA Development Director, proceeded with presenting the amendments to:



- Rule 18. Approved Scoring System and Operator
- Rule 24. Compulsory Counts Limits. In Men Elite IBA Competitions, a maximum of four (4) Eight (8) Counts apply in one Bout.
- Rule 29. Judge Evaluators should score each round for comparison with the Judges scores; this is integral in support of the Bout Review.
- Rule 35. Be a member of the Bout Review Jury and to support the mechanism in place by providing input following the scoring of each round/Bout.
- Rule 48. White name for NANF and Name and Gold for World and Olympic Champions.

Mr. Roberts also reported on the progress on amendments to the IBA Bout Review Rule (Rule 20), following the meeting of the IBA Bout Review Ad-Hoc Committee meeting, that took place on March 8, 2023. As a result, the majority of the Ad-Hoc Committee preferred to remain with the current iteration of the bout review – instant bout review, the results of which are displayed on the screen upon conclusion of the bout.

In order to have an increased number of Technical Officials on site of the competitions, it has been agreed that the number of Evaluators and Observers will be increased for two rings to 3 Observers, and up to 7 Evaluators, minimum 5 (based on availability), offering confederation parity where possible. Where one ring is in operation, there will be 2 Observers and up to 5 Evaluators, minimum 3 (based on availability), offering confederation parity where possible.

Mr. Laureano requested that the IBA Head Office accelerates the process of courses approval in the Americas to make sure the continent has a good number of qualified Technical Officials. He also enquired whether National Federations would receive an updated scoring system operated by Sportdata. Mr. Yerolimpos confirmed that IBA is set to provide National Federations and Confederations with the software free of charge, while the per diem, travel expenses and accommodation of the operators shall be covered by a National Federation or Confederation.

Mr. Laureano also suggested that IBA establishes a clear procedure on gender testing. Mr. Yury Zaytsev confirmed that the IBA Medical Committee will be instructed to devise the procedure which shall be ready by the next Board meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Finally, Mr. Laureano commented on the fact that the table of IBA staff was placed inside the Field of Play during some competitions and indicated that this has to be avoided as it may jeopardize the events' integrity. Mr. Chris Roberts confirmed that this had already been amended.

**The proposal to amend Rules 4, 18, 24, 29, 35, 48 of the IBA Technical and Competition Rules was approved unanimously by the Board.**

## **7. IBA Committees**

Mrs. Anastasiya Dlala reported that, following the decision in Marrakesh, Morocco, the IBA Head Office issued appointment letters to all the Committee members appointed by the Board. Mrs. Dlala also presented the current composition of Technical and Management Committees, with one member missing on the IBA Member Federations Committee and several vacant positions on the IBA Champions and Veterans Committee.





Mrs. Dlamini suggested inviting more male members to the IBA Diversity Committee to ensure diversity within the Committee.

Mrs. Dlala demonstrated the list of people who declined their appointments or did not answer, and the IBA Secretary General and CEO suggested that those who declined shall not be appointed for any other position within IBA.

Mrs. Dlala continued by presenting the composition of the IBA R&J Committee with a vacant Chair position due to the resignation of Mrs. Waraporn Behkee who is an active R&J and thus cannot be Committee's Chair as per the Regulations. The suggestion is to appoint Mr. Wayne Rose from Australia as Chair of the R&J Committee and Ms. Sadie Duffy from Ireland as Vice-Chair.

**The proposal to appoint Mr. Wayne Rose as Chair of the R&J Committee and Ms. Sadie Duffy as Vice-Chair was approved by the Board by the majority vote.**

It was proposed to appoint Mr. Mohamed Shbib and Mr. Lenny D'Gama as members of the IBA R&J Committee, both of which submitted their applications.

**The proposal to appoint Mr. Mohamed Shbib and Mr. Lenny D'Gama as members of the R&J Committee was approved unanimously by the Board.**

The Board was also informed that Mr. Seru Whippy, appointed in Marrakesh as a member of the R&J Committee, is currently non-eligible to hold the position due to the fact that he is an active R&J. Subject to his resignation immediately after the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships, by 30 March 2023, he shall be appointed as a member of the Committee upon the approval of the Board.

**The proposal to appoint Mr. Seru Whippy as a member of the R&J Committee subject to his resignation as a R&J by 30 March 2023 was approved unanimously by the Board.**

The Board discussed other potential candidates for the IBA Committees, and it was agreed that the IBA Head Office will be provided with the respective CVs and application forms in order to properly review the candidacies.

Mrs. Dlala presented the composition of the IBA Competitions Committee with a vacant Vice-Chair position, and it was suggested to appoint Ms. Danuska Da Gama from India to the position.

**The proposal to appoint Ms. Danuska D'Gama as Vice-Chair of the Competitions Committee was approved by the Board by the majority vote.**

Mr. Abakarov suggested appointing Mr. Adrian Bakos (Germany) as a member of the IBA Competitions Committee. **His appointment was approved by the Board of Directors.**

Since the Chair of the IBA Medical Committee was not yet appointed, and there was a proposal for Dr. Filippatos to be an Interim Chair, Mr. Yury Zaytsev proposed an amendment to Article 16.3. of the IBA Organizational Regulations. The amendment is required as the current reading of the IBA Constitution does not allow IBA Directors to be on any Committee dealing with Technical and Competition Rules. The proposed amendment is aimed at transferring part of



the functions of the Medical Committee to the Competitions Committee, namely, to ensure that a sufficient number of Ringside Doctors are available for all IBA Competitions and arrange various training programs and provide educational materials leading to a sustainable high quality of Ringside Doctors.

IBA President raised the issue of possible conflict of interests if Dr. Filippatos is appointed as the Interim Chair of the Medical Committee and suggested that IBA opens an additional call for candidates to fill in the position. The Board supported the President's proposal but suggested to proceed with the amendment to Article 16.3. of the IBA Organizational Regulations to delegate part of the functions of the Medical Committee to the Competitions Committee.

**The Board approved by the majority vote an amendment to Article 16.3. of the IBA Organizational Regulations in the following way:**

**The role of the Competitions Committee shall be:**

- (j) ensure that a sufficient number of Ringside Doctors are available for all IBA Competitions following the recommendations from the Medical Committee;**
- (k) arrange various training programs and provide educational materials leading to a sustainable high quality of Ringside Doctors following the recommendations from the Medical Committee.**

It was agreed to keep vacant the position of Chair of the IBA Medical Committee.

Mr. Zaytsev suggested amending Article 19.1. of the IBA Organizational Regulations to reduce the number of members on the Champions and Veterans Committee from 25 to 15 and more to make the Committee more functional.

**The proposal to amend Article 19.1. of the IBA Organizational Regulations was unanimously approved by the Board.**

Mr. Yerolimpos presented an overview of the IBA Finance Committee that has two independent members missing, and the IBA Audit Committee, with three (or more) vacant positions. Thus, it is required to find appropriate candidates, following which the Board will be able to appoint interim Committee members until the Committees' composition is voted for by the Congress at its next ordinary meeting.

## **8. Report on legal matters**

Mr. Zaytsev presented an update on the Boxing Independent Integrity Unit (BIIU), including the timeline for selecting and vetting candidates for the BIIU Managing Board. As a result, 4 members were selected to form the BIIU Managing Board, with one position still vacant:

1. Bernhard Heinrich Welten (Switzerland)
2. James Richard Victor Kitching (Australia, Italia, United Kingdom)
3. Nader Jalal Mohammed Alawadhi (Kingdom of Bahrein)
4. Richard R. Young (USA).



On 23 March 2023 the BIIU Managing Board met for the first time and decided to appoint Mr. Bernhard Welten as Chairperson of the Managing Board and Mr. Gustaf Segerström (Sweden) as BIIU Managing Director.

Mr. Zaytsev updated the Board on pending investigations before BIIU, Swiss Registry of Commerce and registration of the Abu Dhabi Office under the name “International Boxing Association IBA Branch”.

Lastly, Mr. Zaytsev presented a proposal to liquidate World Series of Boxing company since it is not operational anymore, with the following steps to be followed:

- authorise the IBA President Mr. Umar Kremlev to call a General Meeting of WSB shareholders with the purpose of removing Mr Mohamed Moustahsane and Mr. Thomas Claude Virgets as members of the Board, since they are not active in IBA anymore;
- keep Mr. Umar Kremlev and Mr. Alberto Puig de la Barca in the WSB Board of Directors as the two sole Directors;
- delegate liquidation to the newly appointed WSB Board of Directors that shall appoint the IBA Secretary General and CEO to ensure proper liquidation of WSB.

**The proposed steps leading to liquidation of the World Series of Boxing company were approved by the majority vote.**

Ms. Seignolle requested that IBA Legal Counsel provides the presentation with more details on WSB liquidation to be more familiar with the process.

## **9. Update on finance**

Mrs. Katerina Collet, IBA Senior Accountant, presented a conservative estimation budget income statement for the period from July 1, 2022 to March 20, 2023, including operating income, expenses and results. She also demonstrated the table with other income and expenses and reported on the projected net gain.

Mr. Pichai Chunhavajira requested clarification on additional personnel expenses and calculations of the revenue. Mrs. Collet explained that personnel expenses include salaries, payment of consulting fees and the departure amount of IBA employees. As for the revenue, IBA expects to receive a host fee for the Men’s World Championships in Tashkent in the amount of 5 million CHF, but the same amount will be later on channeled into the prize money payment for this event. Ms. Seignolle suggested categorizing expenses like the departure amount of IBA employees as a one-off expense, to not have it included into the operating result.

## **10. Additional business**

Mr. Zaytsev indicated that as per article 33.4 of the IBA Constitution, the Board may appoint by proposal of the President up to 4 Vice Presidents who will not have a status of a Director. The Board has already appointed Mr. Abdulmutalim Abakarov, and three positions are still vacant.

The President proposed to appoint the Vice President responsible for commerce and business development Mr. Ajay Singh, principal shareholder and Chairman and Managing Director of



SpiceJet, President of the Boxing Federation of India and Associate Vice President of Indian Olympic Association.

**The Board approved unanimously to appoint Mr. Ajay Singh to a position of the Vice President subject to the successful result of the integrity checks as per the mechanism described in articles 27.4 to 27.9 of the Constitution.**

Mr. Ajay Singh was invited to join the meeting and deliver the acceptance speech on appointment.

Mr. Yerolimpos presented an update on IBA and IOC relations and the timeline of recent correspondence between the two organizations on appointment of independent experts, including Ernst & Young (EY) and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), to monitor IBA activities.

Considering the sensitivity of the requested information, especially on financial and sport related matters, EY and PwC were requested by IBA to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) to ensure protection of the collected data. The request was denied both by the IOC and the concerned companies and IBA was asked to provide the documentation without the signed agreements. Consequently, while confirming willingness to cooperate, IBA was forced to ask for a replacement for EY and PwC due to their failure to sign NDA and conflict of interest from the side of PwC. IBA also insisted on having a personal meeting with IOC representatives and on receiving previous reports produced by the independent experts assigned by the IOC, along with any future reports.

In the meantime, IBA was in contact with the third expert appointed to monitor implementation of the Governance Reform Group recommendations and transferred all the requested information.

IBA also raised its concerns to the IOC about several matters, including:

- correspondence sent by the IOC to all National Olympic Committees regarding boxing qualification system without consultation or copy to IBA;
- communication sent to IBA technical officials that contradicted a previously signed Data Protection Agreement and
- possible creation of an alternative boxing organization.

With this regard, it was proposed to send the letter to the IOC Executive Board and make it public to make sure that IBA stance is taken into consideration before any decision.

Mr. Al-Kazim enquired if PwC managed to come on site of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in India, and Mr. Yerolimpos indicated that PwC representatives did not arrive on the date announced to IBA, followed by the communication of the IOC about impossibility of PwC to travel to New Delhi.

Mr. Al-Kazim also requested clarification on participation of the IBA technical officials in the qualifying events and boxing tournament in Paris 2024 and on athletes' selection. Mr. Yerolimpos claimed that officials' appointment and further engagement can be possible only upon approval of IBA and that athletes' selection shall be based on the IBA ranking. He also expressed his assurance that boxing will be inside the Olympic Program both in 2024 and 2028 and hope that IBA will be involved in running the two events.







Mr. Kremlev took the floor to indicate that IBA is the only International Federation that has athletes' wellbeing as its priority, a good example of which is the fact that IBA assisted 23 countries with participating in the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in India, with Colombia reaching the finals. He also stated that IBA shall request appointment of a different person responsible for monitoring of the IBA activities, as a replacement for Mrs. Girard Zappelli, to ensure a better cooperation and open face-to-face dialogue between the two organizations. Finally, Mr. Kremlev invited Board members to join the efforts of the IBA Head Office to establish more efficient communication with the IOC.

Ms. Seignolle enquired if the reports produced by EY and PwC were provided to IBA in the past, and Mr. Yerolimpos indicated that it was never the case despite several requests. Ms. Seignolle also asked if any decision will be taken on boxing at the upcoming IOC Executive Board meeting on March 28 and 29, 2023, and Mr. Yerolimpos replied that it is not confirmed if boxing is on the agenda for the said meeting.

Mr. Ajay Singh suggested assistance with finding a solution at a senior level to make sure the IBA and IOC manage to hold an in-person meeting and work out the way forward.

In view of the absence of Mr. Mendouga, Mrs. Dlala read a short report on his behalf, updating the Board on the elections in Gabon to take place on April 22 – 23, 2023, suspension of the Algerian Boxing Federation President and AFBC Championships scheduled for June 13 – 25, 2023 in Cameroon.

Lastly, Mrs. Dlala informed the Board that so far two countries – Ghana and Hungary – presented letters of intent to host the IBA Ordinary Congress in 2023 and are to be requested to provide a full package of documents, including a financial guarantee.

## **11. Decision regarding the information disclosure after the meeting**

Decision regarding the information disclosure after the meeting was unanimously approved.

## **12. Closing remarks by IBA President**

IBA President thanked the Board for their work and closed the meeting.

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*These meeting minutes have been drafted by the IBA Head Office and have been approved by the Board of Directors on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*

