



WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION

GILBERTO MENDOZA
President

Resolution No. 201507290912
WBA Championship Committee
Clarification of Lightweight Division
July 29, 2015

I. BACKGROUND

1. Richard Abril:

A. On March 2, 2013, Richar Abril (“Abril”) won the WBA Lightweight Title by defeating Sharit Bogere in Las Vegas, Nevada. Since then, Abril successfully defended the title only once against Edis Tatli on September 20, 2014.

B. On November 10, 2013, Abril was scheduled to make his first title defense against Jorge Linares; however, a week before the fight, he injured his ankle and could not fight.

C. On March 6, 2015, Abril was scheduled to defend his title against WBA ranked #5 Derry Mathews (“Mathews”) in Liverpool, U.K.; however, once again Abril injured his ankle and the fight had to be postponed to April 18, 2015.

D. On or about March 23, 2015, Abril suffered another injury to his ankle and submitted a medical certification as to his unfitness to participate in his April 18, 2015 bout with Mathews.

E. On April 9, 2015, the WBA Championship Committee (“Committee”) issued Resolution No. 201504090912 naming Abril as Champion in Recess, and elevating Interim Champion Darley Perez (“Perez”) to Champion. As a condition of Abril’s Champion in Recess status, Abril was to return and face Perez on or before August 7, 2015. Abril has failed to secure said bout.

2. Darley Perez:

A. On July 18, 2015, Perez faced WBA ranked #11 Anthony Crolla (“Crolla”) as a voluntary defense of the title. The bout was controversial and ended in a draw with scores of 113-113, 113-113, and 111-116 after Perez received point deductions in the 11th

and 12th rounds for low blows. The scores were initially announced incorrectly as 114-113, 113-113 and 111-116. The respective camps have requested a rematch.

3. Derry Mathews:

A. On April 18, 2015, WBA ranked #5 Mathews was scheduled to challenge Abril for his title until Abril reinjured his ankle. As a last minute fill-in, Mathews was instead authorized to face WBA ranked #9, Tony Louis (“Luis”) for the vacant interim title of the division (due to Perez’s elevation to Champion) per WBA Resolution #201504150912. As the winner of said bout, Mathews was to defend the title against the division’s leading available contender, #2 Ismail Barroso (“Barroso”), on or before July 18, 2015.

II. ANALYSIS

A. A champion must remain active and regularly defend his title. Within sixty (60) days of the expiration of the mandatory defense period, a champion is limited to fighting only a mandatory contender or leading available contender. WBA Rule C.13.

B. The WBA may modify the periods for mandatory defenses for good cause, either in response to a request for a Special Permit, or on its own initiative. WBA Rule C.16.

C. The WBA may modify or suspend the strict application of these rules when the WBA deems them justified in its sole discretion to accommodate special circumstances. WBA Rule C.46. Those reasons include to “engage in an optional title defense,” to “engage in a bout of recognized importance and significance for the boxing world,” or to “extend or otherwise modify a mandatory defense period.” WBA Rule C.46a, e and g.

D. When a Champion is unable to defend his title within the prescribed periods for medical reasons, he may be named “Champion in Recess” and required to return to activity within a limited timeframe. Failure to do so may result in loss of recognition. WBA Rule 2.2, 27 and 33.

E. The Championship Committee may order boxers to participate in a rematch at its discretion. WA Rule 26.

F. Boxers and promoters are obligated to “know and be familiar with all Association rules.” WBA Rule C.14.

III. DECISION

1. Richard Abril:

A. Based upon the above-mentioned Resolution, conditions, and Rules, which Abril is presumed to know, Abril's recognition as Champion in Recess is revoked.

2. Darley Perez:

Perez must defend his title against Crolla in a rematch within 120 days due to the controversial nature of their recent bout. The winner, or Perez if a draw, must face the Interim Champion in their next bout as a mandatory defense.

3. Derry Mathews:

A. Due to Abril's injury and Champion in Recess status, the WBA authorized Mathews to face Barroso as a last minute fill-in to determine the vacant interim title of the division. Barroso was unable to timely receive the applicable Visa authority for travel. Therefore, Mathews and Barroso shall begin immediate negotiations for a bout to take place within 90 days. If the parties have not submitted bout contracts to the WBA on or before August 10, 2015, a call for purse bid will be issued.

Date: July 29, 2015



Gilberto Jesus Mendoza, Jr.
Championship Committee Chairman