



WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION

GILBERTO JESUS MENDOZA

President

Resolution No. 201704181412

WBA Championships Committee

Clarification of Super Middleweight Division

April 18, 2017

I. Super Champion – Felix Sturm – Relinquishment of Title

On February 20, 2016, Sturm defeated Chudinov in a highly contested majority decision with even closer scores than in the first bout: 115-113, 115-113, and 114-114.

On February 26, 2016, Chudinov timely filed a protest for the Sturm/Chudinov II decision requesting an immediate rematch. Chudinov argued that (1) the scores in the bout were closer than the first bout, which warranted a rematch; (2) the boxing press and other observers saw Chudinov comfortably winning due to throwing and landing more punches, which was evident on the faces of the boxers at the end of the bout; and (3) that Chudinov's gloves began to significantly deteriorate and he was not allowed to use replacement gloves.

In March 2016, before ruling on Chudinov's protest, the WBA was notified by the Institute of Biochemistry Center for Preventative Doping – German Sport University, Cologne, Germany ("Cologne Lab") that Sturm's "A" sample from Sturm v. Chudinov II tested positive for Stanazolol, an anabolic steroid. Sturm was advised of the positive test and denied taking any prohibited substance. Sturm requested and received a documentation packet, and requested that the "B" sample be tested at another laboratory.

In addition to Sturm's counsel's arguments regarding irregularities with the sample taking, the chain of custody, potential sample contamination, and the gloves, a conflict between WBA medical guidelines, WADA protocols, and the BDB rules became apparent. The BDB's rules allow for the "B" sample to be tested at another laboratory. The WBA regulations also allow for this. However, the Cologne Lab adheres to WADA rules and protocols which mandate that the "B" sample be tested by the same lab that tested the "A" sample. Additionally, the German prosecutor has since advised that it was conducting an investigation into Sturm's alleged positive test and would not authorize the "B" sample to be removed from the Cologne Lab.

Sturm has since argued that if the “B” sample cannot be timely tested to confirm the “A” sample, as prescribed by the BDB and WBA rules, the “A” sample should be disregarded. Sturm also requested a hearing to address the contamination and glove arguments along with challenging the sample chain of custody.

Additionally to the above explained situation, Sturm reported an injured elbow and scheduled surgery, thus Sturm was neither available to timely defend the championship nor participate in a mandated rematch if it was ordered.

On October 3rd, 2016, the WBA issued a Resolution confirming Sturm’s decision to relinquish the title voluntarily and unilaterally. It also notified WBA Championship Committee decision to declared the title vacant and ordered Chudinov to box for the vacant Super Championship with an opponent and time frame to be determined in a separate resolution.

The reasoning in the action was merely on the partial impediment on Sturm cause to continue a fair challenging of the adverse result and the agreement from Chudinov’s advisor in being able to box for the same hierarchical championship which he was recognized prior to the controversy.

On December 6, 2016, the WBA issue negotiations notification for the Vacant WBA Super Middleweight Super Championship between #1 contender Fedor Chudinov and #2 contender George Grooves granting a period of thirty (30) days to negotiate the championship beginning December 6th, 2016 until January 5th, 2017. The parties expected the fight on or before May 27, 2017. The winner must face the winner of Zeuge v. Ekpo bout reference below on or before November, 2017.

II. World Champion – Tyron Zeuge– Contested Decision

On November 05, 2016, Tyron Zeuge defeated Giovanni De Carolis by KO in the twelve (12) rounds and became the WBA Super Middleweight World Champion.

On December 13, 2016, Isaac Ekpo was named mandatory contender of the Super Middleweight division.

On March 25, 2017, the WBA Super Middleweight Champion, Tyrone Zeuge (“Zeuge”) faced Isaac Ekpo (“Ekpo”) in Brandenburg, Germany. Ekpo lost the bout by a close and controversial technical decision. The bout was scored 48 - 47, 49 - 47, and 49 - 46. Thereafter,

on behalf of Ekpo, his promoter Don King (“King”) requested that the WBA order a direct rematch in light of the close and controversial nature of the decision.

Pursuant to WBA Rule C.26, the WBA reviewed the scoring and decision on a round by round basis, and has determined that the scoring and bout as a whole was sufficiently close to warrant an immediate rematch.

The parties have thirty (30) days to negotiate the terms of said rematch. If a purse bid is necessary, the split will be 75% to the Champion, Zeuge and 25% to the Challenger, Ekpo. In the meantime, neither boxer may participate in any other bout until after the rematch occurs. The winner or Zeuge if a draw, must face the winner of Chudinov vs Grooves.

Date: April 18, 2017



George Martinez
Championship Committee
Chairman