



# WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION

Gilberto Jesus Mendoza  
President

**Resolution N° 201803120808**  
**WBA Championships Committee**  
*Super Featherweight Division*  
*Purse Bid distribution modification*  
*March 12, 2018*

**I. REQUEST FOR PURSE BID DISTRIBUTION PERCENTAGE MODIFICATION**

*On February 15, 2018, Don King Productions filed a Special Permit Request to modify the Purse Bid distribution to 50/50.*

**II. BACKGROUND**

*On September 29, 2017- WBA number 2 contender Rafael Mensah legal representative requested an explanation on his Ranking (Rule F.4) seeking the reason for not being elevated to number 1 position instead of Jesus Cuellar who never competed in the Super Featherweight division while the affected boxer remained active, available to fight and successful in the 130-pound division for a period of two years. Thus, also Mensah petitioned to be appointed Mandatory Challenger in order to obtain relief on WBA rankings committee decision.*

*On October 21, 2017 - WBA number 4 contender Alberto Machado defeated Jezreel Corrales by KO in 8 rounds Turning Stone Resort & Casino, Verona, New York, USA. The Championship Committee approved the bout subject to the winner boxing in the next fight Rafael Mensah.*

*On November 6, 2017 - WBA Championship Committee ordered mandatory negotiations for the WBA Super Featherweight world title between champion Alberto Machado and N° 2 contender Rafael Mensah. Pursuant rule C.11 the 30 day negotiation period began November 6 and ended December 6, 2017).*

*On January 22, 2018 - Robert Diaz on behalf of Golden Boy requested Don King Productions to provide the total purse need for team Mensah.*

*On February 5, 2018 - WBA President summoned a Purse Bid for February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

*On February 6, 2018 - Robert Diaz informed DKP that Mensah should fight an interim because Machado is injured. The WBA championship committee has no report of such injury or was willing to approve it without a justifiable reason.*

*On February 9, 2018 - DKP offers Golden Boy and Mensah team and \$200,000 for the fight.*

*On February 15, 2018 - both parties requested a 10-day-postponement for the Purse Bid because they were negotiating.*

*On February 15, 2018 - WBA received a letter from Antonio Gonzalez, on behalf of Don King Productions, supporting DKP request to modify the Purse Bid distribution to 50/50.*

- 1. DKP has made multitude attempts to discuss and negotiate the bout terms, however, no calls have been returned from GBP.*
- 2. DKP has a standing offer to Golden Boy and team Machado of \$ 200,000.*
- 3. There has been no interest to engage in any negotiation.*

4. *It has been reported that Machado would look to defend his title in a voluntary defense against other contenders*

*On February 20, 2018, Robert Diaz, on behalf of Golden Boy, offered Mensah \$100,000 for the fight to be held on May 2018.*

*On February 23, DKP submitted a Request for special Permit to modify the Purse bid Split. (exhibit IV)*

*On February 26, 2018, WBA received an opposition letter from the Law Office of Mr. George Gallegos, on behalf of Golden Boy Promotion stating that DKP failed to establish any justification for such special exception on his letter dated February 15, and:*

- 1) *The two main reasons for Don King Productions request to change the distribution are:*
  - a) *The purported failure of Golden Boy to negotiate in good faith, and*
  - b) *Mensah's WBA ranking since 2015*
- 2) *Golden Boy Production approached HBO to broadcast the fight on January 27, 2018, however HBO passed on the opportunity.*
- 3) *DKP failed to responded Mr. Diaz' request of the total amount Team Mensah required to participate in the bout. (Exhibit I)*

*On February 27, 2018 DKP legally represented by Tony Gonzalez send a response to Golden Boy (Exhibit III)*

*On February 28, 2018, both parties requested another postponement for the bid after failing in communications and also considering a relevant factor WBA decision on the distribution of the percentage.*

## **DECISION**

*Before rendering a decision, there are several factors to be considered aligned with the values of equality, justice and fairness of this Association as a sport international regulating body. These are the followings:*

- a) *Rafael Mensah was appointed contender to box former champion Jezreel Corrales for the interim title since November 2015. This bout was cancelled for unforeseen circumstances. Strong argument to consider Mensah was eligible to fight for a championship in a near future. However, he was demoted for a vague reason according to the ratings explanations.*
- b) *On July 2017 rankings Alberto Machado entered at N° 9 position, and in future publications rightfully promoted to N° 4 after defeating ranked contender Carlos Morales in a WBA NABA sanctioned regional title. Strong criteria that allowed him to box a voluntary against the former champion Jezreel Corrales.*
- c) *However, the facts prove Mensah was in a better ranking then Machado for a longer period of time and kept activity being successful but has being denied a title opportunity without a major reasoning.*
- d) *There is clear controversy between the promoters to fulfill with the mandatory obligation ordered by the Championship Committee. While the purse bid rule could be apply, is necessary to emphasizes the intention focuses as an alternative method of conflict resolutions. Yet the burden would be of the promoters, managers or boxers, obliged to agree on the terms of their compulsory bout.*

*After analyzing all the relevant information of this case, the numerous arguments and considering the struggle of Mensah in the last two years in order to obtain every boxer dream to box for a World Championship, this committee has decided to partially grant the Special Request from DKP to modify the purse bid disbursement as follows 60 % for Machado and 40 % for Mensah.*

*The purse bid will be schedule on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 in Panama at 11:00 AM*

Date: March 12, 2018



---

George Martinez  
Championship Committee  
Chairman