



WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION ASOCIACIÓN MUNDIAL DE BOXEO

GILBERTO MENDOZA
PRESIDENT



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION N° 201809251108 Welterweight Division

I. REQUEST

On 11 August, 2018, TGB Promotions filed a request for special permit on behalf of Keith Thurman (“Thurman”) to defend his title against Josecito Lopez (“Lopez”) (currently ranked #7 by the WBA), for a bout to take place in November, 2018 in New York City.

II. BACKGROUND

Thurman is the current World Boxing Association (“WBA”) Welterweight Super Champion. A Resolution of 11 February 2016 imposed a mandatory defense period of eighteen months for him to retain the title. He complied with that requirement when he fought Danny Garcia (“Garcia”) on 04 March 2017. No resolution or official communication from the Championships Committee established a subsequent mandatory defense period date, or named a mandatory contender, although it appears that both Mr. Thurman and the Committee may have assumed that another eighteen-month mandatory defense period started to run from the date of his bout with Garcia. (In such a case, his mandatory defense bout would have been required to have taken place by 04 September 2018.) Regardless, he has not fought for at least eighteen months, a clear case of inactivity.

The Regular World Champion is Manny Pacquiao (“Pacquiao”), who obtained his title on 15 July 2018. Obtaining that title did not automatically result in Pacquiao being named the mandatory contender for Thurman’s title.

The current #1 rated boxer in the Welterweight category is Jose Benavidez (“Benavidez”). To date, Benavidez has not been named by the Committee as mandatory contender for either the Super Championship or Regular World title.

On 06 September 2018, Harrison Whitman, representing Top Rank, submitted an objection to the request. In his response, Mr. Whitman argued that Thurman had not defended his title within the required period, and therefore the WBA should vacate

the Super Championship title. Consistent with such a vacation of the title, Top Rank proposed that Terrence Crawford (“Crawford”) (currently the World Champion of the World Boxing Organization) be allowed to fight Benavidez for both the WBO Championship title and the WBA Super Championship title (a 13 October 2018 bout has been scheduled for Crawford to defend his WBO title against Benavidez).

III. ANALYSIS

Rule B.6 allows the Championships Committee to demote or remove a boxer from his ranking for a number of reasons, including “inactivity”.

Rule C.18 concerns the naming of a Super Champion, and the conditions under which he must defend his title. The rule provides that the Championships Committee and the President may designate a mandatory defense period (the rules establishing a mandatory defense period for a Regular Champion do not automatically apply to a Super Champion), and that the Committee and the President may also establish the manner for naming an “Official Contender” for the Super Championship title. In this case, it appears that the Committee and the President did not specifically designate a mandatory defense period or an Official Contender for Thurman after his March 2017 defense. It further appears that both Thurman and the WBA may have assumed that he had another eighteen months to defend his title.

Rule C.16 provides that defense periods may be modified by the Committee.

Rule C.14 provides that all members of the WBA, including boxers and their promoters, are presumed to have familiarity with the WBA Rules.

IV. DECISION

- A. Although it appears that the President and Committee did not formally designate a mandatory defense period or an Official Contender for Thurman after his March 2017 defense, they shall do both in issuing this Resolution.*
- B. Thurman’s request to defend his title against Lopez is granted, but subject specifically to the conditions set out below. Consequently, the Benavidez request is denied.*
- C. The Thurman defense bout must occur no later than 30 November 2018. If the Thurman-Lopez bout does not occur by that date, Thurman’s title will be vacated.*

- D. If the Thurman-Lopez bout takes place by the required date, the winner of that bout will be required to defend the Super Championship title within four months of the date of the November 2018 bout, with an Official Contender to be determined by the Championships Committee. However, if the Committee was to receive a request to sanction a bout between the WBA Super Champion and a champion of another sanctioning organization (as defined under rule A.6), the Committee would consider that request to take precedence for the Champion's subsequent bout.*
- E. Any party may request reconsideration of this Resolution pursuant to Rule F.5.*



*George Martinez
WBA Championship Committee
Chairman*