



WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION

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President

Resolution No. 202101271115
WBA Championship Committee
Manny Pacquiao – Champion in Recess
January 27, 2021
Welterweight Division

I. BACKGROUND

Manny Pacquiao (“Pacquiao”) is the current WBA Welterweight Super Champion and has held this status since July 20, 2019 when he defeated Keith Thurman via Split Decision in 12 rounds in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. Thereafter, Pacquiao previously held the WBA Welterweight Title and successfully defended it on one occasion, and holds a professional record of 62 wins, 7 losses, with 39 knockouts.

II. ANALYSIS

A. Boxers, their representatives, and promoters are obligated to “know and be familiar with all Associations rules.” WBA Rule C.14.

B. When a World Champion is unable to defend his title within the prescribed time periods for justifiable medical, legal, or other reasons reasonably beyond his control, the inactive champion may be named Champion in Recess and the Committee may select the official contenders who will fight for an Interim Title under Rules C.22-24. The medical reasons must be documented to the satisfaction of the Medical Committee Chairman, who also may require separate medical examinations. Legal reasons must be documented to the satisfaction of the Legal Director and Championships Committee. In general, the status of “Champion in Recess” may not be for a period longer than the applicable defense period. WBA Rules C.22.

C. The Championships Committee must balance competing interest and equities. In the past, the committee has recognized Inactive Champions as Champion in Recess. On the other hand, the mandatory contenders and the rated boxers are interest in the division movement at the championship level.

D. A Champion not defending his title within one (1) year will lose his title, which will be declared vacant.

III. CONCLUSION

A. Based upon the above-mentioned Rules, which Pacquiao is presumed to know, a champion must regularly defend his title, remain active, and follow the WBA's instructions regarding title defenses. Pacquiao has not defended his title in over sixteen (16) months.

B. There are sufficient facts and conditions for the Committee to declare Pacquiao a Champion in Recess, as well as facts and considerations for the Committee should not allow him to remain in that status for more than six (6) months. Consequently, we hereby name in Recess. Pacquiao must return from recess status to face Yordenis Ugas ("Ugas"), the previous WBA champion in the division. If Pacquiao fails to do so, his recognition as Champion in Recess will be withdrawn.

C. Ugas is now the Super Champion of the division according to Pacquiao's present status.

D. The WBA sanction fee for Ugas purses as Super Champion will be 3 % of the gross amount declared in the bout agreement, including non-title bouts. All other fees and charges will be pursuant to applicable WBA rules.

E. All other issues that may arise shall be resolved by the interpretation of WBA championship rules by the committee.

Date: January 27, 2021



Carlos Chávez
Championships Committee
Chairman

