



# WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION

GILBERTO JESUS MENDOZA

President

## **Resolution No. 202110210608** **WBA Championships Committee** *Super Bantamweight Division* *October 21, 2021*

### **I. BACKGROUND**

On August 27, 2021, the WBA issued a mandatory negotiation notification for Final Eliminator in the Super Bantamweight division between WBA #1 Raese Aleem (“Aleem”) vs WBA #3 Azat Hovannisian (“Hovannisian”)

On August 30, 2021, Marshall Kauffman (“Kauffman”) on behalf of Aleem requested a deferral to allow Aleem to participate on a bout already contracted against Eduardo Baez (“Baez”) on September 18, 2021, as undercard of a unification bout between Brandon Figueroa (“Figueroa”) and Stephen Fulton (“Fulton”).

On September 07, 2021, Figueroa tested positive for Covid and was forced to withdraw for the unification bout against Fulton. The event was postponed for a later date.

On October 04, 2021, the WBA sent a reminder to Aleem and Hovannisian to reach an agreement within 10 days.

On October 05, 2021, Kaufman requested an additional short deferral until November 29, 2021, to allow Aleem to fight against Baez.

On October 05, 2021, George Gallegos (“Gallegos”) on behalf of Golden Boy Promotions (“GBP”) representing Hovannisian, strongly objected to the request for deferral from Kauffman. Gallego’s based his opposition on the basis that Kauffman failed to establish any grounds or cite any rule or procedure to defer the Championships Committee August 28, 2021, mandatory order for WBA Super Bantamweight Final Eliminator between Aleem v. Hovannisian.

On October 06, 2021, Kauffman responded to the GBP objection stating that the September 18, 2021 was rescheduled to November 29, 2021, for the bout previously contracted against Baez.

## **II. ANALYSIS**

A. A mandatory Contender for each weight division may be selected by the Championship Committee or through an eliminatory bout. The selection may be subject to conditions. Generally, the highest rated boxer in the division, or regional champion rated in the top 5, shall qualify to be named the official contender by the Championships Committee, unless he is, or is likely to be, unavailable to fight for the title in the period required. The Committee may remove a boxer's recognition as Mandatory Contender for failure to comply with these rules or failure to comply with any condition of the appointment as Mandatory Contender. WBA Rule C.29.

B. The Championship Chairman may grant boxers selected to participate in an Elimination or a Box Off a negotiation period of no more than thirty (30) days to reach an agreement. If no agreement is reached within the time indicated, the Chairman shall call a purse bid. WBA Rule C.32

C. If a boxer declines to participate in a Mandatory Defense, Elimination Bout, or Box Off, his title may be vacated, or he may be demoted or removed from the rankings.

D. 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.46.a, e and g.

E. The WBA may grant Special Permit Requests and require conditions. "The Committee and the President in their sole discretion shall consider the best interests of boxing, the purposes and policies of the Association, and such other factors that may be relevant, and shall make their best effort to balance competing interests." WBA Rule C.47.

F. Boxers and promoters are obligated to "know and be familiar with all Association rules," including those "for Mandatory Contender Selection." WBA Rule C.14.

## **III. DECISION**

A. Based upon the above-mentioned Rules, Aleem's deferral request is denied. Kauffman failed to show why the fighter was still contractually obligated to have the fight when the original date was postponed not due to medical disability of either fighter. Also, the fight Kauffman refers to is neither for a championship or unification of a WBA title and therefore, is not a significant enough fight to grant the requested exemption. The exemption is denied.

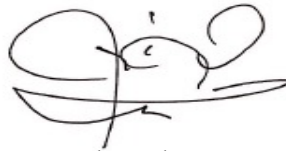
B. Aleem and Hovannisian will have until November 05, 2021, to negotiate a bout before a call for purse bid is issued.

C. If Aleem decides to participate in a fight other than the mandatory order against Hovannisian, his recognition will be revoked and Hovannisian will be certified as the mandatory contender of the Super Bantamweight division.

D. This resolution supersedes any previous resolutions.

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

Date: October 21, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlos Chavez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carlos Chavez  
Championship Committee Chairman