



# WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION

GILBERTO JESUS MENDOZA

President

## **Resolution No. 2022071507** **WBA Championships Committee** *Featherweight Division* *July 05, 2022*

### **I. BACKGROUND**

Leo Santa Cruz won the World Boxing Association Featherweight Super World title on January 28, 2017. He defended the title three times: on October 14, 2017, on June 9, 2018, and on February 26, 2019. Champion status was conditioned to a 24-month mandatory defense period.

Santa Cruz last mandatory defense was on June 09, 2018; thus, his next obligatory championship bout is past due from June 08, 2020 and shall now box against the official contender Leigh Wood.

On December 8, 2021, the WBA championships committee stating, “*We have noted that you defended your Featherweight title on February 16, 2019, and we would like to ask you about your status in boxing, specifically if you plan to continue fighting in the Featherweight division*”. The committee granted you four (4 days) to send your decision, with no response from you.

The WBA ordered LSC to fight WBA Regular Champion, Leigh Wood (“Wood”) as part of its world title reduction plan.

On April 6, 2022, the WBA championships committee ordered the mandatory fight between Leo Santa Cruz and WBA regular Champion, Leigh Wood, giving both parties 30 days to negotiate.

On July 11, the WBA Championships committee received a Special Permit Request for Santa Cruz to unify title with Rey Vargas, WBC, champion. The request was sent to Matchroom Boxing, and they opposed to this request.

### **II. ANALYSIS**

1. Pursuant rule C.14. **Rules Familiarity**. Each boxer, promoter, manager, and boxer’s agent are under the obligation to know and be familiar with all Association rules, including, but not limited to, those regarding time periods concerning

obligations to defend, compete for a title, and for Special Permits. If a champion fails to comply with any rule of the Association, the Chairman of the Committee may declare his title vacant. Likewise, failure by an official contender to comply with any of these rules can result in removal by the Chairman of recognition as official contender.

2. Pursuant rule C. 47. **Considering Special Permits.** ... 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. The Association is not obliged to grant a request for Special Permit.
3. Pursuant rule C 49. **Special Permit Consideration.** Special permit requests shall be made in the form prescribed by the President, and a copy shall be provided by the applicant to other boxers known to be materially affected by the request. The Association shall use reasonable efforts to provide such other boxers adequate time and opportunity to comment on the request before a final determination is made. Generally, only a champion may request a special permit.
4. Pursuant rule C 33. **Removal for Failure to Participate.** 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.

### **III. DECISION**

The World Championships Committee resolves as follows:

1. Deny the Special Permit Request made by Leo Santa Cruz to fight Rey Vargas.
2. Leo Santa Cruz must make his mandatory Featherweight title defense against Leigh Wood.
3. Leo Santa Cruz is hereby granted 24 hours to respond to this mandate.
4. This resolution supersedes any previous one on this matter

*Date: July 15, 2022*



*Carlos Chavez*  
*Championship Committee*  
*Chairman*

