



WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION ASOCIACIÓN MUNDIAL DE BOXEO



PRESIDENT
GILBERTO JESUS MENDOZA

Resolution No. 202305021308 **WBA Championships Committee** *Middleweight Division* *May 2, 2023*

I. REQUEST

On March 15, 2023, on behalf of WBA Middleweight Champion Erislandy Lara (“Lara”), TGB Promotions requested that the WBA grant a special permit to sanction an August 05, 2023, bout between Lara and WBA #7 world ranked Danny Garcia (“Garcia”), in a voluntary title defense.

The WBA provided notice of Lara request to Elvis Grant (“Grant”) representing mandatory contender Michael Zerafa (“Zerafa”) for comments. The WBA received comments in opposition to the request from Zerafa.

Zerafa based his opposition on the previous WBA mandatory negotiation notification that identified the timeline for Zerafa to face Lara as his mandatory.

II. BACKGROUND

- A. Lara holds a 29-3-3 record with seventeen (17) knockouts.
- B. On December 12, 2014, Lara won the WBA Super Welterweight title by Unanimous Decision over Ishe Smith in San Antonio Texas, USA, He then made five successful defenses of the title.
- C. On August 31, 2019, Lara regains the WBA Super Welterweight title by Knockout against Ramon Alvarez.
- D. On May 01, 2021, Lara moved up in weight and won the WBA Middleweight title by Knockout against Thomas LaManna.
- E. Since then, Lara has successfully defended the WBA Championship in the Middleweight Division on one (1) occasion.

III. ANALYSIS

A. The WBA may modify the periods for mandatory defenses for good cause, either in response to a request for a Special Permit, or on its own initiative. WBA Rule C.16.

B. 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”.

C. 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.

D. Boxers and promoters are obligated to “know and be familiar with all Association rules,” including those “for Special Permits.” WBA Rule C.14.

IV. DECISION

A. Based upon the above-mentioned Rules, the WBA has express authority to modify applicable defense periods and otherwise suspend application of various rules under a special permit.

B. Lara’s Special Permit Request is conditionally granted subject to his compliance with all other WBA rules, regulations, payment of all applicable fees and the following conditions:

C. The winner of Lara / Garcia, or Lara if a draw must face Zerafa as a mandatory defense within 120 days of said bout.

D. Zerafa is authorized to fight a non-title against an opponent approved by Championships Committee.

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

Date: May 02, 2023

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

Carlos Chavez