



WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION

GILBERTO JESUS MENDOZA

President

Resolution No. 202307280708 **WBA Championships Committee** *Featherweight Division* *July 28, 2023*

I. REQUEST

On July 11, 2023, Matchroom Boxing (“MB”) on, behalf of WBA Featherweight Champion Leigh Wood (“Wood”), requested the WBA a special permit for the bout between Wood and WBA #5 world ranked Josh Warrington (“Warrington”), in a voluntary title defense, scheduled for October 07, 2023.

The WBA provided notice of Wood request to Svyatoslav Mangushev (“Mangushev”) representing mandatory contender Othabek Kholmatov (“Kholmatov”) for comments. The WBA received comments in opposition to the request from Wood.

Kholmatov based his opposition on the previous WBA mandatory negotiation notification that identified the timeline for Kholmatov to face Wood as his mandatory and requested a purse bid.

II. BACKGROUND

- A. Wood holds a 27-3-0 record with sixteen (16) knockouts.
- B. On July 31, 2021, Wood won the WBA Featherweight title by Unanimous Decision over Xu Can in Brentwood, Essex, UK, He then made one successful defense of the title against mandatory contender Michael Conlan.
- C. On February 18, 2023, Wood lost the WBA Featherweight title by TKO against Mauricio Lara on a voluntary title defense.
- D. On May 27, 2023, Wood regained the WBA Featherweight title by Unanimous Decision over Mauricio Lara.

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. Wood’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 Wood / Warrington, or Wood if a draw must face Kholmatov as a mandatory defense within 120 days of said bout.

D. Kholmatov 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: July 28, 2023


Carlos Chayez
Championship Committee Chairman