WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION
ASOCIACIÓN MUNDIAL DE BOXEO
GILBERTO MENDOZA
PRESIDENT

Resolution No. 202310111701
WBA Championships Committee
Heavyweight Division
October 11, 2023

A. Background

1. On 26 August 2023 the WBA Super Heavyweight Champion Oleksandr Usyk defended his title against Daniel Dubois in a bout at Wroclaw, Poland. Usyk was declared the winner of the bout.

2. On 4 September 2023 Mr. Andy Ayling of Queensberry Promotions Ltd. emailed the WBA indicating that Queensberry desired to have the outcome of the bout reversed, pursuant to a review of the performance of the referee. On 5 September 2023, Mr. Alex Dombroff on behalf of Queensberry filed an "appeal", alleging "errors in judgement made by the bout's referee, …" Queensberry further argued that Mr. Dubois "was unjustly denied of his rightful status as unified world heavyweight champion." The dispute is centered around what Queensberry referred to as "a body blow that dropped and severely hurt Mr. Usyk" in the 5th round of the bout. The referee ruled that the blow was considered "low", and therefore allowed the bout to continue, rather than finding, as Queensberry argues, that Mr. Usyk was knocked down legitimately. The Queensberry complaint was accompanied by an authorization signed by Mr. Dubois dated 4 September 2023.

3. The appeal documents were distributed by the WBA to representatives of Mr. Usyk, as well as to the International Boxing Federation ("IBF") and the World Boxing Organization ("WBO"), whose belts were also in contention at the bout.

4. By an email dated 12 September 2023, Mr. John Hornewer, representing Usyk, acknowledged receipt of the appeal. On 18 September 2023, on behalf of Mr. Usyk, Mr. Hornewer provided the WBA reply to the appeal. Although the reply raised the issue as to whether the "submission qualifies as an Appeal per the WBA rules…," the reply addressed issues raised by the appeal. The Usyk response raised the issue as to why the Dubois matter was not taken "to the local Commission having regulatory authority over the bout and the decision related to the bout." The reply dealt with a number of other matters, including various actions taken by the referee, whether the blow was low, whether the combatants were properly instructed as to low blows, and other matters.

5. Four individuals were assigned as supervisors for the Usyk-Dubois bout. They were Carlos Ortiz, Jr. (IBF), Ed Levine (IBO), Thomas Puetz (WBO), and Jesper D. Jensen (WBA). As the WBA supervisor, Mr. Jensen has advised the committee that the referee, Mr. Luis Pabon, made the

correct decision with regard to the blow. During the bout, Mr. Pabon informed Mr. Jensen that he considered the blow to be accidental.

6. In addition to the opinion of the supervisor, the WBA asked its International Officials Committee to review the appeal, the reply, and videotape recordings of the 5th round. That Committee reported on 11 September 2023 to the Championships Committee that the President that "there is no clear and conclusive video evidence that the original call of a low blow in round five declared by Referee Mr. Luis Pabon was made in error." The Committee further concluded that none of the television tape recordings had convincing evidence that the referee's "call of a low blow was incorrect." That Committee concluded that "the original call of the low blow should stand as there is not indispensable evidence to prove otherwise." The Committee report was signed by Raul Caiz, Jr., Vice Chairman of the International Officials Committee.

B. Authority

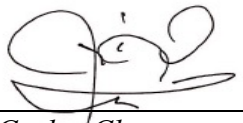
1. Under the WBA Rules, the determination of whether a blow is low, and whether after an accidental blow the injured boxer may continue, is solely in the hands of the referee. The Rules provide that the "referee shall be the only authorized person to determine if a foul has produced an injury, and if it was accidental or intentional."

2. The instant "appeal" is considered effectively to be an Informal Request, under title F of the WBA Rules. Regardless of how it is designated, the Committee is allowed to deal with the appeal and issues it raises through a decision by this Resolution. The burden of proof and argument is borne by the party "appealing".

C. Decision

1. After careful review of the appeal, the reply, all documents, and evidence presented by both the appellant and respondent, the report of the supervisor, and the report of the International Officials Committee, the Championships Committee has determined that the appellant has not met his burden of proof in having the Committee set aside the result of the Usyk-Dubois bout and therefore the bout decision will not be set aside.

Date: October 11, 2023



Carlos Chavez
Championships Committee Chairman