



WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION ASOCIACIÓN MUNDIAL DE BOXEO



PRESIDENT
GILBERTO JESUS MENDOZA

Resolution No. 202211171108 WBA Championships Committee *Welterweight Division* *November 17, 2022*

I. BACKGROUND

On January 05, 2022, the WBA issued resolution N° 202201051108 directing that WBA Super Champion Yordenis Ugas (“Ugas”) face WBC/IBF Champion Errol Spence Jr. (“Spence”), and WBA Champion Radzhab Butaev (“Butaev”) face Eimantas Stanionis (“Stanionis”) with the winners of the Ugas-Spence and Butaev-Stanionis fights to face each other for the WBA Welterweight Super Championship within one hundred eighty (180) days.

On April 16, 2022, Spence defeated Ugas via TKO and Stanionis defeated Butaev via Split Decision.

On August 08, 2022, the WBA approved a Welterweight final eliminator between Vergil Ortiz (“Ortiz”) and Michael Mckinson (“McKinson”). Ortiz defeated Mckinson via TKO and became the WBA Welterweight Mandatory Challenger.

On November 14, 2022, TGB Promotions (“TGB”) on behalf of Spence requested a special permit to sanction a unification bout between Spence and Keith Thurman (“Thurman”) on February 2023 in USA.

On November 14, 2022, Bruce J. Zabarauskas (“Zabarauskas”) counsel to Stanionis requested the WBA to enforce his right to fight for the WBA Welterweight Super Championship and if the WBA approve Spence’s Special Permit Request to fight Thurman, Stanionis retains his mandatory challenger status to the winner of the Spence-Thurman fight.

II. ANALYSIS

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

B. 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

C. 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,” to “extend or otherwise modify a mandatory defense period,” or for any reason the Committee and President deem just. WBA Rule C.46. a, d, and e.

D. The WBA may grant Special Permit Requests and require conditions. “The Committee and the President at 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.

III. 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. Spence’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 the title unification bout between WBC/ IBF and WBA Super Champion Errol Spence Jr. vs Keith Thurman (or Spence if a draw or non-contest) shall face the WBA Champion within 180 days from the later of the Spence – Thurman and Stanionis – Ortiz bouts.

D. Stanionis and Ortiz will fight for the WBA Championship. The winner (or Stanionis if a draw or non-contest) shall face the WBA Super Champion. The parties will have thirty (30) days to negotiate. In the event an agreement is not reached, or if any of the parties express unwillingness to negotiate, the Championship Committee may call a purse bid, with the split 75% for the Champion and 25% to the Challenger.

E. No other permit will be granted until a single champion in the Welterweight division is determined.

F. This resolution supersedes any previous resolutions.

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

Date: November 17, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Carlos Chavez
Championship Committee Chairman