



WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION

GILBERTO JESUS MENDOZA

President

Resolution No. 202306020601

WBA Championships Committee

Clarification of Super Bantamweight Division

June 2, 2023

I. REQUEST

On May 04, 2023, on behalf of WBA #1 Super Bantamweight Tomoki Kameda (“Kameda”), Greg Bloom, requested that the WBA grant a mandatory certification and fight against the champion of the division.

II. BACKGROUND

A. On April 06, 2021, WBA Championship Committee issued a mandatory negotiation between WBA-IBF Unified Champion Murodjon Akhmadaliev and the WBA certified mandatory challenger Ronny Rios.

B. On August 27, 2021, WBA Championship Committee issued a mandatory negotiation directing the leading available contenders in the division, #1 Raese Aleem (“Aleem”) and #2 Azat Hovhannisyman (“Hovhannisyman”), to participate in a final eliminator to determine the next official contender to the then-Champion, Murodjon Akhmadaliev.

C. On October 12, 2021, MP Boxing Promotions requested sanction approval for an eliminator. bout between WBA #6 Tomoki Kameda and WBA #10 Yonfrez Parejo (“Parejo”).

D. On October 14, 2021, WBA Championship Committee issue a tentative approval of the Kameda vs Parejo as a Super Bantamweight eliminator bout.

E. On November 12, 2021, Golden Boy Promotions won the purse bid to promote Aleem vs Hovhannisyman. However, the Aleem team informed the WBA that he would not agree to a bout, so Hovhannisyman was named the next certified mandatory challenger, at such times as the WBA-IBF mandatory rotation is due.

F. On December 11, 2021, Kameda defeated Parejo by unanimous decision in Hermosillo, Mexico. After his victory, Kameda was ranked #3.

G. On June 25, 2022, Akhmadaliev defeated Rios by TKO in San Antonio, Texas, USA. Akhmadaliev was ordered by the IBF to comply with their mandatory defense requirement, but he became injured and was not fit to box for about six (6) months.

H. On February 18, 2023, Hovhannisyanyan decided to participate on a WBC final eliminator against Luis Nery (“Nery”) and lost by Knockout in eleven (11) rounds. WBA Championship Committee withdrew his mandatory status.

I. On April 08, 2023, Akhmadaliev faced IBF mandatory contender Marlon Tapales (“Tapales”) in San Antonio, Texas, USA. Akhmadaliev lost the bout by a split decision after twelve (12) rounds in a close and controversial decision. The bout was scored 118-110 for Akhmadaliev and 115-113, 115-113 for Tapales. Thereafter, on behalf of Akhmadaliev, Matchroom Boxing (“Matchroom”) on April 13, 2023 requested that the WBA order a direct rematch in light of the close and controversial nature of the decision. The request did not meet all of the requirements of Rule C.26.

J. On May 27, 2023, on behalf of Tapales, TGB Promotions (“TGB”), requested that all four (4) sanctioning bodies - WBA, WBC, IBF and WBO - approve an undisputed title bout between the winner of the WBC/WBO Unification bout between Stephen Fulton (“Fulton”) and Naoya Inoue (“Inoue”) and Tapales. The Fulton-Inoue bout is scheduled for July 25, 2023 for the WBC Super Bantamweight title.

III. ANALYSIS

A. The WBA may modify the periods for mandatory defenses when it “deems reasonable,” 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. 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

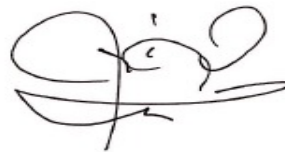
A. The Committee approves a Unification bout between WBA-IBF Champion Marlon Tapales and the winner of the WBC-WBO Champion Stephen Fulton vs Naoya Inoue. The winner of Tapales vs Fulton-Inoue (or Fulton if a draw) shall face the WBA Certified Mandatory Challenger at a date to be set later by the Committee.

B. Pursuant to WBA Rule C.26, the WBA reviewed the scoring and decision on a round by round basis of the Tapales-Akhmadaliev bout and has determined that the scoring and bout as a whole could support a rematch. However, an immediate rematch at this time is not practicable. Therefore, the Committee in the alternative directs that Kameda and Akhmadaliev fight to become the WBA Super Bantamweight mandatory challenger as a final eliminator.

C. This resolution supersedes any previous resolutions.

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

Date: June 02, 2023

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

Carlos Chavez
Championship Committee Chairman