



WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION

Gilberto Mendoza
President

Resolution No. 202404150408
WBA Championships Committee
Super Flyweight Division
April 15, 2024

I. REQUEST

On February 11, 2024, on behalf of WBA Super Flyweight Champion Kazuto Ioka (“Ioka”), Shisei Promotions requested the WBA to grant a special permit to sanction a Unification bout between Ioka and IBF Champion Fernando Martinez (“Martinez”) on July 07, 2024, in Tokio, Japan.

The WBA provided notice of Ioka request to Golden Boy Promotions representing mandatory contender John Ramirez (“Ramirez”) for comments. The WBA received comments in opposition to the request from Ramirez.

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

II. BACKGROUND

- A. Ioka holds a professional record of 31-2-1 with sixteen (16) knockouts.
- B. On June 24, 2023, Ioka won the WBA Super Flyweight title by Unanimous Decision against Joshua Franco (“Franco”) in Tokyo, Japan.
- C. Since then, Figueroa successfully defended the WBA Championship in the Super Flyweight Division, on December 31, 2023 he defeated Josber Perez by KO in seven (7) rounds.
- D. Ioka is a former WBA Minimumweight, Light Flyweight, and Flyweight World Champion.

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. Ioka 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:

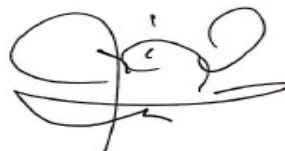
C. The winner of Ioka / Martinez, or Ioka if a draw must face Ramirez as a mandatory defense within 120 days of said bout.

D. Ramirez is authorized to fight for the vacant Interim World Championship against WBA #5 world ranked David Jimenez (Jimenez”).

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

F. This resolution supersedes any previous one on this matter.

Date: April 15, 2024

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

Carlos Chavez
Championship Committee Chairman