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May 12, 2016

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**RE: WBA Heavyweight Division Resolution  
Lucas Browne Positive Prohibited Substance Test Result**

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find Resolution No. 201605121702 dated May 12, 2016, regarding Lucas Browne's positive prohibited substance test result.

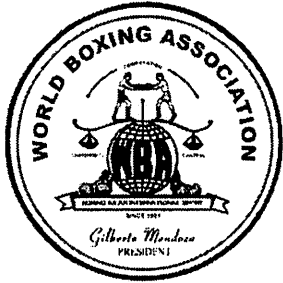
If you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,  
SMITH ALLING, P.S.



Michael E. McAleenan

MMc:jp  
Enclosure  
cc: WBA  
George Martinez, Championship Committee  
Robert Mack, Legal Director



# WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION

**GILBERTO JESUS MENDOZA**

President

**Resolution No. 201605121702**  
**WBA Championships Committee**  
*Heavyweight Division – Lucas Browne*  
*May 12, 2016*

## **I. BACKGROUND**

The WBA Championship Committee issued prior Resolutions directing that the leading available contenders in the division participate in a box-off to determine the champion and official contender for the Super Champion.

On March 5, 2016, Lucas Browne (“Browne”) defeated WBA Heavyweight Champion, Ruslan Chagaev (“Chagaev”) via TKO in Grozny, Russia, to become the WBA Heavyweight Champion. At or about the time of the bout, the boxers underwent testing for prohibited substances with the Voluntary Anti-Doping Association (“VADA”). The samples were tested by the University of California, Los Angeles, Olympic Testing Laboratory (LAB”). Thereafter, VADA and the LAB reported Browne tested positive for a prohibited anabolic substance, clenbuterol. Browne did not disclose his use of the prohibited substance in his pre-fight medical questionnaire.

On March 22, 2016, Browne and his representatives were notified of the positive test. Per applicable WBA rules, Browne’s B sample was tested and also came back positive for clenbuterol. Browne’s representatives submitted written comments essentially stating that the positive test is not disputed, but that Browne did not knowingly or voluntarily take the prohibited substance and that it was only detected at a minimal level. Browne pointed to the negative test sample taken a week before the bout and argued that taking clenbuterol during the week of the fight would be of no benefit for a Heavyweight, thus would be irrational/illogical. Browne also pointed to other sporting scenarios where clenbuterol was found in the local food supply thus warranted excusal from the positive test findings.

Of note, one of the last Heavyweight Championship bouts in Grozny, Russia, Ruslan Chagaev v. Fres Oquendo (2014), Oquendo also tested positive for a prohibited substance and claimed he did not take the prohibited substance knowingly or voluntarily.

## II. ANALYSIS

A. Boxers, their representatives, and promoters are obligated to "know and be familiar with all Association rules." WBA Rule C.14.

B. No boxer who has tested positive for a prohibited substance can be rated, retain a title, or be permitted to participate in a sanctioned bout for no less than six (6) months from the date of the positive test. WBA Rule C.45.

C. The WBA rules and medical guidelines adopt the prohibited substances list as identified by the International Olympic Committee ("IOC"), WBA Rule E.24. The IOC has adopted the prohibited list published by WADA. Anabolics and clenbuterol are prohibited substances.

D. WBA Rule C.27 states:

**Title Vacation and/or Removal of Recognition.** A boxer's title, status, or recognition may be lost, removed, or vacated for any of the following reasons:

- a. Loss in a bout (see Rule C.15);
- b. Violation of Association rules; or
- c. Suspension, charges, or criminal conduct alleged or found by a national, state, or provincial agency.

## III. DECISION

A. Based upon the above-mentioned Rules, which Browne is presumed to know, the WBA has express authority and discretion to interpret and apply its rules and guidelines in the best interests of boxing and the WBA.

B. Due to Browne's positive test for a prohibited substance, the March 5, 2016 bout with Chagaev should be ruled a no contest and Browne is suspended for the WBA minimum suspension period of six (6) months. Chagaev's title will be reinstated upon payment of all sanction fees due.

C. The minimum suspension is appropriate due to the circumstances of the negative pre-bout testing only one (1) week before the bout and Browne's arguments relating to the minimal levels detected and lack of any logical competitive advantage. Notwithstanding, Browne participated in the bout with a prohibited substance in his system and regardless of any arguments to the contrary, athletes do not always act rationally or logically when it comes to striving for that competitive edge in competition, whether real or merely perceived. Whether Browne knowingly or voluntarily took the prohibited substance is of no consequence concerning the no contest ruling and only carries any weight for purposes of determining the suspension period. The boxer and his representatives are ultimately responsible for what the boxer ingests. To the extent Browne argues the local food supply may have been contaminated with the substance, it has not been found in any other testing for other bouts held in Grozny to the knowledge of the WBA.

D. Browne's six (6) month suspension shall end September 5, 2016 at which time he may be rated again, conditioned on Browne being subject to random testing, at his expense, throughout 2016 upon the direction of the VADA and/or the WBA or a representative thereof.

D. Chagaev and Fres Oquendo must begin negotiations immediately and face each other within one hundred twenty (120) days of this Resolution as a mandatory defense of the title.

E. Any interested party may request reconsideration of this decision per WBA Rule F.5.

Date: May 12, 2016



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George Martinez  
Championship Committee Chairman