

# AIBA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 30th, 2021, 10:00 CET

# 1. Opening remarks by AIBA President

Mr Kremlev was glad to greet the Directors and expressed his hopes that the meeting would be productive. AIBA is responsible for the sport of boxing worldwide in collaboration with all NFs, and therefore the organization needs to enable the athletes to perform at their highest level.

Mr President also noted that AIBA should consider the issue of protests from National Federations. In connection with the controversial situations at the last Championships in Dubai and Italy, the President underlined that AIBA will ensure that the decisions of referees and judges are objective. He proposed the following sanctions in case this was breached: suspension of judges for several competition days, reduction of the number of stars and monetary fines. He emphasized that the R&J Committee should have a professional attitude to their work, to control the processes regardless of sympathy for the country, the National Federation, the athletes.

The President stressed that it was necessary to change the criteria for tournaments and to create common rules for the AIBA boxing championships. He also added that the tournaments should be broadcast on TV and sufficiently advertised before the start of the event in order to attract sponsors. This in turn will allow the organization to support the athletes better. As for Continental championships, AIBA should take under control the organization of them in case Confederations are not able to be fully in charge of the competitions.

Mr President reiterated his assurance that the recent remarkable achievement was the result of a joint work of the Directors and AIBA staff. Together in mutual support and standing in one another's corner the team would achieve greater victories and implement the necessary reforms.

# 2. Roll Call

The quorum was reached. Members excused: Oleksandr Khyzhniak. Members absent: Gay Uera, Jurgen Kyas, Irma Testa.

Mr Osvaldo Bisbal resigned on June 28th 2021. Mr Ray Silvas became the new AMBC Interim President. According to the Constitution, the President of each Confederation automatically becomes a member of the Board (art. 25.1 (b)). According to the transitional regulations, notably art. 50.27, the person who shall be elected as AMBC President, shall become a member of the AIBA Board upon his/her election. The next step is therefore for AMBC to urgently hold a Congress and elect a new President.

# 3. Summary of decisions taken by mail votes

11-06-2021: Appointment of McLaren Global Sports Solution Inc. (MGSS) to lead the Investigation Group and to be solely responsible for the composition of the Investigation Group. The Terms of Reference and the Budget were also approved.



25-06-2021: Appointment of Ms. Zsuzsanna Tóth (HUN) to be a Boxing delegate subject to ratification by the Executive Committee of the International School Sport Federation (ISF) for Gymnasiade 2022 in France.

# 4. Approval of previous meeting minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

# 5. Report by AIBA Secretary General

5.1 EUBC Under 22 Men & Women Championships (15-25 June 2021)

The host country and venue for 41 NFs with total number of 292 athletes was Italy. Venue: Roseto, Italy, Villaggio Lido d'Abruzzo – Outdoors (until the Finals) and the Finals were held at the PalaMaggetti Arena. RJ 2-star Course was held during the Championships. Regarding the COVID-19 protocol: AIBA Event Management Protocol implemented as well as PCR testing for everyone upon arrival and rapid testing during event – no cases reported. With reference to Bout Reviews: Six (6), with 1 decision overturned. Total Prize Money distribution: USD 320,000 (Three hundred and twenty thousand US Dollars).

# 5.2 Continental Championships, Bout Review Amendment

The Legal Team has proposed to implement new regulations regarding the organization of Continental Championships.

According to AIBA Constitution, each Confederation shall have the following functions, rights and duties: to organise Confederation Championships, other boxing competitions and training courses for coaches, referees and judges, technical officials, ring doctors, administrators, managers and promoters with AIBA programs (article 14.2 (b)).

Proposed concept of amendments to Technical & Competition Rules:

- AIBA shall have supervisory powers in respect of the Continental Championships (according to the current edition of T&C Rules, AIBA only provides counsel in the planning and operational stages);
- AIBA shall appoint the Competition Officials, including Technical Delegate, ITO, R&J's (according to the current edition of T&C Rules, this falls within Confederation's competence);
- If the Confederation fails to organize its Championships AIBA shall be entitled to organize these Championships instead of the Confederation and will own all rights to these competitions.

The Board of Directors voted to accept the proposed concept of amendments to T&C Rules. Competition Committee and Legal Team shall develop necessary amendments to T&C Rules according to this concept and present it to the Directors.

In addition, several amendments were proposed regarding the implementation of the Bout Review. *The Board of Directors voted in favor of the following amendments for the Bout Review Rule:* 



- a. Implementation of the Bout Review: the Bout Review Rule will be in effect from July 2021 at the following Competitions: Only AIBA-owned and AIBA-Sanctioned elite and youth events, that is, Elite and Youth World championships, Elite and Youth Continental Championships.
- b. Number of Bout Reviews: each team will be allowed up to three (3) failed Bout Reviews per Competition
- c. Cost of Bout Reviews: there will no fees for bout reviews.

# 5.3 Men's World Championships, 2021 Belgrade

The next Site Visit for Men's World Championships, 2021, Belgrade is planned for 13-16 of July. The technical Delegate will be announced/appointed as soon as possible.

# 5.4 Weight Divisions

AIBA received the feedback from numerous NFs who were in favour of increasing the weight categories for Youth and Elite Men Boxers to thirteen (13), and for Youth and Elite Women Boxers to twelve (12).

After voting on the approval of the new weight categories by the members of the Board of Directors - the new rules will come into force from the moment of the organization of the next championships. All decisions taken by AIBA go together with the support of the Committees and the Board of Directors.

# Vote for the changes passed by the Board.

## 5.5 Sport department

Discussion and negotiations with R-Sportz and Sportdata for: establishment and design of better rankings and database system (competition management) as well as opportunities to modernize and facilitate the tournament registration, draw and competition management. 4D replay will allow to explore the opportunity to make the competitions more spectacular and spectator friendly.

The Sports department has also proposed to develop an AIBA application. This will allow to see live results and follow athletes, as well as competition draw and tournament overview.

## 5.6 AIBA Committees update

Update on AIBA Committees: Mr Zurab Tibua and Ms Mariami Dundua resigned from the R&J and Competitions Committees, respectively.

## 5.7 Financial Support Program

Total number of applications received from National Federations: 71, 25 from AFBC, 18 from AMBC, 12 from ASBC, 11 from EUBC, 5 from OCBC. Applications that were approved by the Secretary General: AFBC – 1, AMBC – 0, ASBC – 1, EUBC – 2, OCBC – 1.

AIBA is reviewing all applications in cooperation with its Legal and Finance teams, all applications where sufficient information was provided (such as detailed budget proposals) were approved. The applications that are pending the Secretary General's approval are missing such information.



Applications received from Confederations: 2 (ASBC, OCBC) - document review pending, all other applications are awaiting final approval from AIBA President.

# 6. Report by AIBA Legal team

6.1 Status update on development of the AIBA Regulations by Mr Claude Ramoni

He presented a list of five regulations:

- Organisational Regulations,
- Membership Policy,
- Regulations on Congress and Elections,
- Financial Regulations and
- Athletes Committee Regulations

that had been approved as part of the AIBA Constitution implementation process.

He also briefly commented on the documents related to Integrity, Ethics and Discipline, four of which:

- Conflict of Interest Policy,
- Procedural Rules,
- Compliance Policy and
- Anti-doping Regulations

All documents had been previously approved by the Board. Disciplinary Regulations are still to be elaborated.

As for Sport and Competition regulations, Technical and Competition Rules, Transitional Provisions had been previously approved, Technical and Competition Rules, Referee and Judge Regulations and Medical Rules for Ringside Doctors are to be reviewed with the competent committees.

Mr Claude Ramoni also presented regulations related to National Federations and Confederations, 2 of which had been approved – Observer Guidelines and Financial Support Program Regulations. Template of Constitution for Confederations had been drafted and sent to the respective Confederations to be adopted at their next Congresses. Templates of Constitutions for National Federations still need to be developed.

6.2 Approval of new documents presented by Legal Team

Mr Yury Zaytsev, AIBA Legal Counsel, presented to the Board the AIBA Code of Ethics and the AIBA Policy on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions.

Mr Claude Ramoni, presented to the Board the AIBA Anti-harassment Policy and offered Mr Mikhail Prokopets and Ms Monia Karmass to be appointed as the AIBA Safeguarding Officers, because both of them were upheld by the Athlete's Committee.

The new Code of Ethics, Anti-Harassment policy, Policy on Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions were put to a vote and approved during the meeting.

Mr Mikhail Prokopets and Ms Monia Karmass were put on vote and appointed as the AIBA Safeguarding Officers.

6.3. Update on the Independent Investigation and the AIBA Governance Reform Group



Mr Yury Zaytsev, AIBA Legal Counsel, presented an update on ongoing Independent Investigation conducted by MGSS, and asked the Directors to cooperate with the investigation group. Mr Zaytsev also offered to extend a mandate of the investigation group allowing the group to investigate Refereeing and Judging at the 2021 ASBC Asian Boxing Championship in Dubai and other Competitions at the level of AIBA and Confederations.

The amendments to the Terms of Reference for AIBA Independent Investigation were put to a vote and approved during the meeting.

Mr Claude Ramoni, presented to the Board the AIBA Governance Reform Group (Prof Dr Ulrich Haas, CAS Arbitrator, Chairman of WADA Governance Working Group, Chairman; Dr Stephan Netzle, attorney-at-law in Zurich, former CAS arbitrator; Ms Melanie Schärer, attorney-at-law in Pfäffikon(CH), former Group Leader at FIFA; Dr Heiner Kahlert, attorney-at-law in Munich, Case management leader at Basketball Arbitral Tribunal; Ms Annett Rombach, attorney-at-law in Frankfurt, CAS Arbitrator), the Terms of Reference for AIBA Governance Reform Group and approximate budget for this Group.

The Board voted for appointment of he AIBA Governance Reform Group, approval of Terms of Reference for AIBA Governance Reform Group and approval the budget related to the AIBA Governance Reform Group.

6.4 Elections in NFs

AIBA reserves the right to refuse to recognize the results of any Election conducted by a Confederation or National Federation if AIBA concludes that such election was conducted with a serious breach of:

- (a) applicable provisions in the AIBA Constitution and the Regulations, including the Membership Policy;
- (b) constitution or regulations of the Confederation or National Federation concerned and generally recognized as democratic and good governance principles;
- (c) any relevant national legislation and regulations.

#### **Bolivia**

On 30 April 2021, elections were held in BBF. AIBA was notified on 27 April 2021. Mandatory forms according to the Membership Policy were not sent to AIBA. Complaint against the elections was submitted to AIBA does not recognize the elections and asks the Federation to hold new ones.

#### Gabon

On 24 April 2021, the Elections were held in GBF. AIBA was never notified before the elections. Mandatory forms according to the Membership Policy were not sent to AIBA. Complaint against the elections was submitted to AIBA. AIBA does not recognize the elections and asks the Federation to hold new ones.

#### **Nigeria**

Term of office of the Board expires on 21 July 2021, however, on 30 April 2021 the Ministry of sports decided to dissolve the Board.

AIBA shall notify the NF and the Ministry of Sports about AIBA rules, appoint an AIBA observer to participate in the upcoming Elections.

#### **South Africa**



On 5 June 2021, elections were held at SANABO. Later, AIBA received a complaint that an official from NOC had taken control over the meeting and influenced the delegates. The situation has to be addressed at the next Board meeting.

#### Zambia

On 29 May 2021, elections were held at ZBF. Candidates Notice Form was received by AIBA on 28 May 2021 (one day before the elections), while Congress Notice Form was provided upon request of the AIBA only on 3 June 2021. AIBA will monitor the situation, whether any complaint will be submitted or not.

# Decision on proposed measures in respect of NF's elections passed by the Board.

6.5 Membership issues - NFs Yearly Report

AIBA Legal team prepared the report on the four National Federations which are still not in compliance with their reporting obligations as per the AIBA Membership Policy.

## Fédération Burkinabé de Boxe

NF sent the activity report but not per AIBA template. Notice of launching a procedure to suspend the NF issued on 24 June, 2021 - the response is pending. AIBA shall grant the NF a last opportunity to respond, and otherwise, make a decision on their suspension at a next Board meeting.

# St. Kitts & Nevis Boxing Association, Boxing Association of St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Vanuatu Boxing Federation:

As for St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & The Grenadines and Vanuatu, these NFs did not pay their affiliation fees for 2020, did not take part in the 2020 AIBA Congress, failed to comply with their reporting obligations, despite numerous reminders, could not be contacted by phone or email, were served with a formal notice of opening of a proceedings aiming at their suspension as per art. 13.2 AIBA Constitution on 2 June 2021, and did not provide any answer. Such federations are not able to govern boxing in their countries and are in breach of AIBA Constitution and Membership Policy.

# Decision to suspend these three National Federations passed by the Board.

The suspension shall be in force until the next AIBA Congress, where the matter will be referred to the Congress as per article 13.3 of AIBA Constitution for a decision in accordance with article 13.6 of AIBA Constitution, all rights of the three federations shall lapse during their period of suspension, any Boxer affiliated to such federations shall be allowed to take part in AIBA Competitions as "neutral" athlete, to benefit from a special invitation ("wild card").

Solution aiming at safeguarding the interests of boxing and boxers in the concerned countries shall remain under control by AIBA Secretary General to liaise with Continental Confederations, regional associations, National Olympic Committees.

# 7. Financial report and approval of AIBA budget for 2021-2022

Mr Rob Garea, AIBA Finance Director, presented a financial report with opening and closing balance. He also commented that the amount of sponsorship money that has been received by AIBA. Since the last Board Meeting the updates of the Finance could be provided to the BoD: several meetings with Audit Committee were held, along with weekly review of National Federation support programs. The main expenses on the fiscal calendar come from education, development and support, and external



services – MGSS Independent Investigation. The 2021- 2022 AIBA's Budget was sent to the directors for review prior to the meeting.

The Board of Directors approved the 2021 – 2022 Budget.

# 8. Update on AIBA Communication

The presentation was sent to the Directors by email, the main points included the excellent results of the AIBA press conference which took place in Lausanne on June 28<sup>th</sup> and the new date for the International Boxing Day is now set for August 27<sup>th</sup>.

## 9. Presentation of AIBA Committees recommendations

## 9.1 R&J Committee

Mr Chris Roberts gave an overview of the R&J 1, 2, and 3 star courses that passed in Dubai, Italy, Saudi Arabia, and Croatia. Judges and referees received new qualifications and course content was updated, including the ethics and conduct training system.

The Chair emphasized the need of an 'Extra-Ordinary' bespoke course for ITOs/Evaluators/Observers/Instructors. In line with Competition Chair he introduced the proposal for a vetting process for AIBA competitions by specialized independent Assessment partner. In addition, 3\* 'new' R&J Certification should be developed. AIBA Strategy and Vision by using a database and background checks would enable the development of an E-learning portal (funding requirement) - 'high potential for the role'. It should be pointed out that language support and online question set on all Courses are highly recommended.

## 9.2 Competitions Committee

Mr Michael Heinz Muller spoke about the need for AIBA to be wise in every step of the chosen strategy to become part of the Olympic family, to restore membership of the Olympic Committee.

All AIBA Officials must go through the Assessment Centre (TBC) in the future, this will be the absolute prerequisite for appointments to officiate as an AIBA Official at AIBA competitions.

Mr Muller underlined that tightening the Code of Conduct for AIBA Officials, introduction of an Ombudsman, revision and improvement of the Bidding Book creation as well as organizing cross-committee meetings to work closely together would allow to make decisions faster and more efficiently.

## 9.3 Coaches Committee

E-learning: multilingual and multicultural online courses and webinars for the Coaches to update the level taking into account cultural features. Mr Ervin Kade, Chairman of the Committee, highlighted an important intention to work on updating the Instructor Pool through adding more experienced people, including Instructors for the Instructor Course.

Furthermore, development of AIBA YouTube channel for video tutorials and exercise folders for coaches and boxers by updating manuals and training materials and elaboration of Code of Conduct for Coaches.

## 9.4 Women's Committee



Ms Amanda Coulson presented Women's Aspire Program – the courses for female Coaches, R&J, ITOs, doctors and sport managers across all 5 Confederations. The pilot project to be held in the Assisi Academy in late autumn 2021. She mentioned the importance of providing Boxer to Coach/R&J/ITO: at Elite Women championships there should be a development program ran alongside the championships for those female boxers who are not able to continue their career as an active athlete.

The idea of establishing Women's Committee Webinar – educational webinars for AIBA & Confederations Women's Committee members on various topics on a regular basis - was approved by the Board, along with Women's Community of Practice – 2-4 sessions per year for female Coaches. R&J, ITO's and Administrators for each group are to come together for a networking opportunity and to explore different topics for discussions.

# 9.5 Medical and Antidoping Committee

Dr Ioannis Filippatos commented that one of the important steps was to educate active doctors to deliver Ring-Side Doctor and Cutmen, First-Aid Course for Coaches within the championships as well as to offer a separate course for Cutmen, Refreshment Course for certified doctors and cutmen. Forming and updating the list of all active doctors from NFs, rating them (e.g. National Doctor working in Continental championship etc.). It was proposed to create an electronic database of medical history and all medical examinations for the athletes together with database for all the doctors at the Championships.

He emphasized that it is equally important to ensure that the doctors who participate in the competitions have an active doctoral practice.

The Board approved the proposals made by AIBA Committees.

## 10. Additional business

No questions were raised.

# 11. Decision regarding the information disclosure after the meeting

Approved by the Board.

# 12. Closing remarks by the President.

No remarks.

**Istvan Kovacs** 

Secretary General, AIBA