

75 YEARS



INTERNATIONAL BOXING ASSOCIATION

Lausanne, Switzerland
April 2022



MESSAGE FROM IBA PRESIDENT

Dear Boxing Family,

I was so happy to be by your side throughout the year of 2021 when the International Boxing Association celebrated its 75th Anniversary. It was a fruitful and worthwhile year in the history of our great organisation.

A truly great champion is defined by more than his/her successes; they are defined by how they overcome adversity. IBA has enjoyed a rich history with iconic sporting moments but like a champion, we have also faced, and have now overcome, great challenges.

Our target was to implement vital reforms for IBA that were recommended by leading independent experts. We have completed the task after our Congress voted in favour of the Constitution amendments. Now that the foundation is laid, we can take further steps to putting our great sport where it belongs at the highest level of our sport.

I believe this is the beginning of a new era in which we can move with confidence towards our 100-year anniversary. However, we can only achieve this with the whole IBA family working together; all our athletes, our champions, our coaches and officials, our partners and of course, all our National Federations. This unity is what will ensure a sustainable success that will benefit boxing worldwide.

So dear friends, let's celebrate the wonderful sport of boxing today, and every day!

Welcome to the Home of Boxing,

**Umar KREMLEV
IBA President**

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688 BC

Boxing is introduced at the 23rd Olympiad in Olympia and Onomastus of Smyrna becomes the first Olympic boxing champion

The earliest evidence of boxing as a practice in Ancient Egypt

3000 BC

Jack Broughton introduces the first set of rules, which in turn can be interpreted as the beginning of modern boxing as we know it. The modern style of boxing glove was also his brainchild

1743

The square ring, bound by ropes, is introduced by the Pugilistic Society. The term ring continues to be used and refers to the circle roughly drawn on the ground for the earliest bouts

1838

John Sholto Douglas, 9th Marquess of Queensberry, together with John Graham Chambers, drafts an official set of rules for boxing, which is then published in the same year

1867

Revision of the Queensberry Rules



1890

1904

The first boxing competition at the modern Olympic Games is held in St. Louis (USA) with bouts across seven weight categories

1920

Official foundation of the International Amateur Boxing Federation (FIBA) and the adoption of universal boxing rules. Val Barker becomes FIBA's first Honorary Secretary

May 1925

The first European Boxing Championships take place in Stockholm (SWE); Boston (USA) hosts the inaugural Pan-American Boxing Championships

May 1931

FIBA Congress votes on the decision that referees are to officiate inside the ring

Antalya (TUR) hosts the first AIBA Women's Youth & Junior World Boxing Championships

2011

AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships are held in Guadalajara, Mexico

November 2008

First AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships in Scranton (USA)

2001

1946

AIBA is established. Émile Grémaux (FRA) is elected as its first ever President

1962

Cairo, (EGY) hosts the first African Boxing Championships

1963

Bangkok (THA) welcomes the participants of the first edition of the Asian Boxing Championships

1969

Sydney (AUS) becomes the host of the first Oceania Boxing Championships

1974

First edition of the AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships take place in Havana (CUB)

1989

An electronic scoring system is used for the first time at the 5th AIBA World Boxing Championships in Moscow (USSR)

1979

First AIBA Junior World Championships are held in Yokohama (JPN)

1994

Women's Boxing becomes an officially recognised discipline



Women's Boxing becomes a part of the Olympic programme at the London 2012 Games

2012

AIBA removes headguards for men's boxing competitions

2013

AIBA Executive Committee recognises International Boxing Day

February 2019

Umar Kremlev (RUS) is elected as AIBA President

December 2020



August 2021

New date for International Boxing Day is established — August 27th

July 2021



December 2021

International Boxing Association Congress votes to change the acronym from AIBA to IBA. New logo and brand are launched



I B A T I M E L I N E



Significant prize money is awarded to winner athletes for the first time in history at the AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships in Belgrade (SRB)

November 2021

AIBA introduces new weight categories — 13 for men and 12 for women

INTERNATIONAL BOXING ASSOCIATION MARKS ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY WITH TOTAL REBRANDING



A new milestone in the history of the International Boxing Association is reached. On December 12, 2021 the Congress voted in favour of changing the acronym of the boxing governing body from AIBA to IBA, and the new brand was launched.

The new IBA brings a modern and fresh look to the brand of the organisation. A new dynamic logo will provide a compelling and consistent look and feel across IBA's properties and will reflect a new chapter in IBA's history.

At the heart of the visual identity is a new logo which consists of a stylised moving boxing glove, representing the dynamism of the sport. The rounded glove evokes the globe and the universality of boxing and its accessibility to all. The movement of the glove towards the new IBA acronym symbolises the International Boxing Association's progress in reforming into a modern and transparent organisation, focused on ensuring every boxer has the chance for a fair fight.

The strong blue and red colours, synonymous with boxing, have been retained as part of the refreshed visual identity.

As well as representing the sport, the colours epitomise the harmony between the mind and body which is an essential combination for any boxer. The blue signifies the mind through trust, confidence and competence, while the red denotes the strength, energy and power of the body.

"This is a new era for IBA and we needed a visual identity which reflects our values and our commitment to providing every boxer with a fair fight. As we look to reform and innovate our sport we also needed a visual identity that was attractive to our fans and commercial partners, and which could be applied across our properties in an effective and meaningful way," said IBA President Umar Kremlev.

Distinctive boxing elements, such as the boxing ring and ropes, are used throughout the visual identity to help create a unique look and feel and connection to the sport.

The visual identity was developed by JTA Design a branding, web development and design agency specialising in international sport.



BLUE

trust, confidence, competence —

MIND



RED:

strength, energy, power —

BODY

2021 IBA CONGRESS: REFORMS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

The International Boxing Association Extraordinary Congress 2021 ushered in a new era for the sport as the federation adopted a comprehensive set of governance reforms developed by independent experts. A total of 107 of IBA's National Federations were in attendance to approve these wide-ranging changes.



An update was given to the Congress on parts one and three of the investigation carried out by Professor Richard McLaren and his team into boxing. Professor Ulrich Haas then presented the report of the Governance Reform Group, previously approved by IBA's Board of Directors. The report was approved by IBA's National Federations, which also unanimously approved a series of constitutional amendments.

Included among the amendments were the creation of a new Boxing Independent Integrity Unit, which is expected to become operational in the course of 2022. The Board of Directors will be reduced from 28 members to 18, following elections which will be held by June 30. Candidates for election will be subject to extensive eligibility checks which will be conducted independently. Very extensive changes to the Board's composition are expected, based on the imposition of term limits and enhanced eligibility criteria.

In order to enhance IBA's commercial viability, a new visual identity was revealed, with the new acronym at its heart and a new logo unveiled. IBA changed its full name to 'International Boxing Association' in 2007, but had maintained its previous acronym of AIBA, which denoted the Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur. The new acronym marks a new chapter in the sport's history focused on upholding the highest standards of integrity and ensuring every boxer has the chance for a fair fight.

"As we celebrate our 75th anniversary, I am very proud of the way IBA is quickly and comprehensively becoming fit for the future. Only a year has passed since I had the privilege of becoming President of IBA. Working together, we have already completed reforms that would not have been thought possible before," said President Umar Kremlev.

"We could not have achieved this alone. In preparing the measures approved by the members of IBA, we have had the support of leading independent experts in sports integrity and in governance."

"Just three days ago, the IOC gave its most recent advice to IBA, which included the adoption of governance reforms and diversifying our sources of revenue. It is a sign of how far IBA has come that we were already prepared to deliver convincing progress towards this at full speed," continued President Kremlev.

"We are doing much more than making very big improvements in individual parts of IBA. We are changing our whole culture in a lasting way. The new IBA is ready to serve the boxers of today and tomorrow, together with all those who support them."



IBA REFORMS

Over the past year, the International Boxing Association focused all of its efforts on improving across three major areas which have been outlined as those of main concern: Governance, Financial Integrity, and Sporting Integrity. It was our goal to tackle all three, and to transform IBA, in order to restore its reputation, establish a culture of transparency and work towards becoming a leading example in standards of operations for an International Federation.

IBA Governance reforms could and should not have been carried out internally. Therefore, the IBA leadership appointed leading independent experts in order to help identify and root out any questionable systems inherited from previous administrations. IBA asked Professor Ulrich Haas and his group of legal experts to assess current governance regulations and processes, and recently submitted a full report on the findings. Accepting all recommendations, the IBA Board of Directors is reviewing and implementing these further governance reforms.

An independent investigation led by Professor Richard McLaren and his team was launched in 2021, in order to identify those responsible for competition manipulation at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. IBA is currently seeking legal advice with respect to which disciplinary actions can be taken against those who have been identified in the report. Phase two of Professor McLaren's report covers IBA's recent competition events. IBA has nothing to hide, and it expects to take action over whatever is revealed in the report.

The International Boxing Association was burdened by significant financial debt, accumulated as a result of poor administration and misallocation of finances. In the first few months, IBA leadership managed to settle those debts.

In turn this has allowed us to fulfil IBA's primary function as an International Federation — supporting our boxers and their sport. Specifically, this will be achieved through allocation of financial grants to National Federations seeking to develop boxing in their countries. IBA has also been able to secure significant prize money for the winners of major and continental events. IBA intends to keep moving in that direction.

IBA is a home to boxers and is responsible for creating a safe and equitable environment for athletes to compete in. It firmly believes in fighting fair, and has dedicated the past year to improving its systems and regulations in that area. Significant changes have been implemented to ensure all competitions are conducted at the highest standards. Along with new rigorous eligibility criteria and vetting processes for officials, new scoring and bout review systems, IBA has carried out and will continue to carry out educational and certification programs in order to improve judging standards and sporting integrity.

The IBA European Boxing Academy has been established in Assisi, Italy. The Academy will become a boxing hub and will include theory and practice courses for all IBA officials.

IBA is dedicated to ensuring equal opportunity to all boxers. That is why, one month before the World Championships in Belgrade, it unveiled 'Fair Chance, Fair Fight' as the theme of the competitions, and also created a Fair Chance Team. This team has been created for athletes who have felt forced to leave their countries, often because of conflict, and is a response to growing displacement. In Belgrade there were 14 athletes successfully participating as members of the Fair Chance Team.

IBA's belief in the right to a Fair Chance is further reinforced by the provision of equal prize money for women and men. For the first time in IBA's 75-year history, medal winners at the Men's World Boxing Championships in Belgrade were rewarded with significant prize money. The prize money fund was set at USD 2.6 million, and a similar prize fund will be on offer to the medallists at the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in Istanbul in 2022.

IBA is dedicated to promoting boxing values all over the world. And that is why it was so important to celebrate our shared love of the sport on International Boxing Day on 27 August, with more than 50 National Federations hosting boxing activations and mass participation events.



UMAR KREMLEV: WE'VE DEVELOPED A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR IBA'S SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



— You have been in place as IBA President for more than a year. What accomplishments were the most important during these months?

— I can say without exaggeration that there has never before been so much achieved at IBA as in the last months. We've put in place the important foundation piece for IBA's strong future — with rigorous reforms in governance, sporting integrity and the financial stability of our organization.

We've delivered on what we promised. This new IBA is reliable, transparent and sustainable. We invited the best independent experts to help shape our work. Professor McLaren has been investigating past issues so that we can definitively put a very difficult period for boxing behind us. Professor Haas's Governance Reform Group has been working hard on our governance, so it is in line with international best practice. The IBA Congress voted unanimously for the state-of-the-art governance implementations into our Constitution. This is a clear sign that we are united in our intention to deliver on what is best for our sport. And there is so much more! Clearing our debts; establishing financial support for our members and for our boxers; bringing greater integrity to our refereeing and judging.

— The new members of Board of Directors will be elected during the IBA Congress in May 2022. What do you expect from this change?

— Ultimately this is for the electorate to decide. This election is a crucial step for us. We need new people; boxing specialists will be brought into the leadership, together with people from other backgrounds and areas of expertise. Together, they can form strong Board of Directors to lead IBA to a more prosperous future. One thing we can be sure of is that the processes around the

IBA President is looking forward to delivering continued reform for the International Boxing Association.

election mean we can all be confident in the eligibility and ability of the next Board of Directors.

— What do you think about the decision of Executive Board of the IOC that boxing will remain on the Olympic Programme for Paris 2024 and a pathway has been established for inclusion on the Olympic Programme of Los Angeles 2028?

— I am so grateful for the opportunity being given to boxing and its athletes. And IBA is also grateful to the IOC for its acknowledgement of our progress. The establishment of a clear roadmap is very helpful. There will certainly be more to do in terms of sporting integrity, financial integrity and improved governance. We remain fully committed to meeting all the objective criteria for reform established by the IOC. IBA is determined to put itself in a position to be able to organise both Olympic qualification and the Paris 2024 boxing tournament.

— Do you believe that the IOC will lift the suspension in 2023?

— I can assure everyone that we are doing our utmost to make it happen, but this is the decision of the IOC, which I will not speculate on.

— There were a lot of information about sporting integrity reforms. Can you tell us more what is to be expected in 2022 for boxing?

— IBA is launching new format of competitions, so athletes can compete and earn points for rankings and progress to the top competitions. World Championships will remain the flagship event and will be held each second year. The next edition for men is scheduled to take place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in 2023. For women, we will hold World Championships in May in Istanbul, Turkey and for youth boxers — in November in Spain.

We have already applied open scoring after each round, and now we are developing new scoring system to make boxing clearer and more transparent. We also are examining cutting-edge technologies to implement in future, while looking at best practice in other sports and bringing in independent expertise.

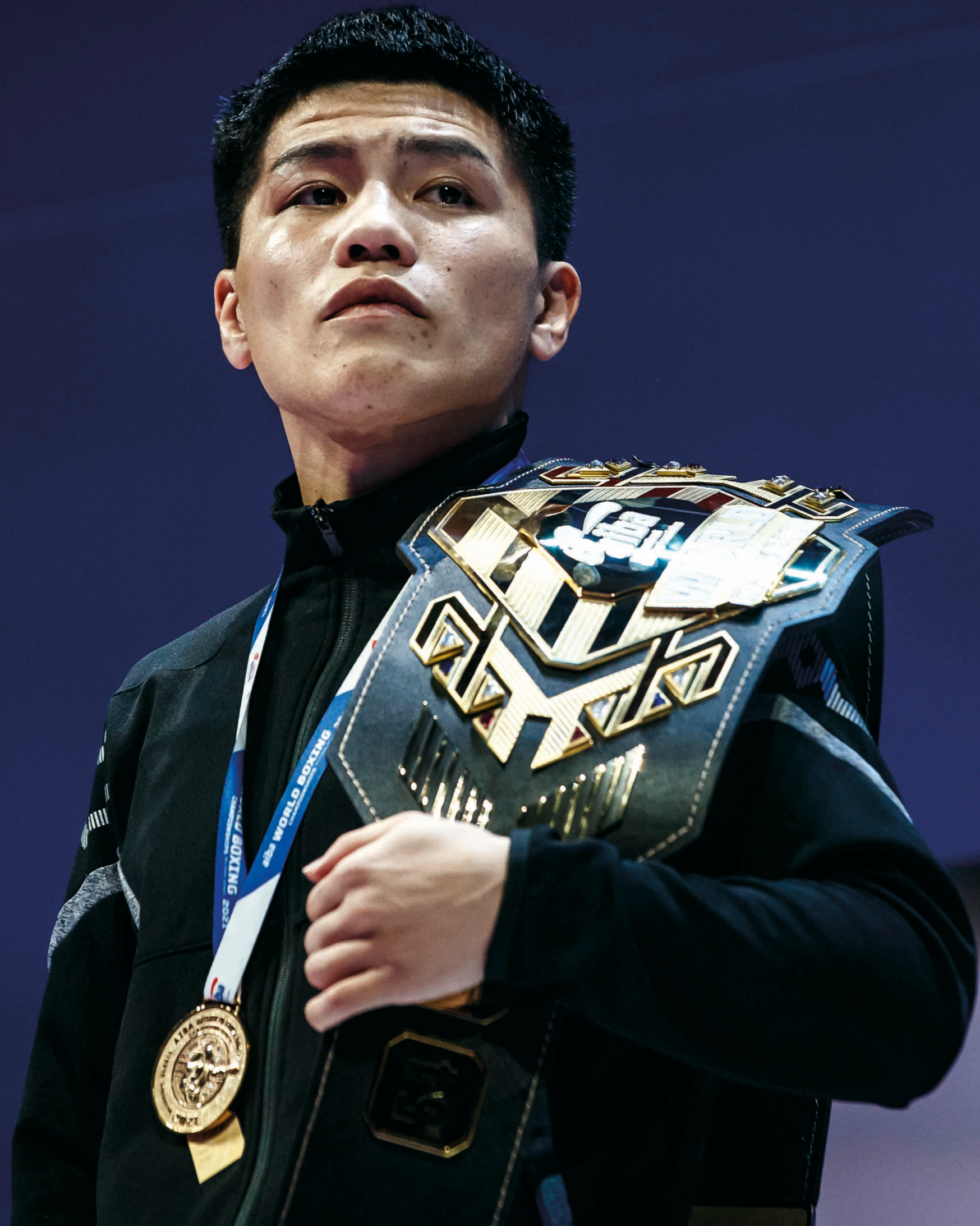
— **Do you expect new sponsors to support IBA?**

— One of the reasons why we've carried out a full rebranding is the possibility to attract new sponsors and partners. The old AIBA was tarnished. We needed to show a new face. I think this task has been fulfilled successfully, and now we can work toward signing new contracts.

— **How do you see boxing in 5-10 years?**

— I have no doubt that boxing will be among the most popular sports in the world. It is universal, it is accessible and it teaches so much. Of course, there's always a room for development. With a new competitions system, new scoring system, massive re-education of R&Js and ITOs, we will reach new heights. Our main goal is for boxing to be transparent, clean and clear, and I am confident this is vital for the bright future for our sport.





MOHAMED MOUSTAHSANE: THERE ARE SEVERAL REMARKABLE SUCCESSES FOR IBA INCLUDING RECOVERY FROM THE BANKRUPTCY



— How did AFBC manage to overcome the COVID crisis?
— The COVID pandemic was devastating in Africa, particularly in terms of the economic impact. Limitations of travel and closed borders, as well as airline cancellations, affected our ability to organise competitions and meetings. The situation is not yet overcome but it is getting slightly better. I believe this year the continent will be able to conduct the African Championships which will be a milestone for all participating athletes.

— What could be done to improve boxing in the African continent?

— Education is the key; development courses should be the first step. They then have to be immediately followed by practical application. Also, we need to ensure there are regular competitions in all zones of Africa with high standards to give boxers opportunities to compete at a high level. Furthermore, the necessity of an African Boxing Academy is crucial. As soon as it is ready, we will be able to educate more specialists, and that will improve the overall standard of the sport in the continent.

— As a doctor, can you share your thoughts on the necessary COVID measures at competitions?

— Sanitary measures have to be very strict and have to be respected by all participants, as in contact sport the risk of transmission is higher. But at the same time, it is not impossible to conduct competitions if all measures are followed. I believe the current competitions have all the necessary measures to keep our athletes and officials safe.

— How has boxing in Africa developed during the last five years?

— There were many good achievements but we need more consistency in our results. I am sure we can do much better if the opportunities are given to the teams.

— What are the next steps that need to be taken in

African Boxing Confederation (AFBC) President and IBA Board member Dr. Mohamed Moustahsane shares his views on overcoming the impact of the COVID crisis in the continent through the return of competitions and the implementation of education programmes.

the continent?

— We have already started to work closely with IBA, the R&Js Committee, and the Coaches Committee to implement online courses and webinars in a way that these courses will build the foundations of long-term educational progress. We have a big continent with limited resources that have been cut within the pandemic as governments gave priority to health issues, and sport was related to the second order.

— How do you assess the impact of the IBA Financial Support Programme? Will it change the boxing development in Africa significantly?

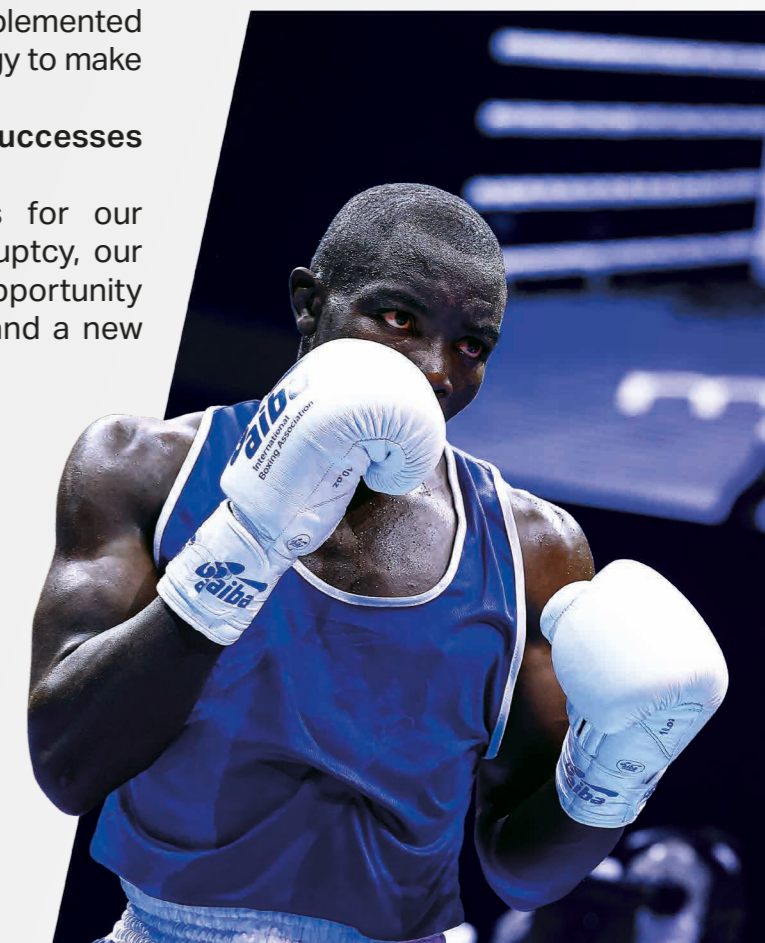
— Of course, the financial assistance programme will have a big impact on Africa's boxing development. Many National Federations submitted their projects which were implemented with IBA's help. We are working with IBA on a strategy to make it more sustainable in the long-term.

— What do you consider as the main recent successes of IBA?

— There are several remarkable successes for our organisation. Among them, recovery from bankruptcy, our new Constitution, new competition formats, an opportunity for all to speak and express different opinions, and a new vision for the future of our sport.

— What else can be done to ensure sporting integrity?

— More education programmes and clear rules which are same for everyone. We need to continue to reinvigorate the sport, and include new technologies at all levels. Most importantly, we need to give equal opportunities to all continents.



JOSE LAUREANO: I'M COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING POSITIVE CHANGES IN IBA

Jose Laureano, President of the American Boxing Confederation (AMBC) from Puerto Rico, was elected in October 2021. He aims high and sees uniting the Americas as his first priority.



— You are a newly elected leader of boxing on the American continent which has a great history and many famous boxers. What challenges are ahead of you as the AMBC President?

— In my capacity as AMBC President I am seeking unity of the Americas and aiming to strengthen the structures of each AMBC member to activate the areas of competence, education and training, basing on a constant dialogue in order to meet the needs of every region and thus work towards the goal to develop the continent.

— What is your long-term plan for boxing development in America?

— The development plan is based on the integrity of the countries of America. For this we will work on increasing the number of competitions by inviting different categories with the purpose of raising the competitive level. We will organise courses for coaches, referees and judges, ITOs, doctors and cutmen, in addition to creating a boxing academy in each region, which will serve to maintain activities throughout the year, with seminars, training camps and refresher courses. This plan should be consolidated in four years, so that the foundations are laid and AMBC continues to improve afterwards.

— You are a part of the IBA Board of Directors — what is your vision for further IBA development?

— Being part of the IBA Board of Directors, I have a moral and ethical commitment, along with all federations, to supporting all the possible changes to eradicate corruption, as the President and other members of the Board have been doing. This is so that IBA does not repeat the mistakes of the past that led the organization to the current status with the IOC. The recommendations made by the IOC should be followed and the organisation should be functioning correctly in all ways to become a highly respectable sports federation. All of

this will contribute to the development of boxing because good foundations will be laid in different areas, such as education, good governance, high-level competitions and transparency in finances.

— Governance reform provided by the Ulrich Haas group was supported by the Congress unanimously.

— I believe that the participation of impartial people in the IBA reform process is very important. Experts who are outside of the organisation, fully transparent, honest in their conduct and fair in their decisions, and are not manipulated by any interest, can guarantee a system of good governance and make IBA a model federation.

— How do you estimate the impact of the IBA Financial Support Programme?

— The impact of the Financial Support Programme for National Federations has been very positive, since it has helped several federations and made possible their participation in international competitions and training camps and allowed them to cover some of the operational costs. This programme should continue because it is the way in which the federations can develop, strengthening IBA and making it one of a few organisations that supports its members and Confederations.

— The International Boxing Association also changed its brand.

— While it is true that the AIBA brand was used for more than 70 years to represent Olympic-style boxing, with everything that happened in the past, we had to make a change of image to demonstrate that we are not the same. The change comes because from now on Olympic boxing must be seen as an example for future generations, an example of unity, honest work, support, good quality and good governance. Only in this way will we leave a good legacy for those who come after us.

— How will the new brand change the perception of our organisation?

— The change of brand is synonymous with leaving behind everything bad that was done in the past and that endangered the organisation. IBA shall be seen by the sports world as a federation with moral solvency, ethics, autonomy, and above all a credible entity, due to the changes that are being put in place.

— What are your wishes to the Boxing Family for the 75th Anniversary?

— I want to send fraternal greetings to the entire IBA family for the IBA 75th Anniversary. We are committed to working tirelessly to see boxing at the forefront of the international sports arena, and this can be achieved only in unity, leaving behind the actors and acts that put our beloved boxing in jeopardy.



PICHAI CHUNHAVAJIRA: I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO ASSIST BRINGING IBA BACK TO THE OLYMPIC FAMILY

Newly elected Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC) President Pichai Chunhavajira expresses his full support to the National Federations of Asia and states the most important tasks for him.



— How satisfied are you with the current state of boxing in Asia?

— Asia has always been a force in world boxing. We are proud of how boxers from countries such as Uzbekistan, India and Kazakhstan have achieved so much on the world stage. But we would like other countries to be able to ramp up their performance as well. Many have the talent but lack of the resources and technical know-how to transform that into achievements.

I would like to help the many other Asian countries who can also shine in boxing. We are in the process of crafting plans that will ensure that opportunities are made available to them in terms of logistics, equipment, and transfer of technology.

— What developments have you got planned for the Asian continent in the near future?

— I have always asserted that Asia should strive to be a model for clean and fair competitions in boxing and to show that it is possible and doable. Since judging in boxing is subjective, it is always open to criticism. But if we make a sincere and all-out effort to eradicate bout manipulation, corruption, and incompetence, the world will acknowledge that.

— How do you see boxing's development in the long term?

— We are obviously at a very critical stage in our life as a world sport. We need to be back in the good graces of the International Olympic Committee which has set very clear requirements to convince them that boxing should stay in the Olympic Programme after 2024. As President of ASBC, I will do whatever it takes to assist the leaders of IBA in showing the IOC that boxing is deserving of a place in the Olympic Games. That is one of the pillars of my vision for ASBC and the sport of boxing as a whole.

EUBC ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The head of IBA Medical & Anti-doping Committee Dr. Ioannis Filippatos from Greece was elected as President of the European Boxing Confederation (EUBC). He replaces Mr Franco Falcinelli who has been the head of the EUBC for the last 10 years.



The newly elected President said: "I am immensely grateful for your trust. We have a lot to accomplish and only by joint efforts can we cure our sport — carry out reforms, free it from corruption and create a sustainable basis for its returning to the Olympic program."

IBA President Umar Kremlev personally offered congratulations to the new President: "On behalf of IBA, I would like to sincerely congratulate Dr. Filippatos on his election to this position of great responsibility. It comes at a crucial time for the development of IBA and I very much look forward to our collaboration. I am confident that his experience and years dedicated to boxing will help him drive European federations to great success."

The delegates from 47 National Federations have also elected the new Board of Directors. All candidates passed the rigorous background check conducted by the independent Interim Nomination Unit and the vetting company.

The new members of the EUBC board of directors are:

- Krasimir Ininski (BUL)
- Andre Micallef (MON)
- Alexander Klemenko (MNE)
- Sumayd Khalidov (RUS)
- Ohanes Ovsepian (ARM)
- Felipe Martínez (ESP)
- Nenad Borovcanin (SRB)
- Vasile Citea (ROU)
- Zsuzsanna Toth (HUN)



TAUHITI NENA: WE NEED TO UNITE OCEANIA NATIONS

Newly elected Oceania Boxing Confederation (OCBC) President Tauhiti Nena expresses his vision for the continent's boxing development and believes more Oceanian boxers could become successful in the future.



— What is your vision for the development of boxing in Oceania?

— Development will come through a number of key actions. To start with, the consolidation of the structure, namely, to acquire an administrative office and staff who will be the link between the Executive Office and the 16 nations, the aim of which will be to strengthen communication. Secondly, to make annual trips to each country to learn about their real needs, to listen to them and show them our support. It is also important to invest in boxing equipment and better infrastructure. We also need to make the implementation of training for Coaches and R&Js obligatory on a yearly basis.

— What is the biggest challenge for Oceanian boxing at the moment?

— To maintain the link with each nation to unite us, and thus strengthen our connections and be more efficient. More than that, to perpetuate the noble art of boxing. May this motivation endure over time and never fade. Helping athletes to surpass themselves is helping them achieve their dreams.

— What are OCBC's plans for the upcoming competitions?

— In addition to the Oceania and the Pacific Games already in place, we will schedule Oceania tournaments for the junior and youth age groups. Competitions are the only way to help our athletes progress.

— How has the IBA Financial Support Programme assisted National Federations in Oceania?

— The financial assistance provided by IBA to the OCBC will be a huge benefit and we thank them for it. Oceania is a small Confederation of 16 nations, and the generous grant provided by IBA will ensure extra competitions between nations and development courses for both Referees & Judges and coaches. This will raise the standard of the officials and specialists and increase the skills of the boxers in Oceania.

— How do you see boxing developing in 5-10 years?

— I HOPE THAT MY VISION
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
BOXING IN OCEANIA WILL
BECOME TRUE.





ISTVÁN KOVÁCS: THE PATH OF THE CHAMPION



DEAR COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS IN BOXING,

Throughout my career as a boxer, I was always very aware of our sport's rich history. From those who had been in the ring before me, to those who helped build boxing into the amazing global community that it is today.

It has been an honour for me to join the IBA as Secretary General, following in the footsteps of very special leaders like Val Barker. This is especially so, because we are at a pivotal point between boxing's past and its future — a future we are working hard to secure.

One thing has always been very clear to me as a boxer, as a team leader, as a commentator and as an administrator: our success depends on our ability to work together. Nobody succeeds in boxing alone. Success is always built within a community of coaches, other boxers, officials and more.

I look forward to healthy and rewarding years ahead for boxing, based on our work together around our shared passion for the sport that has come to mean so much for so many people, all over the world.

Olympic Champion and two-time World Champion, István Kovács, has been working as IBA Secretary General for more than a year. He is a unique boxing expert, who has achieved a lot inside and outside of ring. And what a CV!

AMATEUR CAREER

- Won the flyweight bronze medal at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain.
- Won the bantamweight gold medal at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, United States.
- Claimed the flyweight gold medal at the 1991 European Boxing Championships and later won the gold medal at the Vejle 1996 European Boxing Championships.
- World champion at the 1991 AIBA World Boxing Championships in Sydney, Australia in flyweight.
- Crowned World champion again at the 1997 AIBA World Boxing Championships, held in his native country Hungary, in the featherweight weight-class.
- He finished his amateur career with an outstanding record of 282 wins, 14 losses and one draw.
- Best Boxer of the European Boxing Championships 1991.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- In his 18th professional fight, he became the European Boxing Union (EBU) featherweight champion when he defeated the reigning champion Steve Robinson at an event in Budapest.
- In January 2001 in Munich, he TKO'd Diaz in the 12th round and became the first Hungarian professional boxing world champion.
- His professional record stands at 22-1-0.
- Won EBU European title and WBO International title.

IBA SECRETARY GENERAL

- On 23rd March 2021, Kovács was appointed Secretary General of the International Boxing Association.
- Since then, he has played a pivotal role in helping the organization improve its sporting integrity, financial integrity and overall governance as the IBA attempts to be reinstated as the Olympic governing body for boxing.
- WBO Vice-President from 2004 to 2021



BOXING STAYS ON TRACK DESPITE THE PANDEMIC

Like all of global sport, the Covid-19 pandemic caused significant issues for international boxing events in 2020. However thanks to the careful stewardship of the IBA secretariat, the sport has bounced back to near normality in recent months. IBA and the whole Boxing Family has proved the resilience of the IBA by arranging major championships safely for men and women of all age groups.

Boxing was seriously affected by the pandemic, with all events halted in March 2020. During the next four months, only Tajikistan and Turkmenistan were able to host national tournaments, while Croatia and Belarus arranged competitions in June 2020.

International events returned to the boxing calendar at the Silesian Women's Open Tournament in September 2020, held in Gliwice, Poland. The Czech Republic hosted the Julius Torma Youth Memorial in the same month, with other National Federations coming back on track after that.

A universal Covid-19 protocol was introduced in October 2020 and since then all of the tournaments have imposed the highest possible safety measures to avoid any new cases during competitions. The protocol was used at the EUBC Youth European Boxing Championships in Montenegro and at the EUBC Junior European Boxing Championships in Bulgaria in November 2020.

Following this difficult period, 2021 represented a great success for the sport. The International Boxing Association and the Confederations arranged several major championships and tournaments from January to December without any issues by again applying major health and safety protocols.

Despite the difficult circumstances, the AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships were held successfully in Kielce,

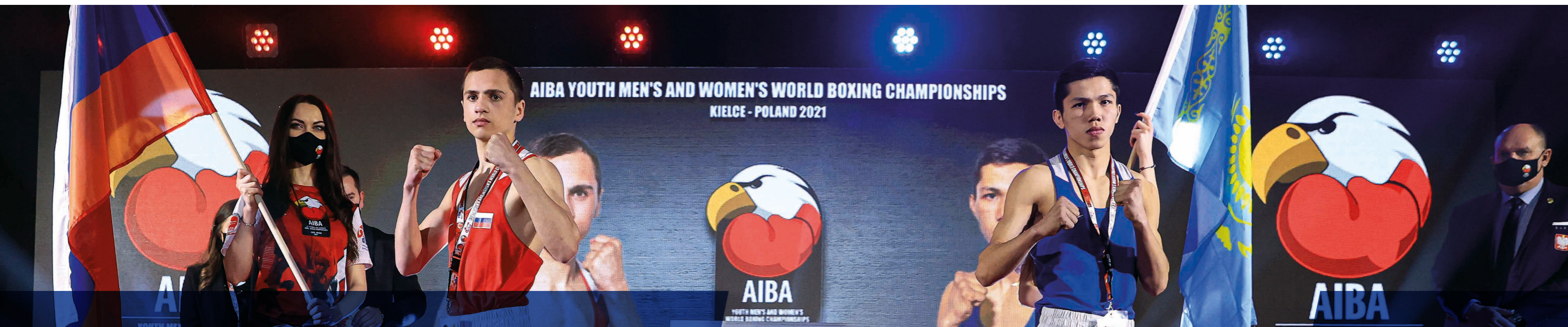
Poland in April 2021, contested by a total of 414 boxers from 52 countries. The competition was held with strict Covid-19 protocols in place. The top boxing nations, as well as developing countries such as Eswatini, Iceland, Nepal, Nicaragua, North Macedonia and the United Arab Emirates, sent their best young talent.

The AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships were the highlight of 2021, with 88 nations, including the Fair Chance Team, competing for medals and prize money. The number of boxers involved was 510, the highest figure since the Baku 2011 Championships. In total, 11 nations represented the African Boxing Confederation, 19 countries arrived from the Americas, 20 from Asia and 38 from Europe.

Europe has hosted 85% of international competitions since September 2020. EUBC organized its U22, Junior, Schoolboys & Schoolgirls and Youth Championships this year. The ASBC Asian Elite Boxing Championships were held in May, while the Youth & Junior Championships took place in August, both in Dubai, UAE.

The American continent hosted the Panamerican Youth Games Qualifier in Mexico, the Golden Belt Youth & Junior Tournament in Ecuador and the Panamerican Youth Games in Colombia in 2021. Africa held one Zonal Championships in DR Congo during the year, while Australia resumed its national events in November.

Overall, IBA has proven to be one of the most successful sports bodies in overcoming the issues caused by the pandemic by safely hosting major events during the darkest days in recent history. In turn, this has provided hope and inspiration to the boxing and wider sports community.



KIELCE 2021: FIRST MAJOR AIBA TOURNAMENT AFTER THE START OF THE PANDEMIC

Boxers from 23 countries and four continents shared medals at the AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships which took place in Kielce, Poland in April 2021. The competition was the first major AIBA tournament to be held since the Covid-19 pandemic started.

Competitions were rescheduled from 2020 to 2021 because of the pandemic. However, athletes born between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2003 were still eligible to participate.

More than 400 boxers from 52 countries took part in the exciting competitions. Yurii Zakhariiev from Ukraine claimed a unique achievement by winning the youth title in the welterweight division and later that same year duplicated his success by winning at the elite level at the World Championships in Belgrade.

The women's finals delivered top-quality boxing in Kielce. India's women exceeded all expectations, as they won seven out of the ten gold medals. Teams from Uzbekistan, Russia and Turkey won one gold each.

Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan won two gold medals each and became the three top countries in the men's section of the competition. Cuba, India, Japan and Ukraine shared the remaining gold medals at the men's finals.

HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS & FACTS

- India has never won seven gold medals in any previous edition of the AIBA Women's Youth World Boxing Championships, thereby setting a record.
- Uzbekistan won their first-ever women's medals in Kielce, and went home with six podium places, including one gold, which was their best women's performance of all time.
- Moldova had never had any women finalists in the history of the AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships until Daria Kozorez advanced to the title bout in Kielce.
- Czech Republic and Latvia had never won any medals at this level in the past. In Kielce, their two women claimed bronze medals.
- Montenegro had never had any medallist at this competition, until Petar Lijesevic won a silver medal in Kielce.
- Colombia won its first medal at the AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships since the 2010 edition.
- Kyrgyzstan's Zhantoro Tashiyev earned his country's first medal at the AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships since 2010.
- Asia claimed 70% of the gold medals at the AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships, with 14 titles in Kielce.
- Europe won five gold medals, while the Americas earned one top place on the podium.
- Europe earned 39 medals ahead of Asia's 37 and America's four medals.

KIELCE
2021



**48kg —
Gitika (IND)**

"I followed my coaches' tactic in the final and I tried to do my job with the same rhythm as in the previous rounds. I am so proud that I made India happy today."

Head coach of Indian National team, Bhaskar Bhatt

"To be honest, I expected five gold medals from my team but we obtained two extra titles. All of these girls worked seriously hard for this success, they were in full focus in the recent eight months to achieve these results."



60kg — Reito Tsutsumi (JPN)

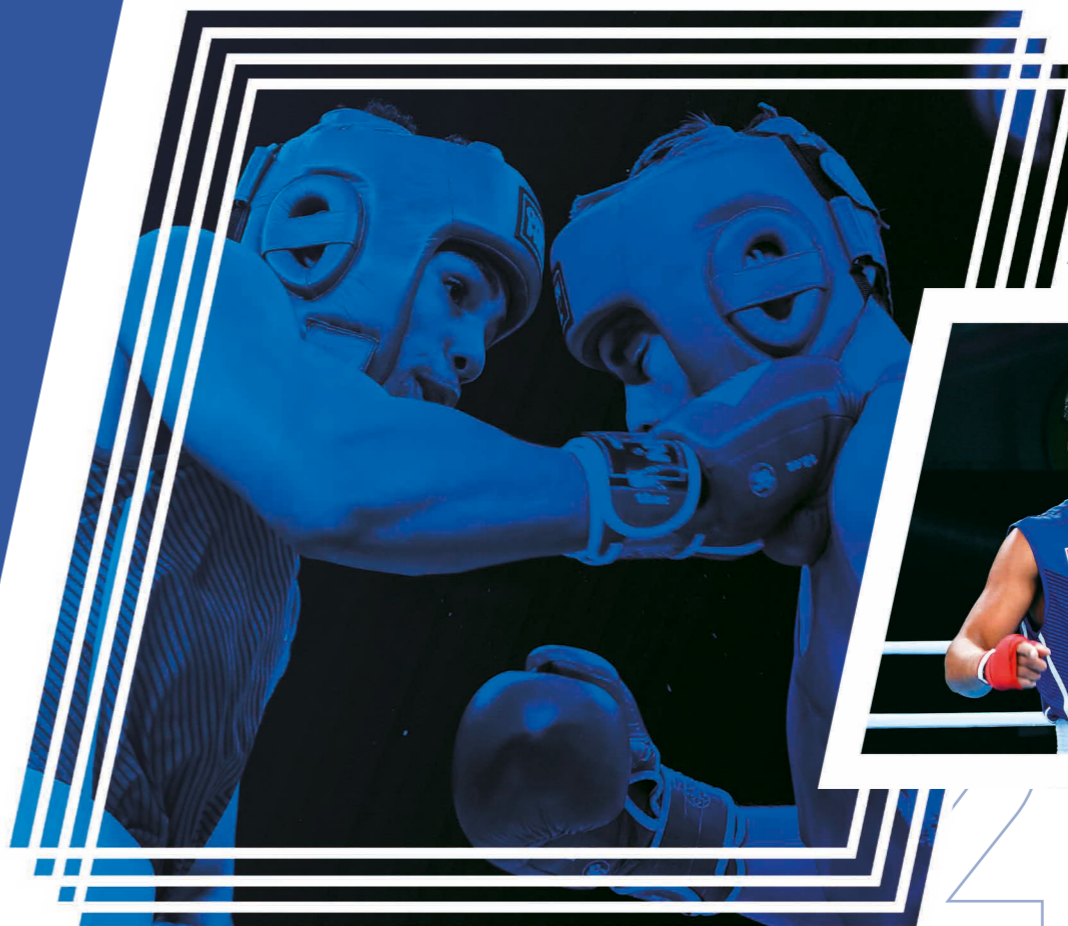
"The final was the most difficult contest of my life, but I was able to succeed against the tall Kazakh boxer, and I accomplished my target with this gold medal in Kielce."

54kg — Nigina Uktamova (UZB)



"I am absolutely happy that I could make all of what we were working for during the recent years. I am so grateful for the Uzbekistan Boxing Federation and my coaches who supported me all the time to achieve this gold. It is an outstanding feeling that I am the first Uzbek Youth Women's World Champion."

91kg — Jorge Luis Felimon (CUB)



"I boxed from my heart, from the very first seconds of this final, and I believed that I could make it. I am the champion and this is a fantastic feeling."

THE
2021



AIBA MEN'S WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BELGRADE A HIGHLIGHT OF 2021

The 21st AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships was held in Belgrade, Serbia in October-November 2021 at Stark Arena. The event became the first-ever World Boxing Championships which offered significant prize money to all medalists. The tournament returned to Belgrade after its second edition was held there 43 years ago.

Andy Cruz Gomez from Cuba was named the Best Boxer of the competitions. Japan, Albania, Belgium, Iran, Scotland, Serbia and Trinidad & Tobago made historic steps forward. What is more, 25 nations earned at least one medal and a record number of 42 countries advanced to the quarterfinals in Belgrade.

The AIBA World Boxing Championships was open only to participants who came through the national trials. The 21st edition was the first where the boxers earned not only medals but also prize money. The gold medalists received \$100,000 USD, silver medalists claimed \$50,000 USD and each of the bronze medalists earned \$25,000 USD.



Elite boxers could compete in Belgrade in 13 categories from the minimum weight (48kg) up to the super heavyweight (+91kg) after AIBA confirmed new divisions in August 2021. The cruiserweight (86kg) was introduced for the very first time in the event's history. Because of the new weight categories, a seeding system was not used for the first time since 2007.

A total of 510 boxers representing 88 different nations from four Confederations competed in Serbia. Countries such as Germany, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, RBF Team, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan sent a maximum number of 13 boxers to Belgrade. The lightweight (60kg) category was the most crowded category with participation of 51 boxers in Belgrade.

Cuba claimed three gold medals and topped the medal standings at the Championships. Julio Cesar La Cruz gained his fifth AIBA world title and following the event, he is now the second best in the all-time ranking. His teammate, Andy Cruz remained unbeaten since November 2015 and achieved his third-in-a-row AIBA World Boxing Championships title.

Japan, Kazakhstan and the USA earned two gold medals each. The RBF Team, Azerbaijan, France and Ukraine shared the remaining gold medals in Belgrade. The Ukraine's 19-year-old Yuriy Zakharieiev became the first-ever boxer in the history of the sport to win gold at the AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships and AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships in the same year.

Japan had never claimed a gold medal in the previous editions of the World Championships between 1974 and 2019 but Tomoya Tsuboi (54kg) and Sewon Okazawa (67kg) became the first World Championships winners for their country in Belgrade. The USA returned to the top of the podium and achieved its first gold medals since 2007. Jahmal Harvey was only 19 years old during the competition but won gold in the featherweight (57kg).

The American continent earned five gold medals, while the Asians and the Europeans achieved four titles each. Europe acquired 50% of the medals with 26 semi-finalists, the Asians had 14, while the Americans had 12 medalists in Belgrade. These three continents also filled in the list of the Top-8 boxers in each of the weight categories.

The Thailand Boxing Federation, Armenia, Belarus, Italy, Uzbekistan, Brazil and Turkey had finalists in the competition, but their boxers lost the decisive contests. Georgia, Albania, Belgium, Dominican Republic, Spain, India, Iran, Scotland, host nation Serbia, and Trinidad & Tobago celebrated bronze medals.

Albania, Belgium, Iran, Scotland, Serbia and Trinidad & Tobago have never claimed any medals in the event's history. Spain won one bronze medal at the first 1974 edition and after a 47 year hiatus, Emmanuel Reyes won another bronze for them. The Dominicans earned their first medal since the 2001 edition, and Belarus also managed its best performance in 16 years.

LIST OF THE WINNERS AT THE 2021 AIBA WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

- **48kg:** Temirtas Zhussupov, Kazakhstan
- **51kg:** Saken Bibossynov, Kazakhstan
- **54kg:** Tomoya Tsuboi, Japan
- **57kg:** Jahmal Harvey, USA
- **60kg:** Sofiane Oumiha, France
- **63.5kg:** Andy Cruz, Cuba
- **67kg:** Sewon Okazawa, Japan
- **71kg:** Yuriy Zakhariaiev, Ukraine
- **75kg:** Yoenlis Hernandez, Cuba
- **80kg:** Robby Gonzales, USA
- **86kg:** Loren Alfonso Dominguez, Azerbaijan
- **92kg:** Julio Cesar La Cruz, Cuba
- **+92kg:** Mark Petrovskii, RBF Team



48kg — Temirtas Zhussupov (KAZ)

"My opponent was so quick and strong but I could do my actions faster. My best round was the second when I felt the distance."

54kg — Tomoya Tsuboi (JAP)

"I trained so hard after my losses in the previous years to be a champion. I am the first from Japan, a fantastic feeling. Thanks to my coaches Yuji and Hirokuni for working out a successful tactic for me."



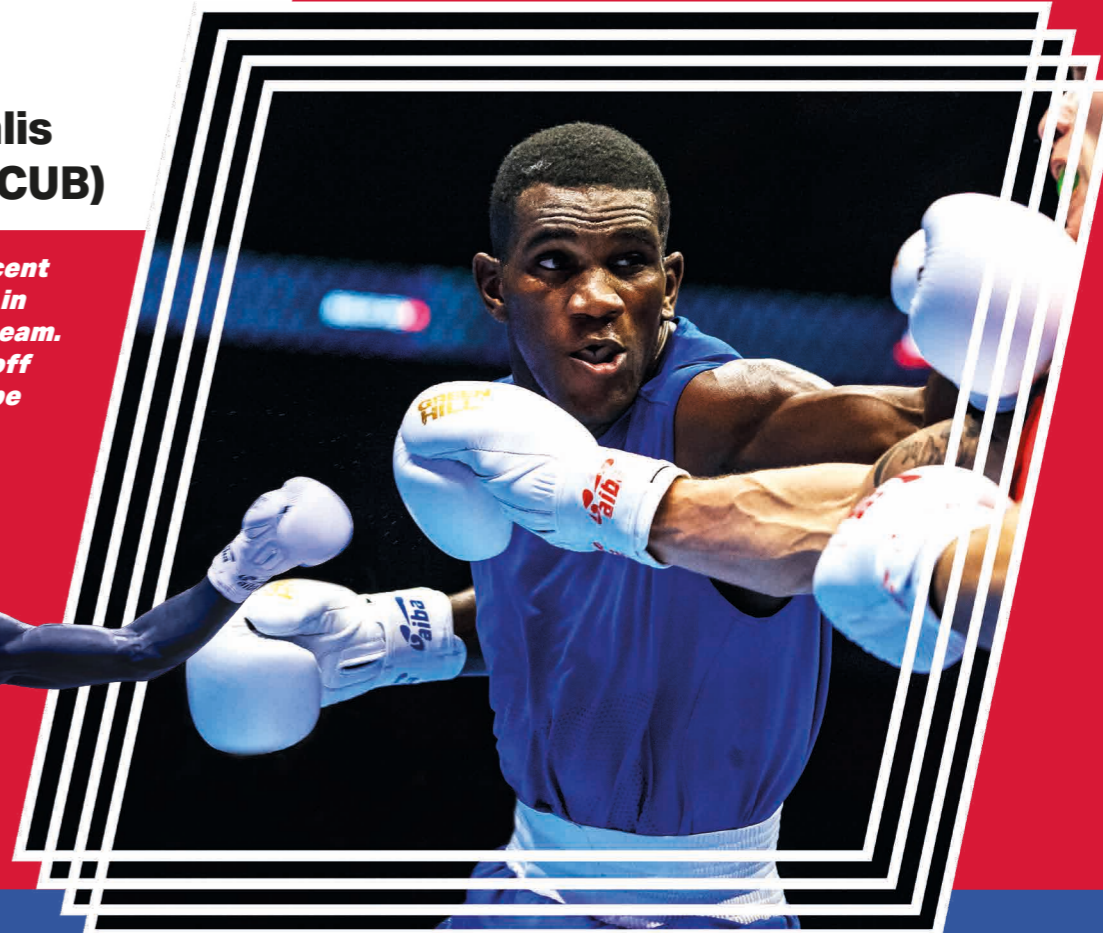


60kg — Sofiane Oumiha (FRA)

"It is amazing that I could win my second title at the AIBA World Boxing Championships. It was a real final and I think I am now a former Soviet Union specialist, I have a good record against them. Abdumalik Khalokov is an outstanding boxer, he tried to be Sofiane Oumiha today, but in my game I was more comfortable. It was a real final and I enjoyed it so much."

75kg — Yoenlis Hernandez (CUB)

"I worked hard in recent years to be involved in the Cuban national team. The hard work paid off today and I tried to be patient in the final."



54kg — Sewon Okazawa (JPN)

"It was a really tough fight, my US opponent is so strong, I could not catch him easily today. I had an injury of my left shoulder and it hurt, therefore, I tried to manage this bout with my right hand. I am so happy that I could win Japan's second gold after Tomoya Tsuboi. My teammate was amazing today."



91kg — Loren Alfonso Dominguez

"I am World Champion, I can't believe it. I worked a lot and this new weight class is perfect for me and to accomplish my dream is fantastic. Machado was a hard rival, he has such great technical skills and hard to beat him."





FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME SHOWS FIRST RESULTS

In March 2021 the IBA Board of Directors took the decision to set up a Financial Support Programme (FSP). The aim of the FSP was to provide financial support to IBA's National Federations and the Confederations in their endeavours to develop and foster boxing at all levels within their territories.

With the help of the FSP, National Federations and the Confederations are being encouraged to develop, strengthen and support boxing in all its forms. FSP will help the sport from grassroots to the elite, for girls and boys, women and men — as well as improve systems of governance, management and administration, in order to improve the organisation and professionalism of their operations and thereby become more efficient, transparent and independent.

Each Confederation is to receive USD 500,000 per year. The purpose of the funding with the maximum amount of expenditures by the Confederation, includes:

National Federations may use FSP funds primarily in their boxing development initiatives, in accordance with their long-term plans and with explicit mention of IBA as the source of the funds, as well as to strengthen their own organisation.

Financial assistance from IBA for the implementation of any single project of a National Federation will be granted in the form of an FSP Grant in an amount or a value in kind of up to USD 20,000. Several projects can be funded each year.

Competitions:
USD 150,000
Development:
USD 150,000
'Need based' Projects:
USD 100,000
Administration:
USD 70,000
Communication:
USD 30,000

FSP AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

IBA showcased its commitment to equal opportunity by providing support to 18 National Boxing Federations, as well as the first-ever Fair Chance Team, during the Men's World Boxing Championships.

The 2021 AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships, which finished on 6 November in Belgrade, Serbia, featured 88 IBA Member Federations. The winners of each of the 13 weight classes benefitted from unprecedented prize money, with gold medallists earning USD 100,000 each, in addition to solid gold medals and champions' belts!

In the build-up to and during the event, IBA supported the National Boxing Federations from the following countries: Cameroon, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Georgia, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Nepal, Nicaragua, Palestine, Puerto Rico, Tanzania, the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, and Venezuela. The support included helping cover travel and accommodation costs for the members of the teams. The same assistance was also given to the Fair Chance Team, which aims to support boxers who might not be in their native countries or might be prevented from representing those countries for humanitarian reasons.

Four medals were picked up by the countries that received IBA support. Sakhi Alakhverdovi and Lasha Guruli from Georgia, Alexy De La Cruz Baez from Dominican Republic and Paul Nigel from Trinidad and Tobago all won bronze medals.

"I dedicate this medal to IBA President Mr Umar Kremlev who has always supported small Federations like the Dominican Republic Boxing Federation", said bronze medallist Alexy De La Cruz Baez.

"Thanks to him and his help, we managed to win this medal. Without his assistance it would not have been possible. I dedicate this bronze medal to you, Mr President."





'FAIR CHANCE TEAM' COMPETES AT THE AIBA MEN'S WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THE FIRST TIME

The first-ever 'Fair Chance Team' got off to a winning start at the AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships 2021, with Abdul Fawaz winning his first bout at the competition.

The 'Fair Chance Team' was created in response to the world's growing displacement and humanitarian crisis, and launched within the AIBA social development programme to give every boxer a fair chance and fair fight.

The project aims to support talented boxers who might not be in their native countries or might not be able to represent those countries for various humanitarian reasons. For the first time in an AIBA competition, the team walked alongside the competing countries as part of the athletes' parade.

The first IBA Fair Chance team consisted of 14 boxers from different continents who were given the opportunity to fight under the AIBA flag at the Men's World Championships in Belgrade. The same project will be implemented during



Afghanistan-born boxer Tawfiqullah, one of the members of Fair Chance Team, said:
"A few members of my family are boxers and because of their examples I also started to train. My brother took me to a boxing gym seven years ago when I was 15 years old. My dream is to win the World Boxing Championships. My favourite time is when I stay in the ring and fight. To represent the Fair Chance Team here in Belgrade is a unique chance for me. Together with others from my team we went through many difficulties to come here, and I am very thankful to AIBA for such a great opportunity."

the Women's World Championships in Istanbul and other international tournaments in the future.

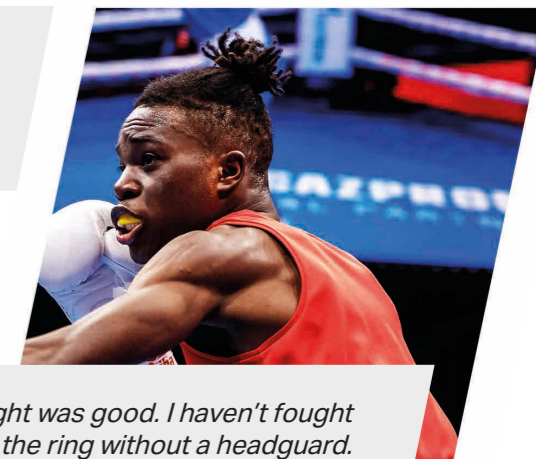
Another representative of the team — Abdul Fawaz, also known as Floyd — won his first bout in the World Championships. The 19-year-old boxer was born in Nigeria but now lives and trains in Scotland at the Byron Amateur Boxing Club. He won his first silver medal in the Scottish National Championships in 2018.

The Young Nigerian-born boxer arrived at the AIBA World Boxing Championships with only 20 contests under his belt but quickly delivered success for the Fair Chance Team during his debut contest in Belgrade. Despite his low number of bouts in Scotland, he boxed well against Trinidad & Tobago's Anthony Joseph and gained important experience of competing at the highest level. Fawaz surprised Joseph with his terrific work rate and changed his tactics a few times as the bout progressed. He won the contest by split decision, a first for the Fair Chance Team.

"I started boxing when I first saw Anthony Joshua, he is my idol. I watched his videos on YouTube I joined a boxing gym shortly after. I started when I was 14 years old and have boxed my whole life since. Now I am 19," said Fawaz.

It took him only five years to compete at the World Championships. And, it was his first fight as an elite athlete — and without a headguard.

"I feel great, blessed and grateful that my hard work is paying off. My first fight was good. I haven't fought in two years," Abdul said. "It was also a good experience to get in the ring without a headguard. "I'm really happy to be part of the Fair Chance Team. I came all this way, so I'm just glad to box here. The atmosphere of the tournament is unbelievable." He concluded: "I want to go all the way. I want to win titles, get gold and do amazing things in this sport. I want to enjoy it."





RECORD-BREAKING 93 NATIONS REGISTERED TO ATTEND 2022 IBA WOMEN'S WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ISTANBUL

A record-breaking 418 elite female boxers from 93 countries sent their applications to participate in the 12th edition of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships which will take place in Istanbul, Turkey on May 8-20. Among them, 19 former world champions are planning to compete for titles, including Brazil's Beatriz Ferreira, Huang Hsiao Wen from Taipei, the Philippines' Nesthy Petecio, and Busenaz Surmeneli from the host country. With 112 reserve boxers on the official entry list, there are 530 female athletes registered for the forthcoming IBA event.

The finals of the main female event of the year will be divided into two parts to attract the maximum media and audience attention at the Başakşehir Youth and Sports Facilities. The IBA Congress which will take place on May 13-14 and see the new Board of Directors elected.

"At this year's Women's World Boxing Championships, we will see a record number of participants competing for titles. With the introduction of 12 female weight classes, this will give more world-class women fighters the opportunity they deserve to compete among the best. To see a record number of nations confirming their participation in the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships demonstrates the continued progress of women's boxing. This is an area of development IBA has put a lot of time and effort into, so to see this strong desire of women who want to compete is something we should all be proud of", IBA President Umar Kremlev said.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AND NATIONS AT IBA WOMEN'S WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2010-2019

Year	City, Country	Number Of Participants/ Of Nations
2010	Bridgetown, Barbados	257/66
2012	Qinhuangdao, China	305/70
2014	Jeju City, South Korea	280/67
2016	Astana, Kazakhstan	285/64
2018	New Delhi, India	277/62
2019	Ulan-Ude, Russia	224/57





OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION SYSTEM FOR PARIS 2024



On 1 April 2022, the IOC Executive Board confirmed the Olympic Qualification System (OQS) for boxing at the Olympic Games Paris 2024. The IOC's confirmation follows months of work in cooperation with the International Boxing Association (IBA) to ensure that this OQS is the fairest ever created for our sport.

In developing the OQS, IBA worked closely with the IOC Sports Department, the IBA Competitions, R&J and Athletes Committees, Confederation leaders and the host country's boxing federation.



IBA is very satisfied with the results of our collaboration with the IOC in the development of the Olympic Qualification System. We are certain that all boxers aiming to reach Paris 2024 will benefit. We are also very grateful for the trust shown in IBA by the IOC in inviting us to develop this Olympic Qualifying System, with qualification based on performance at IBA events from the beginning of 2023 up to Paris 2024.

The OQS defines the categories for Paris 2024, with the IOC having previously allocated 124 boxers for seven events on the men's side and 124 boxers for six events on the women's side. During the planning process of the OQS, the priority was to guarantee that boxers from all Confederations would have an equal opportunity to qualify for the event in Paris. In fact, each Confederation will have the chance to send at least one athlete to all of the events: a first for the smaller Confederations.

**IBA President
Umar Kremlev**



I would like to thank the IOC for giving us this opportunity to assist in the development of the Olympic Qualifying System and for their cooperation over the past few months. They have allowed this process to progress efficiently, and for that we are immensely grateful. I am confident in saying we have created the fairest and most equal Olympic Qualification System possible, taking many variables into consideration.

**IBA Secretary General
István Kovács OLY**



PARIS 2024 EVENTS

MEN'S EVENTS

For the Olympic Games Paris 2024, the 12 IBA lightest men's categories will be combined in pairs to form six Olympic categories for men. The heaviest IBA men's category will form the seventh Olympic category.

IBA Men's categories (13)	Paris 2024 Men's categories (7)	Quota places
Under 48 kg	51 kg	16
Over 48 kg and under 51 kg		
Over 51 kg and under 54 kg	57 kg	18
Over 54 kg and under 57 kg		
Over 57 kg and under 60 kg	63.5 kg	20
Over 60 kg and under 63.5 kg		
Over 63.5 kg and under 67 kg	71 kg	20
Over 67 kg and under 71 kg		
Over 71 kg and under 75 kg	80 kg	18
Over 75 kg and under 80 kg		
Over 80 kg and under 86 kg	92 kg	16
Over 86 kg and under 92 kg		
Over 92 kg	+92 kg	16
Total:		124

WOMEN'S EVENTS

For the Olympic Games Paris 2024, 12 IBA women's categories will be combined to form six Olympic categories for women. The two remaining IBA categories, under 81kg and over 81kg, will not be included.

IBA Women's categories (10)	Paris 2024 Women's categories (6)	Quota places
Under 48 kg	50 kg	22
Over 48 kg and under 50 kg		
Over 50 kg and under 52 kg	54 kg	24
Over 52 kg and under 54 kg		
Over 54 kg and under 57 kg	57 kg	20
Over 57 kg and under 60 kg	60 kg	16
Over 60 kg and under 63 kg	66 kg	24
Over 63 kg and under 66 kg		
Over 66 kg and under 70 kg	75 kg	18
Over 70 kg and under 75 kg		
Total:		124

QUALIFICATION PATHWAY:

The Olympic qualification period will run from 1 January 2023 to 31 May 2024. Qualification will take place in four phases:

Phase One:

- There will be 26 quota places for men and 20 for women.
- The two finalists in each IBA category that form an Olympic category will be awarded quota places.
- Quota places will be allocated based on the Men's and Women's IBA World Boxing Championships (Q3 and Q4 of 2023).
- **Where two athletes from the same NOC reach the finals of two IBA categories that contribute to a single Olympic category, the NOC will decide on the final quota allocation.**

Phase Two:

- There will be 42 quota places for men and 36 for women.
- The six (6) highest ranked athletes in each of the Men's and Women's Olympic categories, according to the Olympic ranking lists as of 31 December 2023.
- Athletes who have been allocated a quota place in phase one and confirmed by their respective NOC, will not be considered for phase two in their respective categories.

Phase Three:

- There will be 42 quota places for men and 36 for women.
- IBA will ensure that all Confederations (EUBC, ASBC, OCBC, AFBC and AMBC) will have representation in every Olympic category. Quota places will be allocated based on the Olympic ranking list of 31 March 2024.
- The seven host country quota places will be allocated to the athletes who rank highest according to the Olympic ranking lists as of 31 March 2024.

Phase Four:

- There will be 14 quota places for men and 12 for women.
- A World Qualification Tournament will be held in May 2024, including all the Men's and Women's Olympic categories.
- The two finalists in each category will be allocated a quota place.
- If for any reason this tournament cannot take place, the respective quota places will be allocated to the next highest ranked eligible athletes according to the Olympic ranking lists as of 31 March 2024.
- Where NOCs have confirmed quota places in an Olympic category in phases one, two or three, they will not be permitted to enter further athletes in the same Olympic category at the World Qualification Tournament.

UNIVERSALITY PLACES:

- Nine (9) Universality places: 4 for Men and 5 for Women athletes
- Universality places will be allocated to athletes in order to ensure the minimum participation of at least one athlete per continent per Olympic category, according to the Olympic ranking lists of 31 March 2024 and subject of the maximum quota places per Olympic category.
- Athletes who have been allocated in phase one and two will be counted for these continental minimums.

EVENTS CALENDAR:

The complete calendar for the OQS is currently under development and will be published in full before January 2023.

RANKING SYSTEM:

The Olympic ranking list methodology will be published before January 2023.





IBA COMMITTEE PROGRAMME 2021-2022

The Committees are at the heart of boxing's development as a sport, creating and refining the policies that govern competitions and more.



R&J COMMITTEE

- Constant review of the Technical and Competition rules;
- Refreshing the IBA R&J Regulations Handbook (updated version of R&J standards post Tokyo);
- Complete review of the R&J Code of Conduct;
- Complete overhaul of the 3-Star R&J Refresher Course for the R&Js appointed for the World Championships;
- Database Refresher Course for Observers and Evaluators to be completed and delivered virtually;
- Special Course delivery for ITOs, Evaluators, Observers and Instructors;
- Inclusion and diversity promotion through 'new' IBA Inclusivity Toolkit;
- Corporate Identity – uniform for all R&Js at IBA owned and sanctioned events (to include the change of shirt colour for some events);
- Sub-Committee for R&J Selection to form confederation POCs to assist with the selection of R&Js for future championships;
- Evolving changes to the selection process for all R&Js to IBA sanctioned events – to include the application of a random draw process;
- Instructor Toolkit — cleaning and updating Instructor Pool;
- Updating R&J Course materials for all respective courses;
- Webinars and continuous Professional Development in the Virtual Space;
- E-learning platform to be sourced, tendered and applied;

- IBA Auditor appointment to be ratified with Terms of Reference (part of the internal assurance and validation process) — training required in support of this appointment;
- IBA 'new' Scoring System Pilot Study to be conducted early 2022;
- Support work through McLaren Sporting Solutions (Pre-background and on-site checks — to be written into our events MOU);
- Officials Pathway support for National Federations through 2022;
- Production of a 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQ) document for quick and easy answers to our organisation.

COACHES COMMITTEE

- E-learning: online courses and webinars for the Coaches to update the level;
- Appointment of national level Instructors and creating Basics Manual for NFs to launch 1-Star Coaches Courses;
- Multilingual and multicultural courses to provide more courses at national level in local languages taking into account cultural features both physically and online;
- Updating Instructor Pool through adding more experienced people, including Instructors for the Coaches Instructor Course (as instructors of the instructors);
- Collaboration with Universities to keep on track with development;
- Regular meetings in Teams — Coaches, Instructors, Confederations to continue the work with the programmes in between the meetings;

MEDICAL & ANTI-DOPING COMMITTEE

- Development of the IBA YouTube channel for video tutorials and exercise folders for coaches and boxers;
- Updating manuals and training materials;
- Introduction of 4-star (instructor for national level) and 5-star (mentor, instructor for international level);
- Elaboration of Code of Conduct for Coaches.

COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

- Unification of all training systems of IBA (ITO, RJ, Coach, Doctor, Cutman);
- Elaboration of special criteria system used to choose IBA Officials and Instructors through a special assessment following 3 main selection criteria: No corruption / Good lifestyle / High potential for the job;
- Tightening the Code of Conduct for IBA Officials;
- Introduction of an External Observer who can anonymously review bouts to verify if there were any IBA rules violation and other misconduct;
- Revision of the Bidding Book creation / Improvement of Bidding Processes for IBA World Boxing Championships and High-Level Competitions;
- Organise cross-committee meetings to work closely together with the most urgent issues in order to take faster and more efficient decisions.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

- **Women's Aspire Programme** — the courses for female Coaches, R&J, ITO's, doctors and sport managers across all 5 confederations. The pilot project was held in the Assisi Academy in late autumn 2021;
- **Boxer to Coach/R&J/ITO:** at Elite Women championships there should be a development programme run alongside the championships for those boxers who are not able to continue their career as an active athlete;
- **Women's Committee Webinar** — educational webinars from Women's Committee members for NFs on various topics on a regular basis;
- **Women's Community of Practice** — 2-4 sessions per year for female Coaches, R&J, ITO's and Administrators for each group to come together for a networking opportunity and to explore different topics for discussions.

- Educating active doctors to deliver the Ring-Side Doctor and Cutmen courses;
- Forming and updating the list of all active doctors from NFs, rating them (e.g. National Doctor, working in Continental championship etc.);
- Recertification Ringside Doctor Course in all Confederations;
- Create an electronic database of medical history and all medical examinations;
- Organise First-Aid Course for the Coaches within the championships as well as a separate Course for Cutmen.



OLEKSANDR KHYZHNIAK: IBA DEMONSTRATES OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY IN ITS ACTIVITIES

— What does it mean for you to be a Chair of the IBA Athletes Committee?

— First of all, I would like to thank everyone for their trust. Being the head of one of the committees of the International Boxing Association and at the same time the representative of boxers is difficult but an honour. Of course, everything I do, I do with pleasure and try to be helpful. As the Chair of the Athletes Committee, I have a number of tasks to do, such as helping develop the IBA calendar for the coming years and advising on the qualification system for the 2024 Olympic Games. Also, as a representative of athletes, I consider it important to contribute to the improvement of the refereeing and judging criteria.

— How important is it for you to be involved in the Board of Directors work?

— It is a great honour for me to be a member of the IBA Board of Directors. Moreover, I am the first athlete who was granted this right. I take my responsibilities with great pride.

— What do you want to do for IBA as a Board member?

— For me, the vital thing is to take into account the interests of boxers in the strategic and administrative decision-making processes of IBA. I will try to do my best so athletes can contribute to certain changes in the Olympic boxing system and change our sport for the better.

— Do you think that IBA is going in the right direction with its reforms?

— A number of changes have already been made by the management of the International Boxing Association, which I can appreciate positively. The refereeing and judging of tournaments, in my opinion, has become more transparent, and the number of controversial situations have decreased.

Chair of the IBA Athletes Committee, Board of Directors member, active boxer, and IBA World Champion Oleksandr Khyzhniak is satisfied with changes within the governing body and pleased that athletes' voices are being heard.



The prize money fund at the World Championships for men and women was met enthusiastically and it serves as an additional source of motivation and attracts even more strong participants to these tournaments.

— Do you receive a lot of feedback from athletes? What is their opinion on the current changes within IBA?

— I am always glad to communicate with boxers from other countries, with whom we easily find a common language. I note that much more attention has been recently given to the popularisation of Olympic boxing — this is one of the notable achievements of the IBA. In this regard, one can recall the large-scale celebrations of International Boxing Day on August 27, in which thousands of athletes from all over the world took part. This shows the great character in our sport. We are all one family.

— Is the voice of athletes heard in IBA?

— IBA demonstrates openness and transparency in its activities. I am sure that every athlete can freely address their questions and get answers to them. IBA employs many excellent specialists, I have been convinced many times with their professionalism.

— What are your next career goals?

— My ambition as an athlete is never to be satisfied with what has already been achieved. I constantly set myself new goals and strive to achieve them. The previous year was really hard — preparation for Tokyo 2020 and participation there took a huge amount of strength, energy and nerves. However, the result - an Olympic medal — was worth it! My future plans are to prepare for new tournaments, participate in major competitions, defeat my rivals and win new medals.

My motto is "Viam supervadet vadens", it means that the path will be overcome by the person walking it. I am always guided by it both in the ring and in my life.



CHRIS ROBERTS: EDUCATION IS KEY FOR GOOD REFEREEING AND JUDGING

The Chairman of the IBA Referee & Judge Committee talks about the key factors of Referees and Judges' improvements and summarises the work of the IBA R&Js Committee in the last months.



— How do you assess the work done by the R&J Committee in recent months?

— The work has been considerable since the Committee came together in March 2021. We have been able to look at work that had been completed in the past, with a review of that work and the ability to create new objectives moving forward. It is very difficult to put a full estimate on the size and scale, but notably a culmination with some of the work we have completed was put in place for the Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships.

— What are the most remarkable achievements of the Committee?

— There are a couple of great achievements, particularly in the areas of training, continuous professional development (CPD), and our ethics, behaviour, and governance. The new 3-Star training course was put together and delivered prior to both World Championships; this course now contains a full complement of video analysis, along with our work towards good ethics and behaviour, with a new model applied within the course content. We would also like to mention the fantastic work that we have done working alongside McLaren Global Sports Solutions. The first trial run of pre-background checks and cognitive assessments was again delivered at the World Championships, Belgrade in November 2021 and now we have used the same selection process prior to Women's World Championships in Istanbul. This was extremely well received and reported on as a great initiative and best practice by the external auditor present during the championships in Belgrade.

— What are your goals for the rest of 2022?

— We must ensure that our instructor capability is fit for purpose; once we achieve this, we will focus on course delivery at the 1,2 and 3 Star level. We are particularly keen

to develop our educational packages, with work towards an E-Learning platform specifically designed for Referees and Judges across the globe. We will also continue our focus with McLaren in the areas of good ethical behaviour – we aim to take this forward, with future advice given to Confederations to assist with the IBA 'Fair Fight' campaign. The other area of focus sits with our new scoring system pilot which we have launched a few months ago. We are keen to ensure that regular feedback to the NFs is provided as we take this work forward. We are also extremely keen to develop our database collation, linked to performance and activity. This will assist in establishing the R&J's pool during the selection for major tournaments.

— How can we improve the quality of refereeing and judging in boxing?

— The quality of training and education is key to the success of refereeing and judging within the sport of boxing. Some of the key work this year will focus around CPD and education. We also aim to set up a more transparent ranking system for our R&Js, whereby we are able to manage quality performance throughout the year. This is something that we would like to achieve moving forward, linked to the development work of our Evaluators and Observers. Again, in order to improve the quality of our R&Js, we need to ensure that we maintain the training effect with our Evaluators and Observers.

— IBA is now testing the new scoring system. Do you believe it will help to improve the sport?

— We are hopeful for some positive results which will allow IBA to see new ways in which to enhance the scoring system. It is a really interesting study that will assist us with our development programme. The reason why we decided to pilot the study in order to fully understand the dynamic of a round/bout, against those judges who fully understand the

scoring criteria. It is an extremely interesting process, which the committee are keen to understand. We know that the 10 point-must system was originally brought in to support WSB and APB, which we know is effective over 5+ rounds of boxing. We need to ensure that we capture every part of the round both subjectively and objectively. The pilot study will better inform us of what good looks like, and how we may be able to shape our scoring system for the future.

— **Do all the R&Js need to go through courses once the new scoring system is implemented?**

— Once we fully understand the needs of the organisation through our pilot and analysis collation, we will ensure that all training requirements are met. This is an extremely big task, but we do have the ability to develop a 'train the trainer' package for specific areas of training and delivery. So, for example, if the new scoring system is seen to be the correct way forward, we would apply those Enabling and Training Objectives in order to meet our output requirements. We have the ability to run continental webinars, which in turn can be delivered at National Federation level. All new courses will incorporate any changes that we implement.

— **Are you satisfied with the outcome of the McLaren team's assessment process in Belgrade and Istanbul? Does it really help for transparency?**

— This was a fantastic collaborative piece of work, which demonstrates IBA's ability to explore and exploit those opportunities provided by our third-party partners and key stakeholders. We know that this has been an area of concern for many years, the committee are keen to eradicate any form of bad ethical behaviour which in turn brings the sport of boxing into disrepute. This step towards greater transparency was seen as the right way forward, based on the supportive comments made by National Federations at the most recent IBA Congress in December. This model of work will continue with our future work and competition activity in the area of manipulation.

— **What technologies could be put in place for the development of boxing?**

— As already mentioned within this article, we will be looking deeply into our scoring technology, which could be adapted to an application. We must be mindful of innovative ideas and development, which could assist the sport of boxing, and make those applications more effective. For example, the ability to use tablets around the ring. A technology system that could also be linked directly to the Evaluators who would see the live scores, with the platforms already prepared to manage the judges and referees' performance, instantly. This would help with our data management and the ability to measure performance more accurately. The benefit of technology, such as this, could indeed be developed for ease and used by our National Federations and respective club level boxing.

Security would have to be applied to each of the applications, but this is an area that we must exploit and evolve in the future. Information Technology as we know currently is instant; Covid has taught us that we can communicate from any location in the world to a sizable audience. Again, we should look at ways and means with effective training delivery, and how best to utilise our instructor capability.

— **How do you see boxing in 5-10 years? What will change?**

— This is an extremely good question. We must do everything we can to ensure that our boxers have those opportunities to reach their highest goals. Our joint collaborative work with our committees is key to ensure that we achieve success at every level. We hope that boxing will remain as an Olympic Sport; every boxer dreams of being an Olympic Champion. The work that we do now as an organisation is key in ensuring that those goals remain available, whether that be at the Olympic Games, or at the World Championships. Everyone has a part to play in that pathway; what will change? I hope the mindset to open up new areas of development, to remain agile and proactive as an organisation. To leave a great legacy in the sport of boxing, that will take us forward for our younger generation to enjoy all of those benefits we create and leave behind.



ERVIN KADE: ATHLETE SAFETY AND TRANSPARENT DECISION-MAKING ARE PRIORITIES FOR COACHES

Chair of the IBA Coaches Committee shares his thoughts on the current developments of the committee and underlines the importance of training for coaches to improve their skills.



— How have the lives of coaches changed in the last year?

— The previous year was a busy one for coaches. Among other important tournaments, we had the Men's World Boxing Championships and continental championships running. In addition to this, boxers needed sparring camps and continuous training in their home countries. Because of COVID restrictions it was hard to plan, and the situation was changing quickly. Coaches had to find new formats while there were no competitions, although this did give athletes more time to pay attention to training.

— What are the most important achievements of the Coaches Committee in recent months?

— The Coaches Committee has been working hard to find solutions to various important issues. One of the key topics has been the healthcare of the athletes and cut prevention. We have been working on statistics to find out what had changed after the removal of headguards.

Training coaches is one of the most important areas and we have been working on the preparation of the new development programme. We have held several meetings to renew the manual and to prepare the new coaches instructor course.

— What opportunities do you want to give to coaches worldwide to ensure successful work?

— Well, success of the coaches usually depends on success of their athletes. To measure the success of an athlete in a boxing match, there are many things that have to be studied. First of all, we have made new connections to universities that have people involved in boxing at the highest level. The Coaches Committee has gathered a special Task Force of researchers and lecturers. We want to make the results of fights more transparent and for there to be more

statistical consideration. After the upcoming change of the scoring criteria, it will be important to deliver the knowledge to boxing coaches. There are some countries, that have a scientific support by their NOC for their high-level athletes. Our mission is to equally support every country, to raise the level of the coaching skills by delivering the courses and organising online training sessions.

— How often do you meet with your colleagues on the Coaches Committee?

— We have Coaches Committee meetings every three months. However, there is always constant work going on between the meetings. We have a lot of communication with other IBA Committees, as well as the IBA Head office and the National Federations. The federations are interested mostly in coaches training. With other committees we usually discuss cross-committee issues that should be tackled together. For our committee, the biggest concern is athletes' safety, transparent decision making, and coaches training development.

— Will the new scoring system change the training process of athletes?

— Yes, of course. It must be tested well before using it in competitions and coaches must be informed what it is all about.

— Tell us more about the update to the coaches courses: what is included now that wasn't before?

— Our short-term strategy in the Coaches Committee was to develop the training system for IBA coaches and to standardise specialists' levels with the competition system. Our instructors have reported that there is a huge gap between national level training systems in various countries worldwide. For this reason, we have planned to set up a system for national coaches training, which will involve an

e-learning platform as a part of our development plan.

We will continue to deliver IBA courses as before, on-site learning courses and online courses that are the new mode of delivery. The programmes and the content of the courses have changed. Specifications of the women's training will be included in the new programme. There is now more learner-oriented content with daily reflection on new knowledge. Every course will include a one-week practical training after three days of theory sessions. Level 2 and 3 are divided into multiple teaching modules for a longer period. Level 2 includes three modules and level 3 includes five training modules.

— **What will you consider your personal success in 2022?**

— Well, I train a lot and am interested in developing myself. I finished a course on sports administration and I am keen to start my Doctoral degree this year.



IBA EDUCATION — CONTINUOUS LEARNING AROUND THE WORLD

In June 2021, IBA renewed its Development Programme, which included an update to the IBA educational courses, the recertification process for IBA Ringside Doctors, expanding specific educational modules for women involved in boxing, and adding R&J and coaches instructor's courses aimed at extending IBA Instructors Pool with the most experienced trainers who will be able to deliver courses in all IBA official languages worldwide.

Last year IBA adopted its educational programmes to the new digitalisation reality created by the COVID crisis to provide National Federations with continuous learning opportunities. In 2021 IBA organised virtual and physical 1-Star, 2-Star and 3-Star R&J and coaches courses, ITO and Ringside Doctors courses at national, continental and international levels.

Online IBA 1-Star coaches courses organised in a virtual format in Ecuador in June 2021 and later in Jordan in December mark one of the best examples of the new IBA online educational programme.

"The course was well organized with great support from the instructor having the detailed information about boxing rules, training methods, planning, health and diet." Fadi Waqqad — online 1-Star coaches course participant from the Jordan Boxing Association

The highest number of requests received was to host 1-Star R&J courses. These took place in five countries on three continents in three IBA official languages. The current programme for R&Js is now being updated to adapt it to the new scoring system that should be tested this year starting with grassroots levels.

"At the outset, I would like to thank the International Boxing Association for organising this course, which was the turning point for me in achieving my goals. We thank the instructor for his efforts in clarifying and explaining all the requirements, following up and evaluating the referees in a theoretical and practical way. I hope to complete this process until I get three stars under the umbrella of the IBA." — Diana Alkurdi — 1-Star R&J course participant.

"I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to IBA for giving me this opportunity. The course in Jordan provided us with the most important international experience and self-confidence, and we learned how to lead fights in a better way. This course came at the right time after we obtained experience from many bouts in the Kingdom and gave us the motivation to enter a new level. The international badge received after this training happened with the cooperation

of the IBA R&Js Committee and my colleagues from the National Federation. I aspire to prepare for the new IBA courses to get more experience and move forward into higher levels of expertise.” — Manar Younis — 1-Star R&J course participant from the Jordan Boxing Association.

“The R&Js course in Odessa was held at a high level! Thanks to the Ukrainian Boxing Federation and IBA for the organisation. All the conditions were comfortable, the instructors provided us with information very competently and in detail. For those who do not understand English, the host federation provided a professional interpreter. Thank you for the knowledge and experience.” — Oleksandr Vasiuk, Volodymyr Shevchenko — 1-Star R&J course participants from the Ukrainian Boxing Federation.

In addition to this, a 3-Star R&J refresher course was organised during the Men’s World Boxing Championships in Belgrade. The course followed the Referee and Judge Core

Model & Profile, recent rule changes, and other essential detailed modules for professional R&J performance on and off the field of play.

“The best strategic alliance for development with all Referees and Judges, is the collaborative working relationship with other entities in IBA that share resources to increase the values and competitive results for our boxers. The balance is shifting to close the gender gap with our R&Js, ITOs and Evaluators. Everyone deserves to be given the ability to learn and grow: ‘Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail’ (Ralph Waldo Emerson).” — Sadie Duffy — 3-Star R&J who officiated in Belgrade.

During the same World Championships, the Recertification Ringside Doctors Course was successfully organised in Belgrade. In September 2021, IBA announced that all the Ringside Doctor certificates should be renewed by August 31 2022, and, consequently, continuous re-qualification of doctors was needed on all continents and at all levels. All National Federations were accordingly informed about the changes that were integrated in order to ensure that all doctors up to date with the new advancements and complications in the sport to support and protect the boxers in the safest way.

“The IBA Ringside Doctors Course is an incredible experience! Not only did I meet great professionals from all over the world, but also learned the newest updates in management and prevention of injuries in boxing. We have had a great time learning and discussing new information, and analysing mistakes. Also, we had time to practice skills of stitching, and management of injured athletes. Dr. Filippatos pointed at some tricky scenarios that can happen to anyone who works as a Ringside Doctor. And these cases really happened not once. Luckily, I passed the exams and now I’m eager to work with my colleagues. See you at the ringside in 2022!” — Dr. Artur Rakhmatsevich — participant of the Ringside Doctors Course in Belgrade, doctor of the Belarussian National Team.

A 3-Star Coaches Course successfully took place during the ASBC Men and Women’s Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai in May 2021. When the registration for the course was open, the response was overwhelming from coaches wanting to get their 3-Star certification. The Coaches Committee had an uphill task of shortlisting participants; 25 attendees were shortlisted to take part in the course. With the education programme happening during the event, some coaches who were with their team were able to execute some of the practical lessons with their boxers.

A 3-Star R&J Course was another education programme held during the ASBC Asian Men and Women’s Championships. Similar to the coaches course the response



3-Star R&J Refresher Course organized within Men’s World Boxing Championships in Belgrade became one of the main achievements in the sphere of R&J Development in 2021

was also overwhelming. The R&Js Committee shortlisted 28 participants, who attended the course to try and get the highest IBA certification for R&Js. New modules of Behaviour and Ethics were included as a part of the course.

An ITO Course was the third one that successfully took place in Dubai in May 2021. The course attracted a lot of participants from different parts of the world who wanted to become International Technical Officials. The course hosted 20 attendees who went through theoretical and practical training. Having the course amidst the Championships was very helpful for the participants as they could see the different roles of an ITO on and off the field of play.

"The ITO course in Dubai was a very valuable experience for me. It perfectly combined theory with practice. At the same time, it was very important that the Chair of the IBA Competition Committee Michael Müller came to supervise the exams. The most important thing for me was the opportunity to sit every day alongside excellent evaluators and to try my role practically in such a big and important competition as the Asian Championships. Even the organisation itself was very good. Last but not least, I met a lot of new friends from all over the world. All in all, this course in Dubai was very valuable, even if demanding." — Ms. Terezie Krejbychova — participant of the ITO course in Dubai from the Czech Boxing Association.

Special attention last year was paid to the education of women involved in boxing. The IBA Women's Committee worked hard on the development of the Women's Aspire Programme aimed at training women R&Js, coaches, ITOs, doctors and administrators. One of the key initiatives in the sphere of women education for 2022 is the Women's Committee Webinars. These educational webinars from Women's Committee members for National Federations focus on various topics on a regular basis, and also include a boxer to coach/R&J/ITO requalification programme for those who are not able to continue their career as an active athlete.

"I have been wanting to get certified by IBA since I retired from competition a long time ago. I would not have expected to become a 1-Star IBA coach virtually in the midst of a pandemic. We are blessed to live in a brilliant world that can produce such a course virtually. I never thought I would take a boxing course online! I was very impressed with how smoothly the course was delivered by our instructor Mr. Ervin Kade via Zoom. He shared valuable, clear, methodical and thorough information that we received right from the comfort of our homes saving lots of time, travel and finance. For the practical sessions it was interesting to watch our instructor teach various boxers of all ages and levels in Finland while we are in Jordan! I highly recommend this course especially for women who want to advance from boxer to coach." Arifa Bseiso — online 1-Star Coaches

Course participant, IBA Women's Committee member.

Throughout 2022 IBA is extending the number of courses organised worldwide through introducing updated educational programmes for 2- and 3-Star levels for R&Js and Coaches. IBA will also continue with the organisation of Ringside Doctors Courses on other continents, and initiate the Women's Aspire Programme preliminarily planned to take place in the Assisi Academy.



JENNIFER HUGGINS: AN R&J'S BEST PERFORMANCE IS WHEN NOBODY REMEMBERS YOU FROM THE BOUT



— How did you become involved in your career in boxing and, in particular, as an R&J? Why did you choose this role in the end?

— It's difficult to remember a time when boxing was not a part of my life. Today, I am defined by the sport; boxing has truly given me purpose.

Freshly retired from elite figure skating, my first time in a boxing gym was when I was 16-years old. Coming from such a subjective sport, boxing was a breath of fresh air. While figure skating was challenging in nature, I found boxing tested me in ways I had yet to experience. I knew I was in love when I landed my first punch.

Shortly after putting on the gloves for the first time, I was in the ring for the full experience. At the time, it was difficult to find the level and number of competitions to satisfy my needs within sport, so I quickly picked up the focus mitts and started sharing the sport with others. I spent my early days training, competing, studying boxing, and became a certified coach. By 21 years old, I opened my first boxing gym which only occupied a 250 square foot section of my apartment. I was literally eating, sleeping and breathing boxing, however I quickly realised that I was no longer focused on my career as a boxer. By opening a business, I had inadvertently switched gears, concentrating on training others rather than competing.

In an effort to remain involved at the elite level, I immediately took my level 1 referee and judge course. Becoming an official in boxing gave me a new appreciation for the sport. It was also apparent that officiating was an underrepresented element of competition at that time, as the same group of R&J's would be working every event.

I now look forward to local, national and international assignments as an R&J, while continuing to run two boxing

IBA 3-Star Referee and Judge from Canada talks about her story in the sport, the necessary boxing expertise of the R&Js and challenges they are facing.

gyms in Toronto. I'm honoured to serve on the Board of Directors for my province, using my incredible experiences to help educate others and develop the sport.

— How would you describe the role of R&J in boxing in general? What does the public not know about the referees and judges in boxing?

— R&Js represent the difference between practice and competition. While the role of referees and judges is important, it's best rewarded when you stay in the background. We're always reminded that we've done a good job when no one remembers you from the bout. The public likely doesn't realize that R&J's are also being evaluated on their performance every time they get into the ring as referees or submit their scores as judges.

— What are the most difficult parts in R&Js' work?

— The most difficult component of being an R&J is to be an expert in the sport without becoming a fan of the individual boxers. In order to remain neutral, it's important to treat each match objectively and forget all past accomplishments. When a boxer steps into the ring, I only see red and blue. In my personal time, I find myself watching bouts without sound in an effort to only pay attention to the quality of the boxing. While it seems like a strange relationship, this allows me to enjoy any bout regardless of the level or who is in the ring.

— How important is it for R&J's to refresh their knowledge from time to time?

— To be a good referee and especially judge, you must be a true expert of boxing. Just as each boxer must adapt and grow with the sport, the same is required of an effective official. Anyone can count punches, but our criteria requires a master understanding of technique and tactics. I learn something new with every course I take and it's just as important to keep updated independently.

— How complicated is it to build a successful career as an R&J?

— Success is less about complications and more about how much time and effort you devote to your passion. Success can be found at each stage of your journey as an official. To progress within the sport, it's important to stay current and invest yourself, regardless of what role you choose. However, the pathway to becoming an international R&J will take time, great mentorship and support. I feel incredibly fortunate that I have been able to not only build a career in boxing, but also work to such a high level.

— What was the funniest story that happened with you being in a referee's role?

— My first international 3-star assignment was the 2014 World Championships in Jeju, Korea. As I entered the ring to referee the final for 54kg, I was nervous, excited and incredibly focused. In that moment, the venue was so quiet that I could hear my heart pounding. As I awaited the announcement of the boxers, the silence was suddenly filled with "Go Canada... Go Jen!!!" followed by a full cheer section. The team of boxers from Canada were not going to let me feel alone. Words cannot describe the level of embarrassment, mixed with feeling of pride to be able to represent my country at the world level.

— What are the new challenges ahead of you?

— Our sport has been faced with a multitude of challenges over the past few years. Compounded with the effects of a pandemic, boxing in Canada has been flatlined for nearly two years without competition. The process of rebuilding our sport will be a long journey as we work hard to develop opportunities for our next generation of athletes and officials.

— What would an R&J's dream boxing bout like?

— After officiating thousands of matches, I'm fortunate to have refereed and judged a number of dream bouts.

As a referee, the best bout is one which is fairly matched. Action packed competitive rounds, where boxers test the limits of each other and the sport, makes for a challenging but enjoyable bout for a seasoned referee.

As a judge, I love a good "comeback story". A boxer who can lose the first round and learn from their mistakes makes boxing one of the most engaging and entertaining sports.

— Do you believe that a new scoring system may bring more transparency to boxing?

— Change is always difficult, however a new scoring system that brings more transparency would be welcomed by athletes, officials, and the fans.

— Do R&Js need to do physical training to be prepared for fights? What kind of training do they do?

— As they say, a healthy body is a healthy mind. Activity and healthy eating not only keep you feeling good, these actions will also keep you sharp as an R&J. An official will typically sit for nearly 90% of their day while working at a tournament. In many instances, R&J's will only receive one bout in a session to referee. You need to be physically and mentally ready to do your best work, especially with the lower weight classes, who literally keep you on your toes. Frequent cardiovascular and strength exercises are required, however it's also important to stretch out and warm up prior to entering the ring.

— What qualities should good R&Js have?

— A good R&J needs to have a high boxing IQ, be adaptable, compassionate and be open to feedback. R&J's are perpetual students of the sport.



AMANDA COULSON: HOW ONE ARTICLE INSPIRED A WINNING BOXING CAREER



Amanda Coulson, Chair of the IBA Women's Committee, enjoyed success as a boxer and is now a coach and a talent recruiter for England Boxing. After having overcome many obstacles along her path to success, Amanda's story is an inspiration to others.

Young Amanda was overwhelmed, having read an article about two 13 year-old girls who were about to become the first to box in Britain in amateur competition.

"I was 14 myself and didn't know that girls could box. It was back in 1997, and it was the first bout between women in Great Britain. It inspired me to find a boxing club and start boxing," she says.

Despite being athletic as a girl, Amanda only had the opportunity to practise team sports at school. She started her search for a boxing gym with the Yellow Pages (a telephone directory), but drew a blank. However, a sports development agency gave her several phone numbers to try.

"I called the first one and said 'My name is Amanda, I want to do boxing, can I join your club?'," she remembers, adding: "The guy laughed at me and put down the phone saying: 'In my club, you have no chance, love'. That was my first introduction to the barriers that women were facing in boxing."

She called the next number, and heard: "We don't have any women's changing facilities," then the next one: "We don't have a female coach who can train you." There were some simple "No's" as well.

"The last number I had on the list was Hartlepool Catholic Boys Boxing Club, and after these negative responses I didn't expect this 'boys' club' to take me on," she continues.

Nevertheless, the secretary said 'Yes', adding: "This is the address, this is the cost, and this is the equipment that you need."

"He even said to me there will be no leniency for you, you'll be expected to do the same as boys," she adds. "I said: 'That's fine, thank you very much', and after the conversation looked in the mirror and thought: 'Yesss! I won my first fight'.

"I went to the club and on the first evening I was told to observe what was going on and if I liked it, I could return the next day. Then I came back night after night, week after week, year after year... I went to this boxing club for 16 years, I was the best attender every year - first to arrive, last to leave."

IN THE RING

Amanda's first fight took place in 1999 - and after that her club was renamed the Hartlepool Catholic Boxing Club.

"There weren't many girls of my age in England who boxed," she recalls, "so it was really difficult to find a match. In my first fight, I stopped the girl 45 seconds after the start. Her corner threw in the towel. She was outclassed."

Amanda kept boxing and beating everybody she could find in England.

"That brought me to Ireland and later to Sweden, where I won a tournament," she says. "I thought I was doing really well! Then we were brought to the European Championships in 2004 in Italy. I boxed against a girl from Denmark and she eliminated me in two rounds, scoring her 15 points. That brought me to real life, I understood the standards of Europe. I needed to go back to my gym and work harder and prepare better, get more contests.

"Later, I missed an opportunity to compete at the Olympic Games in London 2012. Natasha Jonas, who was my

teammate and rival, beat me, and she took her chance.

"I was 29 by then, I had a tear on my extender hood in the knuckle, which needed an operation, and I honestly felt tired at that point after 16 years of intense training. I decided that this was my time to step down and let new kids come, and that I wanted to give back to the sport that ultimately changed my life. So I became a coach in December 2012."

During her boxing career, Amanda was national champion four times, Great Britain champion, a three-time silver medallist at the European Championships and took part in AIBA World Championships, while also winning multiple international tournaments.

COACHING CAREER

"I was in love with this opportunity to guide people so they can realise their potential and dreams, that they can achieve amazing things with a bit of desire, determination, commitment, perseverance and all the other qualities that boxing brings," says Amanda.

"Being a coach is a selfless act for sure. You're always second and the boxer is first. However, being able to guide - that is really rewarding for me. I get as much pride seeing the boxes compete, get better, increase their performance, and stand on the podium as I did when I competed. So it's just a different angle."

Amanda's biggest highlight as a coach has been taking a team to the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires in 2018. Four boxers qualified for the tournament, and they came back with three golds and a bronze, a phenomenal achievement.

"That was the first time that Team GB had ever had a female coaching at the Olympics in their set-up," Amanda says. "For me, it was amazing to go out there as a head coach and come back with the success that the team did. One girl and three boys just got people in England to realise that I'm a good coach. I'm not just a good female coach. I'm actually a good coach, and that was really important for me and for the future of coaching for women, I think."

Amanda trains both men and women. She says that there are major differences in boxing - not between genders, but between each individual based on personality.

"It's my job as a coach to be a chameleon, to flex, to adapt, to change so that each of them can be successful and I can build a connection with them," she says. "That's my kind of philosophy of coaching, to empower the boxers, to understand why they're doing things and the purpose behind their actions."

'Some need an arm around the shoulder, some need a

change in tone, volume, pitch. Others need you to be nice and quiet. Some want to be included in the creation of the sessions or the plans, others just want you to tell them. So everybody is different. And it's our job as coaches to adapt to what's in front of us."

It's not always been easy. Amanda admits that she's still learning because she needs to be ahead of the game. Every day.

"Enjoy what you do—or don't do it at all," she says, passionately.

That motto is in her veins as lead development coach for the England Boxing Talent Pathway. She identifies boxers who have potential and recruits them. She then designs, implements, delivers and reviews training programmes for these boxers to help them reach their potential - regardless of gender, and at all levels of experience.

Amanda is also Chair of the IBA Women's Committee, a job she regards as a great privilege. After months of intense work, the committee presented a roadmap of changes essential for the further development of women in boxing - not only the athletes, but referees and judges, coaches, ringside doctors and cut-women, as well as sports managers and administrators.

"First of all, we try to increase the number of women in boxing worldwide, on every continent, in each country. We also need to create equal opportunity for women. There should be a cultural change to attract more women to boxing," she says. "There are already some areas where we have quite a good number of women but we need to extend it in each direction."

"For instance, female coaches need to be visible in the gyms. That might help young girls and retain them in the sport. We need to transform it, bring invisible to visible. We need role models to inspire new generations, at all levels."



Gender equality is an issue that Amanda is keen to address in her role. This is complex and requires a lot of work. Not only does it mean the recruitment of women in boxing, but also providing education for them.

"The Women's Committee should not be in place for a tick, just as with women in leadership," she says. "It's not about percentages. They should have a voice. I am happy that within our association it is how it should be."

"One of the key projects is the Women's Aspire programme that we've designed, and we're hoping to initiate that in all five Confederations. There will be women only; it will

GENDER-BALANCED SPORT

include coaches' courses, R&J courses, ITO courses. The lack of them is a barrier that prevents women from getting involved."

Attracting new people is one issue; another is changing the culture of the 'male-dominated sport,' the mindset of all involved.

"With barriers, opportunities to change come," Amanda says. "I think that the IBA President is really keen on gender equality. He sees the benefits of having a diverse workforce and having diversity within the IBA and the boxing world."

It's a snowball effect, according to Amanda: the more women come to boxing and the more visible they become, the more equality and diversity they bring.

"This is not something that happens overnight," she continues. "This has got to be on everybody's agenda, not just the Women's Committee's one. We have to remember that it's one sport: it's not men's or women's boxing, it's boxing. And once we all understand that, we will then embrace the opportunities that actually involving women can have for our sport."

LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES

"As you already know, my story comes from being inspired by one article," Amanda concludes. "Had I never seen that article, I wouldn't be in this position now, I wouldn't have had this fantastic boxing career and journey that I've had so far. So that's just one example. How many other women and girls are out there that have seen an article, that have read something that I've seen, something that has inspired them to make a change to get involved?"

"Boxing is more than just boxing, fact. Boxing teaches you life skills. It teaches you things that can help you prepare for high-pressure situations. You get in the ring, you have to compete against somebody, and your heart is racing. It's the same emotional feeling you have when you step into an interview for a job or go a driving test.

"This is just one example of the transferable skills that boxing can create. Boxing can truly transform the lives of everybody involved. Being able to create opportunities for the next generation to help shape them and change their lives is a huge privilege and motivation for me... and hopefully for many others too."



SINGLE MOTHER OF FOUR BOYS: HOW IBA BOARD MEMBER BECAME A ROLE MODEL FOR WOMEN IN BOXING



She had never been a boxer. However, she came from a sports background as a professional swimmer who won bronze at the 1978 Asian Games in 200m butterfly. As a single mother of four boys, she started an impressive boxing career from scratch, despite great odds. Meet Shelly Selowati H. Soejono from Indonesia, IBA Board of Directors and IBA Women's Committee member.

Shelly's first step into boxing was made a decade ago when she was selected among others to help with the organisation of a boxing tournament in Indonesia, the President's Cup XXI, which was taking place after a nine-year gap.

'The minister of sports recommended me for this position, and I was interviewed and selected. We put on a great competition. My achievement was recognised by ASBC and IBA, and they wanted me to join the Women's commission,' Shelly said.

However, despite being honored, Shelly refused: she was not part of PERTINA, the Indonesian Boxing Federation, and therefore, didn't feel she had a home in the sport. She turned down the offer several times but was pushed by the National Federation to accept it in the end.

'One day, I relented and took on the position,' she remembers.

Once elected, Shelly was encouraged to do the ITO courses, and she declined again in the beginning, stressing that she had been invited for a different position.

'Nevertheless, the more I was involved, the more I liked it. The sport of boxing is very different from swimming. It challenged me to learn more. Soon I passed the ITO exam and in two years I also accomplished a TD course. I became the first female technical delegate from my country.'

The boxing community began to know her more and more and they started to ask questions.

'People questioned that I came from another background,' Shelly added.

After PERTINA changed the top management, Shelly started to work in an international department. At that time, she was chair of ASBC Women's commission and a member of IBA's Women's Commission.

'Soon enough, when a new President came, I became Secretary General of PERTINA. In this position, you are required to do a lot, of course, with the approval of the President. He is a very good person, caring about boxing. I was lucky that he fully supported me. He even made me stay when I wanted to resign several times.'

Shelly was the first female Secretary General at PERTINA over its 62 years history.

At the same time, there appeared to be some disquiet with having a woman in such an influential position in the sport, despite her obvious abilities.

'People who opposed me, unfortunately, did so for all the wrong reasons. I stood up to the practices of competition manipulation and of course when I was appointed as competition manager for the Asian Games, I couldn't let it happen. Asian boxers deserve better, and it was time for a change.'

Shelly managed to reduce competition costs from 7 billion Indonesian rupiahs to 1 billion. To prevent manipulation, she wrote a letter to the organising committee of the Asian Games, INASGOC, where she explained the schemes.

'Sadly, many people around didn't think about boxing's best interests at that time. They just wanted to make money on it. If you don't get rid of such people, you would never build good governance and transparency. We must not be afraid to identify these things, to be transparent with others and to take the right action.'

'When I became Secretary General, I managed to develop 22 R&Js and coaches to receive the IBA 1,2, 3 stars, and 11 of them were women,' Shelly said. 'I know women's frustration being surrounded mostly by men in these sports. Lots of women in various countries have difficulties – they face the same what I faced on my way to where I am now. Boxing was men's territory. However, we women can achieve a lot.'

She admits it was a long and tough path to the top.

'It was challenging, as I am not a boxer. I do my boxing as fitness several times per week and even that is difficult. However, if you spend quite some time and love the sport, you can learn it all. Our goal is to inspire women to not be afraid and to not hesitate. Despite the struggle we are facing, yes, we can do it. As long as we have our own integrity.'

Shelly called for solidarity among women. 'We should support each other, this way we can achieve more. I personally like to see women succeed.'

She also mentioned the positive changes IBA is going through and is working to shape even more of them.

'Boxing is our President Umar Kremlev's life. I was not wrong electing him as a President. He did a lot of good changes for our sport, sacrificing his time, and he can give even more.'

'Everything comes from the top. When the leader is strong in actions, the rest will follow.'

Not only was it challenging to become an IBA Board of Directors member, but also to be a single mum.

'I went through a tough life but God was always there for me. Time management and prioritising were keys to success. Discipline is also important, and first of all, we need to show children how we do ourselves. They will follow.'



DR. IOANNIS FILIPPATOS: RINGSIDE DOCTORS MUST UNDERGO CONSTANT TRAINING



— What can be done to improve the safety of athletes in boxing?

— The safety of boxers has always been our priority. First of all, we apply all the anti-doping rules from WADA. Moreover, the most essential thing is constant training of our doctors in order to provide athletes with the most qualified medical support at all levels. That is why we decided to announce that all the Ringside Doctor certificates should be renewed by August 31 2022 and, consequently, continuous re-qualification of doctors should be organised on all continents and at all levels. All National Federations were accordingly informed by IBA about the changes. These changes were integrated in order to ensure all the doctors stay up to date with new advancements and complications in the sport to support and protect boxers in the safest way.

— What new technologies are to be implemented to ensure athletes' wellbeing in and out of competitions?

— Boxing as a sport is not easy to change dramatically. However, we are constantly improving our Technical & Competitions Rules and Medical Rules that provide athletes with safety and more opportunities to fight. For example, if a boxer has a cut, we have qualified doctors and cutmen who will assess a boxer and if it is safe, enable them to continue to fight.

One of the key digital initiatives that the IBA Medical & Anti-Doping Committee is eager to implement is the introduction of electronic medical passports for all boxers to show at all pre-bout exams. These passports, which will of course be treated confidentially, will allow doctors, National Federations, committee members and IBA staff to have immediate access to the medical history of each athlete if needed. All the exams will be included in the passport.

At the moment, all the equipment of boxers is tested several

EUBC President, and Chair of the IBA Medical & Anti-Doping Committee stresses the importance of ringside Doctors being educated on the latest medical methods and technologies.

times to ensure it is safe. In terms of new medical technologies, we always try to stay updated using new materials for stitches, high-quality glue for cuts and other modern medical equipment that give boxers more opportunities to win and continue a safe fight in case of cuts and other injuries.

— How can boxing remain a safe sport?

— We have qualified R&Js who know when to stop about and prevent serious injuries, we have experienced doctors and will have even more after we organise the Recertification of Ringside Doctors Course in all continents. IBA has strict Technical & Competitions Rules that provide well-being and safety for athletes.

— How are you improving the medical courses?

— With the adoption of the new IBA Development Programme, we started the requalification process of IBA Ringside Doctors. For this purpose, we decided to deliver Ringside Doctors Course in each continent over the next year. The pilot project for EUBC Doctors was successfully organised in October 2021 during the IBA Men's World Championships in Belgrade. The educational programme for these courses has been updated according to the most recent changes in medicine, as well as the renewed IBA Development Programme.

The Ringside Doctors Course was prolonged and now lasts seven days and consists of more theoretical and practical classes where doctors could get a profound knowledge of cuts, injuries, medical examination, and making stitches.

We also see an urgent need to organise new Cutmen Courses to get more qualified and IBA certified cut technicians around the world. All these initiatives will provide us with more experienced doctors who will keep working for the necessities of boxing.

— What are the plans of the Medical and Anti-Doping Committee for 2022?

— In June 2021, the IBA Board of Directors approved the new IBA Development Programme that incorporated new initiatives in the medical sphere. Our new programme is focused on: educating active doctors to deliver the Ringside Doctor and Cutmen courses; forming and updating the list of all active doctors from National Federations; conducting Recertification of Ringside Doctor Courses in all continents; creating an electronic database of medical history and all medical examinations; and organising First-Aid Course for Coaches at events.





IBA EUROPEAN BOXING ACADEMY IN ASSISI, ITALY

The IBA European Boxing Academy is an integrated training institute which embraces all aspects of the development of officials in the sport of boxing. It is a state-of-the-art institute of IBA to educate and train all IBA officials for its competitions and programs providing a Central Management System for the entire new IBA Technical Development Programme.

The goal of the IBA European Boxing Academy is to create a centre of excellence to lead the overall development of all officials in the sport of boxing globally. The Boxing Academy will discover and train talented members of the boxing family, such as coaches, officials, managers and medical personnel. It will assist these individuals to develop their skills and professionalism through world-class expertise, training programmes and facility access.

The Boxing Academy intends to develop the skills of the participants through rigorous training and to use its combined expertise to greatly enhance the development of the sport of boxing.

WHY DO WE NEED THE ASSISI ACADEMY?

Based on the current assessment of IBA's situation and development of officials, it has been determined that the IBA Boxing Academy is absolutely crucial to the future of the sport. The Academy will develop a plan to ensure its political independence and guarantee financial sufficiency and transparency throughout its programme management.

The city of Assisi is considered a very suitable place to accommodate the IBA European Boxing Academy given its familiarity to the boxing family. The Italian National Boxing Team's training centre is located in Assisi, and many international training camps and development courses have been held there.

The city's long and great support for boxing comes not only from the community itself, but also from the government of Assisi, the region of Umbria and the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI), which offers ongoing support for the development of boxing.

Lastly, Assisi has the infrastructure, facilities and resources available to organise any size of boxing competition or tournament, at any time.

The Mission of the IBA European Boxing Academy is to establish a recognised centre of excellence, offering the best integrated educational and physical training programmes in order to lead the development of boxing, and the capabilities of the boxing family.

With its own Referees and Judges (R&J) Management System and Coaches Management System, the IBA education and development programme has made impressive progress since its introduction in 2010.

An innovative education and development programme, which encompasses all of these factors, aims to shift the sport of boxing, as well as its key members, including athletes, coaches, medical, R&Js and technical officials, into a new paradigm.

IBA is adopting the revised structure, contents and composition of the development programmes to be compatible with its new administration's vision and objectives to build more sophisticated programmes to further improve boxing.

MISSION

WHAT ARE THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES?

The development programmes consist of the following courses:

- Coaches
- Referees & Judges
- Managers
- Boxers (post career development, personal development)
- Ringside Doctors and Cutmen
- Medical and Anti-Doping
- Other educational programmes

ASSISI FACILITIES

The Academy building has two floors occupying a total area of 3,140m². The size of the ground floor is approximately 2,500m², while the second floor measures 640m².

- 2 large classrooms with space for more than 50 people
- 4 medium classrooms accommodating 25 people each
- 1 main Boxing hall with competition seating
- 2 office spaces
- Locker rooms, medical rooms, etc
- FPI National Training Centre
- Equipment testing



IBA RENEWS ANTI-DOPING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL TESTING AGENCY

The International Boxing Association (IBA) signalled its continued commitment to sporting integrity in 2022 and beyond, by renewing its partnership with the International Testing Agency (ITA) for three years in January.

The agreement includes IBA outsourcing all anti-doping activities to the ITA, including testing, intelligence gathering, test distribution planning, education and Therapeutic Use Exemption handling, as well as result management and the handling of anti-doping rule violations. The full scope of the new agreement now also covers in-competition testing, long-term sample storage, intelligence & investigations, source handling and the administration of the Reveal platform, in strict adherence to the World Anti-Doping Code and the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA's) International Standards.

The partnership agreement was previously signed in 2016, following the Rio 2016 Olympic boxing tournament, and has brought great progress and transparency to IBA anti-doping efforts in the years since.



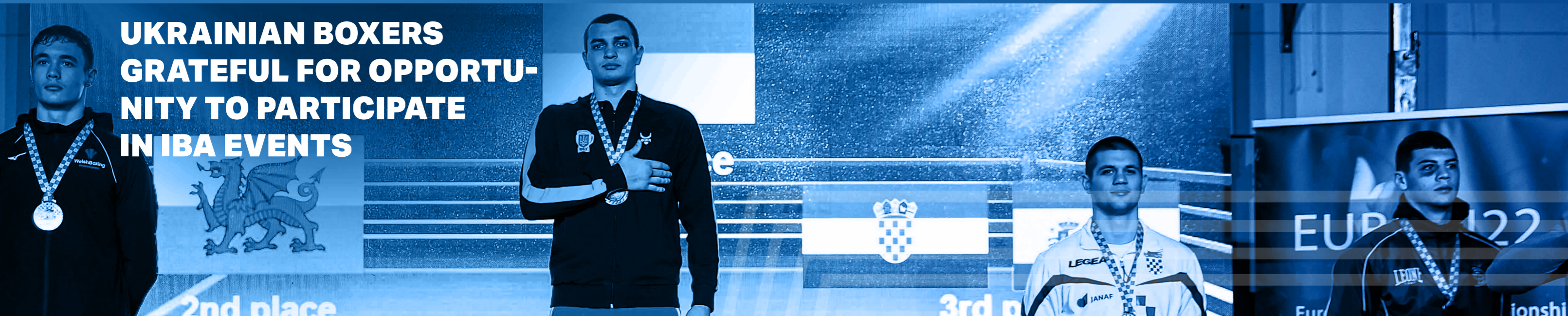
IBA will continue its work towards a better future for boxing and boxers in the New Year, following a roadmap to potential IOC reinstatement in 2023. Competitions that will fall under the renewed ITA partnership include the IBA World Boxing Championships.

"Through its work with many sports, the ITA has shown the usefulness of bringing in independent experts to help ensure sporting integrity. At IBA, we are committed to this approach. It is our duty to protect our athletes and reinforce the values of clean sport in boxing. Continuing our work with the ITA will ensure we do exactly that," said IBA President Umar Kremlev.

Benjamin Cohen, ITA Director General shared: "By entrusting the full range of its anti-doping programme to us at the ITA, we hope in turn that we can enable IBA to focus fully on its core mission of developing boxing, in a transparent manner, worthy of wider trust. We look forward to continuing to provide IBA and boxers with our expertise and are fully committed to supporting IBA in its fight against doping."



UKRAINIAN BOXERS GRATEFUL FOR OPPORTU- NITY TO PARTICIPATE IN IBA EVENTS



With the help of the International Boxing Association, several National Federations and sports organizations, the Ukrainian boxing team has successfully taken part in competitions since the invasion of their country. This includes the 73rd International Boxing Tournament "STRANDJA" in Bulgaria and the EUBC U22 European Boxing Championship in Croatia. IBA and its partners provided training facilities and accommodation for Ukrainian athletes as well as full financial and logistical support.

During the U22 Championships, the Ukrainian women's team won three bronze medals with Karolina Makhno winning gold in the middleweight category.

"I am pleased with the trip to the European Championship. Croatia is a stunning country, people welcomed us with warmth and understanding. The city of Porec, where we lived during the competition, is very cosy. The organisers took care of the well-being of the national team of Ukraine. It allowed us to concentrate on reaching the goal — winning the medal," said Makhno.

During the EUBC U22 European Boxing Championship, the Ukrainian boxing team's men won six medals in total including two bronze medals, and three silver medals along with Yuriy Zakhariiev winning gold in the men's light middleweight category.

"I really appreciate the help and support of IBA, Ukrainian Boxing Federation and Boxing Federation of Croatia which provided Ukrainian boxers with the opportunity to participate in the European Championships. As everybody knows, we had limited possibilities to prepare for this championship, however, despite these difficulties, I managed to win the gold medal. I am sure I have taken the next step in my boxing career, and I am ready for the new challenges," said Yuriy Zakhariiev.

Ukrainian boxing official Polina Shtyfura added: "I greatly appreciate the help and support of IBA. They gave the Ukrainian team the opportunity to participate in the U22 European Championships, which is a major event in the boxing calendar. It was vitally important for Ukrainian boxers to compete and represent their country. During their time in Croatia, they felt the full support of the European boxing community and for this, we are extremely grateful."

IBA continues to look for solutions to help support the Ukrainian boxing team in the short and long term, as its boxers aim to compete in numerous competitions throughout 2022.





INTERNATIONAL BOXING DAY MARKS NEW MILESTONE IN IBA CALENDAR

In 2019, IBA recognised and designated International Boxing Day to be celebrated every year and encouraged the global boxing family, fans, partners and stakeholders to join forces in celebrating.

In 2021, IBA rescheduled International Boxing Day from July 22 to August 27 to connect the date with the first edition of the World Boxing Championships, which was held in Havana, Cuba in 1974.

The competition was held between August 17 and August 30, 1974, where 11 champions were crowned and the host country topped the medal table.

"International Boxing Day was celebrated for the third time globally in 2021 and last year also became a newly established holiday. Not only is the new date dedicated to a very special event in IBA's history, it also is more convenient for everyone to celebrate after the summer holidays. I truly believe this day is a great promotion for our sport worldwide," IBA President Kremlev said.

The world boxing family came together on International Boxing Day to celebrate their shared love of the sport with

MAIN CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL BOXING DAY 2021 TOOK PLACE IN BELGRADE

more than 50 National Federations hosting boxing activations and mass participation events.

The IBA led the celebrations from Belgrade, Serbia — the host of 2021 Men's World Boxing Championships — with an open-air masterclass run by legendary boxer Roy Jones Jr, exhibition bouts and a boxing show, all held under the theme #BoxingUnites in Belgrade's Republic Square.

Attendees at the events in Belgrade included IBA ambassadors Roberto Cammarelle, Zeina Nassar and Said Taghmaoui, as well as current boxing stars such as Oleksandr Khyzhniak from Ukraine, Bakhodir Jalolov from Uzbekistan, Albert Batyrgaziev from Russia, and Stoyka Zhelyazkova Krasteva from Bulgaria.

Speaking following his masterclass for members of the public Roy Jones Jr said:

"The atmosphere here is beyond anything I expected. People are so engaged with the sport of boxing and so happy to be here. You can feel a sense of community radiating from these athletes and kids and see how it is uniting people from very different backgrounds and cultures. This is what International Boxing Day is all about!"



A number of high-class exhibition bouts with impressive performances from athletes such as Wanderson de Oliveira from Brazil took place at last year's celebration. Boxers faced off in a friendly manner, yet still delivered an unforgettable display of grace and skill.

After the events in Belgrade, IBA President Kremlev who was there throughout the celebrations, added: "The boxing community coming together is beautiful to see. There is unity in boxing. We hope events such as this continue to showcase that, as well as demonstrate what boxing is all about. Everyone here loves our sport and we want nothing more than to see more people get involved."

Meanwhile, over 50 National Federations joined IBA in celebrating International Boxing Day. Many of them hosted open-air or online training sessions and masterclasses of their own, which were broadcast live on linear channels or digital platforms. Some National Federations organised community-based events, such as the Czech Republic, which dedicated the day to children by organising a whole day centred around boxing, for families to enjoy. Nepal's National Federation hosted a mass blood donation event, along with a street-cleaning effort.

IBA Secretary General and two-time World champion István Kovács said:

"International Boxing Day is about celebrating boxing but it is also an opportunity to show that it is an accessible sport — open to everyone. Boxing has had such a positive impact on my life and I want as many other people to benefit from it as well. At IBA we are working hard to develop boxing all around the world so more people have the opportunity to take part in our sport."



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