



International  
Boxing Association

# 2018-2019 SUMMARY REPORT

# Introduction

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The year 2018-19 was one of the most challenging in the history of AIBA.

In March 2019, four months after his election, Gafur Rahimov, the AIBA president, informed the AIBA Executive Committee of his intent to step aside as AIBA President in accordance with the AIBA Statutes and Bylaws, which allow the President to renounce his powers and to be replaced by an Interim President.

Strongly contesting criminal allegations by the U.S. Treasury Department in his resignation letter, Mr Rahimov wrote: "This most difficult transitional period in the history of AIBA coincides, unfortunately, with a period of my growing involvement in the processes aimed at protecting my honour and dignity against politically motivated and false accusations originating from the past.

"These processes now require me to be constantly present in legal and other proceedings in order to speed up the clearing of my name from these false accusations."

Upon his departure, AIBA's Executive Committee expressed its appreciation to Mr Rahimov for his commitment to the sport of boxing and for his efforts in helping to turn around the organization during his tenure.

Subsequently, the Executive Committee elected by a vote of 23-0 with two abstentions Dr Mohamed Moustahsane to serve as the AIBA Interim President.

## IOC suspension

In May 2019, AIBA was dealt a second serious blow when it was suspended by the International Olympic Committee and stripped of its right to organise the boxing tournament at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (later postponed until 2021).

The IOC's decision was based on the findings of an inquiry it commissioned the previous November. Thomas Bach, the IOC President, said: "These decisions were taken in the interest of the athletes and the sport of boxing.

"We want to ensure, on the one hand, that the athletes can continue to live their Olympic dreams... while at the same time drawing the necessary consequences for AIBA following the recommendation of the inquiry.

"We have offered a pathway back for lifting the suspension after Tokyo 2020 but for this, there must be further fundamental change within AIBA."

In the meantime, the IOC asked the president of FIG, the International Gymnastics Federation, Japan's Morinari Watanabe, to lead a taskforce to organise the boxing qualifiers and competition in Tokyo.



## Key AIBA achievements in 2018-19

Notwithstanding these events, AIBA's achievements in the period included:

- Improved Governance policies, putting AIBA among the top half of all Summer IFs
- Commitment to the fight for clean sport which resulted in AIBA being among the first IFs to partner with the International Testing Agency and enabled AIBA to become fully compliant with the WADA Code
- Stable financial situation which was the result of the implementation of sound, disciplined budget practices and regained trust from many partners
- Successful implementation of a new Refereeing and Judging system.



## 2018-19 key events in summary

### 2018 AIBA Women's World Championships, Delhi, India: 15-24 November, 2018

- 267 bouts
- 10 new World Champions
- Representing 6 different nations

### 2018 Youth Olympic Games, Buenos Aires, Argentina: 6-18 October, 2018

- 109 bouts
- 13 new Youth Olympic Champions
- Representing 8 different nations

Kit McConnell, the IOC's sports director, commented: "The most important [thing] is that the event [Youth Olympic Games boxing competition] is being conducted with full integrity and credibility and the athlete experience is as any other sport and I think that's been delivered so far. The focus is in the ring and on the field of play."

In collaboration with the IOC Olympic Movement Unit on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, and Buenos Aires Youth Olympic Games Organizing Committee (BAYOGOC), AIBA conducted a Seminar for boxers and coaches as part of the IF Focus Day programme at the Youth Olympic Games. The educational activity addressed the topic of sport integrity by raising the awareness of the risks and the preventive measures put in place to monitor corruptions.

Held at the Youth Olympic Village across two working sessions, a total of 80 participants from 21 nations were able not only to increase their knowledge about sport integrity, but also to take part in a role game to learn how to identify potential dangerous situations during their careers.

### 2018 AIBA Youth Women's and Men's World Championships, Budapest, Hungary: 21-31 August, 2018

- 341 bouts
- 20 new World Champions
- Representing 9 different nations

With the education of the next generation of Olympic Boxing Champions as a central theme of the Youth Women's and Men's World Championships, AIBA developed a wide range of courses for all boxers, coaches and officials including an Integrity Seminar, as well as an Anti-Doping Booth.

The move reaffirmed AIBA's strong efforts to bring positive change and further improvements to its Anti-Doping system, which has always been a top priority for the organization.

Held on August 20, 2018, the Integrity Seminar provided education around Competition Manipulation, AIBA Code of Ethics, In-Competition Testing and Registered Testing Pool & Out-of-competition testing process across one hour for the 60 coaches from more than 35 countries who attended the programme.

From August 21 to 25, an Information Booth was set up at Budapest's Duna Arena where the coaches, boxers and other team delegation members had the opportunity to participate in a short quiz to enhance their knowledge about WADA and its processes for doping tests. The educational offer was completed with an extra day of the Anti-Doping Booth at the Athletes Hotel on August 29.

# AIBA Finance

## Report of the Statutory Auditor 2018-2019

The financial report of Moore Stephens Refidar SA for the period ended 30 June, 2019 shows:

### AIBA financial report 2019 and 2018 (CHF)

Year ending 30 June	2019	2018
Total assets	2,102,167	3,889,077
Total liabilities	19,707,355	22,904,428
Total liabilities and funds	2,102,167	3,889,077
Total operating income	6,700,950	6,625,272
Total operating expenses	(6,429,869)	(7,546,730)
Operating result (gain/loss)	271,081	(921,458)
Accumulated loss at end of year	(17,605,188)	(19,015,352)

The improvements for the period shown in these financial results had earlier been confirmed in the interim audited accounts which closed on 31 December, 2018. These showed that AIBA's debt was reduced by almost \$3 million in the previous six months due to the exercised discipline and fiscal policies implemented.

While AIBA remained over-indebted thanks to past mismanagement, the 2018 accounts showed that AIBA's financial situation was viable and that any outstanding debt would be solved in the future, subject to its Olympic presence.

### Financial offer from Umar Kremlev

In April 2019, AIBA's financial situation further improved when Mr Umar Kremlev, an AIBA EC member from Russia and the EUBC Vice President, announced his intention to pay off all existing AIBA debts and allocate additional money for the development of the organization.

Mr Kremlev recognized that AIBA had made outstanding improvements in governance, the

referee and judging program and had become 100% compliant with WADA through its anti-doping programme.

He also noted that the organization's cashflow turned from negative to positive and that the only remaining problem to solve was the debt. He stated his intention in an open letter to the IOC President Thomas Bach, IOC Members and the head of the Inquiry Committee Nenad Lalovich, saying: "And for the sake of the future of boxing, I am ready to close all the debts of AIBA in full, so long as our favourite sport remains in the Olympic programme."

"I decided to close the AIBA debts in full, and also allocate money for the development of the organization. I would like to do this for boxing to remain in the Olympic movement and that financial problems are no longer one of the reasons why the future of boxing would be under threat."

Mr Kremlev has been Secretary General of the Russian Boxing Federation since February 2017.



## Governance

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During 2018-19, AIBA showed significant progress in regard to its finance and governance, including putting into place assessment tools to determine how to move forward with the next phase.

AIBA requested a new audit in February 2019 to assess the progress, evaluate the actual situation and clearly show its improved financial health. This audit happened in parallel with the IOC's Deloitte report.

AIBA also planned to test a new protest programme to ensure it will be fully functional for the trials later in the year and developed strategies for implementation of each of the 21 observations of the PWC report.

### Recognition

In April 2019, three continental boxing confederations EUBC, AMBC and ASBC unanimously signed a resolution recognizing AIBA as the only governing body of Olympic boxing.

The document was signed by all the EUBC, AMBC, ASBC EC members at the General Assembly of each confederation.

### Compliance Unit

In March 2019, a Compliance Unit was set up to be responsible for ensuring that all of AIBA's Statutes, Bylaws, Technical & Competition Rules, Code of Ethics & Discipline are respected by AIBA. In addition, the unit is responsible for ensuring that the Continental Confederations, National Federations, AIBA Commissions, Tournament Officials, LOCs, Equipment Suppliers and Service Providers stay in compliance with AIBA rules and standards.

The Compliance Unit performs systematic audits in all of the above areas and reports results to the President, EC Members, National Federations and Business Partners.

The AIBA President nominates, and the AIBA EC appoints, appropriately qualified AIBA Members to assist the Compliance Unit in fulfilling its various tasks.

## Foundation Plan

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In July 2018 AIBA launched its New Foundation Plan following the unanimous adoption of the plan by the AIBA Executive Committee.

The New Foundation Plan was developed to lay the foundation for a stronger future for AIBA and Olympic Boxing while at the same time implementing short-term corrective measures. The New Foundation Plan was intended to allow the new AIBA leadership, due to be elected in November 2018, a fresh start with a smoothly running organisation.

The New Foundation Plan consisted of five pillars: governance, events, rules, development, and communication. In addition to the activities already accomplished by AIBA, the plan outlined key priorities and action items that are necessary to implement and consider in the lead up to a new AIBA strategy. The New Foundation Plan was developed with the input of the wider boxing community and experts, through surveys and meetings.

## Refereeing and Judging

Following two major events in 2018 (the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina and the 2018 AIBA Women's World Championships in Delhi, India) AIBA reported that changes and updates to its Refereeing and Judging (R&Js) system and regulations were being positively received by athletes and technical officials alike.

Since 2016, AIBA has fully revamped its R&Js management systems to foster a culture of transparency and fair play, in and out of the boxing ring. PriceWaterhouseCooper (PwC), the leading audit firm in Switzerland, was charged with the independent monitoring and reviewing during the first implementation. PwC positively reviewed the new systems, indicating that the changes made were good and producing the desired results.

Highlighted changes include:

- The return of having five judges' scores per bout;
- The removal of the President and Executive Director from the appointment and approval process of Referee and Judges;
- The development of a computerized draw system for appointing Referees and Judges to a bout;
- The appointment of an observer position into the Field of Play;
- The increased number and quality of courses offered for training Referees and Judges;
- The improvement of AIBA's database so that Referees and Judges can be evaluated over time as opposed to event by event.

Noteworthy was the establishment of a protest system for Coaches and Athletes which was approved and tested and was set to be implemented in 2019 at the AIBA Men's World Championships.



## WADA Code compliance

In November 2018, AIBA reported that it was in full compliance with the World Anti-Doping Agency Code and working on intensifying its efforts in the fight against doping leading up to Tokyo 2020.

AIBA has put clean sport at the core of its strategy and strives to anchor the values of integrity and fair play within the boxing ecosystem. Previously, AIBA had outsourced all its anti-doping activities and partnered with key stakeholders such as the Doping-Free Sport Unit of the Global Association

of International Sports Federations' and the International Testing Agency.

Furthermore, significant updates and changes were made with regards to AIBA statutes, aiming at promoting clean sport and safety of athletes. A new anti-doping educational programme was also developed, dedicated to ensuring that all AIBA member federations and athletes are familiar with and understand the rules and regulations in place.

## Uniforms rule

In February 2019, the AIBA Executive Committee approved a key change in the AIBA uniform rules, including the possibility for boxers to wear their respective national colours on their shorts and vests, as long as it complies with the official guidelines.

The new rule also allowed the wearing of hijabs and full body form fitting uniforms if required for religious reasons, highlighting again AIBA's commitment to gender equity and religious tolerance.

