Introduction

The resignation of former AIBA President Gafur Rahimov in the first half of 2019, and the subsequent suspension of AIBA and of its right to organise the boxing tournament at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games by the International Olympic Committee, cast a long shadow over the 2019-20 period.

While the enormity of these two actions must not be minimised, neither should they be allowed to obscure the real progress towards reform made on several fronts by AIBA during the period, under the interim leadership of Dr Mohamed Moustahsane.

2019-20 key events in summary

2019 Men’s World Championships in Ekaterinburg, Russia: 8-21 September, 2019

- 365 boxers participated from 78 countries
- 8 weight categories
- 40 medals awarded in total distributed among 15 countries
- More than 80,000 media news and articles
- PR Value more than $20.6 million
- More than 10 million views on Youtube and social media

2019 Women’s World Championships in Ulan Ude, Russia: 3-13 October, 2019

- 224 boxers participated from 57 countries
- 10 weight categories
- 40 medals awarded in total distributed among 21 countries
- More than 50,000 media news and articles
- PR Value more than $13.7 million
- More than 6 million views on Youtube and social media
Future Competitions

On February 17, 2020, at an extraordinary meeting of the AIBA Executive Committee in Budapest (Hungary), it was decided to hold the Global Boxing Cup in 2021 in the Russian Federation (later postponed to 2022).

The Global Boxing Cup (GBC) is a competition that will be held every two years in one country or in a group of neighbouring countries. GBC’s vision is to provide a platform for the best teams to compete against each other and allow them to evaluate themselves in an official framework.

GBC is the only Team Olympic Boxing style competition regrouping the best nations.

GBC will be a team competition, available to National teams and/or National team selection. (Selection must be a combination of several regional/continental teams).

Proposed Global Boxing Cup

- Up to 48 teams
- Prize money: CHF1,750,000
- 5 continents/confederations
- 15 cities
- 5 weight categories

World Series of Boxing

- No World Series of Boxing competition was organised in 2019 and 2020.
- In summer 2019, World Series of Boxing’s financial situation threatened an imminent risk of bankruptcy.

- After one year of restructuring and other measures, World Series of Boxing SA is now out of bankruptcy.
- The World Series of Boxing programme can be relaunched once the world pandemic situation improves.
AIBA Finance


The financial report of Moore Stephens Refidar SA for the period ended 30 June, 2020 shows:

| AIBA financial report 2020 and 2019 (CHF) | | |
| Year ending 30 June | 2020 | 2019 |
| Total assets | 2,019,663 | 2,102,167 |
| Total liabilities | 11,883,254 | 19,707,355 |
| Total liabilities and funds | 2,019,663 | 2,102,167 |
| Total operating income | 9,206,452 | 6,700,950 |
| Total operating expenses | (1,567,236) | (6,429,869) |
| Operating result (gain/loss) | 7,639,216 | 271,081 |
| Accumulated loss at end of year | (9,863,591) | (17,605,188) |

While these financial results remain of grave concern to AIBA, it will be observed that the trend is towards an increase in income and a reduction in expenses, with major cost savings having been achieved since the year ended 30 June 2019.

These include:

• Reduction in external services (communication, consultants, etc): savings of CHF1.2 million.
• Reduction in personnel with fair settlement: savings of CHF1.2 million.
• Reduction of travel expenses (pre Covid): savings of CHF0.7 million.
• Reduction of meeting expenses (pre Covid): savings of CHF0.7 million.
• Overall savings of CHF4.9 million compared to the prior year.
IOC Relations

Despite AIBA’s Olympic suspension, the Executive Committee continued to maintain good and constructive relations with the IOC through the presence at some of its meetings of IOC Inquiry Committee Chair Nenad Lalovic and IOC Sports Director Kit McConnell.

They provided EC members with an overview of the roadmap for boxing in the Olympics, but also the goodwill and good intentions of the IOC to collaborate with AIBA.

Dr Moustahsane said: “As such, I will continue to have intensive contact with them and ensure that we keep moving forward. We all have one goal and that is to ensure that Olympic Qualifiers and Olympic Games run as smoothly as possible for our athletes and for our sport.

“Being able to keep boxing in the Games is very important to the boxing family and we must continue to work together to ensure that our sport has success in Tokyo 2020 and beyond.”
In September 2019, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to disband all AIBA Commissions, including all Chairmen. The decision was taken in light of the IOC suspension and the need for absolute transparency in all AIBA activities.

In November 2019, EC members elected two commissions to lead reforms and to develop a marketing strategy for AIBA.

The Reform Committee on AIBA Statutes amendment was composed of:

- A Senior Swiss Counsel.
- AIBA Legal advisors, Mr Claude Ramoni, Mr Garry Moore.
- EUBC Legal advisor, Mr Alessandro Oliveira.
- Senior members of AIBA federations (USA, RUS, CHN).
- Presidents of confederations.

The AIBA EC also appointed a taskforce to handle the marketing for AIBA competitions, such as the World Cup, World Series of Boxing and World Championships, with a global marketing plan across the five continents to attract sponsors and secure broadcast deals for these competitions.

This steering committee was headed by Mr Umar Kremlev.

Disciplinary Commission

In August 2019, the AIBA Disciplinary Commission concluded that allegations made against Mr Umar Kremlev had not met the burden of proof, as they relied “on a report that is based on questionable validity.” The DC Panel pointed out that “The Chair of the Ethics Commission cautioned readers that the report is founded only on public, i.e., journalistic sources and that those sources are not always reliable and may be biased.”

Mr Kremlev provided the DC Panel with evidence, which showed that, pursuant to the Russian MIA, General Administration for Economic Security and Combating Corruption, he had no prior convictions or criminal history.

The uncorroborated sources in the complaint did not outweigh the evidence presented by Mr Kremlev. Consequently, the AIBA Disciplinary Commission closed the matter and dismissed the complaint against him.

This decision is final and not subject to appeal.

Ethics Commission

The AIBA Ethics Commission had earlier conducted a full background check on all Executive Committee members to check whether they had provided any false information about themselves and their background, thus making them ineligible candidates/members.

The checks were conducted on the basis that the new AIBA is being built on the values of transparency, ethical behaviour and good governance.
AIBA World Boxing Championships 2019

The Russian Boxing Federation (RBF) partnered with STATISPORT to inaugurate a world premiere in boxing by introducing Performance Data collection during the AIBA Men’s World Championships 2019 in Ekaterinburg.

STATISPORT collected in-competition data using proprietary sensors technology and machine learning algorithms. STATISPORT will also work alongside with the Russian Boxing Federation on developing in the future new advance technologies to bring real-time advanced analytics to fans, teams, media providers, partners and competition officials.

The Russian Boxing Federation is the first boxing governing body to embrace sensors technology and by infusing an advanced analytics system in a major competition.

AIBA Forums

For the first time, AIBA visited the continents to engage directly with National Federations.

The first AIBA Forum for American federations was conducted in Panama City, Panama on 18 January 2020.

AIBA Interim President Mohamed Moustahsane and (then) AIBA Marketing Commission chair Umar Kremlev, as well as AMBC President Osvaldo Bisbal and Panama Boxing Federation President Tomas Cianca, welcomed representatives of 38 National Federations.

Mr Kremlev said: “We need global reforms to make AIBA great again. All together we are able to do that. We need to unite and help each other, to be in contact. Boxing starts with athletes and coaches, they are our first priority. We need to have good competitors from every country. As soon as we have strong National Federations, it makes stronger Confederations, which make AIBA even more stronger.

“From now, we will conduct continental forums every year. It will help to solve a lot of issues and be in touch with all AIBA members.”

Presenting the Marketing Commission report, Mr Kremlev said: “We will assist each National Federation to improve social media, to have active and attractive website. Together we will do marketing plan. We are aware of the strong relation between competitions and marketing. Thus, we will change the competitions formats and competitions calendar to meet media market requirements and make it more attractive for sponsors. We will make sure that all athletes can have the opportunity to attend major events.”