



IBA DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

IBA vs. Cahit Süme
Disciplinary Case No. 2022/01

DECISION
20 April 2021

Disciplinary Panel for this Proceeding:
Chairman -- Francois Strydom, South Africa
Member -- Glenn Feldman, USA
Member -- Alexandra Monkhouse, Canada

I. Introduction

The IBA Procedural Rules provide for a central role to be fulfilled by the IBA Integrity Officer who has the power *inter alia* to investigate and prosecute any alleged violation of the Disciplinary Code before the Disciplinary Committee ("the DC").

In the present proceeding, the appointed Integrity Officer is Mr. Yury Zaytsev, an attorney of the legal firm SILA International Lawyers in Moscow, Russia. The Integrity Officer acts as the accusing party.

The accused party in this proceeding is Mr. Cahit Süme from Turkey. At the time of the incidents complained about, Mr. Cahit Süme was representing the Turkish Boxing Federation, in his capacity as coach and/or corner of Ms. Buzenaz Surmeneli.





The matter relates to a number of incidents following a boxing match which took place in Debrecen, Hungary at the 2022 Bocskai International Boxing Tournament, hosted by the Hungary National Federation. The tournament was sanctioned by the IBA and included in the IBA official Calendar. It is alleged that, following the Women's Final (70 kg) in which Ms. Surmeneli participated, Mr. Cahit Süme demonstrated his dissatisfaction with the decision of the R&Js in an aggressive and unsporting manner.

Mr. Cahit Süme is accused of a violation of the following disciplinary offence as provided for in the IBA Disciplinary Code:

The violation of **Art. 6.1 – Misconduct towards a Competition Official**: Any person subject to this Code who acts improperly towards a Referee, Judge or other Competition Official or engages in misconduct towards a Referee, Judge or other Competition Official will be subject to the following sanctions: (a) Fine of up to CHF 50,000 and a suspension from all boxing activities for up to 2 years for unsporting behavior; ... (c) Fine of CHF 20,000 and a suspension from all boxing activities from 1 year up to a lifetime ban for physical assault.

The Integrity Officer submitted his initial brief which, at the request of the DC, was later supplemented with further witness statements bearing on the issues of the guilt of Mr. Cahit Süme and an appropriate sanction. The DC considered the written statements from the Technical Delegate for the event, Mr. Viorel Sima, the referee Mr. Imré Toth, judges Roland Juhász, Balazs Koszegi and Egon Szabo and observers Mr. Adam Jonas and Mr. Gabor Molnar. The DC also considered carefully the explanations and arguments advanced by the accused party in two written statements filed by him.

The DC decided that the matter can fairly and properly be disposed of by an examination of the written statements filed by the parties and the video recording of the entire match and there was no need for an oral hearing.





The DC noted that on 19 February 2022, the accused party, Mr. Cahit Süme was provisionally suspended with immediate effect by the decision of the DC Chair acting in terms of Rule 17.1 and 17.2 of the Procedural Rules from participation in any boxing related activities at any international tournament on the IBA calendar pending the finalisation of the current disciplinary proceedings against him.

II. The decision

(i) Upon a proper consideration of all the documentary and video evidence, the accused party, Mr. Cahit Süme, is found GUILTY of the following offence:

A violation of Art. 6.1(a) of the AIBA Disciplinary Code read with Article 47.1 of the AIBA Constitution for having engaged in actions which constitute misconduct towards the competition officials in the form of unsporting behaviour. In particular, the DC decided that Mr. Süme displayed unsporting behaviour towards the referee, the judges and the Technical Director in the following manner:

- Shouting at the referee and gesturing with the fingers of his left hand that the outcome of the fight might have been influenced by the receipt of money;
- Attempting to persuade his boxer to leave the ring in protest before the announcement of the result of the fight in disrespect of the judges and referee;
- Pushing the Technical Director from behind at the time that security was called to escort Mr. Süme out of the boxing venue (but the DC did not find that the pushing in the prevailing circumstances had risen to a level of physical assault).

The DC also took note of Mr. Süme's refusal to congratulate the winner of the match when she approached him in his boxer's corner after the fight. While the committee members acknowledge that the fight was a close one and that emotions were running high after the match, it is important for coaches and fighters to acknowledge their opponents at the end on the competition and accept defeat in a gracious manner.





- (ii) Upon a proper consideration of the gravity of the offence, and all the relevant aggravating and mitigating factors in the peculiar circumstances of the present case, the DC impose the following sanction in accordance with the Disciplinary Code under Article 6.1:

A one year ban of all international boxing activities, consisting of (a) an effective ban of two and a half months commencing on 19 February 2022 and ending on 30 April 2022, and (b) a suspension of the remainder of the ban of nine and a half months on condition that Mr. Cahit Süme does not make himself guilty at any time during a period of one year commencing on 1 May 2022 and ending on 30 April 2023 (“the probationary period”) of any behavioral offence under art. 6 of the AIBA Disciplinary Code (or the corresponding article under a new Disciplinary Code that may be adopted by AIBA during the mentioned suspensive period).

For the sake of clarity, it is stated that Mr. Cahit Süme has already served a large portion of his effective ban during his period of provisional suspension and will be free to participate in international boxing activities with effect from 1 May 2022, but subject to his obligations under suspension.

In the event of a violation of Art. 6 of the AIBA Disciplinary Code (or the successor article) during the probationary period of the ban, the suspension of a part of the ban will automatically be revoked and the full original sanction applied and the unserved portion of the ban of nine and a half months added to the sanction to be imposed for the new violation.





III. Parties' rights to motivated reasons for the decision, and a reconsideration of, or appeal against, the decision

The parties are informed that:

- in terms of art. 47.2 and 47.3 of the Procedural Rules they have ten (10) days from notification of this decision to request, in writing, the full motivated reasons for the decision. Failure to make such a request results in the decision becoming final and binding and the parties being deemed to have waived their right to lodge an appeal. If the motivated decision is requested within the stipulated period, the time limit for lodging an appeal begins only on notification of the motivated decision;
- in terms of art. 50 of the Procedural Rules, that a party may seek a reconsideration of the decision within thirty (30) days of the discovery of the need to have the decision reconsidered when new pertinent facts arise or if new evidence is discovered, unless they could have been brought forward during the proceedings leading to the decision;
- in terms of art. 52 of the Procedural Rules, the DC decision may be appealed against before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in accordance with article 48 of the IBA Constitution within thirty (30) days following notification of the motivated decision.

IBA Disciplinary Committee

F P Strydom

Francois Strydom
Chairman

Dated: April 20, 2022



