



## **IBA Extraordinary Election Congress 13-14 May, 2022 – Istanbul**

### **MINUTES**

#### **DAY 1**

##### **1. Opening speech by IBA President**

Mr Umar Kremlev greeted Presidents and Secretaries General of National Federations, IBA Board members and Confederations' Presidents and expressed his gratitude to Mr Eyüp Gözgeç, Turkish Boxing Federation President, for his assistance with the organization of the Congress and the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships.

He then announced that presidential elections were to take place on May 14 due to the fact that on May 12 the Independent Interim Nomination Unit declared ineligible some candidates who appealed to CAS against the decision of the IINU. The President also confirmed that the agenda for the first day of the Congress would cover points from 1 to 9, while the second day would cover the remaining points.

##### **2. Welcome speeches by Hosting Authorities**

Mr Eyüp Gözgeç welcomed IBA National Federations, IBA President and Secretary General and expressed his hopes that both the Congress and IBA Women's World Boxing Championships would be a success. He also emphasized the importance of unity and commitment to the principles and values of the Olympic movement for the success of the organization.

##### **3. Roll call**

The quorum was reached – 148 delegates were present at the Congress on May 13.

##### **4. Introduction of other participants**

Mr István Kovács announced the presence of the two members of the Governance Reform Group Ms Melanie Schärer and Dr Heiner Kahlert.

##### **5. Approval of previous Congress minutes**

Previous Congress minutes were unanimously approved by the Congress.

Mr Steve Hartley, President of Boxing New Zealand, asked for clarification why the presidential elections were not to take place on June 13, as was initially planned, and why the appeal was made to CAS. Mr Claude Ramoni explained that due to the decision of the Interim Nomination Unit which





resulted in the ineligibility of five candidates a petition was filed to CAS. To ensure CAS had enough time to review the petition, the presidential elections were postponed to June 14.

Mr Hartley also requested clarification on why the IBA Disciplinary Committee decided that no disciplinary violations had been committed by the candidates in question, while the Interim Nomination Unit declared the candidates ineligible. Mr Jacques Blondin, Chair of Election appointed by the IINU, pointed out that the Disciplinary Committee and Interim Nomination Unit were two separate bodies that work independently from each other and have their own field of expertise. Eligibility checks are the responsibility of the Interim Nomination Unit based on the IBA Constitution and Regulations on Congress and Elections. Therefore, there are two different decisions made by these two bodies due to the fact that the matter was reviewed from two different perspectives applying different rules.

Mr Umbetaly Kydyraliev, President of National Boxing Federation of the Kyrgyz Republic, claimed that it was the basic right of the IBA members to elect and be elected and requested clarification why the elections were not taking place. Mr István Kovács explained that every IBA member had the right to be a candidate, but only eligible candidates could take part in the elections after eligibility checks were conducted by the Interim Nomination Unit. Mr Blondin also clarified that the selection process of independent directors and their further vetting were regulated by articles 26 and 27 of the IBA Constitution, while the criteria and requirements to be met were described in detail in the IBA Regulations on Congress and Elections.

## **6. IBA membership issues**

Mr Claude Ramoni presented the membership issues related to the two previously suspended federations – Boxing Association of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Vanuatu Boxing Federation.

Boxing Association of St. Vincent and the Grenadines was suspended on December 12, 2021 and since then there was lack of significant progress in their activities, while two separate groups were formed in this country trying to restart the activities of the federation. The IBA Board resolved 1) to keep contact with both groups and to cooperate with the National Olympic Committee to understand which group is officially recognized as the National Federation at the local level; and 2) to recommend to the Congress to extend the suspension of the federation until the IBA Ordinary Congress.

Mr Steve Ninvalle, Guyana Boxing Association President, enquired whether the suspension issued by IBA should also be applied at the Confederation's level, which was confirmed by Mr Ramoni. Mr David Christopher, Saint Lucia Boxing Association President, and Mr Vincent Strachan, Boxing Association of the Bahamas President, requested the IBA Head Office to keep monitoring the situation at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines and to direct greater attention to the state of affairs in small countries which might require more assistance than other federations to exercise their activities.

Vanuatu Boxing Federation was suspended on December 12, 2021 and, following the suspension notice, the National Olympic Committee undertook to set up the Interim Committee in order to restart the activities. Due to the pandemic situation in Vanuatu the set-up was postponed, and, therefore, the desired progress had not been achieved. With this regard, the Congress was proposed by the Board to extend the suspension of the federation until the IBA Ordinary Congress.





Mr Michael McAtee, USA Boxing Executive Director, requested the clarification with regards to the procedure for issuing suspension, and Mr Ramoni indicated that the Board could issue the recommendation to the Congress to suspend a federation, while the decision shall be ratified by the Congress.

Both proposals were approved by the Congress.

## **7. Update on IBA Confederations reforms and elections**

Mr István Kovács made an overview of the elections that took place at OCBC, ASBC, EUBC and AMBC, and Mr Claude Ramoni indicated that due to several issues the AFBC elective congress was postponed and scheduled for July 16, 2022. Until then the position of Continental President for Africa shall be deemed vacant.

## **8. IBA Secretary General report**

Mr István Kovács reported on the results of the work carried out throughout the past six months since the last Congress, including the two Board of Directors meetings, cooperation with the IBA Committees and external experts like Prof. McLaren and Prof. Haas.

Secretary General stated that IBA managed to further implement the Governance Reform Group recommendations by forming the Finance Committee and to achieve certain improvements in governance, especially in transparency, to meet the requirements of ASOIF.

Dr Heiner Kahlert, Governance Reform Group (GRG) representative, presented an update on the IBA governance reform through which IBA was seeking to rebuild trust with the IOC, while the IOC would decide on the status of IBA in May 2023 following the IOC Executive Board recommendation to be made in March 2023. The reports on governance, finance and refereeing and judging processes would be issued by the IOC in January 2023.

He then summarized the work that was already accomplished with the first recommendations issued on November 15, 2021 and further recommendations made due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Based on this, GRG was to provide an interim report on the implementation of said recommendations after the IBA 2022 Extraordinary Congress and a final report after the IBA 2022 Ordinary Congress.

Dr Heiner also reported on the changes that had already been made, including appointment of the Interim Nomination Unit, reduction of the Board of Directors to 18 members, 10 of which were Independent Directors, election of four new Continental Presidents, abolition of AIBA Council and reorganization of the Committees. The next steps shall be to:

- staff the Boxing Independent Integrity Unit (BIIU) and make it operational;
- appoint restructuring experts and diversify the streams of income;
- implement institutionalized strategic planning to provide for accountability towards the Congress;
- elevate the role of Secretary General to CEO;
- appoint IOC Liaison Officer;





- ensure sustainable change in governance culture, etc.

Mr Arnoldus Anthonius van Vliet, advisor to the Nederlandse Boksbond, enquired why the Congress was not provided with the financial report. Mr Kovács clarified that since it is the Extraordinary Congress, a full financial report will be presented at the IBA Ordinary Congress, while an overview of the financial state of affairs is included in the Secretary General report.

Mr Michael McAtee, USA Boxing Executive Director, asked for clarification as to when the list of potential candidates for a position of the IOC Liaison Officer was sent to the IOC, and Mr Kovács confirmed that it was forwarded to the IOC on March 4. Mr McAtee also enquired whether there was any progress, compared to the times when the Lalovic report was published, with regards to the IOC expectations and recommendations. Dr Heiner reiterated that he demonstrated the overview of the work that was done, and the progress was clearly visible in comparison with the situation in IBA a year ago, while there were still significant steps to be taken.

Proceeding with his report, Mr István Kovács mentioned that the interim financial statement was published on the website, confirming that IBA had no debts and was delivering assistance to National Federations through the Financial Support Programme and to the boxers through prize money. He continued that diversification of the revenues remained one of the key goals, and the first step towards this objective was the launch of the licensing programme, which had already been a success. The financial integrity, in turn, was improving following the appointment of the Finance Committee.

Mr István Kovács also reported on the Financial Support Programme which allowed to distribute a total of over \$1.5 million across all of the Confederations and across over 50 National Federations. Extensive support was also given to the Ukrainian team that received \$150,000 in order to be able to continue their training process and participation in the tournaments.

On the sports side, Secretary General reported on the work carried out on the Olympic Qualification System together with the IOC Sport Department and IBA Committees and on further elements to be delivered by IBA to finalize the System.

With regards to the sporting integrity, together with the R&J Committee and with the support of Prof. McLaren, IBA managed to develop a very strong process to select and monitor officials, following the best practice of the Boxing Task Force.

Mr Michael McAtee, USA Boxing Executive Director, enquired when IBA would provide the outstanding deliverables to the IOC related to the Olympic Qualification System which were also outlined in the letter sent by the IOC on May 10. Secretary General reiterated that the work on the System was ongoing, especially on the calendar and ranking system, and invited USA Boxing and other IBA members to host the qualifying events.

Mr Michael McAtee, USA Boxing Executive Director, also asked if the presented interim financial statement was the most up-to-date one. Mr Claude Ramoni confirmed that this financial statement was dated March 31, 2022 covering nine months of the financial activities.

Mr Steve Hartley, President of Boxing New Zealand, requested an update on the current status of the





FCIT case. Mr Rob Garea, Chief Financial Officer, and Mr Claude Ramoni stated that the amount was not recognized by the auditors as a debt, but there were funds reserved in the budget for the potential legal dispute over this amount.

Following on the discussions about finance, Mr Umar Kremlev, IBA President, urged the Congress to follow the agenda and reiterated that the key goals of IBA were the popularization of boxing, support of boxers and National Federations, and extensive reforms. That is why the IBA budget had a focus on these areas, including the expenses on the independent experts such as Prof. Haas and Prof. McLaren, and a significant progress has been made within the past several months. Responding to the question about sponsorship, the President confirmed that significant efforts were channeled into revenue diversification and invited all IBA members to submit proposals if they were aware of companies with which IBA could work.

Mr Dominic O'Rourke, President of Irish Athletic Boxing Association, enquired how IBA was planning to react to the injustice that happened in Rio Olympic Games 2016 to many athletes and asked whether any apology will be given to the boxers who became victims of this injustice. Mr Michael McAtee, USA Boxing Executive Director, also asked if anyone had been sanctioned as a result of the McLaren's report.

Mr István Kovács reiterated that the work was ongoing with regards to sporting integrity and that the best thing IBA could do, apart from sending an apology note, was to secure fair fights and fair future for the boxers, while cleaning the sport with the help of the independent experts. He explained that the results of the McLaren report were not conclusive and did not give the legal ground to sanction the officials of the past, but IBA was monitoring the current officials with the support of Prof. McLaren. He also mentioned that IBA was ready to take actions through the IBA Disciplinary or Ethics Committee if it became aware of reports that indicate wrongdoings by the officials.

Mr Nader Jayousi, Palestine Boxing Federation member, urged the IBA National Federations to reflect on the progress that has been made under the current leadership and thanked IBA for supporting the developing federations.

## **9. Ratification of the Board decision on 2022 IBA annual affiliation fee**

The Congress approved to renounce any Annual Affiliation Fee for the year 2022, i.e. to fix the Annual Affiliation Fee for 2022 to zero.

At the end of the first day, the Congress commended the work of the previous Board members and thanked them for their continuous efforts in the work done for the benefit of boxing.

## **DAY 2**

### **1. Opening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of the Congress**

IBA Secretary General, Mr István Kovács invited the president to address the congress. IBA President,





Mr Umar Kremlev mentioned that on the Day 1 of the congress he had requested to postpone the elections to the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the congress to allow CAS to investigate the matter and to make a decision. He clarified that CAS had since disagreed with cancelling the elections and the elections would therefore go ahead.

## **2. Roll Call**

IBA Secretary General passed the floor to Ms Katie Harding from LUMI to conduct the Roll Call. Ms Harding confirmed that there were 142 voting delegates in the room and 6 voting delegates online. Mr Kovács confirmed the quorum and handed back the floor to Ms Harding to conduct the test votes.

Ms Harding opened the test vote and explained the use of the voting system for the delegates in the room. Following this, she clarified the voting system for the delegates attending the congress virtually. Technical issues were resolved and clarified to the delegates by the support team to ensure all delegates could vote seamlessly. The test vote was conducted.

Mr Arnoldus Anthonius van Vliet from the Dutch Boxing Federation commented that they needed to wait for the CAS proceedings to conclude, and they disagreed with the last-minute decision of the IBA Interim Nomination Unit, which was inconsistent with the decision of IBA Disciplinary Committee one day prior to it. He felt that the constitutional processes and decisions of the judicial bodies could not be disregarded. Therefore, it could not be accepted that the Interim Nomination Unit could be overruled without due process. He stated that the process was described in our own constitution and that it was necessary to appeal to CAS. He mentioned the CAS needed to be allowed to do their work as Mr Kremlev mentioned on day 1 of the congress and therefore they did not support holding the election in a compromised manner and to do so would be unfair.

Mr Kovács thanked Mr van Vliet for his comments and confirmed that congress would continue with the agenda and the room would remain closed for the elections.

Mr Steve Hartley from New Zealand made a comment mentioning that he had been made ineligible from contesting in the elections for the IBA Board of Directors. He asked why Mr Boris van der Vorst and four other Board of Directors had been sanctioned and made ineligible to run for the positions on the Board by IBA Interim Nomination Unit for breaches of campaigning rules even though IBA Disciplinary Committee mentioned there had been no breach of rules.

Mr Kovács passed the floor to Mr Jacques Blondin from the Interim Nomination Unit to clarify the matter. Mr Blondin mentioned that the decision had been taken by an independent committee and would therefore only reply with respect to what the committee as a whole had decided. He mentioned that the explanation had already been provided the previous day and he would address the same again. He explained that each body examined the case based on their own competences, one looking





at disciplinary violations and the other eligibility rules. The disciplinary committee and Interim Nomination Unit acted according to the relevant regulations in the Constitution and Congress regulations. He mentioned that the candidates could appeal in a legal way and the candidate Mr Boris van der Vorst used his right to appeal against the decision. He clarified that there was a CAS decision on the previous day regarding the request for provisional measures and the request was rejected by CAS. Therefore, a legal debate was not possible at that stage. He reiterated that the procedures would be followed, and the candidate would have his opportunity to present himself in CAS, and that this process was in line with the process approved unanimously by the Congress of IBA and the one stated in the constitution. Therefore, he decided to proceed with the agenda and mentioned that the Unit will be notified of any decision from CAS in due course.

### **3. Election of President**

Mr Kovács mentioned that as per the constitution the chairperson of the election would be fulfilled by someone appointed by the Interim Nomination Unit. The floor was handed over to Mr Jacques Blondin who was to be the chair of the elections as nominated by the IBA Interim Nomination Unit. Mr Kovács requested Mr Kremlev to leave the dais and be seated in the congress as he was a candidate. Mr Kovács gave the floor to Mr Blondin.

Mr Blondin mentioned the IBA Interim Nomination Unit appointed Mr Bernhard Welten (Switzerland), chair of IBA Ethics Committee and Mr Francois Strydom (South Africa), chair of IBA Disciplinary committee to be the scrutineers according to the Article 23 Para 3 of the constitution. There were no questions from the congress regarding this. Mr Blondin mentioned that the candidates were to be given 10 minutes to make their presentation and invited Mr Umar Kremlev to take the floor for the presentation.

#### Candidate presentation: Mr Umar Kremlev

The video presentation by Mr Kremlev was played to the congress. Following the video, Mr Kremlev addressed the congress. He mentioned that 18 months ago the IBA National Federations elected him as the President and 18 months later he could say with confidence that they had made the right choice. Mr Kremlev talked about the situation in IBA 18 months ago where they had only 3 employees, millions of debts, no confidence in the sporting integrity in boxing and how people thought Tokyo 2020 would be the last time boxing was on the Olympic Agenda. IBA at that point was not able to support the National Federations and there was no prize money for the boxers. He spoke about the popularity of the sport, how motivated the athletes were, and how there were several leaders across the world who were passionate about the sport. Despite the fact that at that point IBA had been in a bad situation, Mr Kremlev believed the sport had a good future and he made promises for the future of boxing. He emphasized IBA was moving in the right direction, even though there was still a lot of work to be done. He reminded the National Federations that he had made big promises for the future of boxing





and that he was a man who delivered on his promises. Mr Kremlev looked forward to working with the new IBA Board of Directors for a better future. He requested the congress to give him an opportunity and promised that in a few years down the line when they looked back, they would feel that the right choice had been made. He understood that when there was only one candidate, the election would need to be done by acclamation. However, he proposed to have vote for the elections to ensure that a fair process was followed.

#### Election:

Mr Blondin summarized IBA Constitution Article 28, Para 4 regarding the election by acclamation. He mentioned that in spite of this, Mr Kremlev offered to conduct the election by a secret ballot. He proposed to conduct the voting through the electronic voting platform, LUMI, if the Congress did not object.

One of the delegates requested to verify the constitution regarding this matter. He mentioned it was not in line with good governance to violate the constitution and that Mr Kremlev had won and there was no requirement to have a vote. Mr Blondin clarified the article in the constitution. Another delegate from Nigeria raised the same point and mentioned there was no need for a vote and the president could be elected by acclamation.

Mr Blondin invited the congress to elect Mr Kremlev as the President of the International Boxing Federation by a round of acclamation.

Mr Umar Kremlev was elected as the President of the International Boxing Association (IBA) by acclamation.

#### **4. Acceptance speech**

Mr Kremlev said it was important to be united. He mentioned that IBA was there to help solve problems for all NFs, that there were coaches, boxers and national federations from 203 countries – all of which IBA was protecting. He reiterated that IBA was a sporting organization and that it should not engage in political discussion. The trainers and athletes were looking up to the administration and trusting it to create good conditions, trusting that competitions were organized with fairness. It is the coaches that elect NF officials, and in turn the NF officials elect the leaders of Confederations, and everybody has a say in electing IBA President. He mentioned that it was his direct responsibility to assist all national federations. His goal was to make boxing one of the most popular sports in the world. Having visited more than 50 countries in the last 18 months, he had direct contacts to National Federations and coaches to help him in achieving his goal, and he was looking forward to expanding his contacts and to help more coaches and National Federations. He wanted to open Boxing academies in all continents.







He mentioned the IBA regulations shall be followed to ensure IBA was one of the best in the world and that this could not be done without the support of all national federations. Being a sport organization, it was important to put sport ahead of bureaucracy. There was a need to support the boxers and the coaches as without them IBA would not exist. As the entrusted president, he mentioned IBA was the Home of Boxing and that all the IBA staff knew that they had to assist the national federations, boxers and coaches in any circumstances. He mentioned he needed the trust of the national federations, boxers and coaches for boxing to be developed, that IBA was ready to consider any good suggestion in the interest of boxing, and national federations. He reiterated that he belonged to the IBA family, and he was available to answer any questions from the family.

He thanked everyone for their trust and ensured everyone that all the promises made by him would be delivered. All issues the national federations were facing would be addressed. He reminded the NFs that Prof Ulrich Hass had been assisting us to reform the governance of IBA, and Professor McLaren had been working on conducting independent investigations for IBA to part way with its past and give the boxers a fair platform in the future. He extended his gratitude to everyone once again.

The delegate from Bahamas commented that in his opinion, the election by acclamation should have been a different process. Mr Blondin mentioned that there had been no deviation from the IBA Constitution, that it had been followed.

## **5. Election of members of Audit Committee**

Mr Jacques Blondin announced that according to Article 28, para 4 of the Constitution, when the number of the candidates is the same as the number of the open positions, the candidates might be elected by acclamation. As the Congress did not have any objection, the members of the Audit committee were elected by acclamation.

## **6. Election of IBA Independent Directors**

Mr Blondin clarified the election regulations followed by the election criteria to the congress. Mr Blondin confirmed that Mr Bernhard Welten (Switzerland), chair of the IBA Ethics Committee and Mr Francois Strydom (South Africa), chair of the IBA Disciplinary Committee were appointed as scrutineers for the elections.

The Roll Call of the candidates was taken by Mr Blondin.

Mr Vusal Nasirli was absent from the congress. Mr Blondin mentioned that according to the constitution, candidates of the position of the Board of Directors shall attend the election. Therefore, Mr Nasirli was removed from the list of candidates. Mr Jinqiang Zhou attended the elections online. He was granted the possibility to attend online due to Force Majeure issues.





Mr Bertrand Roland Mendouga from Cameroon withdrew his candidacy from the elections citing provision of better opportunities for his counterparts.

Mr Felipe Jose Martinez Martinez from Spain withdrew his candidacy from the elections to provide more support to the Spanish female candidate.

The Board of Directors were elected as below:

1. Elise Seignolle (AMBC, USA) – 106 votes
2. Pearl Beverly Dlamini (AFBC, SWA) – 88 votes
3. Kristy Harris (OCBC, AUS) – 84 votes
4. Volodymyr Prodyvus (EUBC, UKR) – 76 votes
5. Yousuf Al-Kazim (ASBC, QAT) – 71 votes
6. Zsuzsanna Toth (EUBC, HUN) – 71 votes
7. Marta Forcen Celaya (EUBC, ESP) – 63 votes
8. Abdeljaouad Belhaj (AFBC, MAR) – 82 votes
9. Jammalage Dian Gomes (ASBC, SRL) – 69 votes
10. Jinqiang Zhou (ASBC, CHN) – 69 votes

Mr Kovács thanked the scrutineers Mr Welten and Mr Strydom and the attendees from the Governance Reform Group, Ms Melanie Scharer and Dr Heiner Kahlert for attending the congress.

Mr Kovács announced the first Board of Directors meeting with the newly elected Directors would take place the same day in 4 hours and further information would be provided regarding the same to the directors during the day.

Mr Kovács concluded the congress and thanked all participants for their work.

Drafted by IBA Head Office and approved by IBA Congress, on 25th September 2022

George Yerolimpos   
Secretary General of the International Boxing Association (IBA)

