



**2022 IBA Ordinary Congress  
11 December 2022, Hybrid (United Arab Emirates & Zoom)**

**MINUTES**

**1. Opening speech by IBA President**

Mr Umar Kremlev greeted the Congress and thanked them for their work aimed at boxing development. He also expressed his gratitude to the United Arab Emirates Boxing Federation for hosting the event and the provided conditions and to the UAE government for the rendered support.

IBA President conveyed his assurance that the decisions taken during the IBA Global Boxing Forum and Ordinary Congress will further contribute to the advancement of boxing and serve the interests of National Federations, athletes and coaches.

Mr Kremlev thanked National Federations for the trust and claimed that he as IBA President, IBA Board of Directors and IBA Head Office are determined to work even harder to be able to match the expectations of the boxing family.

**Welcome speech by President of UAE Boxing Federation**

Mr Anas Alotaiba extended a warm welcome to the Congress participants and expressed his gratitude to IBA for the trust placed in the UAE Boxing Federation with the organization of the Abu Dhabi events.

He indicated that boxing first appeared in the Olympic Games program in 1904, has been one of the key Olympic sports since then, however, is under threat of being excluded from the 2028 Olympic Games. IBA is currently going through fundamental reforms to make sure boxers can compete in the Olympic Games in 2028 and will keep fighting for the dreams of its athletes.

**2. Roll call**

Before proceeding with the roll call, IBA Secretary General presented additional attendees of the Congress: Mr Yury Zaytsev, IBA Legal Counsel, Professor Richard McLaren and Mr Marin Lake, both appointed as Congress scrutineers.

Mr Yerolimpos reminded online participants that they should connect via Zoom with their cameras on for the whole duration of the Congress. He also indicated that, according to art. 7.1 of the IBA Regulations on Congress and Elections, non-voting delegates appointed by National Federations shall not be entitled to vote or speak at the Congress.

The roll call conducted by LUMI confirmed presence of 80 voting delegates in person and 23 voting delegates online.

LUMI then proceeded with guiding the delegates through the voting process for both online and in-person participants and ran a test vote.





### 3. Approval of previous Congress minutes, Yerevan

The minutes of the IBA Extraordinary Congress that took place in Yerevan, Armenia on September 25, 2022 were approved by 96 National Federations, with 1 vote against and 3 abstentions.

### 4. IBA membership issues

#### *Niue*

The Congress was proposed to vote to admit the Niue Boxing Federation as a National Federation and IBA member, following their admittance as a Provisional Member effective as of 24 June 2022 and further application for permanent membership.

**96 National Federations voted in favor of admitting the Niue Boxing Federation as a National Federation and IBA member, with 3 votes against and 3 abstentions.**

#### *St. Vincent & the Grenadines*

The Congress was proposed to vote to keep the suspension of the St Vincent & the Grenadines Boxing Federation due to the lack of progress and communication and due to existence of two separate groups claiming to be valid representatives of the federation.

**77 National Federations voted in favor of keeping the suspension of the St Vincent & the Grenadines Boxing Federation and monitoring the situation till next Ordinary Congress meeting, with 14 votes against and 13 abstentions.**

#### *Vanuatu*

The Congress was proposed to vote to keep the suspension of the Vanuatu Boxing Federation due to the lack of communication and the fact that the elections to the federation's board were held without notifying IBA and not respecting the IBA regulations.

**81 National Federations voted in favor of keeping the suspension of the Vanuatu Boxing Federation and monitoring the situation till next Ordinary Congress meeting, with 9 votes against and 13 abstentions.**

### 5. IBA Secretary General report

IBA Secretary General started with an update on sports related matters, providing an overview of the 2023 competitions calendar with 3 World Championships as highlights of the year, IBA Champions' Night, the first IBA Pro Series event, World Boxing Tour concept and its implementation and sports reforms aimed at improving visual appeal of the sport, implementing more technologies and maximizing the use of World Rankings.

Mr Yerolimpos also reported on the technological advancement in boxing, prize money allocation with 5 million USD secured for the 2023 Men's World Championships and 2,4 million USD for the 2023 Women's World Championships, as well as the prize money fund reserved for the World Boxing Tour events and Global Boxing Cup.





IBA Secretary General proceeded with announcing the 6-year partnership with Sting that will provide the majority of the equipment for IBA events and describing the new approach allowing to use only homologated and safe equipment by IBA affiliated partners.

Further on, Mr Yerolimpos presented the IBA development through 2022 – 2023, including:

- an update of Technical and Competition Rules, namely Rule 20 (Bout Review), Rule 25 (technical officials selection criteria, ethics and behaviour);
- McLaren support (Artificial Intelligence and background checks);
- removal of headguards for elite female athletes;
- statistics on the courses delivered in 2022;
- introduction of E-learning for the 2023 courses.

The next aspect covered by IBA Secretary General is marketing and commercial matters both based on the newly developed business strategy. Mr Yerolimpos presented the timeline of successful implementation of the said strategy that includes 3 distinct phases across the next 10 years and digital roadmap constituting various features that in the end will allow to create the digital Global Home of Boxing.

IBA Secretary General then described the brand strategy and new commercial structure with clear sponsorship hierarchy and categorisation, rights inventory and sponsorship valuation and packaging.

Last but not least, Mr Yerolimpos touched upon event technology, already implemented both online and on site of the competitions, membership technology, R&J evaluation/digitalization and online boxing game.

Mr Vincent Strachan, President of Boxing Association of the Bahamas, made an observation that a greater consideration shall be given to coaches' development. IBA Secretary General pointed out that IBA continues to work in the best interests of the athletes and their coaches, and Mr Gabriele Martelli will deliver a presentation upon conclusion of the Congress and describe the development program designed for the coaches and to be implemented in 2023.

Mr Loutomo Nguoussou Roger Junior, President of Fédération Centrafricaine de Boxe Amateur, expressed his concerns regarding IBA membership fee payment that is difficult to arrange for due to bank restrictions. Mr Yerolimpos indicated that the federations will no longer encounter such issues due to the new amendments in the IBA Constitution to be presented later on.

Mr Andre Verbeure, Administrator of Fédération Royale Belge de Boxe Belgium, enquired since when IBA plans to remove headguards for female athletes. IBA Secretary General clarified that the project is in the stage of study and possibly the headguards for elite female boxers will not be used since 2023, and National Federations will be updated on the matter accordingly.

Mr Maxim Certicovtev, Vice President of Moldovan Boxing Federation, expressed his concerns with regards to the fact that at the 2022 IBA Youth World Boxing Championships in La Nucía, Spain National Federations did not have the possibility to file the protest following the Bout Review Rule and insisted that such a right shall be given to the Federations for them to be able to appeal against results of any bout regardless of the scores given by the judges. Mr Yerolimpos thanked Mr Certicovtev for the feedback and requested an official communication to IBA on this matter in order to be able to transfer these concerns to the respective IBA Department and Committee.





Mr Muhammad Nasir Ijaz Tung, Secretary General of Pakistan Boxing Federation, enquired what the procedures will be to qualify the officials through an online course, and Mr Gilbert Khunwane, President of Botswana Boxing Association, requested clarification on whether online courses will be available to the officials willing to qualify for 2 and 3 stars, which is not the practice now. IBA Secretary General explained that the online courses program is being finalized and will be provided to the National Federations shortly with the description of procedures in place at each level – 1, 2 and 3 stars.

Mr Gilbert Khunwane, President of Botswana Boxing Association, also asked if IBA is shifting to black and white corners, and Mr Yerolimpos indicated that this innovation applies only to the new format of the IBA competitions – the IBA Champions' Night to take place in Abu Dhabi.

Mr Hemanta Kumar Kalita, Secretary General of Boxing Federation of India, commended the work of IBA on technological development and highlighted the importance of online branding and TV broadcasting especially for the generation of revenues and successful organization of the 2023 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships to take place in India. IBA Secretary General pointed out that he expects productive cooperation with Boxing Federation of India in all aspects related to staging of the upcoming tournament, including broadcasting and branding.

After taking the questions, Mr Yerolimpos announced to the Congress the decision of the IBA Board of Directors taken on 9 December 2022 concerning the IOC communication about the Qualification Pathway to Paris 2024, which was sent to the IBA National Federations without IBA's awareness and is not in agreement with the IBA Competition schedule. Thus, the IBA Board decided that the athletes will be selected to participate in the Continental Games (European Games, Asian Games, Pacific Games, Pan American Games and African Games) based on their performance at the Continental Championships organized by the respective Confederations and the IBA Women's and Men's World Championships in India and Uzbekistan.

**The IBA Board of Directors' decision was ratified by the Congress by acclamation.**

## **6. Presentation of audited accounts**

IBA Secretary General presented the report of the independent auditor on the financial statements as of 30 June 2022 as well as statutory accounts as of 30 June 2022 and principles used during the audit.

**79 National Federations voted in favor of approving the audited accounts 2021 – 2022, with no votes against and 6 abstentions.**

## **7. Discussion of the MGSS Report about (A)IBA (Stages 1,2,3) and follow-up. Discussion of the causes of AIBA's crisis and further actions based on Professor McLaren's findings**

Professor Richard McLaren presented an overview of stages 1, 2 and 3 of the MGSS Report about (A)IBA and recommendations made by MGSS based on the reports' findings and already implemented by IBA, namely introduction of Boxing Independent Integrity Unit, vetting of all officials and candidates for elections, prevalence plan for anti-doping and whistle-blowing concept. Prof. McLaren also reported on the recommendations that are still in progress of being put in place





in the three key areas: disciplinary, education and Field of Play.

Prof. McLaren proceeded with describing the changes introduced by IBA, including implementation of governance recommendations made by Governance Reform Group, development of Corporate Memory Database, deployment of AI technology at IBA events and appointment of Prof. McLaren as Integrity Officer.

Finally, Prof. McLaren elaborated on AI voice analytics technology used at the IBA and continental events and ongoing investigation disciplinary actions conducted by MGSS.

Mr Steve Ninvalle, President of Guyana Boxing Association, enquired why the investigation covered only the period from 2016 until present day and not earlier. Prof. McLaren indicated that the scope of work was established in the Terms of Reference provided by IBA and included investigation on previous regimes, however, it also provided an overview of the organization's functioning in the 2000-s for the sake of context.

Mr Vincent Strachan, President of Boxing Association of the Bahamas, enquired why, despite the positive changes achieved by IBA during the past 2 years, the IOC is still reluctant to recognize this progress. Prof. McLaren started by commenting on the situation with the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) that is in much more difficulties than IBA, yet IWF does not get the same overview, inspection and demand as IBA. Prof. McLaren claimed that he takes every opportunity to address the IOC officials on the situation in boxing and the work that is being done, and the IOC is also monitoring IBA through their own observers present at the IBA events. However, while the MGSS reports are always provided to the IOC, the IOC never share their observations based on their experience on site of the IBA competitions.

From what has been shared publicly by the IOC, the conclusion is that there are 3 main areas of concern: governance, finance and refereeing and judging. Yet, thanks to the work done by MGSS and following their reports, a significant change can be evidenced in these 3 areas, and Prof. McLaren is convinced that IBA in the end will succeed in changing the way the public perceives the organization.

Mr Umar Kremlev took the floor to further clarify the scope of work of Prof. McLaren and why the IBA Board requested MGSS to investigate this particular period. Boxing is under threat to be excluded from the Olympic Games due to the actions of previous administrations, and IBA requested the investigation to make sure that the reasons behind this unfortunate for boxing situation are uncovered. Thanks to this investigation, it was revealed that Mr CK Wu, former AIBA President and IOC member, brought the organization to a ruin and is the one responsible for a scandalous boxing tournament at the Rio Olympic Games in 2016. That is why Mr CK Wu was declared by the IBA Board of Directors persona non grata.

IBA has involved independent experts to conduct the reforms and is following the recommendations and roadmap of the IOC, and Mr Kremlev is confident that this work will soon be recognized. In the meantime, IBA, being an independent organization with transparency and unity at its core, will continue defending its interests and that of the boxing community, protecting the athletes and creating the very best conditions for them.

Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz Ghonem Soltan, President of Egyptian Boxing Federation, commended the efforts of the current IBA administration and suggested that IBA continues to work on improving communication with the IOC through personal meetings with the IOC officials.





Mr Gabriele Martelli, Secretary General of Malta Boxing Federation, enquired why, considering the professionalism and well-deserved reputation of Prof. McLaren, the results of his work in boxing are still not recognized and the progress made by IBA and confirmed by Prof. McLaren is not yet acknowledged. Prof. McLaren reiterated that he applies an objective and independent approach to his work and, thus, does not take it personally, but is hopeful that there will soon be a change in how IBA is seen by the world and the IOC.

Mr Moses Muhangi, President of Uganda Boxing Federation, suggested that IBA issues a communication to the IOC with regards to the Qualification System for Paris 2024, encouraged National Federations to support the campaign launched by Roy Jones Jr. and asked Prof. McLaren if the focus of IBA's work can be expanded to more spheres, other than the IOC recommendations. Prof. McLaren ensured Mr Muhangi that the current work is concentrated not only on restoring the Olympic recognition of IBA, but also on improving the organization's operation, which is, in fact, the main focus of his team.

Mr Kremlev added that IBA is determined to make sure that no National Federation, athlete or coach will participate at the Olympic Games without IBA's involvement.

IBA Secretary General then proceeded with requesting ratification by the Congress of the decision made by the IBA Board of Directors to declare Mr CK Wu persona non grata. **The decision was supported by the IBA Ordinary Congress by acclamation.**

## **8. Adoption of amended IBA Constitution**

Mr Yury Zaytsev, IBA Legal Counsel, presented the proposed amendments to the IBA Constitution based on the recommendations made by Governance Reform Group and approved by the IBA Board of Directors on 5 November 2022. The amendments are aimed at:

- elevating the position of the Secretary General (SG) role to CEO;
- increasing the number of meetings of the Board of Directors (subject to the rule that such meetings could be online);
- ensuring independence of the Boxing Independent Integrity Unit (BIIU);
- improving several provisions of the IBA Constitution.

Mr Zaytsev made an overview of the following Articles in the IBA Constitution with the proposed changes:

- Article 6 – Official Languages;
- Article 11 – Obligations of National Federations (NF);
- Article 13 – Suspension from membership;
- Article 14 – Continental Confederations (CON);
- Article 16 – Congress – Organization;
- Article 17 – Congress – Powers
- Article 18 – Ordinary Congress;
- Article 19 – Extraordinary Congress;
- Article 21 – Congress Proceedings;
- Article 22 – Congress – Voting;
- Article 25 – Board of Directors;





- Article 27 – Eligibility – Vetting;
- Article 29 – Meeting of the Board;
- Article 31 – Term of office;
- Article 33 – Vice President;
- Article 36 – Boxing Independent Integrity Unit;
- Article 37 – Corporate Governance Committee;
- Article 40 – Secretary General;
- Article 43 – Resources;
- Article 47 – IBA Competitions;
- Article 49 – Dispute Resolution;
- Other amendments to improve legal structure and quality of the Constitution.

Mr Abdirahman Ali Mire, Secretary General of Somali Boxing Federation, requested further clarification on Article 13, and Mr Zaytsev indicated that it was amended to ensure that athletes from suspended National Federations are not affected by the suspension and continue competing at the international level.

**85 National Federations voted in favor of approving the amendments to the IBA Constitution, with 4 votes against and 3 abstentions.**

## 9. Closing speech by IBA President

Mr Kremlev thanked once again the National Federations for their work and announced that IBA is considering the renewal of the agreement with Gazprom, whose sponsorship allowed IBA to pay off the debts, ensure stable day-to-day operation of the organization, assist IBA members with boxing development in their countries and introduce prize money for the athletes. IBA President also enquired if National Federations would wish to support such a development, if the proposal was made to renew the agreement. **The proposal was supported by the IBA Ordinary Congress by acclamation.**

After the closing speech by IBA President Japan Boxing Federation representatives were invited by Mr Kremlev to present a new generation judging system as IBA strives to ensure sporting integrity and change the culture and mentality of the IBA officials.

Additionally, Mr Gabriele Martelli delivered a presentation on the development program to be implemented for coaches in 2023.

Following the final presentations, IBA President proceeded with closing the Congress.

*These minutes were drafted by the IBA Head Office and subsequently approved by the IBA Congress on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*

