



**2023 IBA Ordinary Congress  
09 December 2023, Hybrid (Dubai, UAE & Zoom)**

**MINUTES**

**1. Opening speech by IBA President**

Mr. Umar Kremlev extended a warm welcome to the IBA family, and all participants present, emphasizing that the upcoming Congress discussions would focus on the latest IBA developments, projects and plans.

The President emphasized that the International Boxing Association serves as a unifying force for everyone in the boxing community, working tirelessly to support the interests of all National Federations, boxers, coaches and officials, which are the core principle and priorities of the organization.

Mr. Kremlev firmly stated that the IBA's resources belong to the boxers and will be used strategically to support National Federations to foster the growth of boxing worldwide. The President acknowledged the considerable progress made towards developing boxing globally, highlighting that the IBA has successfully implemented those respective plans and goals. While emphasizing that there is always room for improvement, he expressed IBA's commitment to continuous progression.

Mr. Kremlev also highlighted those key points of the Congress agenda that would showcase the IBA's achievements and unveil innovative ideas and plans for future growth, such as restructuring the competition calendar globally to provide more opportunities for athletes.

He emphasized the paramount importance of unity amongst IBA National Federations, expressing gratitude for the unwavering support of athletes and their collective loyalty to the IBA family. Mr. Kremlev reassured all National Federations that he would continue to ensure fairness and justice in the sport of boxing.

Finally, Mr. Kremlev expressed his sincere gratitude to Mr. Anas Alotaiba and the UAE Boxing Federation for hosting the event and creating the appropriate conditions, along with the UAE government for their extended support.

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

Mr. Anas Alotaiba greeted the Congress participants, stating an important fact that the United Arab Emirates were celebrating the 52nd National Day this December. He expressed his gratitude to IBA for the trust placed in the UAE Boxing Federation with the organization of the respective Dubai events.

President of the UAE Boxing Federation advised to be clear and transparent through the discussions regarding the challenges, obstacles and solutions to be found by the boxing community. Mr. Alotaiba expressed a hope that the IBA Congress and Forum would create an opportunity to achieve tangible progress and to develop clear plans for the benefit of boxing, to achieve common goals and to enhance the status of the sport for the future and beyond.





## 2. Roll call

Before proceeding with the roll call, the IBA Secretary General presented additional attendees to the Congress: Mr. Yury Zaytsev, IBA Legal Counsel, Mr. Emin Ozkurt, Chair of the BIU Nomination Unit, both appointed as Congress scrutineers. The Secretary General also mentioned the presence of the IBA Board of Directors, VIP guests and delegates from across the globe.

Mr. Roberts reminded online participants that they should connect via Zoom with their cameras on for the full 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 the presence of 143 voting delegates in person and 14 voting delegates online.

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

## 3. Approval of previous Congress minutes, Abu Dhabi

The minutes of the IBA Ordinary Congress that took place in Abu Dhabi, UAE on December 12, 2022 were approved by 117 National Federations, with 1 vote against and 4 abstentions.

## 4. IBA membership issues

Mr. Yury Zaytsev took the floor to greet the boxing family and started his presentation on IBA Membership issues. He presented the list of National Federations that had resigned from IBA and terminated their memberships.

### ***Disaffiliated National Federations:***

- On 26 April 2023, USA Boxing;
- On 31 May 2023, SwissBoxing (re-applied again);
- On 10 July 2023, Boxing New Zealand;
- On 12 July 2023, Federacion Argentina de Boxeo;
- On 15 July 2023, Boxing Australia Ltd;
- On 28 July 2023, Federacion de Boxeo Olimpico de Panama;
- On 10 August 2023, Confederacao Brasileira de Boxe;
- On 11 August 2023, Boxing Canada;
- On 2 October 2023, Finnish Boxing Federation;
- On 27 November 2023, Swedish Boxing Federation.

### ***Norfolk Island Boxing Association***

The Congress was proposed to vote and to admit the Norfolk Island Boxing Association (NIBA) as a National Federation and IBA member, following their admittance as a Provisional Member effective as of 24 October 2023 and further application for permanent membership.

125 National Federations voted in favor of admitting the Norfolk Island Boxing Association (NIBA) as a National Federation and IBA member, with 6 votes against and 7 abstentions.





### ***Switzerland***

The Congress was proposed to vote and to admit SwissBoxing as a National Federation and IBA member, following their admittance as a Provisional Member effective as of 24 October 2023 and further application for permanent membership.

128 National Federations voted in favor of admitting SwissBoxing as a National Federation and IBA member, with 5 votes against and 6 abstentions.

### ***Tuvalu Amateur Boxing Association***

The Congress was proposed to vote and to admit the Tuvalu Amateur Boxing Association (TABA) as a National Federation and IBA member, following their admittance as a Provisional Member effective as of 8 December 2023 and further application for permanent membership.

129 National Federations voted in favor of admitting the Tuvalu Amateur Boxing Association (TABA) as a National Federation and IBA member, with 4 votes against and 9 abstentions.

### ***US Boxing Federation***

The Congress was proposed to vote and to admit the US Boxing Federation as a National Federation and IBA member, following their admittance as a Provisional Member effective as of 8 December 2023 and further application for permanent membership.

117 National Federations voted in favor of admitting the US Boxing Federation as a National Federation and IBA member, with 18 votes against and 7 abstentions.

### ***Czech Boxing Association***

The Congress was proposed to vote and to terminate the membership with IBA of the Czech Boxing Association (CBA) due to the breach of IBA regulations and joining an alternative association World Boxing, which contradicts the IBA Membership Policy.

99 National Federations voted in favor of terminating the membership of the Czech Boxing Association (CBA), with 22 votes against and 21 abstentions.

### ***German Boxing Association***

The Congress was proposed to vote and to terminate the membership with IBA of the Deutscher Boxsport-Verband (German Boxing Association) due to the breach of IBA regulations and joining an alternative association World Boxing, which contradicts the IBA Membership Policy.

106 National Federations voted in favor of terminating the membership of the German Boxing Association, with 22 votes against and 15 abstentions.

### ***Netherlands Boxing Federation***

The Congress was proposed to vote and to terminate the membership with IBA of the Nederlandse Boksbond (Netherlands Boxing Federation) due to the breach of IBA regulations and joining an alternative association World Boxing, which contradicts the IBA Membership Policy.





111 National Federations voted in favor of terminating the membership of the Netherlands Boxing Federation, with 17 votes against and 14 abstentions.

## 5. IBA Secretary General & CEO report

The IBA Secretary General started his presentation with an overview of the activities of each respective IBA Department – sport, marketing, and finance. He presented information about the sporting events held in 2023, including three outstanding IBA World Championships: IBA Women's World Championships in India, IBA Men's World Championships in Uzbekistan and IBA Junior World Championships in Armenia. Mr. Roberts expressed his gratitude to the Federations of India, Uzbekistan and Armenia for their work in organizing the most successful championships and also appreciated the work done by the Federations that generously hosted the IBA Champions' Nights, providing a platform for the boxers to demonstrate their talent and passion.

With reference to the upcoming year 2024, Mr. Roberts showcased the updated and expanded calendar for IBA Champions' Night events, that would include up to 16 events per year, as the IBA President suggested organizing Champions' Nights on each continent across the globe. IBA is to organize 3 more IBA World Championships – Elite Men's, Elite Women's and Youth Men's & Women's, provided that the bidding is still in process. The 2024 IBA Calendar would also include the AFBC Cup event that would take place in South Africa.

As the general update, the Secretary General highlighted the following aspects:

- To sign more contracts with several key stakeholders for IBA Champions' Night on such territories as USA, Mexico and UK;
- To finalize the Global Boxing Cup event and secure a contract;
- To define the host country for IBA Men's World Championships in November 2024;
- To secure contracts with boxers and officials, in order to protect IBA's investments;
- Official badges to be produced in Turkey; good sales of record books.

Further, Mr. Roberts presented the IBA development achievements throughout 2023, highlighting the tremendous work concluded by IBA having organized 64 courses and 1332 students graduated. 805 coaches were registered to 35 Online 1 Star courses during the year. Fast track courses for R&Js from 1 to 3 Star get a great deal of fresh faces that brings them forward internationally and expands the R&Js database. The next call was for those with the correct attributes to turn to ITO courses, with those being hosted on all continents to have an equal opportunity and chance to officiate at important boxing events; to include the most awaited Technical Delegate course. Moreover, Mr. Roberts underlined the importance of hosting cut technician courses and improving the skills of doctors, who had an opportunity to gain onsite learning and experience during our top major events.

Summarizing the year's achievements, Mr. Roberts highlighted the role of Communications globally that were successfully delivered throughout the year 2023, despite the unfavorable outcome of the IOC session. The positive results of the communication strategy were clearly visible in growing interest in social media, increasing the number of followers and presence of IBA in the international media. Communications were aiming not only at increasing the interest towards the International Boxing Association, but also at combatting the attempts of other rogue organizations to spread misinformation, and in protecting IBA Integrity.





The next aspect covered by IBA Secretary General was the marketing strategy, brand and commercial structure based on the dynamic growth through the power of the brand, focusing on the following objectives:

- To build IBA's core brands (awareness and image);
- To increase owned audience (consideration);
- To support growth of the current revenues and develop new streams (conversation).

The successful implementation of the said strategy could be reached through the following objectives:

- Brand marketing;
- Content;
- Event marketing;
- D2C/ Fan-centric;
- Broadcast strategy Athletes;
- Commercial assets.

Mr. Roberts also emphasized the possible launch of a new OTT platform, offering boxing supporters and boxers' families a real-time access to results and updates on all the events.

Summing up his brief, IBA Secretary General asked the audience for further questions or comments on the delivered report.

Mr. Mohamed Shbib, President of Syria Boxing Federation, appreciated the achievements of the IBA throughout the last few years, including the organization of tournaments across all 5 Continents, courses for ITOs and R&Js, as well as IBA's financial assistance for the development of boxing in vulnerable countries. Mr. Chris Roberts expressed his gratitude for the support of Mr. Shbib, the experienced boxing official who has been officiating at IBA events more than 30 years.

The IBA Secretary General then gave the floor to the independent auditor Mr. Angelo Musaro, from Moore Stephens Refidar SA together with Mrs. Ekaterina Collet, IBA Senior Accountant, to present the report on IBA audited accounts.

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

Mr. Angelo Musaro, together with Mrs. Ekaterina Collet, presented the audited accounts and detailed report on the financial statements as of 30 June 2022 to 30 June 2023 and principles used during the audit.

117 National Federations voted in favor of approving the audited accounts 2022 – 2023, with 2 votes against and 7 abstentions.

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

Mr. Yury Zaytsev, IBA Legal Counsel, presented the amendments to the IBA Constitution based on the recommendations proposed to the delegates by the IBA Board of Directors. The amendments were aimed at:

- Improving the legal technique of the IBA Constitution;





- Increasing effectiveness of IBA bodies;
- Adjusting the IBA system in a more efficient way.

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

- Definitions;
- Article 3 – Mission;
- Article 7 – Membership;
- Article 8 – Admission as a member;
- Article 9 – Provisional membership;
- Article 10 – Rights of (Eligible) National Federations;
- Article 11 – Obligations of National Federations;
- Article 12 – Cessation of Membership;
- 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 20 – Agenda for Congress;
- Article 21 – Congress Proceedings;
- Article 24 – Voting on Decisions;
- Article 25 – Board of Directors;
- Article 27 – Eligibility - Vetting;
- Article 28 – Voting in Elections;
- Article 29 – Meetings of the Board;
- Article 30 – Powers and Duties of the Board;
- Article 30 – President;
- Article 36 – Boxing Independent Integrity Unit;
- Article 37 – Corporate Governance Committees.

126 National Federations voted in favor of approving the amendments to the IBA Constitution, with 5 votes against and 5 abstentions.

## **8. Election of the IBA Board member for a vacant position**

Mr. Emin Ozkurt, Chair of the BIU Nomination Unit, took the floor and explained the election rules and the voting process to the Congress. The election for the vacant IBA Board member position was to be held among the female delegates from the American continent.

Roll call of the candidates for Independent Director position:

1. Ms. Lourdes Avendano Rodrigues, Bolivia;
2. Ms. Luisa Benitez Gomez, Venezuela;
3. Ms. Ivonne Elizabeth Nunez Figueroa, Ecuador.

According to the article 28.1 of IBA Constitution, all the candidates should be present either in person or online. Ms. Ivonne Elizabeth Nunez Figueroa from Ecuador was excluded from the election due to her absence.





Mr. Ozkurt granted the two remaining candidates, Ms. Lourdes Avendano Rodrigues and Ms. Luisa Benitez Gomez, with a 5-minute speech to present themselves and then asked a Lumi operator to start the voting process.

82 National Federations (56.94%) voted in favor of Ms. Lourdes Avendano Rodrigues from Bolivia for the vacant position of IBA Board Member from AMBC. 62 National Federations (43.06%) gave a vote to the other candidate.

## 9. Closing speech by IBA President

Mr. Umar Kremlev extended his sincere gratitude to the IBA National Federations and the entire boxing community. He took the opportunity to congratulate the newly elected IBA Board Member. Expressing his appreciation for their commitment to independence, modernity, and athlete advocacy, Mr. Kremlev thanked the delegates for choosing to remain on this path.

The IBA President then invited the National Federations to the upcoming Global Boxing Forum, where the organization was to highlight its roadmap for development, highlighting innovative technologies, a robust internal infrastructure designed for 24/7 support, and its unwavering commitment to assisting all IBA members.

Following the final speech, the 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 [...], 2024.*

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