



**Date:** 24 January 2025

**2024 IBA Ordinary Congress - 7 December 2024, Dubai, UAE (Hybrid format)**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**1. Roll call**

The 2024 IBA Ordinary Congress started with the brief introduction of IBA Secretary General & CEO Mr. Chris Roberts OBE, who then gave the floor to the LUMI team. The LUMI team representative guided the delegates through the voting process for both online and in-person participants and conducted a test vote.

Then the roll call processed by LUMI confirmed the presence of 121 voting delegates in person and 14 voting delegates online.

After the roll call, the IBA Secretary General presented attendees to the Congress: Mr. Umar Kremlev, IBA President; Mr. Yury Zaytsev, IBA Legal Counsel; BIIU representatives, IBA Board of Directors, VIP guests, media representatives, National Federations' delegates, IBA Staff and LOC members.

**2. Opening speech by IBA President**

Mr. Umar Kremlev extended a warm welcome to the IBA family, and all participants present, expressing his gratitude for their dedicated work. The President emphasized that all IBA stakeholders are doing an excellent job in successfully developing boxing in their respective countries, and that the impact of IBA cannot be underestimated.

In particular, he highlighted the comprehensive financial support provided through the Financial Support Program, which assists National Federations, boxers, and coaches. Thanks to this program, numerous teams were able to participate in the 2024 IBA Youth World Boxing Championships in Budva, Montenegro. IBA President expressed his appreciation of the work carried out by Boxing Federation of Montenegro and the European Boxing Confederation to host this World Championship.

The IBA Women's World Boxing Championships will be held in March 2025 in Serbia, and President Kremlev expressed his gratitude to the Serbian Boxing Federation for its efforts in making this event possible.

IBA President said that there should be no limitations placed on boxers. He emphasized that important amendments will be introduced to the IBA Constitution, granting the boxers and National Federations the freedom to choose their participation in various boxing competitions, in both amateur and professional formats.

Mr. Kremlev highlighted the importance of creating conditions for the new generation of young boxers, ensuring greater opportunities for their participation in IBA events. He announced that the prize money pool for the Men's and Women's World Championships will be substantial, and that boxers finishing in 4th and 5th place will also be eligible to receive prize money. This measure will allow more participants from a wide range of countries to be rewarded and encouraged at these events.

The IBA President emphasized that while boxing will remain part of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic



[www.iba.sport](http://www.iba.sport)



Games, the IBA will continue to pursue its own independent development. The IBA World Championships will remain its premier event, as the organization focuses on nurturing boxing from the grassroots. Today, IBA continues to be the most competitive international boxing organization, thanks to its boxers, coaches, and National Federations.

President Kremlev encouraged National Federations to remain proactive, urging them not to hesitate to apply for IBA financial support if needed, and to send their boxers to participate in both amateur and professional IBA events. He expressed gratitude for the unwavering support and loyalty of the IBA family, which helped overcome numerous challenges faced by the boxing community in 2024.

The IBA President emphasized that the well-being of athletes remains the organization's core principle and priority. He reaffirmed that there is no restriction, interference, or segregation towards boxers in IBA, and the organization will continue to uphold these values. In 2025, IBA plans to significantly enhance its activities and further strengthen its sustainability.

Finally, Mr. Kremlev thanked the IBA boxing community for their fairness, transparency, and support. The floor was then given to Mr. Hasan Alhammadi, Secretary General of the UAE Boxing Federation, for a welcome speech.

### 3. Welcome speech by host country representatives

Mr. Hasan Alhammadi extended a warm welcome to the Congress participants on behalf of the UAE sports and boxing authorities. He thanked the IBA President for organizing such a successful event and stated that the host country stands ready to provide the IBA boxing community with all the necessary facilities. Concluding his remarks, Mr. Alhammadi once again welcomed all participants to the 2024 IBA Ordinary Congress.

The floor was then given to Mr. Franco Falcinelli, former President of the European Boxing Confederation. Mr. Falcinelli welcomed the guests and participants and shared his reflections on the current situation in international boxing.

He noted that the global boxing landscape remains turbulent, with many National Federations struggling to secure financial support from their respective governments and sports authorities. Mr. Falcinelli further highlighted IBA's strong commitment to promoting gender equality and maintaining financial stability through the backing of major sponsors. Thanks to IBA's initiatives, many athletes have been able to improve their lives through prize money; a benefit that had never previously existed in boxing.

Mr. Falcinelli underlined that only IBA is capable of organizing high-standard boxing competitions and urged the Congress to remain united behind the IBA President and the Board of Directors. Thanks to the leadership of President Mr. Umar Kremlev, substantial governance reforms have been implemented, and multiple training programs have been launched for IBA officials. Moreover, new and spectacular events such as the IBA Champions' Night have attracted the attention of leading media outlets worldwide.

In conclusion, Mr. Falcinelli emphasized that Mr. Umar Kremlev is the only IBA President who has been able to secure such a strong financial position and dignity for the organization and its stakeholders.





#### 4. Approval of previous Congress minutes, Dubai

The minutes of the IBA Ordinary Congress, held in Dubai, UAE, on 9 December 2023, were approved by 121 National Federations, with one abstention.

#### 5. IBA Secretary General & CEO report

Mr. Chris Roberts OBE opened up his report on the back of Paragraph 4, and the approval of the previous minutes.

**Events overview.** The year 2024 has proven to be exceptionally busy for the International Boxing Association (IBA) and its continental bodies, marked by the successful organization and delivery of numerous high-level events. Among the highlights was the IBA Youth World Championships, which took place in Budva, Montenegro. The event was noted for its outstanding quality, and special thanks were extended to the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for their exemplary efforts in ensuring the competition's success.

**Continental Championships in 2024.** The 2024 calendar was further strengthened by the successful delivery of multiple Continental Championships. The African Boxing Confederation (AFBC) organized three major events, providing valuable competitive opportunities for athletes across the continent. Similarly, the Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC) held three high-profile events, while the European Boxing Confederation (EUBC) delivered five championships, underscoring its active engagement throughout the year. The Oceanian Boxing Confederation (OCBC) also contributed with the organization of one championship event, adding to the diverse and inclusive nature of the international boxing calendar.

**Professional Boxing Opportunities within IBA.** The International Boxing Association (IBA) continues to provide significant opportunities for boxers to pursue professional careers. A brief overview of recent events demonstrates how IBA has enabled its athletes to compete as both amateurs and professionals within the same calendar year. This unique arrangement allows boxers to transition between amateur and professional status as needed for various IBA events. As a result, athletes benefit from increased flexibility and exposure to a broader range of competitive experiences, maximizing their potential and growth within the sport.

Mr. Roberts provided a detailed overview of the significant events scheduled for the upcoming year, underscoring IBA's ambitious plans to host two major World Championships. These championships will include both male and female elite events, reflecting the organization's ongoing commitment to promoting high-level competition and gender equality within the sport. He announced that the location for the female elite World Championship has already been determined, with Belgrade set to host this prestigious event. Final arrangements for the venue and logistics are in progress, further demonstrating IBA's proactive approach to event planning and execution. The selection of Belgrade highlights IBA's dedication to diversifying event locations and offering athletes from around the world the opportunity to compete on an international stage.

The IBA Champions' Night will remain a cornerstone of the organization's professional boxing initiatives throughout 2025. Building on the momentum of previous years, the program is set to feature an ambitious schedule, with plans to deliver a total of 25 professional events during the year. Each event will be highlighted by the presentation of World and Continental title belts, underscoring IBA's commitment to high-caliber competition and international recognition for its athletes.

Preparations for the 2025 calendar are already well underway. Locations for the opening events have





been confirmed for January and February, with further details on additional venues and dates to be announced as the year progresses. This forward-looking approach reflects IBA's dedication to providing consistent and prestigious opportunities for professional boxers across the globe, further solidifying its role as a leader in the sport's professional arena.

**IBA Financial Support Program (FSP) Overview 2021-2024.** Mr. Roberts proceeded to provide a detailed explanation of the International Boxing Association's Financial Support Program (FSP) as it operated from 2021 through 2024. The FSP was designed to extend financial assistance and value in kind (VIK) support to National Federations across all continents, ensuring that resources are distributed equitably to foster the growth and stability of boxing worldwide.

During this period, the total support provided through the program amounted to \$942,225.00. This figure represents both direct financial contributions and value-in-kind, reflecting IBA's commitment to strengthening its member federations and supporting their activities at every level.

Mr. Roberts briefly outlined the application process for the FSP. National Federations seeking support are required to submit their requests directly to the IBA Head Office. Importantly, each application must be accompanied by a comprehensive Business Case. This ensures that all requests are thoroughly evaluated, and only well-justified proposals are considered for funding. Through this process, IBA encourages proactive engagement from its member federations, promoting transparency and responsibility in the allocation of resources.

Mr. Roberts highlighted the ongoing initiatives within the African Boxing Confederation (AFBC), emphasizing the strong partnership and support from the South African National Boxing Organization (SANABO). He commended SANABO for their instrumental role in organizing and successfully delivering a remarkable tournament in South Africa; the first-ever Mandela Cup. This event stands as a significant milestone for AFBC, showcasing effective collaboration and a commitment to elevating the standard of boxing competitions on the continent. The Mandela Cup not only provided valuable competitive opportunities for athletes but also reinforced the spirit of unity and progress within African boxing.

**Prize Money Distribution 2023–2024.** A detailed summary was presented regarding the distribution of prize money by the International Boxing Association (IBA) for the period spanning 2023 to 2024. This overview underscored the substantial support provided to boxers worldwide under the current IBA leadership. To date, more than \$22 million has been awarded to athletes across the globe, reflecting IBA's commitment to rewarding excellence and supporting competitors at all levels of the sport.

**IBA Champions' Night: Continental Representation.** During the meeting, the presentation demonstrated the connection between the IBA Champions' Night, and the boxers chosen to represent each continent. This served as tangible evidence of the organization's capability to assemble a strong and diverse group of athletes from all five continents. By showcasing these representatives, IBA underscored its ongoing commitment to providing elite boxers with opportunities to compete at the highest level. The continued effort to feature athletes globally reaffirms the association's dedication to fostering international participation and excellence in the sport of boxing.

**IBA Development 2024.** A comprehensive update on the International Boxing Association's (IBA) development programs for 2024 was presented, highlighting the organization's extensive outreach and commitment to advancing the sport. The courses, delivered by IBA's highly qualified instructors, continue to play a pivotal role in maintaining IBA's reputation as one of the premier international federations for continuous professional development.





- **Referees and Judges Courses:** A total of 22 courses were conducted, aimed at enhancing the skills and expertise of officiating personnel within the boxing community.
- **Coaching Courses:** Sixteen coaching courses were delivered, encompassing both online and in-person formats, ensuring accessibility and effective knowledge transfer to coaches at all levels.
- **International Technical Official Courses:** Specialized courses focused on the development and certification of technical officials, supporting the consistent and fair management of boxing events.
- **Cut Technician Courses:** Targeted training for cut technicians provided essential skills in athlete safety and bout management, underscoring IBA's emphasis on high medical and technical standards.
- **Referee and Judge, Instructor and Evaluator Course:** This course was designed to further develop instructors and evaluators, facilitating the ongoing improvement and standardization of officiating education within the IBA framework.

These development initiatives demonstrate IBA's ongoing dedication to strengthening the technical foundation of the sport and ensuring that athletes, coaches, and officials are supported by comprehensive and high-quality education programs.

**Continuous Professional Development Initiatives.** Collaborative efforts between the International Boxing Association (IBA) and several key partners, including the World Boxing Association (WBA) and the Institute of Sports Development and Education (ISDE), remain at the forefront of IBA's commitment to ongoing professional development. Mr. Roberts emphasized the importance of these courses, noting their pivotal role in elevating the standards and expertise within the boxing community. Through these partnerships, IBA continues to provide valuable opportunities for learning and advancement, ensuring that officials, coaches, and other stakeholders benefit from high-quality educational initiatives designed to foster growth and excellence in the sport.

**Database Migration and Management.** Mr. Roberts provided a concise update on the ongoing efforts related to the IBA's central database. He emphasized the significance of this work, noting that the database is not only crucial for the organization and execution of championship events, but also plays an essential role in the effective management of National Federations.

The migration process is scheduled to continue throughout 2025, with a strong focus on refining the IBA ranking structure. This refinement will span both the amateur and professional areas of the sport. In addition, Mr. Roberts highlighted the collaborative efforts with BoxRec, aimed at further enhancing the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the ranking system.

Looking ahead, the overarching goal is to develop a comprehensive and integrated ecosystem for holistic sports management. This system will encompass all critical aspects, from event organization and results tracking to the compilation and analysis of statistics, ensuring that the IBA remains at the forefront of modern sports administration.

**Media Rights and Broadcasting.** The International Boxing Association (IBA) continues to make significant progress in the area of media rights and broadcasting. In the current reporting period, IBA has delivered 160 hours of live broadcast feeds, demonstrating the organization's commitment to increasing visibility and accessibility of boxing events worldwide. This growth has been supported by the development of partnerships with a range of television broadcasters, further extending the reach of IBA's events.





Managing the archiving of legacy content has also been identified as a key area requiring improvement. IBA is actively exploring ways to streamline and enhance its archival processes to ensure that historical footage and media assets are preserved efficiently and can be accessed readily in the future.

Looking ahead, IBA is prioritizing broader collaboration with stakeholders across the media and broadcasting landscape. By engaging more partners, the organization seeks to maximize the impact and distribution of its media content, ensuring that the sport continues to grow and reach new audiences.

**IBA Communications and Public Relations.** Mr. Roberts proceeded with his report by highlighting the significant advancements made in IBA's communications and public relations efforts. He emphasized the transformative power of effective communication and the impressive reach that the IBA has achieved in recent years.

The year 2024 marked a milestone for IBA, characterized by remarkable achievements in the media landscape. The organization recorded an impressive total of 108,764 media mentions, representing a substantial increase of 121% compared to the previous year. This surge in media presence underscores the growing prominence of IBA on the global stage.

Additionally, IBA's media reach expanded dramatically, culminating in 558 billion connections; an extraordinary growth of 172%. This expansion demonstrates the organization's ability to connect with audiences around the world, ensuring that IBA's activities and events garner widespread attention.

The association's social media platforms also experienced outstanding engagement, with 413 million views recorded. This level of digital interaction reflects IBA's broad appeal and the effectiveness of its strategies to engage fans and stakeholders from all regions of the globe.

**IBA Sponsorship.** Mr. Roberts concluded his report by presenting two new partnership agreements secured by IBA for the next five years. The first agreement, valued at \$1.2 million, was signed with the company *Doña Elena*. The second, worth \$10 million, was concluded with the commercial marketing company *IB Challenger*. The Chief Executive Officers of both companies then took the stage to officially sign the respective sponsorship contracts with IBA.

## 6. IBA Membership matters

Mr. Yury Zaytsev, IBA Legal Counsel, took the floor to greet the boxing family and begin his presentation on IBA membership matters. He presented the list of National Federations that had submitted their applications to become new IBA members during 2024.

In 2024, the IBA Board of Directors decided to grant provisional IBA membership to the following boxing associations:

- Aotearoa New Zealand International Boxing Association
- Australian National Amateur Boxing Association
- Brazil Boxing Confederation
- Czech Boxing Federation
- German National Boxing Association
- New Sweden Boxing Federation





In accordance with Article 9.3 of the IBA Constitution, following the decision of the Board to admit a boxing association as a Provisional Member of IBA, the Provisional Member's application to be admitted as a National Federation shall be referred for determination to the meeting of the Ordinary Congress following the Board's decision or Extraordinary Congress, whichever comes first.

On 29 October 2024, the Board of Directors decided to recommend that these boxing associations be accepted as National Federations and members of the IBA.

Mr. Zaytsev then briefly presented information on each of the aforementioned provisional members. He went on to explain the powers of the Congress concerning the consideration of new membership applications and subsequently gave the floor to the Lumi team to proceed with the vote.

### **Aotearoa New Zealand International Boxing Association**

The Congress was proposed to vote and to admit the Aotearoa New Zealand International Boxing Association as a National Federation and IBA member, following their admittance as a Provisional Member and further application for permanent membership.

114 National Federations voted in favor of admitting the Aotearoa New Zealand International Boxing Association as a National Federation and IBA member, with 3 votes against and 4 abstentions.

### **Australian National Amateur Boxing Association**

The Congress was proposed to vote and to admit the Australian National Amateur Boxing Association as a National Federation and IBA member, following their admittance as a Provisional Member and further application for permanent membership.

115 National Federations voted in favor of admitting the Australian National Amateur Boxing Association as a National Federation and IBA member, with 3 votes against and 7 abstentions.

### **Brazil Boxing Confederation**

The Congress was proposed to vote and to admit the Brazil Boxing Confederation as a National Federation and IBA member, following their admittance as a Provisional Member and further application for permanent membership.

113 National Federations voted in favor of admitting the Brazil Boxing Confederation as a National Federation and IBA member, with 5 votes against and 7 abstentions.

### **Czech Boxing Federation**

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

110 National Federations voted in favor of admitting the Czech Boxing Federation as a National Federation and IBA member, with 4 votes against and 9 abstentions.

### **German National Boxing Association**

The Congress was proposed to vote and to admit the German National Boxing Association as a





National Federation and IBA member, following their admittance as a Provisional Member and further application for permanent membership.

112 National Federations voted in favor of admitting the German National Boxing Association as a National Federation and IBA member, with 7 votes against and 6 abstentions.

### New Sweden Boxing Federation

The Congress was proposed to vote and to admit the New Sweden Boxing Federation as a National Federation and IBA member, following their admittance as a Provisional Member and further application for permanent membership.

111 National Federations voted in favor of admitting the New Sweden Boxing Federation as a National Federation and IBA member, with 8 votes against and 7 abstentions.

## 7. Amendments to IBA Constitution

Mr. Yury Zaytsev continued with the overview of constitutional amendments and the reasons why.

- Article 11.1 (j). Obligations of National Federations
- Article 12.4. Cessation of Membership
- Article 14.1. Continental Confederations
- Article 14.6 (d). Continental Confederations
- Article 14.6(g). Continental Confederations
- Article 14.7 (a). Continental Confederations
- Article 25.1 (b). Board of Directors
- Article 30.1 xiii. Powers and Duties of the Board
- Article 34.3. Vacant Executive Positions

**Discussion on Constitutional Amendments.** Following the overview of the proposed constitutional amendments, Mr. Yury Zaytsev invited the members to raise any questions or concerns regarding the specific article changes presented. A series of questions were brought forward, with many focusing on topics related to National Federation business. Both Mr. Zaytsev and the President addressed these inquiries directly, providing clarifications and responses as needed. It is important to note that no immediate challenges or objections were raised by the members concerning the amendments outlined above.

The Congress was proposed to vote and to approve the above amendments.

110 National Federations voted in favor of the proposed amendments to the constitution, with 6 votes against, and 6 abstentions.

## 8. Presentation and approval of the audited accounts and reports for 2023-2024

The floor was passed back to Mr. Roberts, who in turn, cordially invited both Mrs. Ekaterina Collet, IBA Senior Accountant, and Mr. Angelo Musaro, the external auditor, from Moore Stephens Refidar SA to give a comprehensive report regarding the audited accounts for 2023-2024. A full review of the financial statements can be found at the following [link](#).

Currently, the International Boxing Association (IBA) operates three branches outside of Switzerland.





These are located in the following regions:

- Abu Dhabi
- Dubai
- Tajikistan

Mr. Roberts emphasized the importance of strategic positioning for the IBA in order to achieve success across all areas. He highlighted that by thoroughly analyzing the current environment, assessing the competition, and identifying IBA's unique value propositions, the organization can effectively distinguish itself. This is particularly significant as IBA works to bridge the gap between amateur and professional boxing, aiming to attract its key target audiences.

According to Mr. Roberts, such a strategic approach not only differentiates the IBA brand but also helps establish a sustainable competitive advantage within the global boxing community.

The Congress was proposed to vote and to approve the IBA Financial Report.

The audited accounts and reports for 2023-2024 were approved by 90 National Federations, with 3 votes against and 9 abstentions.

## 9. Closing speech by IBA President

The IBA President invited the IBA Secretary General and CEO, Mr. Chris Roberts OBE, to deliver the closing speech to the Congress.

In his address, Mr. Roberts encouraged the National Federations to raise any additional questions they might have directly with him or the IBA staff, emphasizing that communication can be facilitated through email for convenience and efficiency.

Turning to the Financial Support Program, Mr. Roberts advised all member organizations and delegates that comprehensive and up-to-date information regarding the program is readily available on the IBA website. He directed participants to consult the appropriate section online to access the necessary details and resources.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Roberts highlighted the recent success of the Global Boxing Forum, which had convened earlier in the day. He expressed his gratitude to all Congress participants for their active engagement throughout the event. Mr. Roberts closed by sharing his hope of seeing all attendees again in the near future, reinforcing the sense of unity and ongoing collaboration within the IBA community.

Following his remarks, the IBA Secretary General and CEO formally declared the Congress closed.

*These minutes were drafted by the IBA Head Office and subsequently approved by the IBA Congress on 13 December 2025.*

\*\*\*\*\* End of report \*\*\*\*\*

