

MEETING MINUTES OF THE 2018 AIBA EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS

(27 January – Dubai, UAE)

1. Opening remarks from AIBA Interim President

Franco Falcinelli opens the Extraordinary Congress, by welcoming all audience to Dubai. He invites all delegates to contribute to the meeting to decide on the future of boxing and AIBA.

2. Welcome Speeches by Host Organization Authorities

Secretary General of the General Authority of Youth and Sport Welfare in Dubai welcomes everybody to United Arab Emirates (UAE) and wishes the meeting the desired success. Afterwards, the President of UAE Boxing Federation gives his greetings to all members.

3. Roll Call

Mr. Mohamed Moustahsane, AIBA Vice President does the Roll Call and confirms that a quorum of 108 eligible National Federations is present with 76 required, the meeting is validated. Later at the point 8 of the agenda, the representative of Saudi Arabian Boxing Federation joined the Congress.

One National Federation raises a motion to switch around two points of the agenda, so that the point 8 “AIBA Executive Committee report” comes before point 7 “Vote on Honorary Presidency Nomination”, by a large majority this is accepted.

4. AIBA Interim President Report

Franco Falcinelli, AIBA Interim President, expresses his appreciation to the delegates and thanks them for their presence adding that AIBA is prepared to provide all necessary information in order for its member federation to understand what happened and will happen within AIBA. He gives examples of governance issues, notably about AIBA’s finances or key business decisions. Afterwards, Mr. Falcinelli reports the following activities which took place during his 4-month interim period:

Regarding the governance, in replacement of the Executive Director, 3 Administrators were appointed in the AIBA HQs Office who have managed and contributed well to the continuous and smooth operations of AIBA. He extends his appreciation to Terry Smith, Mohamed Moustahsane and Pat Fiacco. The key AIBA Commissions have been also reshaped: Pat Fiacco is the new Chair of AIBA Technical and Rules Commission, Emilia Grueva Chair of the Women’s Commission, Alberto Puig De La Barca heads WSB Commission. AIBA EC Bureau members have been reinstated. A new Chairman of the AIBA Ethics Commission is Prof. Ulrich Haas, and the process is ongoing in order to fill positions to have a Commission of 5 members.

Regarding AIBA finance, starting from around 5 million CHF in October 2017, AIBA has 4 million CHF in its bank account. He reiterates the extremely high costs of legal fees and costs AIBA incurred in the past.

A significant part of the budget has been spent in AIBA HQs Office’s operations. Therefore, the new management will review the HQs organisation in order to ensure a more efficient and less expensive running of AIBA. Likewise, the new office move project is now in the process of cancellation.

On the legal issues update, Mr. Falcinelli is pleased to report to all members that with the great help from AIBA Vice President Mr. Gafur Rahimov, a settlement with Benkons has been reached to reduce the cash payment. As part of the agreement, a significant portion of the amount due will be converted into sponsorship. Moreover, AIBA will not have to make any cash payment until January 2021 which

means that AIBA is clearly out of any risk of insolvency. With respect to marketing activities, a new proposal is currently being finalized with a new business model being developed.

The AIBA EC has contracted the company BM Sport to study AIBA's current governance and management structures. AIBA will undergo a complete review of all its programs to build a new foundation, a new strategic plan with clear short and long-term goals.

On the sport side, the newly appointed Chairman of AIBA Technical & Rules Commission, Pat Fiacco, and the Chairman of AIBA Refereeing & Judging Commission, Osvaldo Bisbal, have been working together to review the formation, officiating and oversight of AIBA competitions. The goal is to develop the most transparent and respectful officials' management system, including the development of boxing academies and training centres such as the "AIBA Coaches Academy" and the "AIBA R&J and ITO Academy". For Anti-Doping, AIBA met the mandates of IOC, GAISF and ASOIF to improve the testing procedures. As a summary, some changes of the AIBA Statutes will be recommended at this Extraordinary Congress to implement a better governance, including granting more powers into the AIBA EC.

Mr. Falcinelli says that, on June 8, IOC Executive Board made the decision to reduce weight categories for Men's Boxing Competitions from 10 to 8 and to add 2 more weight categories for Women's Competitions for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. All AIBA EC members learned about this decision 2 months later, at the EC meeting held in July 2017 in Moscow and indeed unanimously decided to reject this decision. He moves on to mention that later, AIBA was informed that IOC decided to suspend its final payment of the TV Revenues share from the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. AIBA also received consistent messages from IOC that it will put a point on the agenda of its next Executive Board meeting to discuss the future of the Boxing program in the Olympic Games, this based on the required report to be sent to IOC by January 30.

Later this year, AIBA will hold the Ordinary Congress to elect the new leadership of AIBA, including the new President. AIBA will be working hand in hand with its National Federations and Confederations to ensure a brighter future for Olympic Boxing. Mr. Falcinelli declares that 2018 must be the "Year of AIBA Pride", during which all members must make all efforts possible to reaffirm the pride of being one boxing family so AIBA and its members can achieve all objectives as one team.

Lastly, Mr. Falcinelli announces that he would like to resign from the position of the Interim President in the end of this Congress, while continuing his duties as AIBA Vice President and EUBC President until the Ordinary Congress in November 2018. He requests AIBA EC to find his successor immediately by the end of this Congress.

5. Approval of Previous Extraordinary Congress Meeting Minutes

AIBA Congress unanimously approves the previous Extraordinary Congress meeting minutes December 2016 Montreux.

6. Approval of New Memberships

AIBA Congress unanimously approves the full AIBA Membership of the following countries:

South Sudan Boxing Federation whose provisional membership was approved during the AIBA Executive Committee Meeting held on July 24 and 25, 2017 in Moscow.

Palau Boxing Federation whose provisional membership was approved during the AIBA Extraordinary Committee Meeting held on November 3 and 4, 2017 in Dubai.

7. Presentation and Approval of Amendments to AIBA Statutes

AIBA lawyers, Mr. Francisco Larios and Mr. Claude Ramoni, present the proposed amendments, approved by the AIBA EC which is the first step to improve AIBA governance. Some urgent and key matters will be addressed including: better allocation of powers between President and Executive Committee for balanced governance, secure sufficient Women members in the Executive Committee in view of the next election, clarify some key articles for a better understanding on contents, providing for CAS arbitration.

Article 8.3 Membership

Current Article 8.3

- A National Federation cannot be affiliated to or recognized by any non-AIBA professional boxing organization or body or any other world, continental, or international boxing federation or association unless approved by AIBA.

Proposed Amendment

- A National Federation ~~cannot~~ **can** be affiliated to or recognized by any non-AIBA professional boxing organization or body or any other world, continental, or international boxing federation or association **if this is approved by AIBA Executive Committee.**

Article 13 (L) Obligation of National Federations

Current Article 8.3

- National Federations and provisional members have the following obligations:
 - to prohibit any person to hold office on the Executive Committee of AIBA or any Confederation if that person holds, or has previously held, after January 1, 2007, a position in any non-AIBA professional boxing organization or has been involved in the organization, promotion or administration or professional boxing including a professional boxing event, unless approved by AIBA Executive Committee.

Proposed Amendment

- National Federations and provisional members have the following obligations:
 - **to prohibit any person to hold office on the Executive Committee of AIBA or any Confederation if that person holds a position in any non-AIBA professional boxing organization.**

Article 22 – Congress

Current Article 22.1

- The Congress is an assembly to which all National Federations are convened at least once every four years.

Proposed Amendment

- **The Ordinary Congress is an assembly to which all National Federations are convened every two years.**
- **The Ordinary Congress with elections shall be held every four years.**

Article 27 – Congress Proceedings

Current Article 27.1

- The President shall preside over the Congress.

Proposed Amendment

- The President shall preside over the Congress; **however, if for any reason the President is not able to preside, then the Vice President who has served the longest period will preside over the Congress.**

Article 34 – Composition of Executive Committee (I)

Proposed Amendment to Article 34.1:

- **The Executive Committee will consist of twenty-eight (28) persons as follows:**
 - **Twenty-four (24) EC Members elected by the Congress including:**
 - one (1) President;
 - five (5) Vice Presidents each from a National Federation affiliated to a different Confederation, that is, one from each of AFBC, AMBC, ASBC, EUBC and OCBC;
 - ~~Two (2)~~ **three (3) EC Members** from a National Federation affiliated to each of AFBC, AMBC, ASBC and EUBC, **of which a minimum of one member must be a woman in each continent;**
 - ~~One (1)~~ **two (2) EC Members** from a National Federation affiliated to OCBC, **of which a minimum of one member must be a woman;**
 - ~~Five (5)~~ **four (4)** EC Members from any other National Federation; and
 - **Four (4) EC Members from a National Federation affiliated to each of AFBC, AMBC, ASBC and EUBC appointed by the elected members of the Executive Committee. The appointed EC Members must be recommended by the President and selected from the EC Member candidates who lost in the election.**

Proposed Amendment to Article 34.2:

- Add:
 - **All members listed in article 34.1 (elected and appointed EC Members) shall have voting rights.**
 - **The new composition of the Executive Committee will enter into force at the next Ordinary Congress**
- DELETE:
 - ~~In addition to the EC Members elected by the Congress pursuant to article 34.1, the AIBA President may appoint, and dismiss, the following EC Members:-~~
 - ~~one person representing the interest of APB as Vice President of the Executive Committee;~~
 - ~~one person representing the interest of WSB as Vice President of the Executive Committee;~~
 - ~~up to two persons representing the commercial interests of AIBA as Vice President of the Executive Committee~~
 - ~~the Chairperson of the Technical & Rules Commission as EC Member;~~
 - ~~the Chairperson of the Women's Commission as EC Member; and,~~
 - ~~the Chairperson of the Medical Commission as EC Member;~~
 - ~~The members listed in article 34.2 (appointed EC Members) shall not have any voting right.~~

Article 35.1-3 – Eligibility Criteria

Proposed Amendment to Article 35.1

- Candidates:
 - for the Presidency, Vice Presidency and Executive Committee Membership must all be members of and nominated by their respective National Federation.
 - for the Presidency must have a record of serving in the Executive Committee as an EC Member.
 - for the Presidency must be supported in writing by at least twenty (20) National Federations.
 - for Vice Presidency must be supported in writing by at least five (5) National Federations except Oceania where candidates for the Vice Presidency must be supported by at least three (3) National Federations.

Article 38: Power of Executive Committee

Proposed additions to Article 38.1

- (NEW) ratify the appointment and dismissal of the members of the EC Bureau
- (NEW) ratify the appointment and dismissal of the Chairperson and other members of each of the Commissions
- (NEW) appoint EC members in accordance with article 34.1 of these Statutes
- (NEW) ratify the appointment and dismissal of the Executive Director of AIBA
- (NEW) make decisions relating to major AIBA competitions if necessary due to cancellations, postponements, relocations, etc.
- (NEW) ratify the appointment and dismissal of members of both the Disciplinary and Ethics Commissions including the Chairperson
- (NEW) ratify the appointment and dismissal of both The Treasurer and Legal Counsel
- (NEW) appoint and dismiss the External Auditor Company
- (NEW) ratify the appointment and dismissal of the Executive Vice President
- (NEW) with a two-thirds vote of no-confidence motion for the removal of the President by the Congress pursuant to Article 23(b). The power of the President shall be provisionally suspended until the next Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress.

Article 39: Power of President

Current Article 39.1

- The President represents AIBA legally. The President is responsible for the relations among the Confederations, National Federations, IOC, political bodies, other international sports federations and international organizations.

Proposed Amendment

- The President or the Chairperson of the EC in the case of the absence of the President represents AIBA legally. The President is

the highest officer of AIBA. The President represents AIBA in the framework of the relations among the Confederations, National Federations, IOC, political bodies, other International Sports Federations and international organizations.

Deleted or Moved Powers

Current Article 39.2

- (D) preside over the Congress;
- (G) appoint and dismiss EC Members in accordance with Articles 34.2 and 34.5 of these Statutes
- (K) make decisions relating to major AIBA Competitions if necessary due to cancellations, postponement, relocations, etc.;
- (L) in extraordinary situations, make decisions on matters of importance which must be ratified by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

Proposed Amendments

- (D) preside over the Congress
 - **DELETED (DUPLICATES ARTICLE 27.1)**
- (G) appoint and dismiss EC Members in accordance with Articles 34.2 and 34.5 of these Statutes
 - **MOVED TO POWERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
- (K) make decisions relating to major AIBA Competitions if necessary due to cancellations, postponement, relocations, etc.;
- (L) in extraordinary situations, make decisions on matters of importance which must be ratified by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.
 - **DELETED**

Amended Powers

Current Article 39.2

- (E) appoint and dismiss the members of the EC Bureau;
- (F) appoint and dismiss the Chairperson and other members of each of the Commissions;
- (I) appoint and dismiss the Executive Director of AIBA;

Proposed Amendment

- (E) appoint and dismiss the members of the EC Bureau **provided it is ratified by the Executive Committee;**
- (F) appoint and dismiss the Chairperson and other members of each of the Commissions **provided it ratified is by the Executive Committee;**
- (I) appoint and dismiss the Executive Director of AIBA **provided it is ratified by the Executive Committee;**

New Powers

Proposed additions to Article 39.2

- **(NEW) propose the members of the Disciplinary Commission including the Chairperson who will be appointed provided it is ratified by the Executive Committee;**
- **(NEW) propose the members of the Ethics Commission including the Chairperson who will be appointed provided it is ratified by the Executive Committee;**
- **(NEW) appoint and dismiss the Executive Vice President provided it is ratified by the Executive Committee**
- **(NEW) appoint and dismiss the Treasurer and Legal Counsel provided it is ratified by the Executive Committee.**

Current Article 39.3

- If the President is unable to exercise his powers for a prolonged period due to absence or illness, the Vice President who has served the longest period will act as Interim President, this for a maximum of one (1) year until an Extraordinary Congress is called and a new President elected.

Proposed Amendment

- If the President is unable to exercise his powers **for a prolonged period due to any kind of absence or illness**, the Vice President who has served the longest period will act as Interim President, this for a maximum of one (1) year until an Extraordinary Congress is called and a new President elected.

Dismissal of the President

Article 38 - Powers of the Executive Committee

Proposed addition to Article 38.1:

- 38.1 The Executive Committee has in particular the power and duty to:
 - **(NEW) – with a two-thirds vote of no confidence motion for the removal of the President by the Congress pursuant to Article 23(b). The power of the President shall be provisionally suspended until the next Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress.**

Article 23 - Powers of the Congress

Current Article 23(B)

- The Congress has the following powers:
 - elects the President, each Vice President and the other EC Members every four years, and may, in an Extraordinary Congress, convened in accordance with these Statutes, remove any such persons from office by a majority of no-confidence;

Proposed Amendment to Article 23(B)

- The Congress has the following powers:
 - elects the President, each Vice President and the other EC Members every four years, and may, in an **Ordinary or** Extraordinary Congress, convened in accordance with these Statutes, remove any such persons from office by a **two-thirds vote of no-confidence.**

Article 42: Quorum

Current Article 42

- Article 42.1: The Executive Committee can convene once eleven (11) elected EC Members are present including the President.
- Article 42.2: The EC Bureau can convene once three (3) members of the EC Bureau are present in person, by telephone or reply via email, including the President.

Proposed Amendment

- Article 42.1: The Executive Committee can convene once **fifty percent (50%) plus one of the EC Members are present. Should for any**

reason the President not be present, then the EC at its majority can appoint an EC Member in attendance as Chair of the meeting.

- Article 42.2: The EC Bureau can convene once three (3) members of the EC Bureau are present in person, by telephone or reply via email, **including the President. Should for any reason the President not be present, then the EC Bureau at its majority can appoint an EC Bureau Member in attendance to Chair the meeting.**

Article 50: Executive Director

Current Article 50.3

- (F) perform special duties for the development of the sport of boxing within the international sports and Olympic community, under the instructions and assignments of the President;
- (G) conduct special projects and programs on the request of the President.

Proposed Amendment

- (F) perform special duties for the development of the sport of boxing within the international sports and Olympic community, under the instructions and assignments of the President **and the Executive Committee;**
- (G) **On the request of the President,** conduct special projects and programs **which must be ratified by the Executive Committee.**

New Article – Executive Vice President

Creation of the position of “Executive Vice President”

- Proposed New Article 51:
 - **51.1 The President may appoint an Executive Vice President, provided it is ratified by the Executive Committee.**
 - **51.2 The Executive Vice President shall have the following duties:**
 - **to perform duties assigned by the President**
 - **to represent the President in any given event, meeting and function if requested to do so by the President**
 - **to assist the President to supervise the work of the AIBA HQs**
 - **to attend Executive Committee Meetings and any other meeting as requested by the President**
 - **to receive same rights and privileges as any Vice President.**
 - **51.3 To be appointable as Executive Vice President, the candidate must be a current or former AIBA Vice President.**
 - **51.4 In the event that a current Vice President is appointed as Executive Vice President, then he or she will maintain his or her current position as Vice President, with the title of Executive Vice President being additional. If the appointed Executive Vice President is not a current Vice President, he or she shall not have voting rights.**

Article 55: External Auditors

Current Article 55

- Article 55.1:
 - AIBA will be audited by a qualified, independent auditing firm. The President will appoint an external professional audit company in consultation with the Treasurer.

Proposed Amendment

- Article 55.1:
 - AIBA will be audited by a qualified, independent auditing firm. **The President Executive Committee** will appoint an external professional audit company in consultation with the Treasurer.

Article 66: Court of Arbitration for Sport

Current Article 66.1

- AIBA recognizes the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), with headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, as the authority to resolve appeals against decisions made in accordance with the AIBA Anti-Doping Rules only. Each Confederation and National Federation must recognize CAS as an independent judicial authority but, in this regard, in accordance with the AIBA Anti-Doping Rules only. AIBA, National Federations, Confederations, Boxers, Officials and Competition Officials must comply with the decisions passed by CAS.

Proposed Amendment

- AIBA recognizes the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), with headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, as the authority to resolve appeals against decisions made in accordance with **these Statutes and the AIBA Rules and Regulations and the AIBA Anti-Doping Rules only**. Each Confederation and National Federation must recognize CAS as an independent judicial authority **but, in this regard, in accordance with the AIBA Anti-Doping Rules only**. AIBA, National Federations, Confederations, Boxers, Officials and Competition Officials must comply with the decisions passed by CAS.

Current Article 66.4

- Appeals against decisions made in accordance with the AIBA Anti-Doping Rules must be filed in accordance with the provisions of the CAS Code of Sports-Related Arbitration. Appeals shall be lodged with CAS within 30 days of notification of the written decision in question. The appeal shall not have an injunctive effect. The Disciplinary Commission or CAS may order the appeal to have injunctive effect.

Proposed Amendment

- Appeals against decisions made in accordance with **these Statutes and the AIBA Rules and Regulations** ~~the AIBA Anti-Doping Rules~~ must be filed in accordance with the provisions of the CAS Code of Sports-Related Arbitration. Appeals shall be lodged with CAS within 30 days of notification of the written decision in question. The appeal shall not have an injunctive effect. The Disciplinary Commission or CAS may order the appeal to have injunctive effect.

Article 67 – Compliance with Decisions of AIBA

Current Article 67

- Confederations and National federations must comply fully with any decision passed by the Executive Committee, the EC Bureau, the Disciplinary Commission, the Ethics Commission or any other Commission which such decisions are, according to these Statutes, final and not subject to appeal. Confederations and National Federations must take

every precaution necessary to ensure that their own Boxers, Officials and Competition Officials comply with these decisions.

Proposed Amendment

- Confederations and National Federations must comply fully with any decision passed by the Executive Committee, the EC Bureau, the Disciplinary Commission, the Ethics Commission or any other Commission which such decisions are, according to these Statutes, final and not subject to appeal **except to the CAS**. Confederations and National Federations must take every precaution necessary to ensure that their own Boxers, Officials and Competition Officials comply with these decisions.

AIBA Congress approves all the proposed amendments with a strong majority, with only 3 abstentions.

8. AIBA Executive Committee Report

Mr. Pat Fiacco, shares with the audience the full picture of what happened in the past months. He explains that the resignations of AIBA Treasurer in May 2017 and later of Finance Director raised questions by EC. Mr. Terry Smith, sent a list of questions to the former President on AIBA, notably on finance related issues. At the EC Meeting in July in Moscow, AIBA EC proposed to the former President to resign but he rejected this proposal. Then, a motion to call an Extraordinary Congress and to call for a “Vote of No Confidence” against the former President was passed and an “Interim Management Committee (IMC)” was formed to run the AIBA administration. Several procedures were lodged before Swiss courts and AIBA Disciplinary Commission.

Further to the suspension of the former President by the AIBA Disciplinary Commission Chairman, Franco Falcinelli became the Interim President upon approval by the AIBA EC. The AIBA EC called the Extraordinary Congress to be held on January 27 in Dubai. The former Executive Director also resigned.

Eventually, on November 9, an agreement was proposed and signed between the former President and the Interim President with the key terms as: to resign from all AIBA positions (AIBA, WSB, BMA and FBB), IOC EB and ASOIF positions, request for EC to nominate him as AIBA Honorary President which was subject to ratification by the Congress, and both parties to withdraw all legal cases.

In conclusion, Mr. Fiacco mentions that these unpleasant events are now passed and he encourages the member federations to never give up building for a new foundation and to work together.

Several federations, including Costa Rica Boxing Federation, Kenya, Brazil, Congo, UAE, Philippines and Sudan thank Mr. Fiacco for his report. They express their support to the AIBA EC and express doubts about the nomination of the former President as Honorary. .

9. Vote on the nomination of CK Wu as Honorary President

In accordance with the Agreement entered into with former President CK Wu, a motion to nominate him as Honorary President is submitted to the vote of the Congress.

AIBA Congress unanimously votes to reject the nomination of the former President as Honorary President.

10. Announcement of the New Interim President

Further to the resignation of Mr. Falcinelli, AIBA EC convened during the lunch an emergency meeting to identify a new Interim President. At this meeting, Mr. Ramoni, AIBA Lawyer, announces they reviewed AIBA Statutes and according to the article number 39.3 *“in the absence of the President the Vice President who has served the longest period should act as the Interim President until the next elective Congress”*. The longest serving Vice-President is Mr. Gafur Rahimov, who has been serving as AIBA Vice President for more than 15 years since 2002. During its meeting, all EC unanimously confirmed that Mr. Rahimov shall act as AIBA Interim President at the end of this Congress and Mr. Rahimov has accepted to take over this role.

Mr. Falcinelli extends his strong support and warm welcome to the new Interim President. The new Interim President, Mr. Rahimov, says that it is an honour to accept this position. He thanks all EC members for their support and assures all participants he will do his utmost to return prestige of AIBA and restore AIBA image in front of all stakeholders.

11. AIBA Congress Moscow 2018

Mr. Umar Kremlev, Secretary General of Russian Boxing Federation, gives an update on logistics preparations for the Congress. Moscow city has all necessary facilities to conduct such meeting at high level, the venue will be the Renaissance Moscow hotel. Apart from the official meetings, there will be also cultural and entertainment programs.

12. Boxing Olympic Program

Mr. Kit McConnell, IOC Sport Director, prefaces that the IOC Executive Board meeting in December in Lausanne expressed its appreciation for the steps that have been taken by AIBA but also expressed its significant concerns about AIBA finance and governance and asked for a full report to be delivered by the end of January.

At this Congress, he talks in detail about the Olympic program itself, understanding the context of the program, how IOC approaches the decisions and in particular the timeline, the process and the considerations around the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

Olympic agenda 2020 is the strategic plan which was developed with full consultation of International Federations, National Olympic Committees and public in general. The key recommendations related to the Olympic Program were the number of athletes, maximum numbers of sports and the gender equality. The scope and framework set the maximum number of events and maximum number of athletes as specified in the Olympic Charter. This with the purpose to reduce costs and complexity of the games, but always keeping sport and athletes at the heart of all IOC does. The games are not only about the numbers, but also to balance the Olympic Program, with the goal to have 50 percent of women across the entire Olympic Games and equally speak about youth and innovation.

In terms of decisions making for Tokyo 2020, the Olympic charter is clear that the decisions regarding which sports are in Olympic Games seat with a full IOC Session, the decisions regarding the event program and the athletes quotas seat with the IOC Executive Board based on the recommendations of Olympic Program Commission.

26 of 28 IFs made a request to the IOC either on the number of events or athletes quotas for Tokyo 2020. It was impossible to positively answer to all requests due to the key considerations as explained above. Regarding boxing, Mr. McConnell outlines, that the introduction of women boxing improved not

only the universality of the sport but also increased the broadcast numbers, based on the statics from the Rio 2016.

Moving forward, there are 2 tasks that AIBA and IOC should work together. First, is to finalise the arrangements for Tokyo 2020, the proposal will be presented by Pat Fiacco later during this meeting and secondly, to work together towards Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 to find the right direction forward, focusing on sport and athletes.

13. Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Weight Category Presentation

Mr. Pat Fiacco, Chairman of the AIBA Technical & Rules Commission, presents the background of IOC's decision process as well as why IOC should follow AIBA's recommendation to keep 10 Men's weight categories.

He informs that IOC has approved AIBA's request to increase the number of Women's boxing events from 3 weight categories to 5 weight categories for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Mr. Fiacco refers to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, where only 13% of Boxers were Women.

IOC proposal for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games is to have 8 men weight categories and 5 women, which will result in having men athletes decrease by 18% (250 to 206) and women athletes 122% increase (36 to 80). IOC recommends reducing the Men's quota by another 44 boxers and two (2) weight categories in order to increase the Women's by 44 boxers with five (5) weight categories. AIBA is concerned that the decrease in Olympic weight categories from 10 to 8 will have a negative impact on the popularity of our sport throughout the world; Furthermore, the AIBA EC with the support of National Federations is concerned about the safety of boxers and maintain that there should be 10 Men's Olympic weight categories. Therefore, AIBA is officially requesting IOC to accept AIBA proposal to maintain current 10 weight categories and reduce the number of Men boxers in each weight category. For Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, AIBA requests 5 Women's weight categories with 60 boxers and 10 Men's weight categories with 226 boxers – total 286 boxers. This means that AIBA proposes to maintain the number of Women boxers in each weight category to 12 boxers, not 16 boxers, which will make a total of 60 Women boxers at the Olympic Games.

The safety of a boxer must be the first thing to consider. The second concern is that Olympic Boxing competitions may be less attractive, with the resulting effect on live and television audience. While AIBA fully supports all efforts and measures aiming at increasing the women's participation in boxing all over the world, it will take time and needs a very good strategy.

AIBA National Federations unanimously supported AIBA weight categories proposal for Tokyo 2020 with signed statements. Also, some federations express their support during the Congress (Kenya, Azerbaijan, Egypt, India).

14. Presentation of Future AIBA Management Plan

Burson-Marsteller (BM) introduces the new project named "Shape Up & Rise Up". "Shape up" because there are things in AIBA that should be improved and developed and "Rise up" as there are so much that AIBA could be proud of. BM briefly presents their experience working with international sports. The project will focus on three ambitions: to govern better, to work better and to promote better. These are also the questions that each AIBA member should consider, in the coming weeks BM will reach out to all AIBA members via questionnaire to know their views on boxing, AIBA, and how it can be improved. There will be concrete recommendations ready for the EC Meeting in July 2018.

15. Closing remarks

The most pressing topics have been discussed, therefore Mr. Falcinelli proposes to close the Congress. He appreciates everyone's participation and wishes a future harmonised cooperation between AIBA and all its member federations under the new leadership of Interim President Rahimov.

Approved by:



27 April 2018

Gafur Rahimov
AIBA Interim President