



## **AIBA DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**

Disciplinary Procedure No. 2018/01

Re: Mr. Eduard Kravtsov, Russian Coach, 2018 EUBC Under 22 European Championships

### **DECISION**

19 June 2018

Disciplinary Panel for this Proceeding:  
Chair – Dennis O’Connell, Esq., United States  
Member – Antonio Perez de Guzman, Spain  
Member – Barry Jones, England

### **Facts and Procedure**

On April 28, 2018 the AIBA Disciplinary Commission (the “Commission”) received a Brief of Complaint from AIBA Headquarters on behalf of the European Boxing Confederation (“EUBC”). Exhibit 1 to the Complaint is an Incident Report ( the “Report”). The Complaint and Report concern alleged incidents and infringements of the AIBA Disciplinary Code (“Code”) by Russian Coach Mr. Eduard Kravtsov occurring at the 2018 EUBC Under-22 Boxing Championships held March 23 through April 2 at Targu Jui, Romania. Specifically, the Complaint addresses Coach Kravtsov’s behavior and actions in connection with Bouts # 195 (April 1), #190 (March 29) and #251 (April 1).

On May 3, 2018, the Commission Panel assigned to this proceeding caused a copy of the Complaint and Report to be provided to Mr. Kravtsov by e-mailing those documents to the Russian Boxing Federation with instructions to immediately forward the documents to Mr. Kravtsov since, at that time, the Commission did not have his contact information. Written answers from Coach Kravtsov were requested to be submitted on or before May 17, 2018.

By letter dated May 4, 2018 the Russian Federation informed the DC panel members that the Federation’s Disciplinary Commission had reviewed Coach Kravtsov’s behavior during the U-22 Championships and had fined him an amount equal to three month’s salary and issued a reprimand. The Russian Federation asked the Commission Panel not to apply any strict sanctions against Coach Kravtsov in light of the disciplinary actions already taken by the Federation.

By letter dated May 8, 2018 the Commission Panel informed the Russian Federation that pursuant to Article 12.6.1 of the AIBA Disciplinary Code (the “Code”) the Commission was not precluded from taking action independently from the disciplinary actions taken by the Federation.

Coach Kravtsov’s answers were filed May 10, 2018. In his answers, Coach Kravtsov presents his version of the incidents and states that while his descriptions do not justify his “excessive emotionality”, he asks that no additional sanctions be imposed.

On May 14, 2018 the Commission Panel forwarded Mr. Kravtsov’s answers to Mr. F. Falcinelli and Mr. Marko Marovic of the EUBC for replies. Mr. Marovic was the Technical Delegate to the U-22

Championships and personally familiar with the incidents reported. Mr. Marovic's replies to Coach Kravtsov's answers were received May 25, 2018.

On May 29, 2018 the Commission Panel sent a letter to the Russian Federation requesting that the Federation provide the amount in Swiss Francs that Coach Kravtsov had been fined. In its response that was received a few days later, the Federation states that Coach Kravtsov was fined an amount equal to CHF 5732.

On June 7, 2018 the replies previously received from Mr. Marovic were sent to Coach Kravtsov to provide him with the opportunity to respond. Coach Kravtsov's responses were received by the Commission Panel on June 11, 2018.

In light of the documentary evidence submitted and the fact that no party has requested a hearing, the Commission Panel has determined it is unnecessary to expend additional time and expense to conduct hearings in this matter. The Commission Panel has decided to rule in this proceeding based on the documentary evidence submitted (Organization and Procedural Rules of the Judicial Authorities of AIBA, Rule 40.2).

### **Summary of Allegations and Evidence**

#### **COMPLAINT AND ANSWER**

Based on the Report, the Complaint alleges that Coach Kravtsov committed violations of the Code in connection with three bouts at the U-22 Championships. Bout # 195 was between a Russian boxer and a Romanian boxer. Following the announcement of the Romanian as winner by decision, the report states that Coach Kravtsov confronted the Competition Manager, used curse words and accused the EUBC representatives of fixing the bout result, of aiding the Romanian boxing team and fixing the entire competition draw. The Report asserts that Coach Kravtsov continued his verbal assault for about 5 minutes.

Bout # 190 had another Russian boxer against a Romanian. After the Romanian was announced as the winner, the Report alleges that Coach Kravtsov loudly expressed his disagreement with the decision and instructed the Russian boxer not to leave the ring. He berated the EUBC representatives using curse words and expressive body language. He continued to an area near the Field of Play entrance and accused the EUBC representatives of putting the Russian boxers at a disadvantage and aiding the Romanian boxers.

In Bout #251 a Russian boxer faced a boxer from Belarus. Similar to his actions and outbursts previously reported, after the announcement of the winner from Belarus Coach Kravtsov started a loud verbal assault and demonstration against all officials and the EUBC representatives. According to the Report, Coach Kravtsov stayed on the ring apron for almost two minutes and engaged in a tirade against the bout results despite requests to leave by EUBC representatives and a warning by the AIBA Technical Delegate. It is alleged that Coach Kravtsov loudly accused the EUBC of deliberately awarding wins against the Russian team.

In his answers to the Complaint, Coach Kravtsov states that he did not confront the Competition Manager regarding bout # 195 until a day after the bout. The conversation was about bad organization of the competition and about complaints over the delay in transporting the Russian team from the airport and unsatisfactory hotel accommodations. Coach Kravtsov also questioned

the objectivity of the draw because he saw a Ukrainian emblem on the monitors being used by a Ukrainian programmer at the draw.

Regarding bout # 190, Coach Kravtsov claims that at the beginning of the Championships, he “received information” from a member of the Romanian Delegation that the Romanian team planned to “gin up” (i.e., “fix”) certain medal awards for their team. Coach Kravtsov asserts that he brought this information to the attention of Mr. Marovic and was assured that the judging would be objective. However, in Coach Kravtsov’s view, “there was no objective judging in this Championships”. Coach Kravtsov also alleges that Mr. Marovic left his place as Supervisor to watch the bout in the VIP section. Coach Kravtsov states that after the first round, Mr. Marovic left the venue and therefore, should not be able to comment of the bout since he did not see the entire match. Coach Kravtsov states that he reacted to the refereeing of the bout with negative emotions and anger which he regrets.

For bout #251, Coach Kravtsov notes that the father of the Belarus boxer in this bout was an AIBA referee assigned to work the same Championships. This, he contends, presented a situation of unfairness – “non-judgmental -- because other officials would be influenced. He states he brought this apprehension to Mr. Marovic’s attention the day before the end of the tournament. Coach Kravtsov alleges that there was unfair influence in favor of the Belarus boxer as a result of his father being an official. He claims the result of bout # 251 was the “very opposite” of objectivity and was arbitrary. Coach Kravtsov further states that other decisions at the Championships added to the “scandal”.

Coach Kravtsov denies that he cursed the EUBC representatives. Rather, he states that he expressed his displeasure directly to Mr. Marovic “because he guaranteed fair refereeing, but didn’t do it.” He also argues that Mr. Marovic did not meet his responsibilities as Technical Delegate because Mr. Marovic left the FOP during bout #190. Coach Kravtsov claims that his “incorrect behavior” was a result of excessive emotionality and asks the Commission not to impose radical measures or suspend him.

#### REPLIES FROM MR. MAROVIC AND RESPONSES THERETO FROM COACH KRAVTSOV

In his replies dated May 5, 2018 to Coach Kravtsov’s answers, Mr. Marovic first emphasizes that Coach Kravtsov did not deny his actions but attempted to “spin his blame” toward representatives of the EUBC. Regarding Bout # 195, Mr. Marovic asserts that after announcement of the winner, Coach Kravtsov approached the Competition Manager and used curse words to argue that the results of Russian bouts and the whole competition draw were “fixed”. Mr. Marovic states that he opposed those statements at the time and affirmed the competence and qualifications of the officials. Mr. Marovic also states that Coach Kravtsov did not complain about a Ukrainian logo on computer screens during the time of the draw. Mr. Marovic asserts that the competition draw was in accordance with AIBA rules and regulations. Regarding the transportation and hotel difficulties alleged by Coach Kravtsov, Mr. Marovic explains that the Russian team had adequate bus transportation from the airport and that other team delegations stayed at the same hotel as the Russian Team and that the hotel met the basic requirements for the Championships.

Regarding Bout #190, Mr. Marovic denies that the Local Organizing Committee had any intention to “gin up” certain weight categories in favor of any other team. Mr. Marovic does not know the source of such unsubstantiated and false information. While he and Coach Kravtsov discussed the officiating before the start of the competition, similar to discussions Mr. Marovic had with other

team representatives; it was only a general dialogue that all officials would perform their duties in a professional and ethical manner. No specific questions or theories were brought up by Coach Kravtsov. Mr. Marovic also provided the Commission with a reference to a video on You Tube which includes Coach Kravtsov's outburst after bout #190.

Concerning Coach Kravtsov's discussion of bout # 251, Mr. Marovic relies on his report and adds a citation to another You Tube video showing Coach Kravtsov's behavior and reactions that were extremely adverse to the announced decision in favor of the Belarus boxer. Regarding the alleged influence due to the father of a Belarus boxer being one of the R/J's assigned to the Championships, Mr. Marovic contends that any issue in that regard should be addressed by the R/J Commission not the Disciplinary Commission. Mr. Marovic asserts that the claims by the Coach that he did not use curse words toward the EUBC Competition Manager are erroneous. Mr. Marovic alleges that he was informed of Coach Kravtsov's language by the Competition Manager. Mr. Marovic also denies that he provided Coach Kravtsov with any specific guarantee with respect to officiating. Rather, Mr. Marovic consistently stated to all who asked, that the officials were highly qualified and would do their best during the competition. Mr. Marovic notes that officials' performances were evaluated daily.

In Coach Kravtsov's June 11<sup>th</sup> responses to Mr. Marovic's replies, he first states that it is not his intent to shift responsibility for his behavior to Mr. Marovic. Coach Kravtsov then renews his complaints about the transportation from the airport to the hotel and the conditions at the hotel.

Coach Kravtsov asserts that he spoke to Mr. Marovic sometime before bout #195 about so-called "insider information" indicating that somehow Romania was to be awarded a gold medal in the particular weight class of the bout. According to Coach Kravtsov, Mr. Marovic promised to provide correct refereeing for this bout and for bout #190.

Regarding bout # 251, Coach Kravtsov alleges that he also spoke to Mr. Marovic about "objective refereeing" of the fight and that if Mr. Marovic had been properly performing his responsibilities, the outcome of the bout would have been different as well as other decisions that went against Russian boxers. In his opinion, a decision in another bout involving a Turkish boxer was also biased and caused an altercation among the audience.

Coach Kravtsov believes that raising issues about incorrect refereeing is nothing new and should be publicized. He then concedes that the "methods" chosen by him to dispute certain decisions were regrettable and should not be repeated. Coach Kravtsov further alleges that Mr. Marovic has tried to sway EUBC leaders against the Russian Coach. Coach Kravtsov states that he does not wish to justify his actions or behavior. He explains that he has already been fined a significant amount by the Russian Federation and asks that no substantial suspension be imposed by the Commission.

### **Alleged Code Violations**

As a certified AIBA Coach for the Russian Federation, Coach Kravtsov is subject to the AIBA Disciplinary Code. Under Article 3, all persons subject to the Code shall, "(e) at all times behave with respect towards each other; (f) respect the principles of honesty, integrity and sportsmanship; and (g) act in accordance with the principle of fair play." The Commission interprets the term "fair play" to cover both observing applicable rules and behaving in a sporting spirit.

The Complaint alleges that Coach Kravtsov has violated the following provisions of Code:

### **6.1 Misconduct towards a Competition Official**

Any person subject to this Code who acts improperly towards a Referee, Judge or other Competition Official or engages in misconduct towards a Referee, Judge or other Competition Official will be subject to the following sanctions:

- (a) Fine of up to CHF 50,000 and a suspension from all boxing activities for up to 2 years for unsporting behavior; ‘

### **6.4 Disparagement of AIBA’s Reputation and Interests**

Any action which is held by the Disciplinary Commission to have adversely affected the reputation and interests of AIBA, its Confederations or National Federations either internally amongst its National federations and Confederations or externally amongst the general public or which has harmed the image of boxing generally, will be subject to the following sanctions:

- (a) If the action is committed by a Confederation, National Federation or Franchisee
- a fine of CHF 1’000 to 10’000 and/or
  - a suspension of AIBA membership from all boxing activities for 6 months to 2 years, or
  - a permanent ban from all boxing activities.
- (b) In the action is committed by an individual:
- a fine of CHF 500 to 10’000 and/or
  - a suspension of AIBA membership from all boxing activities for 6 months to 2 years, or
  - a permanent ban from all boxing activities.

## **Discussion**

At the outset, we find that the arguments from Coach Kravtsov and Mr. Marovic regarding transportation and hotel issues at the U-22 Championships are not particularly relevant to the violations being reviewed in this case. Thus, there will be no further discussion of those arguments in this Decision. Similarly, arguments by Coach Kravtsov regarding a Ukrainian logo on a monitor or monitors used in the draw rest of sheer speculation and also will not be considered in this decision.

The principal issues in this matter focus on whether Coach Kravtsov’s behavior and actions during the U-22 Championships constitute violations of Articles 6.1 and 6.4 of the Disciplinary Code. Based upon the evidence and information received, the Commission finds that Coach Kravtsov clearly engaged in egregious acts and behaviors in violation of the Code. While Coach Kravtsov generally admits in his answers and replies to incorrect behavior, he spends considerable effort in accusing Mr. Marovic of various failures of responsibilities in Mr. Marovic’s role as the AIBA Technical Delegate. None of those accusations show that Mr. Marovic was not less than diligent in carrying out his responsibilities nor do they shift the focus of attention from Coach Kravtsov’s actions.

Coach Kravtsov’s descriptions of his actions and behavior understate the seriousness and damage caused. The Russian Federation describes the Coach’s behavior in more realistic terms as being “in the form of public rude statement in the direction of the supervisor and judges as a violation of sporting disciplinary and sporting corporate ethics ...” Moreover, it is important to note that Coach Kravtsov’s outbursts were not simply a one-off reaction after a single bout. The Coach engaged in

his vehement outbursts against officials and others present at the ringside area on multiple occasions after being cautioned by officials that such behavior was inappropriate, especially from a veteran coach representing Russia.

Turning to the specific bouts under review, for bout #195 Mr. Marovic's report states that after the bout Coach Kravtsov confronted the Competition Manager using curse words and accusing the result of the bout was fixed against the Russian boxer. In his answer, Coach Kravtsov alleges that he only had a conversation with the Competition Manager which took place on a different day and only concerned what Coach Kravtsov saw as "bad organizations of the competition." In his response, Mr. Marovic refutes Coach Kravtsov and states that after the bout the Coach approached the Competition Manager who was in an area behind Mr. Marovic's table and cursed about the competition and draw being "fixed against the Russian team." Coach Kravtsov's replies that he did not raise issues concerning alleged bias against the Russian team after the bout but voiced fears to Mr. Marovic before the bout about the rumor that the Romanian contingent had somehow per-arranged a gold medal in the particular weight class.

The Commission panel is persuaded that Mr. Marovic's description of the events surrounding bout #195 best reflects what happened. While both sides could have submitted better proofs about who said what to whom and when (e.g., signed statements from other witnesses), we believe that Coach Kravtsov did confront persons connected to the EUBC and officials at or near ringside to voice his accusations that the judging and competition lacked integrity. This type of egregious behavior and baseless accusations were repeated in other bouts.

For bout #190, one needs only to review the video on You Tube of Coach Kravtsov's behavior after the decision was announced to confirm that Mr. Marovic's report correctly describes the situation. The verbal outburst and demonstration by the Coach after the decision and having the Russian remain in the ring he stood on the apron for an extended period of time and yelled across the FOP presumably to officials about the decision was conduct which should not be tolerated. Coach Kravtsov's verbal assaults continued even after he was coaxed down from the apron area by EUBC representatives and exited the FOP.

The video on bout #251 shows even worse behavior by Coach Kravtsov after the announcement of the decision. He stays on the ring for a considerable amount of time while he obviously berates the ringside officials and incites the crowd. Despite Coach Kravtsov's arguments to the contrary, we find credible Mr. Marovic's observation in his report that after bout #251, Coach Kravtsov "continued to loudly accuse EUBC of deliberate awarding of wins against Russian boxers and of a conspiracy against the Russian team."

While Coach Kravtsov argues that he did not verbally attack members of the EUBC, that argument is not material to the final decision. Whether Coach Kravtsov's outbursts and behavior were aimed at only officials, or officials and EUBC representatives is a distinction without difference. He has violated the Code provisions in either instance.

Coach Kravtsov argues that his outbursts were a result of him being over-emotional. The Commission Panel does not find that such explanations excuse his behavior in any respect. As set forth in Article 4.8 of the Code, "offenses under the Code are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately, recklessly, negligently or carelessly." Coach Kravtsov's actions and verbal abuses were at best careless or negligent and at worst, deliberate.

The judging and refereeing of boxing involves individual judgements. AIBA boxing officials are trained in the criteria that apply but there is no purely mechanical formula that produces a decision. (e.g., One does not simply count the number of punches without giving consideration to the force of the punch.) Judges see the bout from different positions and there are 5 of them. One judge may see clear, impactful scoring punches while another judge may not be able to see the same things. Absent any proof to the contrary, the officials endeavor to carry out their assignments fairly and competently. But they are human.

Nevertheless, it is absolutely critical to the well-being and future of our sport that coaches and athletes exhibit sportsmanship and respect in victory and defeat. Most, if not all coaches who are dedicated to their sport, have felt at times that their boxer received a “bad decision”. Coaches often say they disagree with the judges’ decision or with the referee’s actions or that they saw the bout differently. That type of reserved criticism is understandable. However, those types of reactions and voiced disappointments must be distinguished from the actions and statements of Coach Kravtsov at the U-22 Championships which go far beyond the limits of acceptable behavior.

Coach Kravtsov repeatedly accused AIBA officials and others of fixing bouts, having pre-determined bias against the Russian boxers, of engaging in a conspiracy against the Russian team and other forms of corrupt conduct. However, there was not a shred of proof to support these egregious claims. Although Coach Kravtsov offers apologies for his behavior, he still engages in unfounded disparagement of the integrity of AIBA. This is shown in Coach Kravtsov’s last submission to the Commission where he claims that boxing is on the verge of being excluded from the Olympic because of “non-objective refereeing” and “those who engage in corruption at competitions” threaten our sport. Again, there is no evidence in this case to support Coach Kravtsov’s unsubstantiated allegations. Contrary to Coach Kravtsov’s contention, the Panel believes that such rash and groundless statements pose a more immediate threat to the sport of boxing by seriously disparaging the integrity and reputation of AIBA and its officials. These types of inflammatory, accusatory and disparaging statements arising either after a bout decision or in another context must stop now.

### **Decision**

Based on the foregoing and the evidence of record, the Disciplinary Commission HOLDS

- A. Coach Kravtsov failed to behave with respect toward other AIBA members at the U-21 Championships and failed to respect the principles of honesty, integrity and sportsmanship in violation of Article 3 of the Code.
- B. Coach Kravtsov acted improperly towards Referees, Judges and other Competition officials in violation of Article 6.1 of the Code.
- C. Coach Kravtsov’s actions and statements have adversely affected the reputation of AIBA externally and internally in violation of Article 6.4(a) of the Code.
- D. For these Code violations, Eduard Kravtsov is immediately suspended from all boxing activities for a period of 9 months and fined an amount of CHF 2500.

**COSTS:** The Costs of these proceedings shall be waived.

AIBA Disciplinary Commission Panel

By: Dennis R. O'Connell  
Dennis R. O'Connell, Esq.  
Panel Chair

Dated: June 19, 2018

This decision is final and not subject to appeal except to the Court of Arbitration for Sport pursuant to Article 67 of the AIBA Statutes.