

Decisions

AIBA Executive Committee Meeting in Abu Dhabi

July 12 – 13, 2018

Further to the Presidents article regarding the key decisions that were approved by the AIBA Executive Committee, the AIBA Interim President has requested that I write to the National Federation membership an expanded letter providing greater transparency regarding the discussions and decisions that took place at the Executive Committee meeting. This letter discusses in greater detail, the 12-13 July 2018 Executive Committee meeting. In addition, once the meetings voice transcripts for all languages used in the meeting have been transcribed, the meeting minutes will be posted on the AIBA Web.

Following roll call and approval of the past EC, and ECB meetings a number of important issues were addressed by the Executive Committee. Foremost among the issues addressed were the preparations being made by the Congress. As most are aware, AIBA was graded poorly by ASOIF in Governance. In fact, AIBA was second to last among all Olympic International Associations. Some of the major areas of deficiency were lack of transparency regarding how we communicate with our National Federations. A second area of concern was a lack of public documentation of how the Congress and Election procedures work. Interim President Rahimov was concerned about the lack of transparency in AIBA and mandated that the AIBA Headquarters review all Congress and Election documents and present to the EC, the changes necessary to conduct a model Congress. The Headquarters, along with Mr. Gary Moore and Mr. Terry Smith reviewed the AIBA Statues and By-Laws and recommended a host of changes/clarifications to ensure a clear and transparent Congress and election procedure. The Executive Committee were presented with these changes and approved the By-law changes, and recommended that the EC approved Statue changes be presented to the Congress for their approval.

Throughout this review process the review committees noted a number of areas of concern regarding contradictions between Statues and By-Laws, some By-laws meeting the definition of a Statue and some Statues being better defined as a By-law. The Interim President requested that the task force only concentrate on those changes which were necessary for ensuring a proper Congress and election, and that following the Congress, the new Executive Committee should mandate a thorough review of all AIBA Official documents.

It should be noted at this time that AIBA requested that ASOIF regrade the organization's governance. ASOIF was gracious enough to agree, and I am happy to report that our new governance score places AIBA in the upper end of the third quartile, near the mid-point of the Olympic International Federations. If the Congress approves the governance recommended Statute and By-law changes, AIBA will again improve its governance grade and be in the 2nd quartile, among the upper 50% of the Olympic Sport organizations.

Prior to the EC meeting, The AIBA President also mandated that the Office Headquarters do a thorough review of the eligible National Federation membership to ensure that AIBA was operating in compliance with its Statutes. The Headquarters contacted each National Federation and informed them of their status with regard to dues. As a result, AIBA has the greater percentage of National Federations fully paid up and eligible to participate in the Congress. However, the Executive Committee also reviewed the list of countries that were ineligible to participate in the Congress due to one of two reasons: 1. Non- payment of dues by the AIBA deadline. 2. Payment of dues within the deadline, but failure to participate in one of the AIBA events listed in Article 17.5 of the Statutes between two Congresses. The EC tried to find a pathway that would allow these countries to be eligible, but because Statutes fall under the authority of the Congress, the EC had no option but to declare these countries ineligible. All of the ineligible countries have been notified.

1. Membership Status

- a. The following NF's have received 30 days to declare their intention to continue be a member of AIBA or be removed from membership. Rwanda, St. Kitts & Nevis, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Oman, Andorra and San Marino
- b. EC approved to provisionally suspend Guinea and Tunisia with the request to report to the Disciplinary Commission, and continue work with Gabon, Bahamas and Armenia with their governance

The AIBA interim President invited representatives from the Caribbean Islands to make a presentation to the Executive Committee regarding development. Following their presentation, the AIBA EC voted to support the development of the Caribbean region with \$300,000 in "Diversity in Boxing" funds over a period of 3 years.

Ms. Emilia Grueva, chair of the Women's Commission, presented a proposal to the EC for a Gender Equity Forum. The funding for the Gender Equity Forum was approved to be made from the

Diversity In Boxing fund, and the EC requested to further investigate on measures to reduce cost prior to agreeing to fund this initiative. As an update, Ms. Grueva cut cost by transitioning the forum from Lausanne to Bulgaria, this significantly reduced the operational cost of the program by 150%. The program has received funding support of \$100,000 from the “Diversity in Boxing” program.

The Executive Committee invited the Russian Boxing federation to give a presentation on their progress regarding the 2018 AIBA Congress, and on their proposal regarding the inclusion of the Russian Boxing Day to the AIBA Calendar under the title “International Boxing Day”. The Executive Committee accepted the report regarding the Congress progress, but the AIBA EC cautioned the Russian Boxing federation that they must ensure that all delegates of the Congress should be able to receive landing VISAs. The EC gave the RBF a deadline of 25 July 2018 to present documentation that each visiting delegate of the Congress would be able to receive a landing visa upon his/her arrival in Moscow. The EC voted to reject the proposal regarding the International Boxing Day but allowed Russia to host annually at their discretion a National Boxing Day in Russia.

The AIBA Headquarters office in conjunction with BM Sport presented a “New Foundation” plan which will serve as the foundation upon which AIBA will reform itself and build a stronger future. (see plan on AIBA web). After much discussion, the Executive Committee voted to accept the plan following a few text changes. The Foundation plan is designed to strengthen AIBA’s governance, competition rules, development programs, communication internally and externally, and the staging of world class events.

The AIBA EC was presented with a proposal from Mr. Franco Facinelli regarding an AIBA Technical School in Assisi, Italy. The Academy would be the Exclusive training Academy for all AIBA coaches, Referee and Judges, Medical doctors, Cutmen, Technical delegates and ITO’s. After much discussion, the EC voted to accept the Academy concept, but agreed that the organizational structure, budget and operations required additional discussion.

The EC also received a summary report from K2 regarding their Forensic Investigation on AIBA and WSB Finances. The report investigated the finances of AIBA from January of 2009 through December of 2017. The investigation focused on the management of the AIBA finances throughout this period.

The Executive Committee heard a presentation by the Executive Director who presented the recommendation of the Athletes and Youth Commission to separate the two commissions so that the Athletes Commission would be a standalone and comply with the IOC recommendations. The EC approved the new Athletes Commission to be forwarded to the Congress. The Congress will vote on whether to accept two members from the athlete's commission to be included on the Executive Committee with full voting privileges.

EC approved the presentation of the Hungarian boxing federation regarding its progress on the youth men and women world championships.

The EC also heard reports from the Confederations and the AIBA commissions. These reports were accepted by the EC.

The Executive Committee reviewed a number of Amendments to the bylaws which had to be acted upon prior to the AIBA Congress. These changes are necessary in order to comply with governance best practices, and to ensure that the Congress will be able to vote on the Executive Committee recommendations. With 1 change in the composition of a commission all proposed amendments to the bylaws that were presented by the Interim Presidents task force were approved. The EC also approved that the changes to the statutes be forwarded to the Congress for review and approval. *(Please see by-law changes on AIBA web).*

The AIBA Executive Committee also approved the Agenda for the 2018 AIBA Congress, and by adopting the By-law changes, accepted the congress election procedure document. Both the agenda and the election procedures will be available for review on the AIBA web.

The AIBA Executive Director presented to the Executive Committee a report on the AIBA Legal and Finance Issues. AIBA Interim President Rahimov has been able to resolve two very important legal and financial issues that AIBA was facing, and if not resolved, would have placed AIBA in bankruptcy. These are the deals with Benkons and FCIT, which allow to avoid litigation cost and make it possible for AIBA to significantly improve its financial position. Without these two agreements, it would have been impossible for AIBA to remain in fiscal solvency. The Executive Committee praised the Interim Presidents work on these two issues and voted to approve both agreements.

The executive Committee also reviewed the 2017 – 2018 AIBA and WSB Audit Reports and voted to approve the forwarding of these reports to the Congress. The Executive Committee was impressed by the level of detail presented in the full Audit reports, having only been provided limited Audits in the past. The Executive Committee voted to require AIBA to engage full audits annually going forward. The current Audit report, while not pretty, shows that AIBA is making significant strides towards returning to financial stability and adopting sound financial policies and procedures. The EC also approved the Executive Directors proposed plan for the presentation of the audit reports 2014-2018 to the AIBA Congress.

The AIBA Finance Director presented the 2018 – 2019 AIBA Budget. The budget request was for slightly under \$6,000,000 which is significantly reduced from the budgets of recent years that have run between 9 and 12 million. Following a number of questions from Executive Committee members, the EC approved the budget.

EC approved the new Board of the Foundation of Better Boxing and signature authority members. The new Board is Interim President Rahimov (chair), Executive Vice President Facinelli, Vice President Moustahsane, ASOIF Executive Director Ryan, and Executive Director Virgets. Facinelli and Moustahsane have signature authority.

Additionally, the Executive Committee received a report from the AIBA executive Director regarding the work of the AIBA Headquarters, and a second report on the contents of the report to the IOC Executive Board which was submitted on 06 July 2018.

The Executive Committee also voted to approve the following:

Appointment of AIBA Legal Counsel (Garry Moore) – Ratified

Appointment of the New AIBA Ethics Commission Chairman – EC approved Mr. Yoon Seok Chang

The EC decided to provisionally suspend EC member Steve Ninvalle pending a Disciplinary Commission Investigation

The EC approved the Interim President recommended task force of Terry Smith and Pat Fiacco to determine the medal redistribution of the medals won by the now disqualified Vietnamese boxer

EC approved the request to develop Coaches Code of Conduct.

The Executive Committee meeting ended with the AIBA Interim President thanking the Executive Committee members for their work over the two day session, and reminding them of their responsibility to work together with integrity and transparency as they serve the AIBA family.