



**WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION**

In the Matter of the WBO Middleweight Division

Parties:

Ed Farris on behalf of WBO Participant Demetrius Andrade
Manager

Frank Warren on behalf of WBO Participant Zach Parker
Promoter
Queensberry Promotions

Bob Arum on behalf of WBO Participant Zhanibek Alimkhanuly
Promoter
Top Rank

Factual Record

On Saturday, October 20, 2018, WBO Participant Demetrius Andrade won the Vacant WBO Middleweight Championship Title against Walter Kauntondokwa via unanimous decision (UD). This bout was held at the TD Garden in Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America. Thereafter, Andrade had his first successful title defense against Mandatory Challenger Artur Akavov on Friday, January 18, 2018, at the Madison Square Garden Theater in New York, United States of America. Andrade won via technical knockout (TKO) in round 12.

Andrade continued his successful title reign against Maciej Sulecki on Saturday, June 29, 2019, winning via unanimous decision (UD); bout held at the Dunkin Donuts Center in Providence, Rhode Island, United States of America. In his following bout, Andrade defeated Luke Keeler via technical knockout (TKO) in 9 at the Meridian at Island Gardens in Miami, Florida, United States of America. This bout was held on January 30, 2020.

On Saturday, April 17, 2021, Andrade discharged his next mandatory title defense obligation against Liam Williams winning via unanimous decision (UD). This fight occurred at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, Florida, United States of America. Whereas in his fifth (5) world title defense, Andrade stopped Jason Quigley by way of technical knockout (TKO) in round 2. The latter bout was held at the SNHU Arena in Manchester, New Hampshire, United States of America.

Conversely, on November 21, 2021, the WBO confirmed a written request by Mr. Egis Klimas, on behalf of WBO Zhanibek Alimkhanuly requesting Mandatory Challenger Designation in the WBO



WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Middleweight Division¹. Accordingly, this Committee granted such and ordered negotiations between Andrade/Alimkhanuly on November 30, 2021².

On December 20, 2021, the Committee issued Purse Bid notice advising the parties that purse bid proceedings would be held at the WBO main offices on Friday, January 14, 2022, subject to WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests. However, days before the scheduled purse bid, Team Andrade requested permission per his WBO Middleweight Champion status to move up to Super Middleweight for an Interim Super Middleweight bout against Zach Parker and if successful, he would decide within the 10-day period which weight division he would retain. Having this Committee reviewed Andrade's request and having considered the status of reigning Undisputed Super Middleweight Champion, Canelo Alvarez, who was scheduled to face Dmitrii Bivol at Light Heavyweight (175 lb), we determined that the present scenario was an exceptional one that would warrant the sanction approval of an interim championship contest at Super Middleweight that would keep the above-referenced division active. Consequently, the rights and interests of all the involved parties were duly protected.

Therefore, on January 28, 2022, the Committee ordered negotiations between Andrade/Parker for the Interim Super Middleweight Championship³. As a result of Andrade's move to Super Middleweight as Middleweight Champion, the Committee authorized an Interim Middleweight Championship seeking to protect the rights and interests of the other Middleweight contenders by ordering Alimkhanuly/Falcao⁴. However, Team Falcao rejected the opportunity and we proceeded with the selection and designation of the next available contender in the Middleweight Division.

Notwithstanding negotiations being ordered for the Andrade/Parker bout, the teams were unable to reach an agreement and on February 15, 2022, this Committee ordered purse bid proceedings between Andrade/Parker to take place at the WBO main offices subject to the conditions set forth on the official notice order⁵.

¹ See, Mandatory Challenger Designation Request

<https://wboboxing.com/boxing-news/wbo-middleweight-division-mandatory-challenger-designation-request-zhanibek-alimkhanuly/>

² See, Negotiation Order

<https://wboboxing.com/boxing-news/wbo-middleweight-division-mandatory-championship-contests-demetrius-andrade-vs-zhanibek-alimkhanuly/>

³ See, Negotiation Order Parker/Andrade

<https://wboboxing.com/boxing-news/wbo-interim-super-middleweight-championship-contest-negotiations-zach-parker-vs-demetrius-andrade/>

⁴ See, Negotiation Order Alimkhanuly/Falcao Accordingly, on January 28, 2022, this Committee ordered negotiations between Zhanibek Alimkhanuly and Esquiva Falcao

⁵ See, Purse Bid Notice Order

<https://wboboxing.com/boxing-news/wbo-interim-super-middleweight-championship-contest-purse-bid-zach-parker-vs-demetrius-andrade/>



WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Whereas on February 22, 2022, this Committee ordered negotiations between Alimkhanuly/Jaime Munguia⁶. Nonetheless, Team Munguia decided not to proceed with the mandated bout. Consequently, this Committee ordered negotiations on March 11, 2022, between Alimkhanuly and the next available contender Danny Dignum⁷. Having the parties unable to reach an agreement, purse bid proceedings were ordered on March 22, 2022, at the WBO offices⁸. The latter proceedings were terminated as the parties reached an agreement.

On February 24, 2022, the Andrade/Parker Purse Bid was held and adjudicated to Queensberry Promotions. Two months later, on April 27, 2022, the WBO confirmed receipt of email communication on behalf of Ed Farris (Team Andrade) advising that Andrade had suffered a shoulder injury preventing him from participating as scheduled against Zach Parker. As a result thereof and considering that Canelo Alvarez confirmed his return to Super Middleweight for the GGG trilogy, this Committee terminated the sanction approval of the Interim Super Middleweight Championship accordingly.

On May 2, 2022, this Committee issued an interim medical certification notice letter to Team Andrade requesting a detailed medical explanation of his injury and a recovery prognosis. The following day, on May 3, 2022, this Committee issued the official sanction letter for the Interim Middleweight Championship between Alimkhanuly/Dignum to take place in Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S.A., on Saturday, May 21, 2022. Such approval was subject to specific provisions, most notably (i) that the winner of the Alimkhanuly/Dignum must face Andrade within 180-days after the bout to determine a sole champion in the Middleweight Division; (ii) that Andrade must be physically ready, willing, and able to fight, or he would be stripped of his WBO Middleweight Championship “Ipso Facto.” On Saturday, May 21, 2022, Alimkhanuly won the Interim WBO Middleweight Title defeating Dignum via KO in round two (2).

As established by this Committee, on July 20, 2022, negotiations were ordered between Andrade/Alimkhanuly for the WBO Middleweight Championship Title⁹. The parties were granted 30-days to

⁶ See, Negotiation Order Alimkhanuly/Munguia

<https://wboboxing.com/boxing-news/wbo-interim-middleweight-championship-contest-negotiations-jaime-munguia-vs-zhanibek-alimkhanuly/>

⁷ See, Negotiation Order Alimkhanuly/Dignum

<https://wboboxing.com/boxing-news/wbo-interim-middleweight-championship-contest-negotiations-zhanibek-alimkhanuly-vs-danny-dignum/>

⁸ See, Purse Bid notice Alimkhanuly/Dignum

<https://wboboxing.com/boxing-news/purse-bid-wbo-interim-middleweight-championship-contest-zhanibek-alimkhanuly-vs-danny-dignum/>

⁹ See, Negotiation Order Andrade/Alimkhanuly

<https://wboboxing.com/wbo-official-documents/wbo-middleweight-championship-negotiations-andrade-alimkhanuly/>



WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

reach an agreement or purse bid proceedings would be ordered per WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests. However, days before the negotiation period ended, on Monday, August 22, 2022, Team Andrade wrote to the WBO advising that Andrade would be moving to the Super Middleweight Division to revisit contesting an Interim Championship against Zach Parker. Nonetheless, on Wednesday, August 24, 2022, WBO In House Counsel Gustavo Olivieri, Esq., WBO President Paco Valcárcel, Esq., and Ed Farris, on behalf of Team Andrade held a conference call to discuss and ratify whether Andrade would definitively move to Super Middleweight and relinquish his Middleweight Championship. The WBO granted Team Andrade a final 24-hour time frame to confirm in writing his decision.

On Thursday, August 25, 2022, the WBO confirmed receipt of email communication from Ed Farris, on behalf of Team Andrade confirming that Andrade would be moving to Super Middleweight and relinquishing his WBO Middleweight Championship Title, effectively immediately.

Now, having this Committee considered the facts herein, and having reviewed the applicable WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests and other relevant rules, their applicability, and enforcement in this matter, and having the power, authority, and discretion conferred by our rules, it is hereby determined as follows:

Applicable Provisions

All parties agree that they are bound by the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests. Section 35(f)¹⁰ provides in relevant: “**These Regulations apply to all WBO Participants. The term WBO Participant includes, but not limited to, WBO World Champions and WBO World Championship Contenders. All WBO Participants who participate in any WBO sanctioned activity do so on the express condition that such WBO Participant is bound by and subject to these WBO World Championship Rules and all WBO Rules and Regulations**”. [Emphasis Added]. As such, this Committee has jurisdiction and the authority conferred by its rules to resolve the matter at issue accordingly.

The WBO World Championship Committee’s authority to consider the issue at hand is governed under Sections 1(b)(19)(21) and (c), respectively of the WBO Rules and Regulations of World Championship Contests, which provide, in relevant as follows:

SECTION 1. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

(b) The World Championship Committee shall the following powers and discretion:

(19) To determine whether an Interim Championship is warranted and to sanction an Interim Championship Bout; and

¹⁰ See, WBO Regulation §35(f).



WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

(21) To make or recommend exceptions or variations from the Rules as the World Championship Committee determines are necessary; and,

(c) The above powers shall be interpreted to include any and all powers necessary, helpful, or convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests.

ANALYSIS

We begin our *ratio decidendi* referencing an excerpt of the WBO preamble¹¹, which states, in relevant as follows: *“The World Boxing Organization’s Regulations are intended to reconcile the interests of all necessary elements of World Championship Boxing in a manner that is in the best interest of the sport. The most important interests are those of the Championship contestants themselves and their worldwide fans.” [Emphasis Added]*

Today’s ruling requires a straightforward approach. Simply put, determine whether exceptional circumstances are present to grant sanction approval for an Interim Championship in the Super Middleweight Division. We respond in the affirmative and explain accordingly.

At the outset, we must stress that the WBO sanctions Interim Championships only under exceptional circumstances, including but not limited to (i) when a WBO Champion suffers an injury that prevents his participation for up to 180-days and consequently, the division is inactive; (ii) when a WBO Champion requests to contest another world title in a superior or inferior weight division; (iii) any other circumstances deemed by the WBO Championship Committee exceptional.

Per the facts stated herein, Andrade first sought to contest another world title at Super Middleweight but unfortunately suffered an injury that prevented his participation. As result thereof and Canelo’s return to Super Middleweight, the sanction approval of the Interim title was terminated accordingly. Thereafter Team Andrade advised that upon receiving medical clearance, he would return to the Middleweight Division. Based on his unavailability, an Interim Title at Middleweight was sanctioned between Alimkhanuly and the available contender in Danny Dignum. By virtue of the preceding bout, the division remained active, and the fighters’ rights and interests were duly protected.

Conversely, we must emphasize that current Undisputed Super Middleweight Champion Canelo Alvarez (WBO Super Champion entitled to rights and privileges) is scheduled to face GGG in one of the most anticipated trilogies in professional boxing on September 17, 2022, in Las Vegas, Nevada. However, the bout is uncertain and considering potential future scenarios, including but not limited to (i) whether a controversial outcome is rendered that would warrant a 4th bout; (ii) if Canelo is successful, he may pursue moving again to Light Heavyweight to challenge Bivol; (iii) if GGG is successful whether he stays as Super Middleweight or Middleweight (iv); or any other circumstance that would undermine the activity of the Super Middleweight division or the rights and interests of its contenders.

¹¹ See, WBO Preamble



**WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION**

Therefore, in light of the foregoing, we strongly believe that exceptional circumstances justify sanctioning an Interim Championship Contest at Super Middleweight even more so between two deserving world-class fighters in former two-division WBO World Champion Andrade and current number three (3) rated world contender Zach Parker, respectively.

Lastly, pertaining to the current WBO Interim Middleweight Champion, Zhanibek Alimkhanuly, also is entitled to the same protection of rights and interests as his counterparts. Nonetheless, considering that Andrade has vacated his WBO Middleweight Championship Title, by default, the Interim Champion must be elevated to “Full Champion” status to eliminate the Interim Champion status at Middleweight.

DECISION - WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

Thus, this Committee, having considered the facts stated herein and having reviewed the applicable WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, and having the power, authority, and discretion conferred by the WBO Rules and Regulations, now, therefore, resolve as follows:

1. The WBO Championship Committee hereby rules as follows:
 - a) The Committee grants sanction approval of the Interim Super Middleweight Championship between Demetrius Andrade and Zach Parker.
 - b) Demetrius Andrade’s WBO Middleweight Championship Title is declared “Vacant”, effective immediately.
 - c) Andrade/Parker is sanctioned subject to the provisions set forth in the negotiation letter dated August 23, 2022, and all other provisions established by the WBO World Championship Committee.
 - d) Demetrius Andrade and Zach Parker understand, agree, and accept the conditions set forth in the Negotiation Letter dated August 23, 2022, those herein, and all other provisions established by the WBO World Championship Committee.
 - e) The WBO World Championship Committee reserves its right to issue any additional rulings necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish the purposes of the WBO, including serving those interests that best suit the WBO Super Middleweight Division, the fighters, and the general public.



**WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION**

f) Zhanibek Alimkhanuly is elevated from Middleweight Interim Champion to “Full Champion” status, effective immediately.

2. This “*Resolution*” is hereby final, definitive, and enforceable.

This is a final decision of the WBO Championship Committee. The affected WBO participant may appeal such determination to the Complaint and Grievance Committee as per Rule 34, which as per Article 3(e) of the WBO Appeals Regulation, must be submitted in writing to the WBO President within fourteen (14) days of this decision as its sole and exclusive remedy.

Dated: August 26 , 2022
San Juan, Puerto Rico

WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

By: Luis Batista Salas, Esq.

Chairman
1056 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 711
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00927
Ph: (787) 765-4628 Fax: (787) 758-9053
Email: www.wboboxing.com



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Cc: Francisco Valcárcel, Esq./President
Ed Farris/Team Andrade
Bob Arum/Top Rank
Frank Warren/Queensberry Promotions
Egis Klimas/Team Alimkhanuly
Carl Moretti/Top Rank