



WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION

Samuel Viruet, Esq.
Chairman
Ratings Committee

November 8, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Eddie Hearn
Matchroom Boxing USA LLC,
28 Liberty Street, Suite 3020, 30th Floor,
New York, NY 10005

Re: Show Cause – WBO Welterweight Participant Conor Benn

Dear Mr. Hearn:

Please be advised that on Wednesday, October 5, 2022, official boxing news outlet “BoxingScene!” reported that the above-referenced participant produced an adverse finding for “Clomifene” a substance on the World Anti-Doping Agency’s banned list. According to the article, the test was apparently conducted by the Voluntary Anti-Doping Agency (VADA).

In light of the foregoing, the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBofC) issued a public statement² whereby it resolved that the Conor Benn/Chris Eubank, Jr., bout scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 8, 2022, is prohibited as it is not in the interests of Boxing. Consequently, on Thursday, October 6, 2022, the Benn/Eubank Jr., bout was postponed. Thereafter, the “BBBofC” issued another statement dated Friday, October 14, 2022³, referring to their previous statement as well as advising that the UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) agency had launched an investigation in relation to Mr. Benn and that the Board would release further details in relation to this matter when appropriate.

Whereas on Wednesday, October 26, 2022, the Board issued another statement⁴ informing that per a notice dated Sunday, October 17, 2022, Mr. Benn was called by the “BBBofC” to attend a hearing to deal with the allegations of misconduct pursuant to Rule 25.1.1. The hearing took place on Friday, October 21, 2022.

¹ See, <https://www.boxingscene.com/conor-benn-tests-positive-clomifene-ahead-chris-eubank-jr-fight--169501>

² See, “BBBofC” statement

<https://t.co/oL53acuNuG> <https://twitter.com/bbbofcuk/status/1577650871361585154?s=51&t=OCbzGwsQTzpOdZ48Gc6MCw>

³ See, “BBBofC” statement

<https://t.co/wglvfhZbbC> <https://twitter.com/bbbofcuk/status/1580857807771140096?s=51&t=OCbzGwsQTzpOdZ48Gc6MCw>

⁴ See, “BBBofC” statement

<https://t.co/6nnwn2VbK5> <https://twitter.com/bbbofcuk/status/1585305516234113025?s=51&t=OCbzGwsQTzpOdZ48Gc6MCw>





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On the morning of the hearing, Mr. Benn voluntarily relinquished his license with the Board. Furthermore, the board indicated that in accordance with its governing rules, the Board determined the allegations following the hearing at which Mr. Benn was legally represented. The allegations of misconduct against Mr. Benn were upheld.

Lastly, on Friday, October 28, 2022, sports news outlet “Espn” reported that Mr. Benn revealed having failed two voluntary tests administered by “VADA” before his scheduled bout against Eubank Jr⁵.

Conversely, Section 19 of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests triggers when a WBO Participant has tested positive for an illegal or any performance enhancing drug. In relevant the provision states as follows:

SECTION 19. FAILURE OF THE CHAMPION TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTRACT OR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

- (a) If any WBO Participant, including WBO World and Regional Champion (s), fails to comply with his contractual obligation to fight in any WBO Championship Contest without justifiable cause or is determined by a Host Commission, a licensing commission or otherwise has tested positive for an illegal or any performance-enhancing drug or fails to inform the WBO of any medical condition, impairment or any other circumstance which jeopardizes his participation in a WBO World Championship Contest, or if a WBO Participant or any of his team members misleads, attempts to mislead or petitions a local boxing commission to illegally or incorrectly license said WBO Participant, the Committee may recommend to the WBO President and to the Executive Committee that the fighter be stripped of the title and that the title be declared vacant, or take any action deem proper, equitable and just against the WBO Participant in accordance with these regulations.

Therefore, based on the foregoing facts, circumstances, and the governing provision, Mr. Benn is hereby ordered to show cause within the next 10-days upon issuance of this notice as to why the WBO Ratings Committee should not suspend his rating position in the Welterweight Division. Failure to comply with this order will constitute a waiver of all rights hereunder and with the Committee proceeding per WBO Regulations of World Championship Contest.

Lastly, the WBO reserves the right to issue any further rulings deemed necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO rules, including, but not limited to rendering

⁵ See, Espn article https://www.espn.com/boxing/story/_/id/34894650/conor-benn-reveals-second-failed-drugs-test-blames-contamination





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all rulings necessary to serve the best interests in the sport of professional boxing, including those in the WBO. Welterweight Division.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Viruet', is positioned below the typed name.

SAMUEL VIRUET, ESQ.
WBO Ratings Committee
Chairman

Cc: Francisco Valcarcel, Esq.
Shaun Palmer/Matchroom
Tom Dallas/Matchroom

