



## WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

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### In the Matter of the WBO Female Jr. Featherweight Division Segolene Lefebvre

**Parties:**

Mariana Caballero on behalf of Ms. Segolene Lefebvre

**Factual Record**

On November 20, 2021, Ms. Segolene Lefebvre won the Vacant WBO Female Jr. Featherweight Championship by defeating Ms. Paulette Valenzuela via unanimous decision (UD); bout held at the Salle Gayant, Douai, Nord, France. Thereafter, on May 7, 2022, Ms. Lefebvre successfully defended her title against Melania Sorroche winning via unanimous decision (UD); bout also conducted at the Salle Gayant, Douai, Nord, France. Ever since, no further title defense has been discharged by the subject matter participant.

Conversely, on September 28, 2022, Ms. Mariana Caballero from Miura Boxing, on behalf of WBO Female Jr. Featherweight Champion Ms. Segolene Lefebvre confirmed in writing to this Committee that the referenced fighter had suffered an injury, which required immediate surgery. Accordingly, on September 30, 2022, this Committee issued the interim medical certification notice letter requesting Ms. Lefebvre's medical prognosis and possible return date.

In compliance with our order, on October 4, 2022, Team Lefebvre submitted the requested medical report, which in essence, confirmed a fracture of the base of the first metacarpal of Ms. Lefebvre's right-hand extra-articular. In light thereof, the subject-matter participant underwent surgery on September 26, 2022, for osteosynthesis and stabilization of the displaced fracture requiring the usage of two (2) pins. Per doctor's orders, the patient was immobilized for six (6) weeks. Consequently, Ms. Lefebvre was prohibited from any forceful activity, especially boxing for at least three (3) months after the immobilization period.

Furthermore, on November 3, 2022, the WBO confirmed receipt of an email communication by Ms. Mariana Caballero updating the fighter's medical condition advising that the cast in her injured hand had been removed and needed five (5) weeks thereafter of therapy. Lastly, Team Lefebvre confirmed that the fighter would be physically and medically ready to return to active competition between March or April of 2023.

Considering the foregoing facts and the reported return date of fighter, it is an undisputed fact that her inactivity exceeds the 180-day provision set forth in our governing rules and regulations. As result thereof, on November 9, 2022, this Committee convened to determine whether the controversy before us warrants declaring the WBO Female Jr. Featherweight Championship "Vacant" based on (i) inactivity; (ii) the rights and interests of other contenders in the referenced division; and (iii) procuring the continued activity in the WBO Jr. Featherweight Division.

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



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### Applicable Provisions

All parties agree that they are bound by the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests. Section 35(f)<sup>i</sup> 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:

(9) To recommend to the President and the Executive Committee that a title should be vacated if a Champion fails to comply with the WBO World Championship Rules; and,

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

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

(f) However, if the Champion is unable to defend his Championship within the time periods provided in these Rules because he is physically disabled for a justified cause and said disability has been verified and accepted by the World Championship Committee, the Champion may be granted a reasonable time to recover from the disability and retrain to competitive condition, which shall not in total exceed 180 days. The disability extension will be granted only if the Committee determines, based on medical advice that the Champion is reasonably expected to recover from his disability within the maximum allowable term of the disability extension. The Committee may condition its approval of a disability extension upon the Champion providing the interim medical certifications that he is reasonably expected to recover within the term of the disability extension.

(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



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Today’s ruling requires a straightforward approach. Simply put, determine whether Ms. Segolene Lefevbre’s inactivity due to injury exceeds the 180-day provision set forth in our rules. We respond in the affirmative and explain accordingly.

At the outset, we must stress that this Committee sympathizes with Ms. Lefevbre’s medical condition, which impairs her ability to proudly defend her WBO Female Championship within the allowable time frame. Nonetheless, we must abide by our rules and their enforceability consistently. There are no disputes pertaining to the facts stated herein and supported evidence. Ms. Lefevbre’s injury required specific medical procedures. Such prevented physical activity, especially boxing. According to her medical prognosis, the fighter’s possible return date would be either March or April of 2023.

Per our records, Ms. Lefevbre’s last professional bout was held on May 7, 2022. Therefore, if the fighter returns as informed by her team on either of the above-mentioned dates, it still exceeds the 180-days provision as set forth in our governing rules and regulations. For example, if Ms. Lefevbre returns on March 1, 2023, a total of 299 days has elapsed since her last outing; whereas if she returns on April 1, 2023, 330 days would have elapsed since Lefevbre’s last title defense. In other words, regardless of the fighter’s confirmed return date, it exceeds the maximum allowable period per WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests.

Therefore, based on the foregoing facts, supported evidence, and governing regulations, this Committee believes that in the balance of the interests involved, it is justified to declare the WBO Female Jr. Featherweight Championship “Vacant” effective immediately.

Notwithstanding today’s ruling, upon Lefevbre returning to active competition after certified medical clearance, this Committee shall designate her as the Mandatory Challenger in the WBO Female Jr. Featherweight Division.

### **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 WBO Female Jr. Featherweight Championship Title is hereby declared “Vacant” effective immediately.
  - b) This Committee shall designate Ms. Segolene Lefevbre the Mandatory Challenger in the WBO Female Jr. Featherweight Division upon her return to active competition and written request to the WBO.
  - c) 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



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those interests that best serve the WBO Female Jr. Featherweight Division, the fighters, and the public.

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: November 14, 2022  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

**WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE**  
By: Luis Batista Salas, Esq.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Luis Batista Salas', is positioned below the typed name.

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<sup>i</sup> See, WBO Regulation §35(f).