



**WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION**

In the Matter of WBO Female Welterweight Participant – Jessica McCaskill

Parties:

Mr. Rick Ramos

On behalf of Jessica McCaskill

Mr. Eddie Hearn

Matchroom Boxing

on behalf of Jessica McCaskill

ISSUE PRESENTED

Whether WBO Female Participant Jessica McCaskill lost her status as WBO Welterweight (147 lb) Champion in wake of her unanimous decision (UD) loss against Ms. Chantelle Cameron, on Saturday, November 5, 2022, at the Etihad Arena, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Pursuant to her previous Undisputed Champion status and this Committee's power and discretion conferred by the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, we respond in the negative and explain below accordingly.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On Wednesday, December 13, 2017, Ms. McCaskill with only seven professional fight, challenged the renowned Olympic gold medalist and world champion Katie Taylor (7-0-0) for the WBA World Lightweight Championship. The bout resulted in a unanimous decision (UD) win in favor of Taylor. This bout was held at the York Hall, Bethnal Green, London, United Kingdom.

Thereafter, on Saturday, October 6, 2018, McCaskill won the WBC Jr. Welterweight Championship by defeating former world champion Erica Farias (26-2-0) via unanimous decision (UD). This bout took place at the Wintrust Arena, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America. Subsequently, McCaskill won another world title becoming a Unified Jr. Welterweight Champion acquiring the WBA Championship by defeating former world champion Anahi Sanchez (19-3-0) via unanimous decision (UD). The latter bout was conducted at the MGM National Harbor, Oxon Hill, Maryland, United States of America.

McCaskill continued her winning track in the Jr. Welterweight division successfully defending her Unified title against Erica Faria (26-3-0) on Saturday, October 12, 2019, winning via majority decision (MD). This fight was held at the Wintrust Arena, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America. After a successful run at Jr. Welterweight, McCaskill decided to pursue titles in a superior division by challenging future hall of fame inductee and then former Undisputed Welterweight Champion Cecilia Braekhus (36-0-0). After 10 competitive rounds, McCaskill made history winning the Undisputed WBO, WBA, WBC & IBF Female Welterweight Championships via majority decision (MD). This contest was held on Saturday, August 15, 2022, in Downton Tulsa Streets, Tulsa, United States of America.

On Saturday, December 4, 2021, the McCaskill/Braekhus rematch took place this time at the American Airlines Arena in Dallas, Texas, U.S.A. On this occasion, McCaskill clearly dominated the more experienced fighter winning unanimously and retaining her Undisputed Female Welterweight Championships. Thereafter McCaskill made another successful defense against contender Alma Ibarra (10-1-0). After three rounds, McCaskill



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was declared the winner via TKO in the aforementioned round. This bout took place on Saturday, June 25, 2022, in Tech Port Arena, San Antonio, Texas, United States of America.

Continuing to chase professional milestones, McCaskill requested authorization to fight for the Undisputed Championships in the Jr. Welterweight Division (140 lb) against world champion Chantelle Cameron (16-0-0). Accordingly, the Committee granted sanction approval on November 2, 2022, for the Cameron/McCaskill with the applicable provisions if McCaskill was or was not successful against Cameron. Unfortunately, McCaskill lost via unanimous decision. This bout was held on Saturday, November 5, 2022, at the Etihad Arena, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

As a result of McCaskill's loss, this Committee issued a notice letter dated Tuesday, November 8, 2022, granting the referenced fighter 10-days to "Show Cause" why the WBO World Championship Committee should not declare the WBO Female Welterweight Championship "Vacant" considering her defeat and the provisions set forth in the McCaskill/Cameron sanction letter. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we must stress that the Committee reserved its right to issue all further rulings deemed necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the rules, including rendering all rulings to serve the best interests in the sport of professional boxing, the WBO, and the WBO Female Welterweight Division.

On Monday, December 5, 2022, Mr. Tom Dallas, on behalf of Matchroom Boxing filed an email correspondence complying with the "Show Cause" notice and arguing that (i) McCaskill's status as Undisputed Champion in Welterweight; (ii) participated in 4 Undisputed fights at Welterweight; has faced over 4 world champions in different weight divisions; in just fifteen professional bouts McCaskill (12-3-0) has a faced opposition whose total combined record comprises of 201 wins with only 19 losses with no draws; McCaskill remains one of the biggest names in world female boxing; and that the WBO Championship Committee has rendered previous rulings in favor of "World Champion" status retention based on their Undisputed Champion status.

Now, having this Committee considered the facts herein, having considered the arguments submitted by Matchroom, and having reviewed the 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:

APPLICABLE PROVISIONS

All WBO Participants agree that they are bound by the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests.

Section 35(f)ⁱ 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



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ANALYSIS

We begin our *ratio decidendi* referencing an excerpt of the WBO preamble¹, 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]

The first question before this Committee is whether McCaskill’s status as “World Champion” is terminated automatically based on her unanimous decision (UD) loss to Chantelle Cameron. In the present scenario, we respond in the negative and explain below.

At the outset, we must stress that this Committee reserved its right to issue all further rulings deemed necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO Regulations, including rendering those rulings that best serve the sport of boxing and the World Boxing Organization. Therefore, it is the opinion of this Committee that retaining McCaskill’s status as World Champion serves the best interests of the sport, the WBO, and the Female Welterweight Division.

In support of our reasoning, we highlight that McCaskill is a former Undisputed Female Welterweight Champion, which exemplifies the most significant milestone in professional boxing since the 4-belt era. Such accomplishment was produced against then-former Undisputed Welterweight Champion Cecilia Braekhus considered at the time the number one pound-for-pound Female boxer. Most notably, McCaskill defeated the latter champion with only 10 professional fights and thereafter won the rematch via unanimous decision.

Further, McCaskill is a two-division World Champion (140 lb & 147 lb) as well as contested for the Lightweight (135 lb) Championship against current Undisputed Lightweight Champion and pound-for-pound star Katie Taylor. Her level of opposition with only 15 total fights is outstanding facing the likes of Cameron (Undisputed Jr. Welterweight Champion), Braekhus (former Undisputed Welterweight Champion), Erica Farias (former World Champion), Anahi Ester Sanchez (former World Champion), among others.

Lastly, this Committee strongly supports the pursuit of Undisputed Champion status by all WBO Champions or prospective Champions. We are sure that McCaskill as the Unified WBO, WBA & IBF Welterweight Champion will strive to regain her status of Welterweight supremacy. If we had ruled otherwise, it would deprive her of such possibilities and the championships would be fragmented. Therefore, considering that McCaskill is a former Undisputed Champion, it is in the best interests of the sport, the WBO and the WBO Female Welterweight Division that McCaskill retains her status as WBO World Champion.

DECISION - WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

Now, having carefully reviewed and appraised the facts stated herein, having examined the arguments submitted by Matchroom Boxing and having examined our governing rules and regulations, this Committee resolves as follows:

¹ See, Preamble of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests



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1. The WBO Championship Committee hereby rules:

- a) Jessica McCaskill hereby retains her status as WBO Female Welterweight Champion.
- b) This “Resolution” is definitive, final, and enforceable.
- c) The WBO Championship Committee reserves the right to issue all further rulings, deem necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, including serving the best interests of the sport, the WBO and WBO Female Welterweight Division.

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: December 14, 2022
San Juan, Puerto Rico

WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

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ⁱ See, WBO Regulation §35(f).