



WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

In the Matter of the WBO Participant Naoya Inoue

Parties:

Mr. Hideyuki Ohashi
Ohashi Promotions
On behalf of Naoya Inoue

Factual Record

Naoya Inoue debuted professionally on October 2, 2012, against Crison Omayao (16-4-1) winning via KO in round 4. This bout was held at the Korakuen Hall, in Tokyo, Japan. Thereafter in his sixth professional bout, Inoue won his first world title becoming the WBC Jr. Flyweight Champion on April 6, 2014, against Adrian Hernandez (29-2-1). Inoue won via TKO in round 6. The latter bout took place at the Ota-City General Gymnasium in Tokyo, Japan.

After a successful title defense, Inoue moves up two divisions to vie for WBO Jr. Bantamweight Championship title against then-world champion veteran Omar Narvaez (43-1-2). In round two, Inoue knocked out Narvaez becoming a two-division world champion in just eight professional fights. As WBO Champion, Inoue had 7 consecutive title defenses against respectable opposition in the likes of world-rated contenders Warlito Parrenas (24-6-1), David Carmona (20-3-5), Karoon Jarupianlerd (35-7-0), Kohei Kono (32-9-1), Ricardo Rodriguez (16-3-0), Antonio Nieves (17-1-2), and Joan Boyeaux (41-4-0), respectively. Six of the seven opponents lost either by KO or TKO.

Inoue continued his pursuit for greatness by moving to his third weight division (Bantamweight) and won the WBA Bantamweight Championship in his sixteenth professional bout annihilating then Champion Jamie McDonnell (29-2-1) in round 1 via TKO. This bout was conducted on May 25, 2018, at the Ota-City General Gymnasium in Tokyo, Japan. Thereafter Inoue entered the World Boxing Super Series (WBSS) Bantamweight Tournament facing former world champion Juan Carlos Payano (20-1-1), which Inoue knocked out in round 1. This first tournament bout was held at the Arena, Yokohama, Japan.

After the tournament's quarterfinals, Inoue unified the Bantamweight Division upon defeating then-world champion Emmanuel Rodriguez (19-0-0) on May 18, 2019, at the SSE Hydro in Glasgow, Scotland. Rodriguez lost in the second round via KO. In the finals of the tournament, Inoue successfully defended his Unified Bantamweight Championships defeating former multi-division WBO World Champion and future hall of fame inductee Nonito Donaire (40-5-0) in what many boxing experts considered the 2019 fight of the year. After twelve highly competitive rounds, Inoue was declared the winner via unanimous decision and was the recipient of the Muhammad Ali Trophy bestowed to the winner of the World Boxing Super Series Tournament.

By this time, Inoue had compiled a perfect and impressive record of 18-0-0 (16 KO's), had become the Unified Bantamweight Champion, and had won titles in three weight divisions. Thereafter, Inoue continued his journey knocking out world-rated opposition in the likes of Jason Maloney (21-1-0) on October 31, 2020, in Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S.A.; Michael Dasmarinas (30-2-1) on June 19, 2021, in Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S.A., and Aran Dipaen (12-2-0) on December 14, 2021, in Kokugikan, Tokyo, Japan.



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In 2022, considered the year of unifications, the Inoue/Donaire rematch took place on June 7, 2022, considering the competitiveness of their first encounter, but this time Donaire held the WBC Bantamweight Title. However, on this occasion, Inoue battered Donaire in just two rounds winning via TKO and unifying the WBA, IBF, and WBC championships. Inoue was one title (WBO) short of accomplishing a milestone by becoming the first-ever Undisputed Champion in the four-belt era.

On December 13, 2022, Inoue made history by defeating then-WBO World Champion Paul Butler (34-2-0) via KO in round 11. This historic bout was held at the Ariake Arena in Kotu-Ku, Tokyo, Japan. At just 29 years of age, Inoue (24-0-0) (21 KO's) was the Undisputed Bantamweight Champion. Considering the foregoing accomplishments, on December 14, 2022, this Committee unanimously voted in favor of recommending that Inoue be recognized with WBO "Super Champion" status with the rights and privileges afforded by such designation. Accordingly, the WBO Executive Committee ratified the Championship Committee's recommendation unanimously.

Now, having reviewed the facts stated herein, 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:

Applicable Provisions

All parties 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 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)(16) and 14 of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, which provides as follows:

SECTION 1. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

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

(16) To recommend to the Executive Committee whether a boxer should be designated as a Super Champion; and



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SECTION 14. SUPER CHAMPIONS

(a) It is the policy of the World Boxing Organization to encourage its Champions to pursue recognized status as undisputed World Champions and to unify the Championships of the four major world sanctioning organizations (the WBO, WBA, WBC, and IBF). A World Champion who has achieved preeminent status may require and be entitled to additional scheduling flexibility to achieve his place in boxing history and for the good of the sport. A boxer may be considered for designation for Super Champion status when he meets the following criteria:

(1) The boxer presently or previously has or had a multiple bout contract with a major television network (HBO, SHOWTIME, ZBF, Sky or other similar broadcast company), for multiple years; and

(2) As a WBO Champion,

(A) The boxer has successfully defended his title cumulatively a minimum of ten (10) title bouts, or;

(B) In the event of less than ten (10) successful defenses has defended his/her title against opponents of high recognition and high skills; and

(C) Has substantially met the other standards set forth herein.

(3) The boxer's amateur history will be considered; and

(4) The quality of prospective Super Champion's record including the quality of his opponents and their records will be considered.

(5) Additionally, the following factors will be considered in determining Super Champion designation:

(A) If the prospective Super Champions has been a WBO World Champion in more than one (1) weight division; or

(B) If the Prospective Super Champion has held more than one (1) Championship of the four major world sanctioning organizations; or

(C) If the prospective Super Champion has unified the Championships of more than one (1) of the four (4) major world sanctioning bodies

(b) Current champion status is not required to qualify or continue as a Super Champion.

(c) The Championship Committee may recommend Super Champion status for the boxer to the Executive Committee, if a boxer has substantially complied with the conditions set forth herein. Super Champion status shall be determined by the vote of the Executive Committee.



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(d) **PRIVILEGES AFFORDED SUPER CHAMPIONS.** Those fighters recommended by the Championship Committee and approved by the Executive Committee qualify for the following rights and privileges:

(1) EXTENSION OF MANDATORY TITLE DEFENSE.

The Championship Committee may extend a Super Champion's mandatory title defense for good cause shown one or more times beyond the time provided for in the WBO Regulations for World Championship Contests for the purpose of giving a Super Champion opportunity or opportunities to unify the titles of more than one major sanctioning body either in a unification bout or a unification tournament, or any other important match or matches that the Committee determines would contribute to the Super Champion's legacy or would be of great interest to boxing fans.

(2) ELIGIBILITY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR DESIGNATION AS THE MANDATORY CHALLENGER IN HIGHER OR LOWER DIVISION.

Champion as the mandatory challenger for the higher or lower division.

(3) ELIGIBILITY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR DESIGNATION AS THE MANDATORY CHALLENGER IN SAME DIVISION.

If requested by a Super Champion who has lost his title and who wishes to fight for the title again, the Championship Committee may designate the Super Champion as the mandatory challenger in the Super Champion's division.

(4) An Honorary member of the WBO for life (e) PURSE BID

(1) In case of a purse bid involving a contest between contestants one or more of whom are WBO Super Champions, or a contest between a current WBO Champion and another current WBO Champion or a contest between a WBO Champion and a WBO Interim Champion, or a contest between two WBO Interim Champions, the following rules shall be applied in conjunction with the purse bid rules contained in the WBO Regulations for World Championship Contests; these provisions concerning the division of purse bids shall supersede the rules for division of purse bids contained within Section 13 of these WBO Rules, "DIVISION OF PURSE for CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD PURSUANT TO PURSE BID. "

(2) In any of the situations described in Section 14(e)(1) above and a purse bid takes place, the division shall not be greater than 80/20 in any case and shall be calculated by the Championship Committee using a ratio based upon the average purse of each fighter's last three (3) fights. The WBO may rely upon the purses reported to the WBO on the WBO Participant's Promoter's receipts for the fights that are used to calculate the Purse Division for this purpose. By way of example, if contestant A has had his last 3 purses of \$1,000,000, \$500,000, and \$400,000 (a total of \$1,900,000) and contestant B has had his last 3 purses of 1,000,000, \$2,000,000, and \$2,500,000 (a total of \$5,500,000), the purse division would be \$1,900,000/\$7,400,000 or 25.68% for contestant A and \$5,500,000/\$7,400.00 or 74.32% for contestant B. If by way of further example, if contestant A has had his last 3 purses of \$500,000, \$400,000, and \$300,000 (a total of \$1,200,000) and contestant B has had his last 3 purses of 1,000,000, \$2,000,000, and \$2,500,000 (a total of \$5,500,000) the purse division would be 20% for contestant A



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and 80% for contestant B (as the ratio of the purses is \$1,200,000/\$6,700,000 or 17.91% for contestant A to \$5,500,000/\$6,700,000 or 82.09% for contestant B and the purse division cannot be more than 80/20.

(f) LOSS OF PRIVILEGES

(1) All Super Champion privileges referred to in Section 14(d) shall be terminated in the event (a) a Super Champion violates any of the WBO Rules and Regulations, (b) for unsportsmanlike conduct or activities unbecoming to a professional boxer, (c) for drug abuse (of either illegal drugs or performance enhancing drugs), or (d) conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude.

(2) The Super Champion Privileges referred to in Section 14(d)(1) to 14(d)(3) shall be terminated in the event of the loss of any boxing contest or in the event a WBO Champion relinquishes the WBO World Championship Title unless the World Championship Committee recommends that Super Champion status be retained and a majority of the WBO Executive Board resolves that Super Champion status be retained.

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 question before this Committee is whether Inoue satisfies the criteria outlined in our governing regulations pertaining to WBO “Super Champion” status designation. We respond in the affirmative and explain accordingly. In support of today’s ruling, we must highlight Inoue’s unparalleled achievements in the sport of professional boxing. These are the following:

- Perfect professional record comprised of 24 wins (21 KO’s) / No losses / No Draws
- 87.5% KO ratio
- First-ever Undisputed Bantamweight Champion
- Three-Division World Champion (Jr. Flyweight, Jr. Bantamweight, and Bantamweight)
- 7 WBO Jr. Bantamweight World Title defenses
- Total combined record of 599 wins, 81 losses with 23 draws
- Has faced former world champions and world title contenders
- Considered by boxing experts one of the best pound for pound boxers
- Multi-bout contract with Amazon Prime Japan / Bouts in America streamed via ESPN/TR
- Japan’s most popular professional boxer
- First Ballot Hall of Famer

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



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The foregoing professional accomplishments are self-explanatory. Therefore, it is unquestionable that Inoue satisfies in the judgment of the Committee the criteria governing “Super Champion” status designation. Wherefore, it is so ordered that “Super Champion” status is granted accordingly.

DECISION – WBO WORLD 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 our governing regulations, now, therefore, resolve as follows:

1. The WBO World Championship Committee hereby rules as follows:
 - a) Mr. Naoya Inoue is hereby designated as WBO “Super Champion” with the rights and privileges afforded by such designation.
 - b) The WBO and its 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 serve the World Boxing Organization, the fighters and the sport of boxing.
2. This “*Resolution*” is hereby final, definitive, and enforceable, effective immediately.

This is a final decision of the WBO World 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 22, 2022
San Juan, Puerto Rico

WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

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Cc: Francisco Valcárcel, Esq./President
Luis Batista Salas, Esq./Chairman Championship Committee
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ⁱ See, WBO Regulation §35(f).