



**WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE  
RESOLUTION**

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**In the Matter of Jr. Welterweight Champion Teofimo Lopez**

**Parties:**

Mr. Teofimo Lopez  
WBO Jr. Welterweight

Mr. Bob Arum  
Promoter  
Top Rank, Inc.  
On behalf of Teofimo Lopez

**ISSUE PRESENTED**

Whether Teofimo Lopez merits “Super Champion” status in the WBO Jr. Welterweight Division based on his recent victory over the former Undisputed and Lineal Jr. Welterweight Champion Josh Taylor; Having reviewed the arguments provided by Top Rank, Inc., we respond in the affirmative and explain below accordingly.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

On June 10, 2023, Teofimo Lopez won the WBO Jr. Welterweight Championship via unanimous decision (UD) defeating former Undisputed and Lineal Jr. Welterweight Champion Josh Taylor on June 10, 2023, at the Madison Square Garden Theater in New York, New York. Consequently, Lopez became a two-division WBO World Champion.

On August 21, 2023, Mr. Carl Moretti, on behalf of Top Rank, Inc., formally petitioned the WBO that Teofimo Lopez be granted “WBO Super Champion” status with all the rights and privileges conferred by such designation<sup>1</sup>. Top Rank, Inc., in support thereof, argued (i) that Lopez recently defeated then former Undisputed and Lineal Jr. Welterweight Champion Josh Taylor at Madison Square Garden Arena in New York New York, United States of America; (ii) his performance has received accolades throughout the boxing community as well as a nomination for “Performance of the Year”; (iii) Teofimo also defeated former Unified Lightweight Champion Vasiliy Lomachenko, clearly reflecting the magnitude of Lopez’s level of opposition and accomplishments; and (iii) Lopez is now once again listed as a pound-for-pound fighter and clearly “Must See TV”, as evident by his ratings on ESPN and across all social platforms that generate immense interest when he fights and defends his WBO Jr. Welterweight Championship.

In closing, Top Rank, Inc., argues that Lopez satisfies the required criteria for “Super Champion” status. Therefore, having this Committee reviewed the arguments mentioned herein and having examined the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests their applicability, and enforcement in this matter, and having the authority conferred by our rules, it is hereby determined as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Section 14 of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests governs designation for “Super Champion” status.



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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>1</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 Section 1 (b) (17) and (22), 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 have the following powers and discretion:*

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

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

#### 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 Championship 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 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;



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- (B) In the event of less than ten (10) successful defenses has defended his 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.

(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 mandatory title defense for good cause shown one or more times beyond the time provided for in the WBO Regulations of 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.



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

*“If requested by a Super Champion, the Championship Committee may designate the Super Champion as the Mandatory Challenger for the immediate higher or lower division.”*

- (3) ELIGIBILITY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR DESIGNATION AS THE MANDATORY CHALLENGER IN THE 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 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 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 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 that 80/20.



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### (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 preamble<sup>1</sup>, which states in relevant “...*The World Boxing Organization’s Regulations of World Championship Contests are intended to reconcile the interests of all necessary elements of World Championship Boxing in a manner that is in the best interests of the sport. The most important interests are those of the Championship contestants themselves and their worldwide fans...*”

Now, the issue in question is straightforward, whether Teofimo Lopez satisfies the established criteria for “WBO Super Champion” status designation. This Committee strongly believes that Lopez substantially satisfies the requirements for such recognition. As to the latter’s professional accomplishments, (i) his professional record is an outstanding one comprised of 19 wins with only 1 loss with 13 of said wins via knockout. Lopez’s total combined record consists of 380 wins, 64 losses and 8 draws. The split decision loss in his record has been subject to debate considering his physical condition at the time the bout took place; (ii) in his 15<sup>th</sup> professional bout, Lopez won his first world title at Lightweight via TKO against former world champion Richard Commey; (iii) Unified the Lightweight division upon defeating 3-division and former Unified world champion Vasyl Lomachenko; (iv) became the first-ever Undisputed Lightweight champion in the four-belt era; (v) defeated the former Undisputed and lineal Jr. Welterweight champion Josh Taylor via unanimous decision to become a two-division WBO World Champion; (vi) considered a “Must See TV” attraction within the boxing industry as evidence by his ratings on the Entertainment Sports Network (ESPN), to which Lopez has an exclusive deal as well as across all social media platforms; (vii) has faced high level opposition in the likes of Commey, Lomachenko, Kambosos, Jr., and Taylor, all of which have been world champions in their respective weight divisions; (viii) Lopez, Jr., is a former Olympian for the country of Honduras with an outstanding amateur record of 120 wins with only 20 losses; (ix) has unified the world championships of the international recognized sanctioning organizations; (x) the petitioner has held more than one of the championships of the four major world organizations; (xi) Lopez is a former WBO Super Champion in the Lightweight Division.

In summary, the above-referenced accomplishments clearly satisfy the required criteria for designation as “WBO Super Champion” in the Jr. Welterweight Division.



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**DECISION - WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE**

Having carefully reviewed and appraised the facts stated herein, having reviewed the relevant provisions, and having examined our governing rules and regulations, this Committee resolves as follows:

1. The WBO Championship Committee hereby rules as follows:
  - a. The request is hereby granted to designate Teofimo Lopez as “WBO Super Champion” status in the WBO Jr. Welterweight Division.
2. The Committee reserves its right to issue all further rulings and determinations necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO Rules and Regulations, including but not limited to serving the best interests of boxing, World Boxing Organization, and its Jr. 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: September 9, 2023  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

**WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE**

By: Luis Batista Salas, Esq.

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

Cc: Francisco Valcárcel, Esq./President  
Carl Moretti/Top Rank  
Teofimo Lopez/WBO Champion