



WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION

Luis Batista Salas, Esq.
Chairman
Championship Committee

October 32, 2023

Mr. Eddie Hearn
Matchroom Boxing USA, LLC
One World Trade, 72nd Floor,
New York, NY 10007

Re: Amended - Show Cause Notice – WBO Jr. Lightweight Champion Alycia Baumgardner

Dear Mr. Hearn:

On August 16, 2023, official boxing press outlet “*BoxingScene*” published an article pertaining to a pre-fight drug test performed on the above-referenced fighter by Drug Free Sport (“DFS”) surrounding the July 15, 2023, championship bout against Christina Linardatou¹ held at the Masonic Temple in Detroit, Michigan, USA. The bout in question was promoted by Matchroom Boxing and conducted under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission (Local Boxing Commission).

According to the foregoing report, a urine sample collected on July 12, 2023, by the referenced testing entity showed an adverse analytical finding of banned substances. The substances in question were *Mesterolone Metabolite* and *3a-hydroxy-1a-methyl-5a-androstan-17-one* detected. The latter substances were confirmed as per the test report obtained by the WBO.

Conversely, on October 9, 2023, Mr. Alex Dombroff of Dibella Entertainment, on behalf of WBO Jr. Lightweight Participant Christina Linardatou filed written submittal with supported evidence requesting that (i) Ms. Baumgardner be stripped of her WBO Jr. Lightweight Championship, and (ii) Christina Linardatou be ordered to fight the highest available contender for the vacant championship. The petitioner (Dibella Entertainment) addressed this Committee during the WBO 36th Annual Congress, conducted from October 9 through October 13, 2023, in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, arguing in essence that Ms. Baumgardner’s positive test is in violation of Sections 19 and 28 of our governing regulations, and consequently, requested our intervention in the matter.

Therefore, having considered the foregoing requests, and having examined the facts stated herein, and having reviewed our governing regulations, our intervention is warranted. The WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests governs instances when a WBO Participant has tested positive for an illegal or any performance-enhancing drug, including but not limited to steroids and/or anabolic steroids. In relevant, Sections 19 and 28, respectively state as follows:

¹ <https://www.boxingscene.com/alycia-baumgardner-undisputed-reign-jeopardy-positive-drug-test--176996>





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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 deemed proper, equitable and just against the WBO Participant in accordance with these regulations.

(b) Prohibited Conducts

(1) Domestic Violence

(2) Sexual Assault

(3) Child Abuse

(4) Usage off illegal drugs and/or any performance enhancing substances including, but not limited to Steroids/Anabolic Steroids

(5) Any criminal conduct (Misdemeanor and/or Felony) that implies moral turpitude

(6) Any other conduct deemed by the World Boxing Organization contrary to the fundamental principles of the organization

(c) Procedures - In General

The WBO World Championship Committee shall have all powers and authority to request, examine, evaluate, and consider any and all relevant facts and supporting evidence from any WBO Participant pertaining to any allegation(s) of violation(s) of these prohibitions.

(1) Show Cause Notice

In the event the WBO World Championship Committee determines there is cause to believe there is the possibility of a violation of any of the prohibitions of these Championship Rules by a WBO Participant, it shall notify the WBO Participant through the methods set forth in these Regulations, that the WBO Participant must Show Cause why the enforcement of this provision, or as otherwise provided for in these Regulations, should not be imposed. The Show Cause Notice shall establish the potential violation that must be responded to and the evidence, documentation, and procedure established by the WBO World Championship Committee to respond to the Show Cause Notice. Failure to address and/or submit any required or supporting evidence by the WBO Participant within the time frame set forth in the Show Cause Notice will constitute a waiver of any right to contest the Show Cause Notice. Upon receipt of the WBO

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Participant's response to the Show Cause Notice, the WBO World Championship Committee shall determine whether there has been a violation of a prohibition contained in the WBO World Championship Regulations and issue a ruling on the consequences for such a determination of a violation(s).

All Notifications of rulings shall have immediate effect upon issuance. Methods of verifiable notifications are as follows:

- (1) Posting on the official WBO Web Page - This means of notification suffice for purposes of this rule
- (2) Personal Service
- (3) Email
- (4) Notice to WBO Participant in care of his Promoter, Manager, or Advisor
- (5) Any other verifiable methods
- (d) Other Rulings
 - (1) Automatic - Vacant Title

If the WBO Champion is found guilty or pleads guilty of any of the prohibitions set forth herein by a competent court with jurisdiction, the WBO World Championship Committee may recommend to the WBO President and Executive Committee that it withdraw the WBO Champion recognition and declare the title "Vacant", effective as of the date of the official registered guilt. If the affected former WBO Champion challenges his conviction(s) in a competent Court of Appeals with jurisdiction, and the Appeals Court reverses the conviction(s), the WBO Participant may request the WBO World Championship Committee reinstatement in the WBO Ratings according to his weight division and be classified at the number one (1) position. Such requests must comply with the ABC and WBO Ratings Criteria.

- (2) Vacant Title based on facts determined by the WBO World Championship Committee

In the event a possible violation of any of the prohibitions of these Championship Rules by a WBO Participant subject of a governmental procedural process, such as a criminal proceeding, the WBO World Championship Committee may make its determination of the Show Cause process established by these Rules without regard to the verdict of the governmental process. The WBO World Championship Committee may recommend to the WBO President and Executive Committee, which shall make its determination of the Show Cause process and its ruling independent of any governmental procedure process that arises from or relates to the same nexus of operable facts.

- (3) Other Rulings

In connection with any Show Cause process, the WBO World Championship Committee shall the power and discretion to issue all determinations and rulings including, but not limited to:

- (1) A lower rated position in the WBO or Regional Ratings

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- (2) Exclusion from the WBO or Regional Ratings
- (3) Banned from WBO or Regional Ratings for a period no less than two (2) years
- (4) Suspension from all WBO or Regional Contests
- (5) Withdraw WBO or Regional Sanction
- (6) Any other rulings deem necessary, helpful, or convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the World Boxing Organization

SECTION 28. DRUGS OR STIMULANTS

(a) The use of illegal drugs or performance enhancing drugs or stimulants before or during the Championship contest by any of the contestants shall be sufficient cause for the disqualification of the contestant guilty of said use.

(b) The determination of illegal drug use or performance enhancing drug use or stimulants use under this Section or Section 19 (a) may be made only by the Host Commission for the Contest or the WBO Participant's Licensing Commission if supported by test results by WADA, VADA, or any internationally recognized anti-doping entity.

Therefore, based on the alleged facts and potential violations of the relevant governing provisions, Ms. Baumgardner is hereby ordered to "Show Cause" within 30 days upon issuance of this notice as to why the WBO World Championship Committee shall not recommend to the WBO Executive Committee to declare the WBO Female Jr. Lightweight Championship "Vacant" and/or take any other action take any action deem proper, equitable and just in accordance with our regulations. Failure to comply with this order will result in this Committee proceeding accordingly and having Ms. Baumgardner waive all rights hereunder without any further hearing and/or citation.

Lastly, the WBO Championship Committee reserves the right to issue any, and all further rulings deemed necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish our rules and regulations' purposes, policies, and intent, including serving those interests that best serve boxing, the WBO and its female Jr. Lightweight Division.

Yours Truly,

Luis Batista Salas, Esq.

Cc: Francisco Valcárcel, Esq./President
Shaun Palmer/Matchroom
Jay Reisinger, Esq./Team Baumagrdrner
Alex Dombroff/Dibella Entertainment
Keith Connolly/Team Baumgardner
Benjamin Parker/Michigan State Commission Licensing Division Director

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