



# WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION

*Samuel Viruet, Esq.  
Chairman  
Ratings Committee*

November 9, 2023

**VIA EMAIL:**

Ms. Ivana Habazin  
Professional Boxer  
Zlatar, Croatia

**Re: WBO Female Welterweight Rating – Ivana Habazin**

Dear Ms. Habazin:

I refer to your email communication dated Wednesday, November 1, 2023, requesting an explanation as to (i) the WBO's criteria and rationale for ranking boxers, and (ii) your exclusion from WBO September 2023 Female rankings in the Welterweight Division, forwarded by the WBO President Francisco Valcárcel, Esq., on November 5, 2023.

As to the WBO's rating criteria, kindly refer to our official website.<sup>1</sup> Now, having examined your rating track record, please allow me to address your questions accordingly. The WBO Female Ratings commenced in February 2023, and the Committee granted you the number two (2) position in the Welterweight division.<sup>2</sup> In the following month (March), you retained the number two (2) spot in the foregoing category. However, in April 2023, the Committee elevated you to the number one (1) position based on the exclusion of the number-one rated contender, Ms. Layla McCarter (45-13-5), whose inactivity extended over a year. Thereafter, in May 2023, you remained at the number one (1) spot although you suffered a loss via unanimous decision (UD) versus Terri Harper (13-1-1) for the WBA World Jr. Middleweight Championship on May 27, 2023, at the Manchester Arena, Manchester, Lancashire, United Kingdom.

In June 2023, and having fought in the Jr. Middleweight division for the WBA World Championship and having lost via unanimous decision against Terri Harper, the Committee demoted you to the number six (6) position in the WBO Female Welterweight Division despite the above-referenced facts. Whereas all the top five world-rated contenders had won their respective fights during the months of February, March, April, and May 2023, respectively. Four months later (September 2023), you fought a six-round bout against unrated Timea Belik (7-9-0), who has lost 5 of her last 6 fights.

---

<sup>1</sup> See, WBO Ratings Criteria <https://wboboxing.com/regulations/wbo-ratings-criteria/>

<sup>2</sup> In January 2023, the International Boxing Federation (IBF) and the World Boxing Council (WBC) ordered the enforcement of their respective mandatories in the Female Welterweight between Jessica McCaskill and Ivana Habazin. Having the parties unable to reach an agreement as ordered, the referenced sanctioning bodies ordered purse bid proceedings; however, only the WBC proceeded with their purse bid on February 7, 2023, in which Piranha 1 LCC won the promotional rights. On March 2, 2023, Piranha 1 LCC, defaulted on the winning bid and consequently, the promotional rights were awarded to the Matchroom Boxing. During the latter periods, Habazin was committed to vying for the WBC/IBF championships.

Condominium First Federal 1 Suite 711-714 1 1056 Muñoz Rivera Avenue 1 San Juan, PR 00927  
O: +1 787-765-4628 1 F: +1 787-758-9053



[www.wboboxing.com](http://www.wboboxing.com) 1 Skype: WBO Boxing 1



[sv@viruetlaw.com](mailto:sv@viruetlaw.com)



# WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION

As to your controversy with “BoxRec,” the WBO is not a party in the matter. Further, considering that the issue is *subjudice* it is improper to issue any statements until a resolution is rendered by the Federal Court for the District of Pennsylvania. Regarding considering your professional accomplishments, bear in mind that we do not recognize the International Boxing Organization (IBO) nor secondary world championships such as the WBC Silver Championship.

Conversely, the seven females currently rated in the month of September 2023, are (i) Kinga Mahyar (13-4), who entered the WBO Female Welterweight ratings on April 2023, and granted the number five (5) position after winning an 8-round bout via unanimous decision against Beatriz Aguilar (7-7-1) on February 24, 2023; (ii) Hedda Wolmarans (9-0-0), installed in the WBO Female Ratings on May 2023, after defeating Monalisa Sibanda (6-9-0) in an 8-round contest via KO in round three (3) on May 6, 2023; (iii) Lauren Price (5-0-0), a former Olympian entered the WBO Female Welterweight Ratings in February 2023, at the number ten (10) spot after defeating Timea Belik (6-6-0) on October 15, 2022, via TKO in round four (4) in a scheduled 6-round bout; (iv) Marie Pier Houle (9-1-1), WBO world title challenger, who entered the WBO Female Welterweight ratings in February 2023, and granted the number four (4) position after winning an 8-round contest via unanimous decision over Marisol Moreno (6-3-0) on January 13, 2023; (v) Oshae Jones (4-0-0) 2020 Summer Olympics Bronze Medalist, entered the WBO Female Welterweight Ratings in May 2023, at the number nine (9) position after winning a 6-round majority decision over Simone Aparecida da Silva (17-22-0) on March 31, 2023; (vi) Dee Allen (6-0-0) entered the WBO Female Welterweight Ratings on February 2023, occupying the number seven (7) spot after winning a 10-round unanimous decision over Cindy Reyes Espinoza (4-0-0), and (vii) Lucia Perez (2-0-0) former Amateur Standout, who entered the WBO Female Welterweight Ratings on April 2023, at the number ten (10) position after winning via TKO in round four (4) against Timea Belik (6-6-0) on October 15, 2022.

Whereas in March 2023, the above-mentioned positions remained the same as there were no changes. On the following month (April 2023), the Committee excluded then-rated number one (1) contender Layla McCarter (last bout held on March 25, 2022), number five (5) contender Summer Lynn (last outing on April 2, 2022, and number nine (9) contender Sarah French (last fight on April 1, 2023) due to inactivity. Consequently, by default, Ivana Habazin moved up to the number one (1) position although committed and unavailable as you were officially scheduled to fight Terri Harper at Jr. Middleweight for the WBA World Championship in May 2023; Sandy Ryan moved up to the number two (2) spot, Marie Pier Houle moved to the number three (3) position, and Kinga Magyar enters the ratings at number five (5) spot. The remaining contenders stay at their previous positions.

For the month of May 2023, Sandy Ryan was recognized as the WBO Female Welterweight Champion.<sup>3</sup>Whereas Ivana Habazin retained her number one (1) position albeit committed and unavailable due to your scheduled WBA Jr. Middleweight Championship bout against Terri Harper during said month. As result of Sandy Ryan filling the vacancy, by default, Marie Pier Houle moved up one spot to number two (2) position, Kandi Wyatt moved up one (1) position to number three (3), Kinga Magyar moved up one position at occupying the number four (4) spot, Hedda Wolmarans entered the ratings installed at number five (5), Dee Allen moved up one spot and placed at the number six (6) position, Kirstie Bavington demoted due to losing against Lauren Price, who moved up one spot at the number eight (8) position, Oshae Jones entered the ratings at the number (9) position, and Lucia Perez retained her original spot. The only exclusion

---

<sup>3</sup> Sandy Ryan won the vacant WBO Female Welterweight Championship on April 22, 2023, defeating Marie Pier Houle via unanimous decision; bout conducted at the Cardiff International Arena, Cardiff Wales, United Kingdom.





# WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION

in the foregoing month was Ruth Chisale (12-2) due to inactivity since her last fight held on December 26, 2022.

In June 2023, and considering your unanimous decision loss to Terri Harper for the WBA Jr. Middleweight Championship on May 27, 2023, and having participated in a superior weight division, the Committee demoted you to the number six (6) position in the Welterweight ratings. As a result, thereof, the remaining five (5) contenders below you moved up one position.

For the month of July 2023, you were excluded from the ratings due to the unanimous decision loss to Terri Harper and having competed for the WBA Jr. Middleweight Championship in May 2023.<sup>4</sup> Also, excluded were number two (2) rated contender Kandi Wyatt after participating and losing via TKO in round 8 in a sanctioned IBF Welterweight Championship fight against Natasha Jonas; rated number seven (7) contender Kirstie Bavington after losing an 8-round decision against April Hunter on July 1, 2023. The other changes were a result of Marie Pier Houle's demotion to the number three (3) spot after her loss, and consequently, Kinga Magyar moved up one position occupying the number one (1) spot, Hedda Wolmarans moved up one position occupying the number two (2) spot, Lauren Price moved up to the number four (4) position, Oshae Jones moved up one spot to the number six (6), and Lucia Perez moved up by default based on vacancies on the remaining positions in the relevant weight category.

In August 2023, the positions remained the same except for Oshae Jones, who moved up one spot after winning an 8-round unanimous decision against Miranda Barber (3-4-0) on August 4, 2023. Lastly, in September 2023, the only changes were Lauren Price moving up one position to number three (3) based on her technical decision win in round six (6) against Lolita Muzeya (18-1-0) and consequently, Marie Pier Houle moved down one spot to number four (4).

Therefore, having reviewed the facts stated herein, and having considered the arguments raised on your behalf, this Committee hereby determines that you shall be reinstated at your previous number six (6) position in the WBO Female Welterweight Ratings.

This is a final decision of the WBO Ratings 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. Lastly, the WBO World Championship Committee reserves its right to issue all rulings deemed necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO Rules and Regulations of World Championship Contests, including serving the best interests in the WBO Female Welterweight division.

Respectfully,

Samuel Viruet, Esq.

Cc: Francisco Valcárcel, Esq./President

---

<sup>4</sup> Since your exclusion from the WBO Female World Ratings in July 2023, it is the responsibility of each classified boxer to know the WBO and ABC Criteria for Ratings, to meet the criteria for ratings, and to keep the WBO Classification Committee informed of all the facts relevant to his rating. See, Section 8 of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests.

