



World Boxing Organization

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Issue Presented

WHETHER THE APPLICATION OF SANG BUM, KIM, CHAIRMAN OF COCKY BUFFALO PROMOTION, O/B/O OLIMJON NAZAROV, FLYWEIGHT BOXER RANKED WBO #7 SHOULD BE ADVANCED TO RANK TO #2 OR #1.

A **PETITION** having been submitted by letter, from Sang Bum, Kim, Chairman Of Cocky Buffalo Promotion, O/B/O Olimjon Nazarov, flyweight #7 ranked boxer, to Hon. Francisco Valcarcel, Esq., President, World Boxing Organization, requesting that boxer Olimjon Nazarov be reinstated to #2 or #1 ranking; and the petition having been presented to the WBO Ranking Committee Chairman for resolution; and after consideration of all issues, facts, corporate statutes, the Chairman of WBO Ranking Committee, decrees the following Decision.

Jurisdiction

The World Boxing Organization has jurisdiction over this matter because it is a licensed nonprofit organization pursuant to the laws and authority of Puerto Rico, Department of State, Division of Corporations authorizes the World Boxing Organization to establish and regulate and promote the development of Professional Boxing worldwide, establish operating rules and regulations for professional boxing at world level.

Authority of the World Boxing Organization

The WBO has authority to resolve all conflicts that arise among all subjects or matters related to professional boxing including the monthly ranking and publishment of boxer rankings. (WBO General Principles, Ch I).

The WBO is authorized, pursuant to its Constitution, to admit, suspend, fine, expel and impose any other type of sanction to the members that are part of the Organization; issue its own statues and other normative bodies to regulate its activities such as: The World Championship Regulations; The Operating Regulations of the Grievances Committee to solve conflicts; The operating regulations of the Ranking Committee. d) Any other provision related to its purposes.

The WBO is required to list world rankings for each classification under its authority, to, at least ten (10) through twenty (20) boxers per classifications to ideal candidates sufficiently worthy to be included as part of said rankings. (WBO Constitution, Art III (5)(2); (WBO Constitution, Art 5 (1-5). The WBO criteria for ranking professional fighters are based upon the WBO's fundamental standing criteria principles, in conjunction with the ABC guidelines for objective and consistent criteria for the ratings of professional boxers.

To obtain WBO world ranking classification, the boxers must satisfy several factors, including retaining a positive professional record with special emphasis on boxer recent activities.

Furthermore, to receive a top ranking, the boxer must have a positive amateur record, where applicable, with special emphasis on medals obtained in international and Olympic tournaments or regional titles in any one of our organizations (North American Boxing Organization (NABO), Intercontinental Boxing Organization (WBO-INT), WBO Latino, WBO Asia Pacific). The boxer's quality of opponent is imperative in obtaining WBO world rank classification, together with the quality of competition and the frequency of competition. (WBO Ratings Criteria (1-10)).

Likewise, a boxer designated by the World Championship Committee as the Mandatory Challenger, contender #1 or contender #2, must defend his classification at least annually against any of the classified contenders in his weight category. (WBO Ratings Criteria (1-10)). If contender #1 or contender #2 fail to comply with this Role, contender #1 or contender #2 may lose his classification.

Factual Analysis

It is the responsibility of each ranked boxer to become knowledgeable and adhere to ranking criteria promulgated by the WBO, the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports and the Professional Boxing Safety Act (15 USC 6301 *et seq.*), also known as the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act. In adhering to the above standards, in October 2023, the WBO published world classification in the Flyweight division, for the month of October 2023, are as follows:

1. **Riku Kano** ranked #1. In September 2023, Riku Kano, (21/4/2) was ranked #4. Kano's four (4) losses occurred on December 7, 2013, against Benjie Bartolome, (1/6/1), by S/D; in August 20, 2016, against Katsunari Takayama, (30/8), by T/D; on May 5, 2017, against Jerry Tomogdan, (22/8), by K/O, and against Shin Ono on August 24, 2018, by TKO. (BoxRec.Com). In 2022, Kano fought and won consecutive bouts against: Takayuki Teraji, December 2, 2018, U/D; Mektinsdon Marganti, (4/10/1), May 26, 2019; Tetsuya Mimura (8/1); November 17, 2019, Ryoki Hira, (13/6/1) November 23, 2020; Takumi Sakae, (22/3/1); September 23, 2021; Sanchai Yotboon, (7/4), April 24, 2022; Yuga Inoue, (13/2/1) September 9, 2022; and Kitidech Hirunsuk (11/4) September 10, 2023. Kano is currently scheduled to fight Khomsan Kaewruean (5/0).¹ Based upon Riku Kano's boxing consistency and achievement, he deserves to be ranked as WBO's #1 challenger.

2. **Angelino Cordova**, (18/0/1), ranked #2. Cordova has amassed 12KO's in 18 bouts. Cordova won the vacant WBO International Flyweight title in April 6, 2023, winning a U/D against Angel Acosta who at the time had a record of 24/4 (22 KO's). Since losing to Angelino Cordova, on August 26, 2023, Angel Acosta fought and won a UD against Carlos Buitrago (37/9/1). Based upon Angelino Cordova's boxing consistency and achievement, he deserves to be ranked as WBO's #2 challenger.

3. **Angel Ayala Lardizabal**, (17/0), ranked #3. Angel Ayala Lardizabal is a 23-year-old boxer, ranked #3. In April 9, 2022, Lardizabal defeated Cristofer Rosales(32/5), U/D; July 23, 2022, defeated Miguel Angel Herrera, (22/5), T/KO; March 4, 2023, defeated Luis Rodriguez Rodriguez (8/2) U/D; in October 14, 2023, Lardizabal defeated Felix Alvarado, (39/3), U/D. Based upon Angel Ayala Lardizabal's boxing consistency

¹ On December 10, 2023, Junto Kano is scheduled to fight Khomsan Kaewruean at the Edion Arena, Osaka, Japan.

and achievement, and held Ayala Lardizabal deserves to be ranked as WBO's #3 challenger.

4. **Seigo Yuri Akui**, (18/2/1), ranked #4. On August 23, 2017, Akui lost to Junto Nakatani by T/KO. His second loss was to Jaysever Abcede, in October 28, 2018, T/KO. Akui fought one time in 2023, against Jayson Vayson (10/0) and won by U/D. Jayson Vayson is scheduled to fight Ryuya Yamanaka on December 17, 2023, for the WBO Asia Pacific Light Fly title. Based upon Seigo Yuri Akui's boxing competitiveness and consistency, he deserves to be ranked as WBO's #4 challenger.

5. **Ricardo Rafael Sandoval**, (23/2), ranked #5. Sandoval lost two (2) M/D fights during his career. Rafael Sandoval was fighting monthly during his beginning in boxing. For instance, on June 19, 2016 Rafael Sandoval fought Adalberto Solares and won by a T/KO; on August 19, 2016, he for Hector Garcia and won by K/O; the next month, on September 15, 2016, Rafael Sandoval Fort Ulysses Gabriel Rosales and won by a K/O Fort Hector Garcia and won by K/O, and the next month, on October 15, 2016 he Fort Alonso Ronquillo Nunez and won by a T/KO, before losing Majority Decision to Alonso Ceja. In the beginning of his career, Rafael Sandoval was boxing monthly, lost a 4-round M/D to Alonso Ceja (4/0) on November 4, 2016. However, Rafael Sandoval has continued to fight consistently. For example, on February 18, 2023, Rafael Sandoval fought Jerson Ortiz (17/6) by K/O; On June 10, 2023, Sandoval fought Rocco Santomauro (22/1) and won a U/D; on October 21, 2023, Sandoval fought Victor Efrain Sandoval (37/3) and also won a U/D. Based upon Rafael Sandoval's continued efforts and consistently, he deserves to be ranked as WBO's #5 challenger.

6. **Anthony Olascuaga**, (5/1) ranked 6. On April 4, 2023, Olascuaga fought Kenshiro Teraji for a title at a different organization and lost by TKO. In spite of this loss, Olascuaga fought four (4) times since 2022, namely: on March 12, 2022, he fought Gilberto Pedroza (19/8/2) and won by U/D; on May 13, 2022, he fought Gustavo Perez Alvarez, (8/0) by R/TD and on September 18, 2023, Olascuaga fought Gielmel Magramo (28/3) and won by T/KO. Based upon Anthony Olascuaga efforts and competitiveness, he deserves to be ranked as WBO's #6 challenger.

Merit of Petition

To sustain the petition, the petitioner must offer evidence demonstrating that Olimjon Nazarov complied with requirements of the WBO Ratings criteria, together with the regulations of the Association of Boxing Commission and Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act, as previously noted. In addressing requests of candidates for inclusion in the WBO world ranking, only the top applicants qualify. The WBO selects candidates monthly, the results thereof are published in our monthly ranking announcements.

The petition alleges that upon the vacancy of the flyweight title, Jesse Rodriguez, who was ranked #1, was to fight Christian Hernandez, rated #2 by the WBO; that Jesse Rodriguez was victorious but sustain injuries in that bout; that in the meantime, to keep the #2 ranking busy and active, Nazarov's next scheduled fight was set for November 18, 2023. The petition requests that Olimjon Nazarov be reinstated to the September 2023 rank #2 or #1 status. Olimjon Nazarov boxing record includes five (5) losses: A loss to Mamed Yadgarov, December 17, 2011, U/D; a loss to Oleg Malinovskyik, May 29, 2013, U/D; a loss to James Smith, November 12, 2016, U/D; Stephon Young, January 20, 2017, U/D, and a loss to Dagoberto Aguerro, February 17, 2017, MD. Olimjon Nazarov has remained undefeated since then.

Olimjon Nazarov successfully fought Jerome Baloro, (6/1), on April 23, 2022, winning by U/D, and fought Bienvenido Ligas, (14/2), July 30, 2022, where he won by U/D. On January 28, 2023, Olimjon Nazarov

fought Jakrawut Majungoen, (42/2) and won a U/D. **However, Olimjon Nazarov has not fought since January 28, 2023, and therefore, inactive over 8 months.**

WBO Ratings Committee convenes monthly to consider applications from ranking into the WBO various weight classification divisions. In promulgating fair and objective rankings, the WBO must assess each prospective applicant pursuant to the WBO Ratings Criteria, together with the rules and regulations of the Association of Boxing Commission and the Ali Act. The WBO's boxing regulation of boxing parallels the federal legislation encapsulated in the Professional Boxing Safety Act (15 USC 6301 *et seq.*), also known as the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act, which was enacted protect the rights and welfare of professional boxers. For a candidate to receive a top rating, the boxer must have combated against quality opponents.

A petitioner seeking to be considered for an upward movement in WBO ranking, must produce sufficient evidence explaining the basis for failure to participate in additional boxing events. Boxing is a competitive contact sport and fighters fight for recognition, ranking standing and monetary incentive. (See, WBO Ratings Criteria (1-10).

The petitioner proclaims that #1 Jesse Rodriguez and #2 Christian Hernandez forth for the vacant flyweight title on April 8, 2023; that Jesse Rodriguez was victorious however, "we understood that WBO informed that boxer Rodriguez had been injured in that match and that we had to wait." This allegation is wholly conclusory and impermissible unless it is supported by any evidence. The WBO does not question the sincerity of petitioner's declarations. However, to corroborate the allegations as described above, the petitioner was obligated to produce documents in support thereof.

Likewise, a boxer that is designated by the World Championship Committee as either a Mandatory Challenger, a contender #1 or contender #2, must defend his classification at least annually against any of the classified contenders in his weight category. (WBO Ratings Criteria (1-10). Failure of contender #1 or contender #2 WBO rating criteria violates WBO Ratings Criteria and causes boxers to lose their ranking classification. 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 facts relevant to his rating.

The WBO understands that Olimjon Nazarov is well recognized in Uzbekistan. However, this is only one of many requirements to be considered in promoting upward mobility within the boxer's ranking designation. The petition alleges that his "boxer has been active and should retain #2 position or be elevated to #1 Classified boxer in his division." Nevertheless, Olimjon Nazarov was not ranked #2, but ranked #3, following Seigo Yuri Akui, ranked #2, and Christian Gonzalez, ranked #1 in the September 2023 WBO Ranking publication.

Boxing is a competitive sport enmeshed with many talented athletes. The struggle for world ranking among these fighters demands that they continue fighting as frequently as possible in order to maintain their status ranking with the WBO. Promoters are therefore encouraged to keep their boxers busy in the ring in order for their fighters to keep or move up in their respective world ranking.

While it is commendable that on January 28, 2023, Olimjon Nazarov fought an experienced veteran. However, even so, Olimjon Nazarov should have fought more periodically in 2023 to secure his September 2023 ranking. Although it is true that boxers often attempt to contract lucrative fights, they must nonetheless,

be cognizant that a boxer that does not compete frequently often loses world ranking. Boxers must be further aware that WBO ratings are based exclusively on fights. In the present matter, the petitioner has only boxed once in 2023 and has yet competed against a world-rated contender.

DECISION

Olimjon Nazarov failed to present competent evidence in support of issues presented, entitling him to the September 2023 #3 ranking reinstatement. The application of Sang Bum, Kim, Chairman of Cocky Buffalo Promotion, O/B/O Olimjon Nazarov, flyweight boxer is hereby denied. Boxer Olimjon Nazarov shall remain as the #7 rank in the WBO Flyweight division. This constitutes Decision of the Ranking Chairman on behalf of the World Boxing Organization Ranking Committee.

Dated: November 27, 2023

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.



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