



WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION

Luis Batista Salas, Esq.
Founder
Chairman
WBO Championship Committee

June 2, 2024

VIA EMAIL:

Mr. Ben Shalom Boxxer Promotions Team Buatsi	Mr. Frank Warren Queensberry Promotions Team Hutchinson
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**Re: Negotiation Order - Interim Light Heavyweight Championship Contest
 Joshua Buatsi vs. Willy Hutchinson**

Gentlemen:

On May 29, 2024, this Committee issued a purse bid order for the Buatsi/Yarde Interim Light Heavyweight Championship Contest. In our ruling, the Committee outlined specific provisions, most notably granting Anthony Yarde 72 hours upon issuance of the order to personally manifest in writing to the WBO as to whether he would participate in the interim championship. The foregoing condition stated that failure to comply thereto would result in this Committee determining that Anthony Yarde is uninterested, and therefore, unavailable to fight. Consequently, the WBO World Championship Committee would recommend to the Ratings Committee his exclusion from the Light Heavyweight Ratings in accordance with our rules and regulations.

Having the time granted to Anthony Yarde elapsed without formal communication, this Committee **HEREBY** rules that he's uninterested and unavailable to proceed with the fight against Joshua Buatsi as ordered.

Conversely, on June 1, 2024, the WBO confirmed receipt of email correspondence from Ben Shalom, on behalf of Boxxer requesting either a one-or two-week extension to negotiate directly with Anthony Yarde based on correspondence forwarded by Team Yarde asserting that the fighter's promotional contract with Queensberry had expired.

Whereas on June 2, 2024, the WBO acknowledged receipt of email communication from Mr. Andy Ayling, on behalf of Queensberry Promotions requesting that current WBO #6 world-rated contender, Willy Hutchinson be considered to vie for the Interim Light Heavyweight Championship against Joshua Buatsi due to Anthony Yarde's failure to comply with the conditions set forth by the WBO and subsequent unavailability to fight. In support thereof, Queensberry argues

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that (i) Hutchinson holds a respectable record comprised of 18 wins with only 1 loss; 13 of said wins by way of knockout (KO). Further, the proposed contender was an outstanding and highly decorated amateur, who currently is on a six (6) fight winning streak. Moreover, Hutchinson has been very active in the Light Heavyweight Division, most notably winning his last professional outing on June 2, 2024, against former world-title challenger Craig Richards in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Notwithstanding the foregoing arguments, Queensberry highlights that Hutchinson is more deserving of the opportunity in comparison to other contenders considering that occupying the number six (6) position in the WBO World Light Heavyweight Ratings, he defeated another world-rated contender in Craig Richards, who occupied the number fifteen (15) position in our ratings, respectively. Lastly, Mr. Ayling confirms that if the Committee grants Hutchinson the opportunity, he would be immediately available, ready, willing, and able to compete in interim championship contest against Buatsi.

Now, having considered the facts mentioned herein; having evaluated the arguments raised by Boxxer and Queensberry, on behalf of their respective fighters; having considered Anthony Yarde's failure to comply with our order and his unavailability to proceed with the fight, and having considered Willy Hutchinson's immediate availability confirmation through his promoter in addition to his recent win over another WBO world-rated contender in Craig Richards, this Committee **HEREBY** determines that Willy Hutchinson is the best first available contender in the Light Heavyweight Division. Ruling otherwise and/or granting the extension requested by Boxxer to initiate negotiations with Team Yarde, who has not complied with our orders would cause continuous delays in the current inactivity in the division due to Beterbiev' injury.

Therefore, the parties herein are hereby ordered to commence negotiations for the Interim Light Heavyweight Championship according the following terms and conditions: (i) the camps are granted 10 days to negotiate and reach an agreement as ordered; (ii) Failure to reach an accord within the period outlined herein, will result in the Committee ordering purse bid proceedings pursuant to WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests. The minimum bid for the Light Heavyweight Division is \$300,000 (Three Hundred Thousand Dollars). Any of the parties involved may request a purse bid proceedings at any time during the negotiation process.

Lastly, this Committee reserves its right to issue all further rulings deemed necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, including serving the best interests of boxing and those in the WBO Light Heavyweight Division.

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Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luis Batista Salas", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Luis Batista Salas, Esq.

Cc: Francisco "Paco" Valcárcel, Esq./ WBO President
George Warren/Queensberry
John Wischhusen/Boxxer
Jeremy Koegel/Top Rank
Tunde Ajayi/Team Yard



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