



**WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE  
RESOLUTION**

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**In the Matter of WBO Jr. Lightweight Division**

**Parties:**

Mr. Alejandro Brito  
Manager  
Emanuel “Vaquero” Navarrete  
WBO Jr. Lightweight Participant

**ISSUES PRESENTED**

Whether WBO Participant Emanuel “Vaquero” Navarrete lost his status as WBO Jr. Lightweight Champion (130 lbs) in the wake of his split (SD) loss to Denys Berinchyk, on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at the Pechanga Arena, San Diego, United States of America. We respond in the negative and explain below accordingly.

As to Navarrete’s status as “*Super Champion*” (rights and privileges)<sup>1</sup>, this Committee will reserve its right to rule on the matter in a separate “*Resolution*” in the future.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

On December 8, 2018, Navarrete won his first WBO world title (Jr. Featherweight) by defeating Isaac Dogboe via unanimous decision (UD); bout conducted at the Madison Square Garden Theater in New York, New York. Months later, Navarrete made his first successful title defense against Dogboe in a grudge match, however, this time, Navarrete won via TKO in round 12; the rematch was held at the Convention Center Arena in Tucson, Arizona. Thereafter Navarrete made 5 consecutive world title defenses of his WBO Jr. Featherweight Championship against world contenders of the likes of Francisco De Vaca, Juan Miguel Elorde, Francisco Horta, and Jeo Santisima, respectively. All consecutive title defenses were won by way of KO or TKO.

After dominating the Jr. Featherweight division, Navarrete moved to the Featherweight division pursuing becoming a two-division WBO World Champion. In his first attempt at becoming a two-weight class world champion, Navarrete defeated the highly skilled world-contender Ruben Villa via unanimous decision (UD). The fight was held at The Bubble in the MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. During his reign as WBO Featherweight Champion, Navarrete successfully defended his title on three occasions against world-rated opposition and former world title challengers Christopher “Pitufu” Diaz, Joet Gonzalez, and Eduardo Baez.

Having ruled his second weight class, Navarrete continued making history by moving up to his third weight division in the Jr. Lightweight division (130 lbs), vying for the vacant WBO championship against the tough and rugged world-rated contender, Liam Wilson. After Navarrete was in the verge of suffering his first defeat in over 10 years, the Mexican warrior redeemed himself and defeated Wilson via dramatic TKO in round 9. The fight was promoted at the Desert Diamond Arena in Glendale, Arizona.

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<sup>1</sup> The WBO “Super Champion” distinction is not a title rather a status conferred by the WBO rules per the professional merits of the recipient. The WBO’s policy is very straightforward; only one world champion in each weight class.



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In light of Vaquero's achievement in becoming a 3-division WBO world champion, in October 2023, the WBO Executive Committee unanimously voted in favor of granting Navarrete "Super Champion" status with the rights and privileges conferred by such designation.

Navarrete continued his winning path by defeating former WBO and two-division world champion, Oscar Valdez via unanimous decision (UD) in a back-and-forth toe-to-toe action fight between the Mexican warriors. Thereafter Navarrete fought a majority draw (MD) against the highly skilled former Olympic medalist and world championship contender, Robson Conceicao.

Not satisfied with his performance, Navarrete decided to become a 4-division WBO world champion fighting for the vacant WBO Lightweight title previously held by the undisputed Lightweight champion, Devin Haney. The Mexican faced world-rated contender Denys Berinchyk in a highly contested matchup, which resulted in a split decision (SD) win in favor of Berinchyk. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Navarrete/Berinchyk bout was sanctioned subject to specific provisions, most notably (i) the Committee allowing Navarrete to enter the ring against Berinchyk as the WBO Jr. Lightweight Champion; (ii) if Navarrete was successful, he would have 10 days to decide after the Berinchyk fight whether to keep his 130 lbs or 135 lbs WBO title, and (iii) the Committee reserved its right to determine whether Navarrete's 130 lbs title be declared vacant in the event of a loss against Berinchyk.

Having Team Navarrete convened and considered their next professional steps, on June 4, 2024, Team Navarrete submitted an email communication confirming Vaquero's decision to return to the Jr. Lightweight Division (130 lbs), and petitioner thereto to retain his status as world champion in the above-mentioned weight class. In support of their request, Team Navarrete argued the following professional merits:

- 3-division WBO World Champion
- A professional record of 38-2-1 (31 KO's)
- 10 WBO world title defenses combined (122 lbs, 126 lbs & 130 lbs)
- Navarrete's loss via split decision in what many considered a very close fight in a superior weight class
- Navarrete was moving up from 130 to 135 to become a 4-division WBO world champion
- WBO Super Champion

Now, having this Committee considered the facts and circumstances herein, having considered the arguments submitted by Team Navarrete, and having reviewed the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests their applicability, and enforcement in this matter, and having the power, authority, and discretion conferred by our rules, it is hereby determined as follows:

### APPLICABLE PROVISIONS

All WBO Participants agree that they are bound by the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests.

Section 35(f)<sup>i</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



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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 Sections 1(b) (20) and (c), 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:*

(20) To make or recommend exceptions or variations from the Rules as the WBO World Championship Committee determines are necessary; and

(c) The above powers shall be interpreted to include any and all powers, necessary, helpful or convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of these rules.

We begin our *ratio decidendi* referencing an excerpt of the WBO preamble<sup>2</sup>, which states, in relevant as follows: "The World Boxing Organization's Regulations are intended to reconcile the interests of all necessary elements of World Championship Boxing in a manner that is in the best interest of the sport. The most important interests are those of the Championship contestants themselves and their worldwide fans." [Emphasis Added]

The issue before this Committee is very straightforward, whether Navarrete retains his status as WBO Jr. Lightweight World Champion. Having this Committee reserved its right to determine such a decision, we must carefully consider all the facts and circumstances accordingly. It is critical to highlight that each controversy before the WBO World Championship Committee is evaluated on a case-by-case basis and analyzing the totality of circumstances surrounding the petition before us. We are of the opinion that that per the powers and discretion conferred by our governing provisions, we can make exceptions from the rules, when necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO Regulations, including serving the best interests in the sport and the WBO Jr. Lightweight Division.

Furthermore, there is precedence<sup>3</sup> in identical scenarios whereby a WBO World Champion retains his status when suffering a defeat in a higher or lower weight class considering the totality of the circumstances of such a loss. In Navarrete's case, his bout against Berinchyk was highly competitive as reflected by the official scorecards in a split decision (SD) victory in favor of the Ukrainian. A different scenario would be if Navarrete would have suffered a knockout or technical knockout. Simply put, that is not the case before this Committee.

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<sup>2</sup> See, Preamble of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests

<sup>3</sup> WBO Champions like Canelo Alvarez and Amanda Serrano have retained their status as WBO world champions considering their overall merits and accomplishments as well as the circumstances of their respective losses.



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Furthermore, we must take into consideration that Navarrete was fighting in his 4<sup>th</sup> weigh category. The petitioner has moved progressively from 122 through 135 and almost accomplished a historic feat in his career. Navarrete has been on a winning streak in over 12 years. Moreover, his achievements are impressive. These are the following:

- 3-division WBO World Champion (122 lbs, 126 lbs, and 130 lbs)
- Professional record of 38-2-1 (31 KO's)
- Total combined record / wins 596 / 167 losses / 29 draws
- 10 WBO world title defenses combined (122 lbs, 126 lbs & 130 lbs)
- “*WBO Super Champion*”

The foregoing merits speak for themselves. Therefore, having this Committee reserved its right to rule on the present matter and having considered the foregoing facts, circumstances, and Navarrete’s professional resume, it is in the best interests of boxing and the WBO Jr. Lightweight Division to grant Team Navarrete’s request to retain his status as WBO Jr. Lightweight Division.

Now, the Navarrete/Berinchyk bout was sanctioned with the condition that in the event Navarrete returned to the Jr. Lightweight Division as WBO Champion, he must face WBO Interim Jr. Lightweight Champion, Oscar Valdez within 120 days after the Navarrete/Berinchyk fight to terminate the Interim Champion status.

### DECISION - WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

Now, having carefully reviewed and appraised the facts and circumstances stated herein, having examined the arguments submitted by Team Navarrete and having examined our governing rules and regulations, this Committee resolves as follows:

1. The WBO Championship Committee hereby rules:
  - a) Emanuel “Vaquero” Navarrete retains his status as WBO Jr. Lightweight Champion.
  - b) As to Navarrete’s WBO “*Super Champion*” (**rights and privileges**) status, this Committee will rule on the matter in a separate “*Resolution*” in due course.
  - c) Team Navarrete/Team Valdez is hereby ordered to commence negotiations for the WBO Jr. Lightweight Championship to terminate the Interim status in the aforementioned division. The parties have 20 days upon issuance of this ruling to reach an agreement or purse bids will be ordered in accordance with WBO Regulations.
  - d) This “Resolution” is definitive, final, and enforceable.
  - e) The WBO Championship Committee reserves the right to issue all further rulings, deem necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO



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Regulations of World Championship Contests, including serving the best interests of the sport, the fighters and the WBO.

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: June 17, 2024  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

**WBO CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE**  
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<sup>i</sup> See, WBO Regulation §35(f).