



**Luis Batista Salas, Esq.**  
**Founder**  
**Chairman Championship Committee**

Date: July 16, 2025

Via Email:

Mr. Harrison Whitman, Esq.  
Attorney on behalf of WBO Participant, Terence Crawford  
Las Vegas, NV

**RE: In the Matter of WBO Interim Jr. Middleweight Championship; Request for Terence Crawford's installment in the WBO Super Middleweight Ratings and Mandatory Challenger Designation**

#### **I. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

On August 3, 2024, at BMO Stadium, Los Angeles, California, Terence "Bud" Crawford captured the vacant WBO Interim Jr. Middleweight Championship by defeating Israil Madrimov. The WBO sanctioned this Interim Title in light of the temporary unavailability of then-WBO Jr. Middleweight Champion Sebastian Fundora, who was under medical suspension imposed by the Nevada State Athletic Commission (NSAC) following his bout against Tim Tszyu.

Upon Fundora's medical clearance, the WBO Championship Committee ordered negotiations for a unification bout with Crawford, consistent with the WBO's institutional policy to maintain only one world champion per division.

However, with the Committee's approval, the parties agreed that Fundora would proceed with a voluntary defense against Chordale Booker (March 22, 2025, Las Vegas, Nevada; Fundora won via TKO), while Crawford pursued a major bout against Undisputed Super Middleweight Champion Saúl "Canelo" Álvarez.

The Committee unanimously allowed Crawford to retain the Interim Title pending finalization of the Canelo bout, in deference to his extraordinary merits, historical accomplishments, and longstanding relationship with the WBO.

On June 10, 2025, the Canelo Álvarez vs. Terence Crawford Undisputed Super Middleweight Championship was officially announced for September 13, 2025, Las Vegas, Nevada.

On July 2, 2025, Team Crawford notified the WBO of Crawford's decision to relinquish the Interim Jr. Middleweight Title and requested to be installed as the No. 1 contender in the Super Middleweight Division with designation as Mandatory Challenger.

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1056 Muñoz Rivera Avenue Suite 711-714 • San Juan, PR 00927



+1 787-765-4781

+1 787-758-9053

idmelendez@wboboxing.com

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## II. APPLICABLE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The WBO World Championship Committee acts under the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, including:

- Section 35(f): All WBO Participants are subject to WBO Rules and Regulations when participating in WBO-sanctioned activities.
- Section 6(b) & (c): Grants the Committee authority to designate as Mandatory Challenger the highest classified available boxer who, in the Committee's judgment, satisfies the required criteria of record, accomplishment, achievement, regulatory compliance, and, where relevant, television or network acceptability.

In addition, the WBO Super Champion designation, not a separate title but an institutional recognition of extraordinary merit carries specific rights and privileges under WBO Rules, including but not limited to priority consideration in rankings and mandatory status determinations.

## III. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Following due consideration, the WBO Ratings Committee approved the recommendation to install Terence Crawford as the No. 1 world-rated contender in the Super Middleweight Division.

The current top three WBO world-rated Super Middleweight contenders are:

1. Diego Pacheco
2. Hamzah Sheeraz
3. Jaime Munguia

While these athletes are world-class rising contenders, Crawford's professional achievements and historical stature stand alone at the highest level of the sport.

Crawford's unparalleled record includes:

- Undefeated professional record: 41-0 (31 KOs)
- Four-Division WBO World Champion: Lightweight (135 lbs.), Jr. Welterweight (140 lbs.), Welterweight (147 lbs.), Jr. Middleweight (154 lbs.)
- Three-Division WBO Super Champion (Jr. Welterweight, Welterweight, Jr. Middleweight) recognition carrying rights and privileges, not a separate title

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- Two-Division Undisputed Champion: 140 lbs. & 147 lbs.; first male boxer in the four-belt era to become undisputed in two divisions
- 19 World Title bouts, winning 15 by KO
- Global accolades:
  - BWAA Sugar Ray Robinson Fighter of the Year (2014)
  - ESPN Fighter of the Year (2014, 2017)
  - Best Fighter ESPY Awards (2018, 2024)
- WBO Awards:
  - Fighter of the Year (2016, 2017, 2018, 2023)
  - Most Promising Fighter (2015)
  - Fight of the Year (2014, 2023)
  - Triple Crown Award (2018)
  - Most Consistent and Durable Champion (2019)

While Crawford has not yet competed in the Super Middleweight division, the Committee determines that his:

- Unmatched multi-division dominance,
- Proven elite status and international acclaim,
- WBO Super Champion rights and privileges, and
- Full compliance with WBO Rules and Regulations collectively establish that he is not only deserving but entitled to Mandatory Challenger designation.

#### IV. EXCEPTIONAL NATURE OF THIS RULING

The Committee explicitly emphasizes that:

- This ruling is an exceptional and extraordinary determination, rendered in light of Terence Crawford's unique professional merits, institutional standing, and historic achievements.
- It shall not serve as a precedent for future rankings or Mandatory Challenger designations.

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- The WBO remains steadfast in upholding the integrity of its ratings and championship processes, and every future determination will continue to be adjudicated based solely on its own merits and facts under the applicable Regulations.

## V. DECISION

THEREFORE, THE WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. Designation of Mandatory Challenger:

Terence “Bud” Crawford is hereby designated as the Mandatory Challenger to the WBO Super Middleweight Championship currently held by Undisputed Champion Saúl “Canelo” Álvarez.

2. Termination of Interim Jr. Middleweight Championship:

The WBO Interim Jr. Middleweight (154 lbs.) Championship previously held by Terence Crawford is hereby terminated, in accordance with his official relinquishment as of July 2, 2025, and WBO policy requiring one single world champion per division.

3. Clarification of Ranking and Merits:

This designation is based on the WBO Ratings Committee’s approval to install Crawford as the No. 1 world-rated Super Middleweight contender, justified by his extraordinary cross-division achievements, Super Champion rights and privileges (non-title), and strict adherence to WBO Rules and Regulations.

4. Exceptional and Non-Precedential Determination:

This decision is an exceptional ruling, rendered solely based on the unique merits and institutional standing of Terence Crawford, and shall not create a general precedent.

5. Reservation of Rights:

The Committee reserves its right to issue further rulings, directives, or determinations necessary, helpful, or convenient to uphold the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO Rules and Regulations, and to safeguard the best interests of boxing, the WBO, and the Super Middleweight Division.

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## VI. FINALITY AND APPEAL RIGHTS

This decision constitutes the final determination of the WBO Championship Committee. Under Rule 34 and Article 3(e) of the WBO Appeals Regulation, any affected WBO Participant may file an appeal in writing to the WBO President within fourteen (14) days from the date of this decision, as the sole and exclusive remedy.


Yours truly,


Luis Batista Salas, Esq.  
Founder & Chairman, WBO Championship Committee


Cc: Gustavo Olivieri, Esq.

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