



WBO GLOBAL BOARD RESOLUTION

Parties:

Mr. Metumo Imene

Salute Boxing Promotions

On behalf of WBO Participant Fillemon Nghutenanye

Mr. Anathol Wannah

Mafia Boxing Promotion

On behalf of WBO Participant

Mchanja Yohana

Re: In the matter of Return Fight (Rematch) Petition - Nghutenanye vs. Yohana

STATEMENT OF FACTS

WHEREAS pursuant to the authority vested under the World Boxing Organization (WBO) Regulations of World Championship Contests (the “Regulations”), the WBO Championship Committee (the “Committee”) is empowered to supervise and enforce compliance with said Regulations by all WBO Participants, including Champions and Mandatory Challengers;

WHEREAS on May 24, 2025 at the Kijitonyama Postal Grounds, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania, Mchanja Yohana won by Split Decision (SD) 2-1 and retained the WBO Global Flyweight Title against contender Fillemon Nghutenanye. Judge Roger Barnor scored the match 112-115 Nghutenanye, Judge Pendo Njau scored it 116-111 Yohana, and Judge Emmanuel Miundwa scored it 116-111 Yohana;

WHEREAS on May 27, 2025 the Supervisor’s Report from the match was filed by WBO Africa Representative Mr. Samir Captan, whom served ringside as the WBO Supervisor the night of the match. In the report the match’s results are duly noted with the scorecards included. A comment by Mr. Captan states that in his opinion Fillemon Nghutenanye should have won, but that as Supervisor, he would not change the official scorecards of the judges. The consensus scoring on the official judges scorecards showed that the majority of the officials scored six (6) rounds in favor of Yohana (1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10). However, they also consented on scoring six (6) rounds in favor of Nghutenanye (rounds 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 12).

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WHEREAS on May 27, 2025, through the representatives of Fillemon Nghutenanye, a request for a fight review and record adjustment petition was notified to the Committee;

WHEREAS on May 30, 2025 a panel of five ABC & WBO official certified judges giving their independent assessment of the scores without knowing or collaborating with the scores, unanimously agreed, without prejudice, that the rightful winner of the WBO Global Flyweight match was supposed to be Namibian participant and contender Fillemon Nghutenanye. The scorecards read as follow – 110-117 Nghutenanye, 111-116 Nghutenanye, 110-117 Nghutenanye, 110-117 Nghutenanye, and 110-117 Nghutenanye;

NOW, THEREFORE, upon review of the complete record, including all relevant facts, rulings, regulations, and communications issued, published, or received by the Committee, and in accordance with the powers granted under the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, this Committee renders the following findings and ruling:

APPLICABLE PROVISIONS

All parties agree that they are bound by the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests. Section 35(f)i 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 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 Section 1(b) (18), (22), and Section 18 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:

(18) To recommend to the Executive Committee whether a direct return fight should be authorized;



(22) To make or recommend exceptions or variations from the rules as the World Championship Committee determines are necessary; and

SECTION 18. RETURN FIGHTS

The WBO shall not allow direct return fights, unless recommended by the World Championship Committee and authorized by the Executive Committee. A direct return fight is a fight between the new Champion and the former Champion from whom the new Champion won the title (or between a new Champion and the losing Contestant in a Vacant Title Fight), before the new Champion defends his title against any of the other fighters classified in his category. If the World Championship Committee determines either that the resolution of a Championship Contest was substantially irregular, or that there was a clear misapplication of the rules of boxing resulting in a manifest unfairness, such that in either case the World Championship Committee determines that the Championship was substantially unresolved, the World Championship Committee may, in its discretion, recommend a direct return fight, which may be authorized only by the majority vote of the Executive Committee. The World Championship Committee may recommend a direct return fight for any other circumstance; in that event a direct return fight shall only be authorized by the affirmative vote of not less than 75% of the Executive Committee.

ANALYSIS

We begin our *ratio decidendi* referencing an excerpt of the WBO preamble², which states in relevant “...*The World Boxing Organization’s Regulations of World Championship Contests are intended to reconcile the interests of all necessary elements of World Championship Boxing in a manner that is in the best interests of the sport. The most important interests are those of the Championship contestants themselves and their worldwide fans...*”

Now, the issue before this Committee is simple; whether an immediate rematch is warranted based on the arguments submitted Team Nghutenanye. From the outset we must stress that (i) the official scores rendered by the judges are presumed correct; and (ii) in the absence of compelling proof of fraud, deceit, corruption, gross negligence, or violation of law, the WBO lacks subject matter jurisdiction to terminate, reverse or modify official scores registered in the local commission having jurisdiction over the bout even more so when such are discretionary.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the WBO has the power, discretion, and authority conferred by its governing provisions to recommend to its Executive Committee ordering an immediate rematch, **if warranted**. For instance, when the consensus within the boxing community is that the scores rendered in a particular bout are highly questionable and/or controversial and the adverse

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participant files a complaint, this Committee resorts to an independent review, which seeks to provide a more thorough analysis in comparison with the results in question to determine the most probable and definitive scores.

In the instant case, the official scores rendered were as follows: Roger Barnor 112-115 Nghutenanye, Pendo Njau scored 116-111 Yohana, and Emmanuel Miundwa 116-111 Yohana; Official result: Split Decision (SD) in favor of Mchanja Yohana. Now, this Committee has tabulated the official scorecards to ascertain the rounds each fighter won on the three scorecards (100%) or two of three (66%) scorecards, with Yohana winning round 1, 6, 9 in all scorecards (100%) and rounds 4, 8, and 10 respectively in two of the three scorecards (66%); whereas Nghutenanye won round 12 on the three (100%) scorecards, and rounds 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, in two of the three (66%) scorecards.

Accordingly, this Committee appointed 5 anonymous independent and competent judges to review the bout in question without audible distractions. The results of these officials were tabulated to clearly ascertain the rounds each fighter won using an average scale based on 60%, 80 %, and 100% percent, respectively. This means that 3 of the 5 judges must agree to determine which fighter won the rounds.

After their respective review and rescoring of the bout in question, the findings of 5 judges stated that Nghutenanye won rounds 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 in all scorecards 100%; won round 8 in 80% of the scorecards, and round 12 in 60% of the scorecards. Whereas with Yohana, there was no consensus amongst the judges in 100% scorecards; however, in 80% of the scorecards the Judges agreed that Yohana won rounds 1, and 7. There was no consensus either in 60% of the scorecards. Therefore, it can be established from the independent judges' scorecards that on the date of bout, Nghutenanye won 10 rounds and Yohana won 2 rounds.

The next step in the analysis was to combine the scores of the independent judges with the scores rendered by the official bout judges to find the percentage agreement by round. Upon doing the analysis, the combined scores of the judges stated that there was no 100% agreement on all 8 of the scorecards where Nghutenanye unanimously won a round; nonetheless in 7 of the 8 scorecards (87.5%) Nghutenanye won rounds 2, 3, 5, and 11; won rounds 4, 10, and 12 in 6 of the 8 scorecards (75%); won rounds 6, 8, and 9 in 5 of the 8 scorecards (62.5%) and no rounds in his favor in 4 of the 8 scorecards (50%).

Whereas Yohana did not win a unanimous round on all 8 of the 8 scorecards (100%); won round 1 in his favor on 7 of the 8 scorecards (87.5%); did not win a round on 6 of the 8 scorecards (75%); won round 7 in 5 of the 8 scorecards (62.5%), and no rounds in his favor in 4 of the 8 scorecards



(50%). Therefore, in total, Nghutenanye won 10 rounds while Yohana won 2 rounds in a scheduled 12-round championship bout.¹

Wherefore, having carefully examined the official bout scores in question; having appointed an independent panel of judges to review and rescore the bout in question; having considered the arguments raised by the petitioner and supported evidence, and having reviewed our governing rules and regulations, this Committee rules that the resolution of the Yohana/Nghutenanye match was substantially irregular and therefore warrants an immediate rematch.

DECISION - WBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

Having carefully reviewed and appraised the facts and particularities stated herein, having reviewed the relevant provisions, and having examined our governing rules and regulations, this Committee resolves as follows:

The WBO Championship Committee hereby rules as follows:

1. The relief sought is **HEREBY GRANTED**
2. WBO Global Flyweight Champion Mchanja Yohana must fight next Fillemon Nghutenanye within 120 days after the issuance of this ruling.
3. Failure to comply with this “Resolution” will result in declaring the WBO Global Flyweight Championship vacant without further notice and/or hearing.
4. The Committee reserves its right to issue all further rulings and determinations necessary, helpful, and convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO Rules and Regulations, including but not limited to serving the best interests of boxing, the World Boxing Organization (WBO), and its Flyweight Division.

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.

Respectfully,

Leon P. Panoncillo, Jr.

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WBO Global Chairman

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