



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

September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Mr. Ben Shalom Promoter On Behalf of: Team Billam- Smith	Mr. Ulf Steinforth Promoter On behalf of: Team Fress
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Dear Mr. Shalom and Mr. Steinforth:

On **August 19, 2025**, this Committee issued the official negotiation letter for the subject matter bout. The parties were granted twenty (20) days to reach terms as ordered.

It is important to highlight that the **Interim Championship** in question was warranted in light of current WBO Jr. Heavyweight Champion, **Gilberto “Zurdo” Ramírez**’ reported injury and recovery prognosis.

Having the time period set forth by this Committee elapsed without an agreement being reached, this Committee must proceed accordingly.

As per **Sections 11 through 14** of the *WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests*, please be advised that **purse bid proceedings** for the subject matter bout will be conducted as follows:

- **Date/Time:** Friday, October 3, 2025 – 12:00 p.m. (Noon) Central European Summer Time
- **Venue:** Hungarian Boxing Association
- **Address:** 1126 Budapest, Derkovits utca 10, Hungary

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The **minimum acceptable bid** in the WBO Jr. Heavyweight Division is **\$300,000 (U.S. Dollars)**.

Proceedings will be conducted by **Mr. István “Koko” Kovács**, WBO Europe Vice President.

### **Applicable Provisions**

#### **Section 13. Division of Purse Bid for Championships Held Pursuant to Purse Bid**

##### **Vacant Championships or Eliminary Fights**

(A) In fights for a vacant title or eliminary fights (except in the case where one of the contestants is a Super Champion, in which case the Super Champion's provision for purse bid division shall apply), the distribution shall be as follows:

(B) If the fight is held in the country of origin, residence, or nationality of one of the contenders, the resident contestant shall receive **40%** and his opponent shall receive **60%** of the total purse offered.

(C) If the fight is held in a neutral place or if the contenders are from the same country of origin, residence, or nationality, in such a way that neither has an advantage over the other, the purse shall be divided in **equal parts (50%-50%)** between the contenders. U.S.A. residents shall be considered of the same country of residence, regardless of which State they reside in for purse bid purposes.

**Furthermore, the Committee sets forth the following provisions:**

##### **1. Injury or Unavailability:**

If any of the fighters suffer an injury, are impaired to fight, prevented to fight, refuse to fight, or are unavailable to fight for whatever reasons or circumstances, the Committee shall proceed with taking any affirmative actions, including but not limited to:

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- (i) declaring the WBO Jr. Heavyweight Participant(s) unavailable.
- (ii) selecting the next available contender(s) in the WBO Jr. Heavyweight Division; and
- (iii) taking any other action pursuant to the WBO Rules and Regulations.

## **2. Deposit Requirement:**

Twenty percent (20%) of the total purse offer must be lodged with the WBO main offices in certified check, cashier's check, or bank money order payable to the WBO, or in cash, in legal tender of the United States of America (U.S. Dollars), no later than two (2) business days upon adjudication of the purse bid. However, all WBO Promoters have the option to lodge with the WBO main offices a corporate check, subject to the preceding payment method being substituted for a wire transfer payable to the WBO main offices no later than two (2) business days upon adjudication of the purse bid.

Failure to comply with this provision will result in the WBO Championship Committee declaring the winner of the purse bid in default automatically and awarding the promotional rights to the second-highest bidder pursuant to WBO Regulations.

## **3. Confirmation by Participants:**

The WBO Participants (Billam-Smith and Fress) must confirm in writing to the WBO within forty-eight (48) hours upon the adjudication of the purse bid whether they are ready, willing, able, and available to proceed with the bout. Failure to comply with the foregoing condition will result in this Committee determining that the non-compliant WBO Participant is uninterested and unavailable to proceed, engage, participate, or fight as ordered.

## **4. Executed Bout Agreements:**

Executed bout agreements shall be lodged with the WBO main offices within five (5) days upon the adjudication of the purse bid.

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**5. Timeline for Contest:** The winner of the purse bid proceedings must conduct the WBO Jr. Heavyweight Championship Contest no later than ninety (90) days, nor earlier than forty-five (45) days, upon the adjudication of the purse bid.

**6. Committee's Authority During Proceedings:**

The Committee reserves its right to impose all further conditions during the purse bid proceedings

**7. Further Rulings:**

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 Jr. Heavyweight Division.

Sincerely,

Luis Batista Salas, Esq.

Cc: Gustavo Olivieri Esq./WBO President  
István "Koko" Kovács/WBO Europe Vice President  
Diana Meléndez/WBO Executive Director

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