



Luis Batista Salas, Esq.
Founding President
Chairman Championship Committee

November 26, 2025

Via Electronic Email:

Mr. Zhanibek Alimkhanuly
Unified WBO/IBF Middleweight Champion
Kazakhstan

Re: Show Cause Notice – Alleged Anti-Doping Violation

Dear Mr. Alimkhanuly:

The WBO World Championship Committee hereby issues this “*Show Cause Notice*” in accordance with the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests and applicable governing procedures.

It has been formally reported to this Committee that on December 2, 2025, the WBO received via email an official communication from the Voluntary Anti-Doping Agency (VADA) concerning an alleged anti-doping violation¹ arising from the testing protocol enforced by said agency in preparation for the scheduled WBO/IBF Unified Middleweight Championships Contest against Erislandy Lara to be held in San Antonio, Texas on December 6, 2025.

According to the notice, the “A” Sample of your urine specimen, collected on November 15, 2025, in Porter Ranch, California, allegedly returned an adverse analytical finding for a banned substance at an estimated concentration greater than the minimum reported threshold.

The notice included:

1. The Doping Control Form associated with the sample collection, and

¹ Per WBO policy, in the event any WBO champion tests positive for any banned substances, the WBO doesn't need to demonstrate intent, fault, negligence, or knowing use on the fighter's part. It is the fighter's duty to ensure that no prohibited substances enter their body. Fighters are fully responsible for any prohibited substances found to be present in their body.

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2. The Laboratory Report detailing the analytical results of the specimen.

In light of the foregoing adverse notification and its potential regulatory implications, the WBO World Championship Committee convened pursuant to its authority to intervene and initiate the relevant administrative investigation.

AUTHORITY OF THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

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.

This “Show Cause” Notice is issued under the authority granted to the Committee pursuant to Section 1(b) of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, which provides, in relevant part, that the Committee shall have the power:

1. “To determine the format and venue for making any determination that is the subject of the WBO World Championship Rules”;
2. “To recommend to the President and the Executive Committee that a Title should be vacated if a Champion fails to comply with the WBO World Championship Rules”; and
3. “To vacate the Championship of a Champion who has had his/her boxing license suspended for the use of performance enhancing drugs or illegal drugs.”

Furthermore, Section 1(c) establishes that:

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

These provisions collectively empower the Committee to act in matters involving alleged doping violations and potential breaches of championship obligations.



ADDITIONAL APPLICABLE PROVISIONS

Section 19 of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, titled “*Failure of the Champion to Comply with the Terms of a World Championship Contract or the World Championship Rules*,” delineates the consequences and processes applicable when a champion fails to comply with contractual or regulatory duties. Failure to adhere to anti-doping rules, or conduct that jeopardizes the validity of a scheduled world championship contest, may fall within the scope of this section.

In relevant, above-referenced section provides as follows:

SECTION 19. FAILURE OF THE CHAMPION TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTRACT OR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

(a) If any WBO Participant, including WBO World and Regional Champion(s), fails to comply with his contractual obligation to fight in any WBO Championship Contest without justifiable cause, or is determined by a Host Commission, a licensing commission or otherwise to have tested positive for an illegal or any performance-enhancing drug, or fails to inform the WBO of any medical condition, impairment or any other circumstance which jeopardizes his participation in a WBO World Championship contest, or if a WBO Participant or any of his team members misleads, attempts to mislead, or petitions a Local Boxing Commission to illegally or incorrectly license said WBO Participant, the Committee may recommend to the WBO President and to the Executive Committee that the fighter be stripped of the title and that the title be declared vacant, or take any action deemed proper, equitable and just against the WBO Participant in accordance with these regulations.

(b) Prohibited Conducts

- (1) Domestic Violence
- (2) Sexual Assault
- (3) Child Abuse
- (4) Usage of illegal drugs and/or any performance-enhancing substances, including but not limited to steroids/anabolic steroids
- (5) Any criminal conduct (misdemeanor or felony) that implies moral turpitude
- (6) Any other conduct deemed by the WBO contrary to the fundamental principles of the organization.

(c) Procedures — In General

(1) Show Cause Notice — If the WBO World Championship Committee determines there is cause to believe a WBO Participant has violated any of the prohibitions of these Championship Rules, it shall notify the affected WBO Participant that he must show cause why enforcement of this provision (or any other action provided for) should not be imposed. The Show Cause Notice must specify the potential violation, the evidence or documentation required, and the procedure for response.

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(2) Failure to respond to the Show Cause Notice within the time frame set forth constitutes a waiver of the right to contest the Notice. Upon receipt of a response, the Committee will determine whether a violation occurred and, if so, will issue a ruling on the consequences. All such rulings have immediate effect upon issuance, and notification may be made through verifiable means including posting on the WBO website, personal service, electronic communication, or notice to the boxer's promoter or manager.

(d) Rulings

(1) Automatic — Vacant Title: If the Champion is found guilty (or pleads guilty) to any of the prohibited conducts by a competent court, the WBO World Championship Committee may recommend to the WBO President and Executive Committee that the Champion's recognition be withdrawn and the title declared vacant, effective as of the date of the official registered guilt.

(2) Vacant Title Based on WBO Determination: Even if no governmental criminal process is involved, but the Committee determines that a violation of these Championship Rules occurred, the Committee may recommend declaring the title vacant. Such determination may proceed regardless of the outcome of any governmental process.

(e) Other Rulings: In connection with any Show Cause process, the WBO Committee may impose disciplinary measures including, but not limited to:

- Lower rated position in WBO World or Regional rankings
- Exclusion from WBO or Regional rankings
- Suspension from all WBO World or Regional contests (minimum two years)
- Withdrawal of WBO World or Regional sanction
- Any other rulings deemed necessary, helpful, or convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies and intent of the WBO Regulations.

(f) Disability Extension — If the Champion is unable to defend his Championship within the required time periods due to a verified physical disability, the Champion may be granted a reasonable time to recover and retrain to competitive condition, not to exceed 180 days. Approval of a disability extension requires a vote of the World Championship Committee based on competent medical advice. Interim medical certifications may be required to confirm expected recovery within the extension period.

(g) If recovery exceeds the maximum allowed disability extension, or interim medical certification indicates the Champion will not likely be ready to defend within the extension period, the title shall be declared vacant and the Committee may order a Vacant or Interim Championship fight, including a box-off if necessary.

(h) The Championship Committee may order an Interim Championship bout (or bouts) when the Champion is incapacitated or inactive, or when he moves out of his division to pursue another championship. In such



cases, the Interim Champion must defend the interim title against the returning Champion, if medically able, within 180 days. If the Interim Championship is held due to inactivity, the Champion must defend his title against the Interim Champion within 120 days. Failure to do so will result in the Interim Champion becoming full Champion.

Additionally, Section 28, titled “*Drugs or Stimulants*,” expressly prohibits the use or presence of banned substances and sets forth remedial and disciplinary procedures that may be invoked in instances involving adverse analytical findings. These regulatory provisions apply fully to your status as a reigning WBO Champion and participant in WBO-sanctioned championship contests.

In relevant, the latter provision provides as follows:

SECTION 28 — DRUGS OR STIMULANTS

(a) The use of illegal drugs or performance enhancing drugs or stimulants before or during the Championship contest by any of the contestants shall be sufficient cause for the disqualification of the contestant guilty of said use.

(b) The determination of illegal drug use or performance enhancing drug use or stimulants use under this Section or Section 19(a) may be made only by the Host Commission for the Contest or the WBO Participant’s Licensing Commission if supported by test results by WADA, VADA or any internationally recognized anti-doping entity.

(c) Only plain water may be given to a contestant in the course of the bout. Lubricants around the eyes is allowed in amounts within the Referee’s discretion; the use of lubricants, or any other substance on a contestant’s arms, legs and body is prohibited in Championship fights.

(d) The use of hemostats such as Thrombin, Avetine or Adrenalin 1/1000 solution shall be allowed between rounds to control the bleeding from minor cuts and lacerations sustained by a contestant as permitted by the rules and regulations of the Local Boxing Commission. If the Local Boxing Commission has no rule concerning permissible hemostats, then only Adrenalin 1/1000 is permitted. Each contestant is obligated to know and comply with the rules and regulations of the Local Boxing Commission as to use of hemostats.

(e) The World Boxing Organization encourages all Local Boxing Commissions to conduct anti-doping tests before or after the fight. If the Local Boxing Commission conducts the tests, they shall be administered in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Local Boxing Commission.

SHOW CAUSE REQUIREMENT

In accordance with the above-cited regulations and the Committee’s authority, you are hereby directed to **SHOW CAUSE** within ten (10) days of issuance of this notice, stating why:

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1. Disciplinary action should not be imposed pursuant to the applicable sections in the governing WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests and all relevant WBO policies; including but not limited to:
 - a) Declare the WBO Middleweight Championship “Vacant”.
 - b) Withdrawal of WBO World Champion status.
 - c) Banned from all WBO World and/or Regional Championship Contests
 - d) Suspension from al WBO World and/or Regional Championship Contests
 - e) Any other rulings deem necessary, helpful or convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies and intent of the WBO.

Your response may include supporting documentation, statements, legal submissions, or any other relevant materials you wish the Committee to consider. Failure to respond within the prescribed period may result in disciplinary action being taken without further notice and/or hearing, including but not limited to the vacating of your WBO Championship title, effective immediately.

In closing, this Committee reserves its right to render all further rulings deem necessary, helpful or convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies and intent of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, including but not limited to rendering those rulings that best serve the interests of boxing and the WBO Middleweight Division.

In closing, should additional information or clarification be required, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

Luis Batista Salas, Esq.

Cc: Carl Moretti/Top Rank
Jeremy Koegel/Top Rank
John Hornewer/Team Alimkhanuly
Egis Klimas/Team Alimkhanuly
Daryl J. Peoples/IBF President

See, WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests

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