



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

## **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE**

### **RESOLUTION**

Date: February 19, 2026

Parties:

Mr. Zhanibek Alimkhanuly  
WBO Middleweight Champion

Mr. Egis Klimas  
Manager

Mr. John Hornewer  
Attorney on behalf of Mr. Alimkhanuly

Mr. Jeremy Koegel  
General Counsel for Top Rank, Inc.

Mr. Carl Moretti  
Vice President of Top Rank, Inc.

### **RE: IN THE MATTER OF WBO MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPION**

#### **ZHANIBEK ALIMKHANULY**

#### **I. ISSUES PRESENTED**

Whether, pursuant to the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, disciplinary action, including suspension, conditional reinstatement, financial penalties, and/or vacating of the WBO Middleweight Championship, shall be imposed upon WBO Middleweight Champion Zhanibek Alimkhanuly following confirmed adverse analytical findings for the prohibited substance “*Meldonium*.” We respond in the affirmative and explain below.

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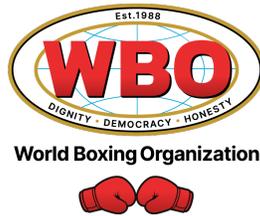
1056 Muñoz Rivera Avenue Suite 711-714 • San Juan, PR 00927



 +1 787-765-4781

 +1 787-758-9053

 [golivieriesq@wboboxing.com](mailto:golivieriesq@wboboxing.com)



## II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

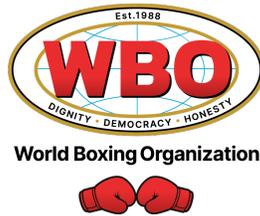
Mr. Zhanibek Alimkhanuly (hereinafter Alimkhanuly), won the WBO Interim Middleweight Championship against then world-rated contender Mr. Danny Dignum on May 21, 2022; the bout was held at the Resorts World Las Vegas, Nevada, United States of America. On August 30, 2022, then WBO Middleweight Champion Demetrius Andrade vacated his title, and consequently, Alimkhanuly was elevated to “Full Champion” status. Since then, Alimkhanuly has fought on five (5) times in a span of almost three (3) years; all of which have been voluntary defenses. That is to say, Alimkhanuly has never discharged a mandatory defense of his WBO Middleweight Championship.

The record establishes that Alimkhanuly was scheduled to participate in a WBA/WBO Middleweight Championship unification contest against Erislandy Lara on December 6, 2025, in San Antonio, Texas. On December 2, 2025, the WBO received formal written notification from the Voluntary Anti-Doping Association (VADA) advising that the fighter’s “A” *sample*, collected on November 15, 2025, in Porter Ranch, California, produced an adverse analytical finding for “*Meldonium*,” a substance prohibited under applicable anti-doping standards, in a concentration exceeding the minimum reporting threshold. The notification included the official doping control form and the analytical laboratory documentation. As a direct consequence of this notification, the fighter was withdrawn from the scheduled championship contest.

On December 4, 2025, this Committee issued a formal “*Show Cause Notice*” to the Champion and his representatives, Mr. Egis Klimas and Mr. John Hornewer, respectively (hereinafter Team Zhanibek). That notice set forth the allegations, cited the Committee’s regulatory authority, and afforded the Champion ten (10) days to submit a written response demonstrating why disciplinary action should not be imposed. Thereafter, on December 9, 2025, Team Alimkhanuly requested VADA that the “B” *sample* be witnessed and opened per the applicable VADA protocol through the certified WADA laboratory. Accordingly, the testing and opening of the “B” *sample* was scheduled to be conducted on January 8, 2026, at the SMRTL WADA certified lab in Salt Lake City, Utah, United States of America.

On December 15, 2025, the WBO President, Gustavo Olivieri, Esq., wrote an email communication to Team Zhanibek requesting their response to the “*Show Cause Notice*” as ordered by the Championship Committee. Team Zhanibek replied that they had initiated communications with VADA for the witnessing and opening of the “B” *sample* scheduled for January 8, 2026.





On December 22, 2025, the Kazakhstan Professional Boxing Federation (hereinafter KPBF) notifies Team Alimkhanuly, asserting that as a current license holder (through March 14, 2026), the fighter will be required to answer to the federation if the **“B” sample** returns a positive for prohibited and/or banned substance **“Meldonium”**.

On January 8, 2026, the **“B” sample** was opened at the WADA-accredited lab in front of a representative of Team Alimkhanuly. On the following day (January 9, 2026), the WBO received official confirmation from VADA confirming that the **“B” sample** tested positive for **“Meldonium,”** thereby confirming the **“A” sample** result. The notification included the official doping control form and the analytical laboratory documentation. As a result, thereof, on January 12, 2026, a second **“Show Cause Notice”** was issued, specifically advising the Champion that disciplinary measures, including possible vacating of the championship, were under consideration. As a matter of procedural fairness and deference, the Committee granted multiple discretionary extensions beyond those required under the WBO Regulations.

On January 15, 2026, Team Alimkhanuly responded to the **“Show Cause Notices,”** asserting that the completion of the administrative investigation conducted by the **“KPBF”** will provide the most complete answers to all questions related to this matter. Therefore, Team Zhanibek requested that the WBO respect the process and permit the proceedings to provide answers before taking any disciplinary action resulting from the January 19, 2026, hearing. Upon the administrative hearing being completed, and Team Alimkhanuly having had the opportunity to review the decisions of the **“KPBF”**, they will then be better able to address any questions that the WBO may have and Alimkhanuly’s path forward with his boxing career, having been fully informed of the facts and circumstances per the conduct of the hearing.

On January 16, 2026, this Committee responded to Team Alimkhanuly’s communication; acknowledging their position, however, the WBO clarified the scope, basis and timing of its intervention, including emphasizing that from the inception of the matter at issue, Alimkhanuly has been afforded all due process protections to which he is entitled as a WBO Participant, including notice, opportunity to respond, and the rights to present explanations and mitigating information, if any. Nevertheless, in recognition of his Unified Champion status, and as a matter of procedural fairness and deference, this Committee granted Team Alimkhanuly a final 15-day period within which to respond fully to the pending **“Show Cause Notices.”**

This Committee advised Team Alimkhanuly that failure to submit a timely response in strict accordance with the conditions outlined in our communication would result in Alimkhanuly waiving all rights thereunder and with the Committee proceeding to adjudicate the merits of the case without further citation, notice, and/or hearing. Lastly, the Committee stressed that regardless





of the proceedings before the “*KPBF*”, and irrespective of any findings, determinations, or disciplinary measures ultimately rendered by the Federation, Alimkhanuly remains a WBO Participant and is therefore bound by our governing provisions. As such, independent of any commission ruling, the WBO retains full jurisdiction, authority and discretionary power to review the matter and to take such action it deems appropriate in accordance with its governing framework.

On February 3, 2026, Team Alimkhanuly advised the WBO via email that the “*KPBF*” had yet rendered a final ruling regarding the fighter’s administrative proceedings and was therefore unable to raise the relevant defense arguments to prepare and present an answer to the “Show Cause Notices”. Consequently, requested a one-week extension.

On February 10, 2026, Team Alimkhanuly advised the WBO via email that “*KPBF*” would make its final determination on February 12, 2026, and that all details and decisions related thereto would be made on February 13, 2026, respectively.

Finally, on February 20, 2026, the WBO confirmed receipt of an email communication from Mr. Rakhimzhan Yerdenbekov, Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission of the “*KPBF*”, advising that the federation, in accordance with the requirements of the anti-doping rules and internal regulations of the federation, had investigated the matter regarding Alimkhanuly and reached a conclusion. Attached therewith is the anti-doping protocol and the doctor’s conclusion related thereto.

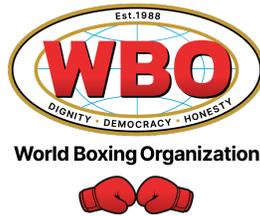
### III. APPLICABLE PROVISIONS

All parties agree that they are bound by the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests. Section 35(f) provides that “These Regulations apply to all WBO Participants. The term WBO Participant includes, but is 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] Accordingly, this Committee has full jurisdiction and authority to resolve the matter.

#### SECTION 1. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

Sections 1(b)(1), (19), (20), (21), and (c) provide, in relevant part, as follows:





(1) To determine the format and venue for making any determination that is the subject matter of the WBO World Championship Rules; and

(19) To determine if an Interim Championship is warranted and to sanction an Interim Championship Bout; and

(20) To determine the contestants for an Interim or Vacant Championship; and

(21) To make or recommend exceptions or variations from the Rules as the 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 the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests.

## **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 has 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 deem proper, equitable and just against the WBO Participant in accordance with these regulations.

(b) Prohibited Conducts

(1) Domestic Violence

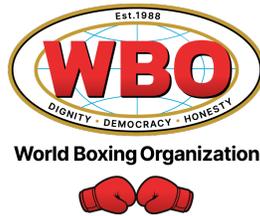
(2) Sexual Assault

(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 and/or Felony) that implies moral turpitude





(6) Any other conduct deemed by the World Boxing Organization contrary to the fundamental principles of the organization

(c) Procedures - In General

The WBO World Championship Committee shall have all powers and authority to request, examine, evaluate, and consider any and all relevant facts and supporting evidence from any WBO Participant pertaining to any allegation(s) of violation(s) of these prohibitions.

(1) Show Cause Notice

In the event the WBO World Championship Committee determines there is cause to believe there is the possibility of a violation of any of the prohibitions of these Championship Rules by a WBO Participant, it shall notify the WBO Participant through the methods set forth in these Regulations, that the WBO Participant must Show Cause why the enforcement of this provision, or as otherwise provided for in these Regulations, should not be imposed. The Show Cause Notice shall establish the potential violation that must be responded to and the evidence, documentation, and procedure established by the WBO World Championship Committee to respond to the Show Cause Notice. Failure to address and/or submit any required or supporting evidence by the WBO Participant within the time frame set forth in the Show Cause Notice will constitute a waiver of any right to contest the Show Cause Notice. Upon receipt of the WBO Participant's response to the Show Cause Notice, the WBO World Championship Committee shall determine whether there has been a violation of a prohibition contained in the WBO World Championship Regulations, and issue a ruling on the consequences for such a determination of a violation(s).

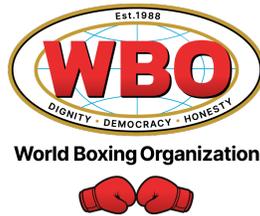
All Notifications of rulings shall have immediate effect upon issuance. Methods of verifiable notifications are as follows:

- (1) Posting on the official WBO Web Page – Suffice for notification purposes
- (2) Personal Service
- (3) Email
- (4) Notice to WBO Participant in care of his Promoter, Manager, or Advisor
- (5) Any other verifiable methods
- (d) Rulings

(1) Automatic - Vacant Title

If the WBO Champion is found guilty or pleads guilty of any of the prohibitions set forth herein by a competent court with jurisdiction, the WBO World Championship Committee may





recommend to the WBO President and Executive Committee that it withdraw the WBO Champion recognition and declare the title “Vacant”, effective as of the date of the official registered guilt.

If the affected former WBO Champion challenges his conviction(s) in a competent Court of Appeals with jurisdiction, and the Appeals Court reverses the conviction(s), the WBO Participant may request the WBO World Championship Committee reinstatement in the WBO Ratings according to his weight division and be classified at the number one (1) position. Such request must comply with the ABC and WBO Ratings Criteria.

#### (2) Vacant Title based on facts determined by the WBO World Championship Committee

In the event of a possible violation of any of the prohibitions of these Championship Rules by a WBO Participant subject to a governmental procedural process, such as a criminal proceeding, the WBO World Championship Committee may make its determination of the Show Cause process established by these Rules without regard to the verdict of the governmental process. The WBO World Championship Committee may recommend to the WBO President and Executive Committee, which shall make its determination of the Show Cause process and its ruling, independent of any governmental procedure process that arises from, or relates to the same nexus of operable facts.

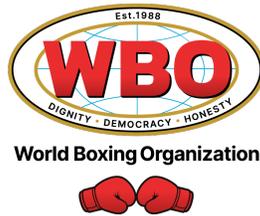
#### e) Other Rulings

In connection with any Show Cause process, the WBO World Championship Committee shall have the power and discretion to issue all determinations and rulings, including, but not limited to:

- (1) A lower-rated position in the WBO or Regional Ratings
- (2) Exclusion from the WBO or Regional Ratings
- (3) Banned from WBO or Regional Ratings for a period of no less than two (2) years
- (4) Suspension from all WBO or Regional Contests
- (5) Withdraw WBO or Regional Sanction
- (6) Any other rulings deemed necessary, helpful, or convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the World Boxing Organization

(f) However, if the Champion is unable to defend his Championship within the time periods provided in these Rules because he is physically disabled for a justified cause, and said disability has been verified and accepted by the World Championships Committee, the Champion may be





granted a reasonable time to recover from the disability and retrain to competitive condition, which shall not in total exceed 180 days. The disability extension will be granted only if the Committee determines, based on competent medical advice, that the Champion is reasonably expected to recover from his disability within the maximum allowable term of the disability extension. The Committee may condition its approval of a disability extension upon the Champion providing interim medical certifications that he is reasonably expected to recover within the term of the disability extension.

(g) A disability extension shall be approved only by the vote of the World Championships Committee.

If the Champion's recover time exceeds the maximum term of the disability extension, or if upon receipt of an interim medical certification the World Championship Committee determines that the Champion is not reasonably likely to recover and be prepared to defend his Championship within the term of the disability extension, the title shall be declared vacant and a Vacant or Interim Championship fight or fights, such as a box off, as the case may be, shall be held for the title pursuant to the provisions of the World Championships Regulations.

(h) The Championship Committee may order an Interim championship bout or bouts when the Champion is incapacitated, inactive, or when a Champion is moving out of his division to fight for another championship. In this case, the interim Champion must defend his interim title against the Champion, if the Champion who vacated his Title due to disability is medically able and prepared to compete for the Championship within 180 days of the Interim Championship. If an interim Championship is held due to a Champion's inactivity, the Champion must defend his title against the Interim Champion within 120 days of the interim Championship, or the Interim Champion shall become Champion.

(f) In any of the above mentioned circumstances, a former Champion must meet the WBO and ABC Rating Criteria to be classified.

## **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 stimulant 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.

(b) 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 regarding the use of hemostats.

(c) 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.

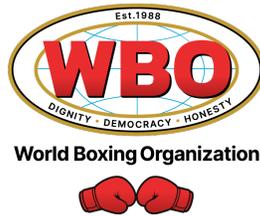
## SECTION 34. GRIEVANCES

Any WBO Participant, including, but not limited to, a Boxer, Manager, or Promoter who is or could be affected by a determination of the World Championship Committee, who wishes to contest such a determination must, as his or her sole and exclusive remedy, file a complaint or grievance pursuant to the WBO Appeal Regulations. In all cases, the complaint shall be referred to the WBO President, who may attempt for a reasonable period to resolve the complaint or grievance amicably. The WBO President may reject a complaint, or he may refer it to the Grievance Committee, which shall determine the complaint or grievance in accordance with the WBO Appeals Regulations.

## ANALYSIS

We begin our *ratio decidendi* referencing an excerpt of the WBO preamble, which states in relevant "...A World Champion is an integral part of the sport of boxing, but he is not greater than the sport of boxing. A World Champion's sportsmanship shows his respect for the profession he has chosen, including the Champion himself, his opponent, the World Boxing Organization, and, most importantly, boxing fans worldwide. 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...”*

The present matter requires the Committee to determine whether, pursuant to the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, disciplinary action shall be imposed upon WBO Middleweight Champion Zhanibek Alimkhanuly following confirmed adverse analytical findings for the prohibited substance Meldonium.

### **A. JURISDICTION AND BINDING AUTHORITY**

There is no dispute that Mr. Alimkhanuly is a WBO World Champion and therefore a “WBO Participant” within the meaning of Section 35(f). By express condition of participation in WBO-sanctioned activity, he is bound by the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests.

Section 1(b) and (c) vest the World Championship Committee with broad authority to determine matters arising under the Rules and to issue any rulings necessary, helpful, or convenient to accomplish the purposes and intent of the Regulations.

Section 19(a) specifically authorizes disciplinary action where a WBO Participant:

- “is determined by a Host Commission, a licensing commission, or otherwise has tested positive for an illegal or any performance-enhancing drug...”

Section 28(b) further provides that such a determination may be made if supported by test results from WADA, VADA, or any internationally recognized anti-doping entity.

Here, the adverse analytical findings were issued by VADA and confirmed by a WADA-accredited laboratory upon testing of both the “A” and “B” samples. Accordingly, jurisdiction and regulatory predicate are unequivocally satisfied.

### **B. UNDISPUTED FACTS**

The following material facts are not contested:

1. On November 15, 2025, Mr. Alimkhanuly provided a sample collected under VADA protocol.





2. On December 2, 2025, VADA reported that the “A” sample produced an adverse analytical finding for Meldonium.
3. On January 8, 2026, the “B” sample was opened at a WADA-accredited laboratory in the presence of a representative of Team Alimkhanuly.
4. On January 9, 2026, VADA confirmed that the “B” sample tested positive for Meldonium, confirming the “A” sample result.
5. The fighter was scheduled to participate in a WBA/WBO Unification Championship contest on December 6, 2025, and was withdrawn as a direct consequence of the adverse finding.
6. The Committee issued two Show Cause Notices.
7. Multiple discretionary extensions were granted.
8. On February 19, 2026, the WBO confirmed receipt of the “KPBF” ruling and supporting documents and considered the contents therein.

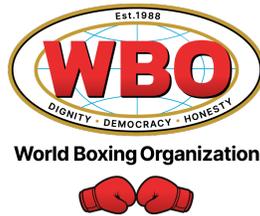
### **C. STRICT LIABILITY POLICY**

Neither Section 19 nor Section 28 requires proof of intent, fault, negligence, or mens rea. The operative trigger is a confirmed positive test supported by a recognized anti-doping entity. The WBO framework reflects the principle of strict responsibility: a Champion bears sole and exclusive responsibility for substances found in his system. The Rules do not condition disciplinary authority upon proof of intentional doping or competitive advantage. The mere confirmed presence of a prohibited substance is sufficient to invoke the Committee’s authority.

### **D. INDEPENDENCE FROM GOVERNMENTAL OR FEDERATION PROCEEDINGS**

Section 19(d)(2) explicitly authorizes the WBO World Championship Committee to determine a Show Cause process independent of any governmental procedural process arising from the same nucleus of operative facts. Accordingly, the investigation conducted by the Kazakhstan Professional Boxing Federation (KPBF) does not divest this Committee of jurisdiction, nor is the WBO required to await, adopt, or defer to the *KPBF’s* ultimate determination. The WBO’s disciplinary authority exists independently and concurrently with that of any federation, licensing authority, or governmental body.





Notwithstanding its independent authority, the Committee afforded extraordinary procedural fairness by granting multiple discretionary extensions beyond those mandated by the Regulations. At every stage of these proceedings, due process safeguards were observed, including formal notice, opportunity to respond, additional extensions of time, and the opportunity to present explanations or mitigating evidence. The Champion has therefore received all procedural protections required under the WBO regulatory framework.

### **E. IMPACT ON THE CHAMPIONSHIP STATUS AND SPORT**

The confirmed presence of a prohibited substance resulted in the withdrawal of the Champion from a scheduled unification bout, jeopardized the integrity of a WBO World Championship contest, and disrupted the stability and orderly administration of the Middleweight Division.

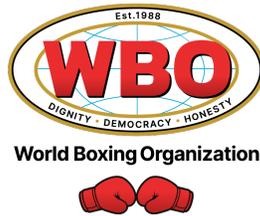
Additionally, the Statement of Facts establishes that since his elevation to Full Champion status in August 2022, all defenses have been voluntary in nature, no mandatory obligation has been discharged, and the Champion's level of activity has been limited relative to the interests and expectations of the division. While prior activity alone does not constitute a regulatory violation, the present confirmed anti-doping violation, when considered in the totality of the circumstances, materially impairs the orderly governance and competitive structure of the Middleweight Division.

The WBO bears the institutional responsibility to safeguard competitive integrity, ensure fair opportunity to all rated contenders, preserve public confidence in championship boxing, and protect the property rights and legitimate expectations associated with World Championship status. A World Championship is not merely honorary; it carries substantial commercial, contractual, and reputational consequences affecting numerous stakeholders, including promoters, contenders, broadcasters, and the worldwide boxing public. When a Champion's conduct undermines the reliability and credibility of championship contests, the Committee is obligated to act proportionally yet decisively in furtherance of the sport's best interests.

### **G. CHAMPIONSHIP STATUS AS A PROTECT INTEREST AND PROPORTIONALITY OF SANCTION**

It is well recognized in professional boxing jurisprudence that world championship recognition is not merely honorary in nature, but rather constitutes a legally cognizable interest arising from contractual relationships between the sanctioning body and the champion. Courts have acknowledged that a sanctioning organization's recognition of a boxer as world champion creates enforceable contractual expectations and economic interests that may not be arbitrarily impaired. See *Rocchigiani v. World Boxing Council, Inc.*, 131 F. Supp. 2d 527 (S.D.N.Y. 2001). In that





matter, the court recognized that a boxer's championship designation carries significant commercial and proprietary consequences and that sanctioning body action affecting such status is subject to principles of fairness and non-arbitrariness.

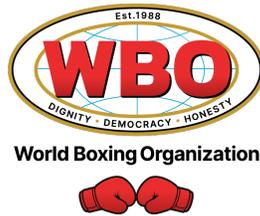
While a world title does not constitute a vested property right immune from regulation, it does represent a protected contractual and economic interest arising under the governing regulations to which both the organization and the champion are bound. Accordingly, when a disciplinary sanction implicates a champion's title status, the Committee must ensure that the sanction imposed is proportionate, reasoned, and consistent with the organization's prior practice and regulatory objectives.

The WBO Regulations unquestionably confer broad discretion upon this Committee, including the authority to recommend withdrawal of recognition and declaration of the title as vacant. However, discretion must be exercised within the bounds of proportionality and rational basis. The ultimate sanction of vacatur represents the most severe disciplinary measure available under the regulatory framework and must therefore satisfy a heightened threshold of justification. In assessing proportionality, the Committee considers the totality of the circumstances, including but not limited to: the confirmed adverse analytical finding; the absence of prior anti-doping violations; the Champion's procedural cooperation; the lack of evidence of systematic or repeated misconduct; and the institutional interest in maintaining divisional stability without imposing punitive measures exceeding what is necessary to accomplish regulatory purposes.

The record establishes that Mr. Alimkhanuly is a first offender. There is no evidence before this Committee of prior anti-doping infractions, prior disciplinary sanctions, or repeated regulatory noncompliance of a similar nature. First-offender status is a materially relevant mitigating factor in disciplinary jurisprudence, particularly where the regulatory framework allows for graduated sanctions. While strict responsibility governs the violation itself, proportionality governs the sanction. The Committee must balance the integrity of the sport, deterrence, and public confidence against the severity of permanently divesting a Champion of his title in the absence of aggravating factors such as recidivism, fraud, obstruction, or refusal to comply with the regulatory process.

Accordingly, while the Committee possesses full authority to strip the Champion of his title, we conclude that, under the totality of the circumstances and in light of his first-offender status, declaring the WBO Middleweight Championship vacant does not pass the legal threshold of proportionality. A structured suspension with strict conditions, testing, education, and mandatory championship defense requirements adequately serves the purposes of deterrence, integrity, and regulatory enforcement without imposing a sanction greater than necessary. The imposed conditions, therefore, reflect a measured exercise of discretion consistent with the protected





interests inherent in championship recognition, the principles of fairness articulated in relevant jurisprudence, and this Committee's prior regulatory practice.

#### IV. DECISION

After careful consideration of the undisputed facts, the confirmed adverse analytical findings for Meldonium supported by VADA and a WADA-accredited laboratory, the procedural history of the Show Cause process, and pursuant to the authority vested in this Committee under Sections 1, 19, and 28 of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, the WBO World Championship Committee hereby rules as follows:

##### 1. **Suspension.**

Mr. Zhanibek Alimkhanuly is hereby **SUSPENDED** from participating in any and all professional boxing contests and/or exhibition bouts or events for a period of one (1) year, with immediate effect retroactively commencing on December 2, 2025, the date of official notification of the adverse analytical finding.

##### 2. **Mandatory Year-Round Random Testing.**

As a condition precedent to reinstatement and continued recognition as WBO Middleweight Champion, Mr. Alimkhanuly shall be subject to a comprehensive, year-round, random anti-doping testing protocol administered exclusively through a WADA-certified anti-doping program. All costs and expenses associated therewith shall be borne solely and exclusively by the fighter.

##### 3. **Certification and Reporting of Results.**

All testing results shall be formally certified by the administering WADA-certified entity and must be submitted timely and directly to the WBO for review, verification, and recordkeeping purposes.

##### 4. **Mandatory Anti-Doping Education Program.**

Mr. Alimkhanuly shall immediately register in a WADA-certified anti-doping education and compliance program, and registration proceedings shall commence forthwith upon issuance of this Resolution. The program shall be completed in full as a mandatory condition precedent to reinstatement. All costs, fees, and expenses associated with enrollment, participation, and certification shall be borne solely and exclusively by the





fighter. Certified documentary evidence of successful completion must be submitted directly to the WBO.

**5. Return Bout Requirement.**

Upon expiration of the suspension period and full compliance with all conditions set forth herein, Mr. Alimkhanuly's first bout shall be contested against either:

- (a) The duly recognized Interim WBO Middleweight Champion; or
- (b) The Mandatory Challenger designated by the WBO World Championship Committee.

**6. No Intervening Contests.**

No intervening, non-title, tune-up, exhibition, or alternative contests shall be permitted prior to the required return contest referenced herein.

**7. Strict Compliance Requirement.**

Mr. Alimkhanuly must strictly, continuously, and verifiably comply with each and every condition set forth in this Resolution.

**8. Automatic Consequence for Non-Compliance.**

Failure to comply fully with any of the conditions outlined herein shall trigger the immediate intervention of this Committee, which shall have the express authority to declare the WBO Middleweight Championship "Vacant" ipso facto, without necessity of further notice, citation, hearing, or additional proceedings.

**9. Authorization of Interim Championship.**

In light of the Champion's temporary unavailability and to preserve divisional stability and competitive integrity, the Committee hereby determines that an Interim Championship is warranted and authorized pursuant to Sections 1 and 19 of the Regulations.

Accordingly, the WBO hereby orders and sanctions an Interim WBO Middleweight Championship contest between the two highest world-rated available contenders in the Middleweight Division, Mr. Denzel Bentley and Mr. Endry Saavedra, under terms to be





issued separately.

## 1. RESERVATION OF CONTINUING JURISDICTION

The WBO World Championship Committee expressly reserves continuing jurisdiction over this matter and retains the authority to issue any further rulings deemed necessary, helpful, or convenient to accomplish the purposes, policies, and intent of the WBO Regulations, including the issuance of determinations that best serve the sport of boxing and the World Boxing Organization.

## 10. APPEAL RIGHTS

This is a final decision of the WBO Championship Committee. The affected WBO participant may appeal such a 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.

**SO ORDERED.**

Respectfully,

Luis Batista Salas, Esq.

Cc: Daryl J. Peoples/IBF President  
Rakhimzan Yerdenbekov/Chairman Disciplinary Commission KPBF

