



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

July 6, 2026

Vía Electronic E-mail:

Mr. Eddie Hearn  
Promoter  
Matchroom Boxing

**Re: Negotiations- WBO Light Heavyweight Mandatory Championship Contest  
Dmitrii Bivol vs. Callum Smith**

Dear Mr. Hearn:

Please be advised that, pursuant to the authority vested in the World Boxing Organization (“WBO”) Championship Committee under the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, the Committee hereby orders the immediate commencement of negotiations for the **WBO Light Heavyweight Mandatory Championship Contest** between reigning WBO World Champion Dmitrii Bivol and WBO Interim World Champion Callum Smith.

The purpose of this mandatory championship contest is to discharge the Champion’s mandatory title defense obligation and terminate the Interim Championship status in strict compliance with the WBO’s longstanding **One Champion Policy**, which recognizes and maintains only one (1) WBO World Champion in each weight division.

The parties are hereby granted a period of **twenty (20) days** from the issuance of this Official Negotiation Order to negotiate and reach an agreement for the above-captioned championship contest.

Should the parties fail to reach an agreement within the prescribed negotiation period, the WBO Championship Committee shall proceed with purse bid proceedings in accordance with the applicable provisions of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, either party may request the commencement of purse bid proceedings at any time during the negotiation period.

Upon providing the WBO with written confirmation that an agreement has been reached, the parties shall have an additional **ten (10) days** to submit fully executed copies of the applicable bout agreements and provide written confirmation of the following:

1. The official date of the championship contest.
2. The official venue where the contest shall be conducted.
3. The official broadcaster and/or media platform through which the contest shall be televised or streamed.

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4. The promoter(s) of record; and
5. Any additional information or documentation reasonably required by the WBO Championship Committee.

The Committee further notes that both **Dmitrii Bivol** and **Callum Smith** captured their respective WBO championships on **February 22, 2025, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**. Mr. Smith won the WBO Interim Light Heavyweight Championship by defeating Joshua Buatsi, while Mr. Bivol captured the WBO World Light Heavyweight Championship by defeating Artur Beterbiev in their highly anticipated rematch.

Since obtaining their respective championships, neither boxer has discharged a mandatory championship obligation under the WBO Regulations. Mr. Smith has remained inactive as WBO Interim Champion for approximately **one (1) year, four (4) months, and fifteen (15) days**. Mr. Bivol, after an extended period of inactivity, most recently discharged his **IBF mandatory championship obligation** on **May 30, 2026**, after approximately **one (1) year, three (3) months, and nine (9) days** between championship contests. Consequently, the WBO mandatory championship obligation is now due and must be discharged without further delay pursuant to the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests.

The Committee acknowledges that both champions previously advised the WBO of their respective injuries and submitted supporting medical documentation, which was reviewed, evaluated, and accepted by the Committee pursuant to the WBO Regulations. Nevertheless, having afforded both champions reasonable accommodations, the Committee hereby determines that no further unreasonable delay in the discharge of the mandatory championship obligation can be permitted.

Accordingly, should either fighter become unavailable for any reason whatsoever, including but not limited to a subsequent injury or any other circumstance that further delays or prevents the mandatory championship contest from taking place, the Committee expressly reserves the authority, pursuant to **Section 19(c) of the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests**, to declare the **WBO Light Heavyweight Championship vacant** and to enter such additional orders as may be necessary to protect the integrity of the championship process and enforce the WBO's longstanding **One Champion Policy**.

Accordingly, **Team Dmitrii Bivol** and **Team Callum Smith**, through their respective authorized promoters, managers, attorneys, and/or duly authorized representatives, shall, **within the first ten (10) days of the twenty (20)-day negotiation period**, confirm to the WBO **in writing** that they have received, reviewed, acknowledged, understood, and accepted the terms, conditions, directives, rulings, and consequences set forth in this Official Negotiation Order. Such written acknowledgment shall constitute each party's acceptance of its obligations under the **WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests** and its understanding that any subsequent inability or unavailability to proceed with the mandatory championship contest may result in the Committee exercising its authority under **Section 19(c)**, including, without limitation, declaring the **WBO Light Heavyweight Championship vacant**, should the circumstances so warrant.

**Failure by either party to provide the foregoing written acknowledgment within the prescribed ten (10)-day period may be deemed by the Committee as noncompliance with this Official Negotiation Order, without prejudice to the Committee's authority to issue such further rulings, directives, orders, or sanctions as it deems appropriate under the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests.**

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World Boxing Organization



Finally, the World Championship Committee expressly reserves all rights, remedies, powers, jurisdiction, authority, and discretion afforded to it under the WBO Regulations of World Championship Contests, including, without limitation, the right to issue such further rulings, orders, directives, sanctions, or other relief as it deems just, necessary, and appropriate to protect the integrity of the WBO Championship, ensure the timely discharge of the mandatory championship obligation, and enforce the WBO's longstanding One Champion Policy.

Respectfully,

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

Cc: Gustavo Olivieri, Esq. – WBO President  
Vadim Kornilov- Team Bivol  
Pat English – Team Bivol  
Shaun Palmer – Matchroom Boxing  
Frank Smith – Matchroom Boxing

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