



WORLD BOXING: INFORMATION

World Boxing (www.worldboxing.org)

World Boxing is a not-for-profit, international sports federation which aims to put the interests of boxers first and ensure that boxing remains at the heart of the Olympic movement.

It has been established by a group of like-minded boxing leaders from a number of National Federations across the world in response to the persistent issues surrounding Olympic-style boxing's international governing body, whose failure to address the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) longstanding concerns over sporting integrity, governance, transparency and financial management has placed boxing's future as an Olympic sport in doubt.

World Boxing offers an alternative to this and has been founded on the principles of integrity, honesty and excellence. The organisation is underpinned by rigorous governance practices and aims to create a sustainable and inclusive global sporting structure where boxers from around the world can compete and excel knowing that the integrity of the sport is guaranteed and competition is fair.

It will ensure the views of athletes are represented at the highest level and includes a male and female boxer with voting rights on its Executive Board.

World Boxing will provide principled leadership to its members and is committed to delivering five key pledges that will safeguard the future of both the sport and its athletes worldwide.

World Boxing will:

- ❖ Keep boxing at the heart of the Olympic movement
- ❖ Ensure the interests of boxers are put first
- ❖ Deliver sporting integrity and fair competitions
- ❖ Create a competition structure designed in the best interests of the boxers
- ❖ Operate according to strong governance standards and transparent financial management

Olympic status

Preserving boxing's status as an Olympic sport is central to the work of World Boxing which recognises and cooperates with the IOC, National Olympic Committees (NOC) and the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) on all matters related to the governance of sports and the Olympic Family.

World Boxing will seek recognition from the International Olympic Committee (IOC). It will observe the principles of the Olympic Charter and plans to work constructively and collaboratively to develop a pathway that will preserve boxing's ongoing place on the Olympic competition programme.

Governance, transparency and independent third-party oversight



Ethical practices and strong governance structures will be central to developing a good working relationship between a new international federation for boxing and the Olympic movement and have been built into the Statutes of World Boxing which are underpinned by an extensive range of codes and policies that enshrine the highest levels of independent oversight and enforcement into the workings of the organisation.

The Statutes have been developed following wide-ranging research of best practice in global sporting governance and cover every aspect of World Boxing's operations including: safeguarding; the health and safety of boxers; refereeing and judging; competition manipulation; election protocols; codes of behaviour and equality and inclusion. World Boxing's statutes and all of its codes and policies can be viewed [HERE](#).

Central to all of these is the principle of independent, third-party oversight and enforceability which World Boxing will ensure by working with the leading independent provider of sport-specific arbitration and mediation services, Sport Resolutions, to create a third-party ethics and judicial procedure that is completely separate from the organisation and will oversee any potential issues and disputes.

This process will work through the appointment of an external, independent Ethics Chief with no connections to the sport who will: advise on issues and disagreements related to the governance and operations of World Boxing; review policies and programmes to ensure they are consistent with World Boxing's ethics and values; respond to complaints and enquiries of an ethical nature; bring forward issues of ethical importance to the Executive Board and Secretary General; and ensure World Boxing's operational activities are ethical, fair and transparent.

The Ethics Chief will be nominated independently by a three-person panel made-up of two industry experts with experience of sports governance and a member of World Boxing's Executive Board. The nomination will be ratified by the Executive Board of World Boxing and the Ethics Chief will serve for a four-year term that will begin and end at the time of the World Boxing Congress. The Terms of Reference for the role and appointment of the Ethics Chief can be viewed [HERE](#).

The Ethics Chief will be the first point of contact for all disputes and will determine, in the first instance, if a complaint needs to be assessed by an independent third-party body.

If an independent third-party body is required to adjudicate on an issue, it will be comprised of up to three people with relevant expertise and will not include anyone from World Boxing which will have no involvement in the process. The decision of the third-party body will be final and the only scope for appeal will be to take the issue to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

This level of truly independent oversight and enforceability represents a very high level of rigor by international sporting governance standards. It means the President and Executive Board are subject to the decisions of the independent third-party board and reinforces the principle that World Boxing's leaders are elected to serve and act in the best interests of the sport and the boxers.

This process has been written into the World Boxing Statutes and will apply to all aspects of the organisation's operations. By embedding the principle of independent, third-party oversight into its constitution, World Boxing aims to ensure it has rigorous, enforceable, governance structures that will drive ethical and transparent decision making.

The financial transparency of World Boxing will be enhanced through its appointment of highly respected Swiss auditors with longstanding experience of working with international sport organisations, Fidurev SA,



and by having a Swiss bank account subject to some of the world's most stringent rules on financial compliance.

Membership

All National Federations are invited to apply to join World Boxing. Members will have between one and three votes which reflect the contribution of their National Federation to the development and growth of the sport based on clearly defined criteria which can be viewed [HERE](#).

Having a membership structure with variable voting rights aims to protect the sport and preserve the long-term sustainability of World Boxing by ensuring that those countries which are active in developing boxing have an influence on the future progression of the sport.

At the same time, it seeks to eliminate practices that would otherwise enable well-funded National Federations or individuals to build blocs of support by offering inducements to those with a limited track record of developing the sport, yet whose vote in a 'one member one vote' system would have the same weight as a country that has had a significant impact on the growth and profile of Olympic boxing.

Voting structures similar to World Boxing's have been successfully deployed in other international federations, which are A-rated in governance by ASOIF, including the Badminton World Federation (BWF), International Tennis Federation (ITF), and World Taekwondo. ASOIF's opinion on this can be viewed [HERE](#).

All World Boxing elections will be governed by strict, clear and transparent protocols which are detailed in the organisation's rules on Electoral Voting that can be viewed [HERE](#).

World Boxing's membership package for National Federations is available [HERE](#).

Federations can apply for membership and decisions on the first applications will be announced in May 2023.

Competitions and sporting integrity

Ensuring sporting integrity is central to World Boxing's mission and means that all competitions will be subject to independent, third-party scrutiny with the appointment of external assessors who will oversee and report on all aspects of competition management including refereeing and judging and the appointment and role of officials.

This operating structure reflects the approach taken by the IOC's Boxing Task Force (BTF) for Tokyo 2020 when Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) was appointed to provide an independent assessment and review of refereeing and judging at the qualification events and the Olympic tournament.

It will make sure that all World Boxing competitions are subject to independent, third-party oversight and deliver fair competition for the boxers where the outcome is determined solely by performance in the ring.

Decisions on the timing and location of World Boxing events will be subject to clear procedures that will be strictly applied to provide certainty to boxers, coaches and National Federations and enable them to plan and prepare for tournaments with the confidence that they will happen at the time and location when they are scheduled to take place.

Timelines and processes for bidding for events will be transparent with fixed deadlines. Decisions on hosting and timing will be made in the interests of boxers. Once events have been allocated and dates confirmed



World Boxing's competition processes will ensure that these cannot be amended at a later date, unless circumstances change in a way that is beyond the control of World Boxing.

World Boxing competitions will begin in the latter part of 2023 and will be devised in the interests of boxers and cover all levels from Juniors to Seniors. A comprehensive competition calendar is being developed that will feature a series of new tournaments designed to create longevity and appeal to potential broadcast and commercial partners.

Member National Federations will be able to bid to host events. Further details on World Boxing's competition strategy, tournament calendar and the bidding process for staging events will be published [HERE](#) when it is released later in 2023.

Leadership

World Boxing will be led by an Executive Board and a President who will be elected by members at the organisation's inaugural Congress in November 2023. It will include a male and a female Athlete Representative to ensure the views of boxers have influence at the highest level of decision making.

All candidates will be assessed by an Independent Vetting Panel using open-source materials only and all member National Federations in good standing will be able to vote in the election. The number of votes will be dependent upon the National Federation's voting eligibility according to World Boxing statutes.

In the period leading to the inaugural Congress, World Boxing will be led by an Interim Executive Board made-up of representatives from National Federations around the world, a male and a female Athlete Representatives and an Interim Secretary General, who does not have voting rights.

The two Athlete Representatives on World Boxing's Interim Executive Board are Tokyo 2020, middleweight gold medallist, Lauren Price from Wales and the USA's super-heavyweight silver medallist, Richard Torrez Jr.

At present, the Interim Executive Board is comprised of:

- Matthew Holt, Chief Executive, GB Boxing
- Tyson Lee, President, USA Boxing
- Karin Mattsson, Board Member, Swedish Boxing Federation
- Michael Mueller, Director, German Boxing Federation
- Karina Picson, Boxing Competition Official, the Philippines
- Lauren Price, Athlete Representative
- Richard Torrez Jr, Athlete Representative
- Boris van der Vorst, President, Dutch Boxing Federation
- Keith Walker, Chair, Boxing New Zealand
- Simon Toulson, Interim Secretary General (without voting rights)

To ensure that boxers have a strong voice in shaping the work of World Boxing, the two athlete representatives on the Executive Board will be supplemented by an Athletes Committee made up of three men and three women.



The Athletes Committee will be responsible for representing the views of boxers worldwide and providing advice, guidance and opinions to World Boxing. Any current boxer over the age of 18 or one that has competed internationally in Olympic-style boxing within the last ten years is eligible to join the Committee.

The Athletes Committee will be elected by their peers at World Boxing's first Senior World Championships, scheduled to take place in 2025. Prior to this, the Committee will be appointed by the Executive Board based on recommendations from its membership.

World Boxing is a non-profit international organisation set-up to administer the sports of Olympic-style boxing, Paralympic boxing (otherwise called "Adaptive boxing") and E-sport boxing. It is a civil association founded for an unlimited period of time having its own legal identity as a non-profit organisation in accordance with Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code. World Boxing is under the jurisdiction of Switzerland. It has a Swiss bank account and has appointed Swiss auditors.

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