

Statement in Support of Julia Felton's application for election to Executive Board and the Finance and Audit Committee

I am honoured to be able to stand for the World Boxing Executive Board. Throughout my life I have developed a range of skills which, I believe will be of assistance to World Boxing and its National Federations. I hold degrees in accounting and law; I have worked for 40 years in accounting, audit and program management positions. I have managed large government funding programs ensuring effective use of available resources and developing strong working relationships with stakeholders.

I have volunteered in boxing since 2003. I'm currently a Director on the Board of Boxing Australia (since 2011). I was a member of the IBA Women's Committee from December 2010 to December 2022 when IBA removed the Women's Committee and replaced it with a Diversity Committee. I was no longer eligible for the Committee as I have not been an athlete. My goal is to drive the growth and development of boxing across the world; with seeing Women's boxing receive the acceptance and recognition it deserves as a particular passion of mine.

Should I be elected to the World Boxing Executive Board, I would work to have the IOC recognise World Boxing as the international boxing federation to replace IBA and ensure boxing is included in all future Olympics particularly 2028 and 2032. Boxing is a great sport and provides so many benefits to its participants such as good health, self-respect, self-confidence, self-discipline, but most of all they get a sense of belonging to a family. It is critical to ensure the safety and welfare of the athletes, assist them to transition out of competition into other roles within boxing and set goals for their professional careers. An integral part of developing athletes is the development of other key roles i.e.; Referees, Judges, ITOs, Doctors, Coaches and Administrators at all levels. It is important to increase the numbers in these roles and provide them with the best education, training and opportunities so they can perform at the highest level with honesty and integrity.

Through my professional career, I have developed strong communication skills and can develop strong relationships with all stakeholders. I also have experience in writing Policies and guidelines.

I'm now semi-retired, with more time to dedicate to boxing. I have three adult children, and ten grandchildren, they keep me busy. I first became involved in boxing when my son was 14, struggling to find his way. I was a single mother and found it hard to guide him on my own. A friend suggested getting him into boxing, and he was hooked immediately. Boxing really helped him find his way and improved our relationship. The growth, confidence and direction it gave my son is what I love the most about boxing. Everyone is welcomed like family, and I get to watch young people achieve their goals and dreams.

I just love being involved with boxing and being a part of its growth into the future. Recent rule changes, such as allowing beards and having a competition uniform that enables Muslim women to respect their religion while competing has opened the door to many more athletes.

It would be an honour and I promise to work for the benefit of all involved in this great sport.

World Boxing has a lot of work ahead of it in the next 4 years. There are policies to develop covering many aspects of the sport. These policies will key to developing transparent and strong governance where honesty, integrity, transparency and collaboration are key qualities of the organisation. In addition, funding and sponsors are needed. Competitions need to be created and at a cost that many nations can afford.

Part of this process is creating a structure that is sound and is accountable. This includes the Executive Board and Standing Committees. I would like to see in the future a Standing Committee that is dedicated to developing and promoting diversity and equity in the sport. An athletes committee is an important addition to the structure. This Committee could work with all other committees to address issues such as age limits, weight management education, health and well being and post career development.

One of the major immediate pieces of work will be how coaches, Referees and Judges, cut persons, ring doctors and International Technical Officers are going to be accredited and developed.

Another key area is how to increase participation in boxing at all levels from the individual club/gym to National Federations. Also education in areas such as good governance, financial management, integrity and ethical behaviour, and sound operational practices is needed for all national federations.

Obtaining funding for World Boxing is extremely important. Ensuring the funding is coming from many sources and not tied to any one country is critical for the success of World Boxing.

My vision is for World Boxing to be the pinnacle of boxing with the sport of boxing being considered to be the most honest and ethical sport. I want all athletes to have an equal opportunity to achieve their dreams of representing their country at the Olympics. In addition, I want World Boxing to be known for developing and supporting boxing at all levels. The boxing community is more than the athletes, it is the coaches, referees and judges, other officials, administrators, non-competitive participants, volunteers, and Mums and Dads.

I would be honoured to be given the opportunity to work for World Boxing as either a member of the Executive Board or the Finance and Audit Committee.

Thanks

Julia Felton