



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 was publicly launched on 13 April 2023 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 placed boxing's future as an Olympic sport in doubt.

World Boxing is an alternative to this and has been founded on the principles of integrity, honesty and excellence. It 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. As part of this, it is committed to ensuring 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 provides principled leadership to its members and is committed to delivering five key pledges:

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

World Boxing's Strategic Plan 2024-28 was formally approved by World Boxing's members at its inaugural Congress in November 2023 and can be viewed [HERE](#).

Olympic status

Preserving boxing's status as an Olympic sport is central to the work of World Boxing which aims to seek recognition from the IOC and is committed to co-operating with 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.

On 7 May 2024, World Boxing held its first formal meeting with the IOC. The meeting, which took place at the IOC's headquarters in Lausanne, 'Olympic House', is a significant milestone in the evolution of World Boxing and signals the beginning of formal collaboration between the two organisations aimed at establishing a pathway for boxing to remain part of the Olympic programme after Paris 2024.



Governance, transparency and independent third-party oversight

Ethical practices and strong governance structures 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 operates through an external, independent Ethics Chief, Professor Jack Anderson, who was appointed in August 2023 and has more than 25 years' experience in legal practice and sports arbitration.

In his role as World Boxing's Ethics Chief, Professor Anderson advises on issues and disagreements related to governance and operations; reviews policies and programmes to ensure they are consistent with World Boxing's ethics and values; responds to complaints and enquiries of an ethical nature; brings forward issues of ethical importance to the Executive Board and Secretary General; and ensures World Boxing's operational activities are ethical, fair and transparent.

In this independent position, he is the first point of contact for all issues and determines, in the first instance, if a complaint is required to be elevated to the approved World Boxing independent third-party organisation for further action or can be dealt with reasonably and fairly within the existing governance remit.

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 is 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

In the twelve months since it was launched, World Boxing has made enormous progress and achieved a significant amount in terms of membership growth.

On 9 August 2023, World Boxing announced it had accepted its first membership applications from the National Federations of the USA, Australia, England, New Zealand and the Netherlands. By the end of its first year, World Boxing had 28 members covering all of the five Continents that compete in international boxing.

All National Federations are invited to apply to join World Boxing and 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](#).

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

All National Federations are welcome to apply for membership of World Boxing whose membership package is available [HERE](#).

Competitions and sporting integrity

Ensuring sporting integrity is central to World Boxing's mission and means that its competitions are 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.

Decisions on the timing and location of World Boxing events are subject to clear procedures 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 are transparent with fixed deadlines and decisions on hosting and timing are made in the interests of boxers.

In July 2023, the USA Boxing Women's Championships in Toledo, Ohio was the first competition to be held in association with World Boxing. More than 200 boxers took part in the eight-day event which featured novice and open categories covering multiple ages. This has since been followed by competitions in Finland, Czechia and the Netherlands along with World Boxing Cup events in Germany, England and the USA.

In November 2023, World Boxing published a Competition Calendar which included multiple events and two new formats, World Boxing Cup and World Boxing Challenge, that have been designed in the interests of boxers and aim to provide a better structure and greater meaning to the current calendar in Olympic-style boxing by bringing a common standard to the existing network of international tournaments staged by National Federations.

The World Boxing Cup is an annual competition series in which elite male and female boxers will accrue ranking points over several stages of competition throughout the calendar year. It culminates in a year-end Finals event in which the stage winners and other top-ranked boxers will compete for the main trophy. The first World Boxing Cup event of 2024 was held in Sheffield in England.

The World Boxing Challenge is designed to provide a structure to the existing calendar of smaller competitions delivered by National Federations. Ranking points are awarded to boxers based on their performances at these events which count towards their eligibility to compete in the World Boxing Cup and other major tournaments including Continental and World Championships.

Further details on World Boxing's competition strategy, tournament calendar and the bidding process for staging events are [HERE](#).

Leadership

World Boxing is led by an Executive Board and a President, Boris van der Vorst, who were elected in transparent and fair by members at the organisation's inaugural Congress in Frankfurt on 25 November 2023. The Executive Board is made-up of 14 people and includes a male and a female Athlete Representative to ensure the views of boxers have influence at the highest level of decision making.

For the elections, all of the candidates were assessed by an Independent Vetting Panel using open-source materials only. The 26 member National Federations that attended the Congress were all eligible to vote in the elections.

The Executive Board of World Boxing is comprised of:

- Boris van der Vorst (NED), President
- Ryan O'Shea (CAN), Vice-President
- Matt Holt (GB), Vice-President
- Dinah Glykidis (AUS), Vice-President
- Michael Muller (GER), Executive Board Member
- Victorico Vargas (PHI), Executive Board Member
- Suzanne Karrlander (SWE), Executive Board Member
- Marcos Candido de Brito (BRA), Executive Board Member

- Hernan Salvo (ARG), Chair Sport and Competition Committee
- Dr Armando Sanchez (USA), Chair, Chair Medical and Anti-Doping
- Julia Felton (AUS), Chair Finance and Audit Committee
- Lauren Price (WAL), Athlete Representative
- Richard Torrez Jr (USA), Athlete Representative
- Simon Toulson, 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.

The Athletes Committee is responsible for representing the views of boxers worldwide and providing advice, guidance and opinions to World Boxing. In March 2024, Canada's Tammara Thibeault and Caitlin Parker from Australia joined the Athletes Committee after their nominations were approved at a meeting of its Executive Board.

The pair, who both competed at the 2020 Olympic Games and have qualified for Paris 2024, join Athlete Representatives, Lauren Price and Richard Torrez Jr, who sit on World Boxing's Executive Board, to form a cohort of boxers that will strengthen the athlete focus of the organisation.

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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