

Czech Boxing Association Proposed Amendment to Section 3 — Compliance with World Boxing Current Wording:

“These Competition Rules have been established to ensure fair, equal, and safe competitions for boxers. The rules apply to all World Boxing Competitions and Boxing Competitions organized by World Boxing Members. National Federations may not develop their own Competition Rules for World Boxing Competitions that are contradictory to these rules. Nevertheless, National Federations may modify these Competition Rules for competitions under their jurisdiction to align with their respective national laws, local specifics and tradition.”

Proposed Amendment:

“These Competition Rules have been established to ensure fair, equal, and safe competitions for boxers. The rules apply to all World Boxing Competitions and Boxing Competitions organized by World Boxing Members.

National Federations shall have the right to adjust the Competition Rules for competitions under their jurisdiction, provided that such adjustments are consistent with the fundamental principles of safety, fairness, and equality, and do not compromise boxer welfare. Adjustments may take into account national legislation, local conditions, and established traditions.”

Rationale

This amendment seeks to clarify and expand the authority of **National Federations (NFs)** to adjust the World Boxing Competition Rules for competitions conducted under their jurisdiction.

The **current restriction**, which limits adjustments only to those that do not undermine medical or safety standards, is overly restrictive and could create operational, legal, and financial complications. Key justifications include:

- **Overly broad interpretation of “safety standards.”** Almost all aspects of the rules — including ring size, equipment, age categories, and weight divisions — could be interpreted as safety-related, which effectively prevents any meaningful flexibility by National Federations.
- **Local medical realities.** For example, in the Czech Republic, the presence of a doctor ringside and a fast emergency response system (average under 8 minutes) provide sufficient safety even without a dedicated on-site ambulance.
- **Legal and insurance implications.** The current definition could lead to disputes in the event of injuries, as insurance providers may deny claims based on deviations from World Boxing’s universal standards.
- **Broad support among member federations.** This issue has been widely discussed within the membership and has received positive backing from several National Federations.

- **Preserves oversight for World Boxing Competitions.** The amendment explicitly maintains full compliance with World Boxing Rules for official World Boxing events, while granting reasonable autonomy for domestic competitions.

Conclusion

Adopting this amendment will:

1. Empower National Federations to tailor competition regulations to their national and legal contexts.
2. Maintain the integrity and safety of the sport while promoting flexibility and local relevance.
3. Reduce potential legal and financial exposure for National Federations and their athletes.
4. Strengthen member engagement and ownership in rule governance.

For these reasons, Congress is urged to vote in favor of this proposed amendment to **Section 3 of the World Boxing Competition Rules (Approved November 2024)**.