

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

**István KOVÁCS****HUN**

Nominated by Hungarian Boxing Association to the position of World Boxing Vice President, Executive Board Member.

PROFILE

Mr István Kovács is President of the Hungarian Boxing Association, a former Olympic, World and European champion boxer, and an experienced sports administrator with more than four decades of involvement in boxing as an athlete, official and international sports leader.

EXPERIENCE

As an amateur boxer, Kovács won Olympic gold at Atlanta 1996 and bronze at Barcelona 1992, as well as two World Championship titles and two European Championship titles. He later competed professionally, winning the WBC International, EBU European and WBO World titles. His achievements made him the first Hungarian amateur world champion and the first Hungarian professional world champion.

Following his competitive career, Kovács moved into sports administration and governance. He has served as a WBO official since 2002 and WBO European Vice President since 2004. He has been a member of the Hungarian Olympic Committee since 2008 and a member of its Supervisory Board since 2017. He also served on the IOC Olympic Boxing Task Force from 2018 to 2021 and as Secretary General of AIBA/IBA from 2021 to 2022. In 2024, he became President of the Hungarian Boxing Association and subsequently joined the Executive Board of European Boxing.

His academic background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Business Studies, a Sports Manager degree and a Coaching degree. He has also developed a substantial media career across television, radio and sports publishing, alongside business activities and long-standing involvement in charitable initiatives.

As President of the Hungarian Boxing Association, Kovács has focused on legal compliance, transparency, financial stability, competition organisation and national-team preparation. He also chaired the Local Organising Committee for the 2025 U23 European Boxing Championships.

PRIORITIES

As a candidate for World Boxing leadership, his stated priority is to help secure boxing's long-term place within the Olympic Movement, support future generations of athletes and contribute his sporting, governance and international experience to the continued development of World Boxing.