Memorandum

To:	**World Boxing Executive Board**
From:	Tom Dielen, Secretary General Julien Deux, Director of Governance, Integrity and Legal
Date:	22 October 2026
Subject:	**Proposed amendments to the World Boxing Competition Rules** ***Submitted by the Slovak Boxing Federation***

Dear Members of the Executive Board,

Please find below a memorandum concerning the proposals submitted by the Slovak Boxing Federation for amendments to the World Boxing Competition Rules for consideration at the World Boxing Congress in Panama on 20 November 2026.

Executive summary

- **The proposals raise sporting, medical, athlete-welfare, financial, operational and governance issues that require detailed consideration by the relevant World Boxing committee(s), in accordance with their responsibilities under the World Boxing Statutes (hereinafter, *the Statutes*). In addition, they do not, in their current form, contain sufficiently detailed implementing rules, criteria, responsibilities, budgets, transitional arrangements or enforcement mechanisms.**

- **It is therefore recommended that the Executive Board submits the proposals to Congress for referral to the relevant World Boxing committee(s), including, as applicable, the Sports Committee and/or the Competition and Events Committee and/or the Medical and Anti-Doping Committee, for detailed review and consultation.**

- **Where appropriate, the relevant committee(s) should then prepare revised proposals for examination by the Executive Board.**

1. The proposals

By correspondence dated 21 October 2026, the Slovak Boxing Federation submitted four proposed amendments to the World Boxing Competition Rules for inclusion on the agenda of the World Boxing Congress in Panama on 20 November 2026. The Federation requests that the proposals be included in the official Congress agenda and referred to the competent committees and governing bodies for consideration, consultation and implementation

The proposals, a copy of which is enclosed thereto, concern:

1. The review and expansion of Elite weight categories;
2. Annual Continental Championships in all relevant age categories;

3. World Boxing oversight of conditions at major championships; and
4. The abolition of participation or entry fees at World Boxing World Championships and recognised Continental Championships.

2. Applicable statutory framework

In accordance with Article 7.15 of the World Boxing Statutes (hereinafter, *the Statutes*) Full Members may submit agenda items to the Executive Board no later than 30 days before Congress. The proposals were received within this timeframe.

In addition, Article 7.13 provides that the Executive Board sets the agenda for Congress. In that regard, the Executive Board is responsible to determine the merits of Member proposals (Article 9.20(ix) of the Statutes) and to review the Competition Rules on an ongoing basis, including proposals from Members, and to submit recommended amendments to Congress (Article 9.20(xi) of the Statutes).

Article 10.1(ii) of the Statutes assigns responsibility for the Competition Rules and other sport rules to the Sports & Competition Committee, while the Medical and Anti-Doping Committee is responsible for matters relating to the health and welfare of boxers.

Finally, Article 7.12(xi) of the Statutes provides that amendments to the Competition Rules are approved by Congress by Special Majority.

3. Analysis

The proposals concern core elements of the competition system, athlete welfare, event organisation, financing and the respective responsibilities of World Boxing, the Continental Confederations, host organisers and National Federations.

They therefore require prior analysis at least in relation to:

- For weight categories: medical and safeguarding implications, weight-making practices, competitive balance, participation data, impact on Olympic qualification and Olympic Games categories, and the need for a coherent transition if categories are restored or expanded.
- For annual Continental Championships: feasibility, calendar capacity, hosting availability, financial sustainability, athlete workload and recovery, qualification pathways, and coordination with World Championships and multi-sport games.
- For hosting standards: the legal and contractual basis for imposing and enforcing minimum standards, inspection and complaint procedures, allocation of responsibility between World Boxing, Continental Confederations and local organisers, and proportionate remedies for non-compliance.
- For participation fees: the financial impact on World Boxing, Continental Confederations and event organisers; the distinction between participation fees, mandatory accommodation packages and optional services; and the need for a sustainable funding model before fees are abolished.

At this stage, the proposals set out objectives and requested mandates rather than complete regulatory amendments. Further work is needed to translate them into precise, enforceable and financially sustainable rules, with clear decision-making authority, timelines, transitional provisions and consequences for non-compliance

4. Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that the Executive Board:

1. **notes that the proposals are timely under Article 7.15 of the Statutes;**
2. **determines that the proposals raise important sporting, medical, athlete-welfare, financial, operational and governance issues requiring further detailed review;**
3. **decides not to recommend their approval in their current form;**
4. **submits the proposals to the Congress in Panama with a recommendation that they be referred to the relevant World Boxing committee(s), including, as applicable, the Sports Committee and/or the Competition and Events Committee and/or the Medical and Anti-Doping Committee, for detailed review and consultation;**
5. **requests the relevant World Boxing committee(s) to review the proposals and, where appropriate, prepare revised proposals for examination by the Executive Board.**

Proposals of the Slovak Boxing Federation for Inclusion in the Agenda of the World Boxing Congress 2026

Submitted by: Slovak Boxing Federation

Congress: World Boxing Congress 2026, Panama City

Date: 20 November 2026

The Slovak Boxing Federation respectfully submits the following proposals for consideration by the World Boxing Congress 2026. The proposals aim to protect athletes' health, expand sporting opportunities, ensure fair conditions at major championships and improve the financial sustainability of National Federations.

1 Review and Expansion of Elite Weight Categories

Background and justification

The current World Boxing weight-category structure includes differences of approximately five kilograms between several consecutive categories.

When World Boxing was established, this structure may have been justified by the limited number of Member National Federations and the need to ensure sufficient participation in every category. At the same time, most of these categories corresponded with the weight categories contested at the Olympic Games.

World Boxing has since expanded significantly. The number of participating National Federations and boxers can no longer be considered insufficient. There is therefore no compelling sporting reason to maintain the current structure throughout the entire Olympic cycle.

The removal of previously established categories, such as 57 kg, 60 kg, 63.5 kg, 67 kg and 71 kg, has negatively affected a considerable number of boxers. Some athletes have lost their natural competitive category and are consequently required either to compete against significantly heavier opponents or to reduce their body weight excessively.

Excessive weight reduction represents a serious risk to athletes' health, safety and long-term sporting development. The competition structure should not indirectly encourage boxers to compromise their health merely because an appropriate weight category is unavailable.

The Slovak Boxing Federation supports World Boxing in seeking an expansion of the Olympic weight categories through discussions with the International Olympic Committee. However, even if the number of Olympic weight categories cannot be increased, World Boxing competitions outside the Olympic Games should not necessarily be restricted to the Olympic weight-category structure.

World and Continental Championships could be contested in a broader and more athlete-friendly range of weight categories during most of the Olympic cycle. The approved Olympic categories could then be used specifically for Olympic qualification competitions and the Olympic Games where required.

Proposed decision

The Slovak Boxing Federation proposes that Congress:

1. Mandates the Sport and Competition Committee and the Medical and Anti-Doping Committee to conduct a joint review of the current Elite weight-category structure.

2. Requires the review to evaluate:

   - athlete health and the risks associated with excessive weight reduction;
   - competitive balance and differences in body weight between opponents;
   - participation data across World Boxing competitions;
   - the feasibility of restoring previously used weight categories;
   - the possibility of using an expanded weight-category structure at World and Continental Championships while retaining the approved Olympic categories for Olympic qualification events and the Olympic Games.

3. Requests that a proposed revised weight-category structure be presented to the Executive Board and Member National Federations following consultation with athletes, coaches, medical experts and National Federations.

4. Instructs World Boxing to continue discussions with the International Olympic Committee concerning the future expansion of Olympic boxing weight categories.

2 Annual Continental Championships in All Age Categories

Background and justification

The current model under which Continental Championships and World Championships may alternate between different years is disadvantageous to National Federations and athletes.

In many countries, National Federations depend substantially on public funding provided by ministries, National Olympic Committees or other public authorities. The level of this funding is frequently linked to results achieved at recognised international championships.

If Continental Championships are not held in a year in which World Championships take place, boxers and National Federations lose an important opportunity to achieve internationally recognised results. This places boxing at a disadvantage compared with other sports that provide athletes with several opportunities each year to compete at major championships and achieve results that can be taken into account within national funding systems.

World Championships and Continental Championships serve different sporting purposes. A Continental Championship is not merely a qualification or preparatory event for a World Championship. It has its own sporting value, history and importance for the development and visibility of boxing within each continent.

The successful organisation of additional U19 European Championships demonstrates that annual Continental Championships can provide valuable competitive opportunities and support the development of young boxers.

Proposed decision

The Slovak Boxing Federation proposes that Congress:

1. Supports the principle that Continental Championships should be organised every year in all relevant age categories, irrespective of whether a World Championship takes place in the same calendar year.

2. Requests World Boxing to coordinate with its Continental Confederations to establish a stable multi-year calendar that includes annual Continental Championships for Elite, 23, U19, U17 and other recognised age categories.

3. Requests that Continental and World Championships be scheduled with sufficient separation to protect athlete welfare and allow National Federations to participate effectively in both competitions.

3 World Boxing Oversight of Conditions at Major Championships

Background and justification

Accommodation and participation costs at major World and Continental Championships have increased significantly. Despite these rising costs, the quality of services provided to some National Federations does not always meet the standards expected at major international competitions.

National Federations have experienced significant differences in the quality of accommodation, food, transportation and other essential services. Reported concerns have included unsuitable or nutritionally inadequate food, unreliable transportation, poor accommodation standards and unequal conditions for participating delegations.

When accommodation packages are mandatory or controlled by the organiser, World Boxing and the relevant Continental Confederation must ensure that the price corresponds to the quality and standard of the services provided.

All participating delegations should receive comparable conditions. Differences in accommodation, food or transportation must not create an indirect sporting disadvantage.

Proposed decision

The Slovak Boxing Federation proposes that Congress mandates World Boxing to establish and enforce minimum hosting standards for all World and Continental Championships.

These standards should include:

- minimum accommodation requirements;
- appropriate, safe and nutritionally balanced meals suitable for elite athletes;
- reliable and equal transportation arrangements;
- transparent accommodation pricing and a clear description of the services included;
- equal treatment of all participating delegations;
- pre-event inspections by World Boxing or the relevant Continental Confederation;
- an accessible reporting and complaint mechanism during the competition;
- post-event evaluation by participating National Federations;
- corrective measures or sanctions where an organiser fails to comply with the required standards.

World Boxing should also reserve the right to require corrective action before or during an event and to take previous organisational failures into account when awarding future hosting rights.

4 Abolition of Participation Fees at World and Continental Championships

Background and justification

At the European Championships in Sofia, National Federations were required to pay a participation fee in addition to already substantial mandatory accommodation costs.

This represents a significant additional financial burden for National Federations. In the recent past, elite boxers were able to receive prize money at major international competitions. National Federations are now facing increasing accommodation and participation costs, while athletes receive no comparable financial support or prize money.

Mandatory participation fees may particularly disadvantage smaller National Federations and countries with limited public funding. Access to major championships should be determined by sporting criteria and World Boxing membership, not by the financial strength of a National Federation.

The introduction of additional participation fees represents a step backwards in the development and accessibility of international Olympic-style boxing.

Proposed decision

The Slovak Boxing Federation proposes that Congress:

1. Adopts the principle that no participation or entry fee should be charged to boxers or National Federations at World Boxing World Championships and recognised Continental Championships.
2. Requests World Boxing and the Continental Confederations to review all existing event fees and clearly distinguish between:
   - legitimate accommodation and service costs;
   - optional services;
   - participation or entry fees that should be abolished.
3. Requires all competition-related charges to be published transparently before registration opens.
4. Requests World Boxing to strengthen its commercial and sponsorship activities with the objective of reducing the financial burden on National Federations and progressively improving financial support and prize opportunities for athletes.
5. Requires any future proposal to introduce or increase a participation fee at a major championship to be supported by a transparent financial justification and approved by the competent governing body.

Conclusion

The Slovak Boxing Federation believes that the long-term success of World Boxing depends on placing athletes and National Federations at the centre of its decision-making processes.

A modern international federation should:

- protect athletes' health through an appropriate weight-category structure;
- provide regular opportunities to compete and achieve recognised results;
- guarantee fair and dignified conditions at major championships;
- ensure that financial requirements do not prevent participation;
- develop sustainable commercial partnerships that benefit athletes and Member National Federations.

The Slovak Boxing Federation therefore requests that these proposals be included in the official agenda of the World Boxing Congress 2026 and referred to the competent committees and governing bodies for consideration, consultation and implementation.