

NEWS FROM AIBA

AIBA EC PREPARES FOR HISTORIC YEAR IN BOXING

AIBA President Dr Ching-Kuo Wu closed the first AIBA Executive Committee meeting in a year he hailed as historic for the sport. Among many agenda items, the Executive Committee made important changes to some of its procedural rules, debated the rules of the forthcoming World Series of Boxing, received progress reports on preparations for forthcoming AIBA events and discussed the details of the "Road to London" program covering all major tournaments in the run-up to the London 2012 Olympic Games, approved the business plans for its commissions and confederations as well as the 2009 audit and the 2010 AIBA budget.

"This will be a very busy year for AIBA," Dr Wu said at the meeting which took place from the 28th to 30th of January in Xiamen, China. "We have five major AIBA events, including the Youth and Women's World Championships, as well as the launch of the World Series of Boxing. We also had a highly successful first-ever Joint Meeting of the Executive Committee and AIBA Commissions to encourage dialogue, which produced a lively exchange of information between all members of the AIBA family," he said. "But more importantly it allowed us to meet each other and develop synergies between our members."

The Executive Committee approved changes to the Disciplinary Commission Code and Procedural Rules and as the previous Disciplinary Commission resigned, Mr Pierre Cornu, who was previously Chairman of the AIBA Appeals Commission, was appointed as the new Chairman. Some modifications to the AIBA Bylaws were also agreed on to clarify nominations and election procedures, including new rules for Vice Presidency, qualification for elections and clear identification of Congress representation.

The "Road to Milan" program to prepare selected boxers and coaches from underprivileged nations for participation in the 2009 AIBA World Championships in Milan proved so successful that its principle has been extended to include all AIBA Men's and Women's World Championships plus the 2010 Youth World Championships. Thus there will be a "Road to Baku," "Road to Barbados," "Road to Busan" and a program for the 2012 Women's World Championships.



(AIBA)

The Executive Committee unanimously accepted a bid from Astana, Kazakhstan, to host the 2011 Junior World Championships. As part of their bid, the organizers agreed to implement a "Road to Astana" program along the lines of those used for the Elite and Youth level competitions.

Learn about the other EC decisions on the AIBA Web site [here](#).

YWCH REGISTRATION CLOSED, PARTICIPANTS ANNOUNCED

The preliminary registration for the AIBA Youth World Championships closed on Monday the 15th of February and the list of countries for the competition has been officially announced.

This year, the second edition of the Youth World Championships, previously known as the World Cadet Championships, will be taking place in Baku, Azerbaijan from April 20 to May 2. A total of 86 countries will be sending their best 17- and 18-year old boxers to compete in the tournament which is the only qualifying event for the Youth Olympic Games.

The final participant list will be available in March.

The list of additional Federations who have accepted an invitation to participate in the Road to Baku will be announced shortly.

To view the current list of participants, [click here](#).

AIBA DEADLINE REMINDERS - GRANT PROGRAM AND COACHES DATABASE

This is a reminder that the deadline for all grant program applications is **tomorrow, Friday, February 26**. Any application submitted to the AIBA headquarters after this date will be reviewed for approval only in 2011. There will be no exceptions.

The deadline for all Coaches Database forms is **Sunday, February 28**. Not only will they be used to evaluate and categorize the coaches by star level, the information will also be used to select coaches for the World Series of Boxing.

For more information and to download the applications and forms, [click here](#).

ADJUSTED AIBA WORLD RANKINGS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED

The new AIBA World Rankings are here! Because we are at the end of the two-year rolling period during which a boxer accumulates points, the weight for the oldest event that contributes to his ranking is decreased to 75 percent.

World Ranking points count in full for the last four events that a boxer has competed in. The points value for each older event decreases incrementally by 25 percent, up to a maximum of seven events.

In this case, it means that points allocated for the 2007 AIBA World Championships, the Olympic Qualifier 1 and the Olympic Qualifier 2 (for which a boxer received a score for the best out of the three) will be given less importance in the boxer's overall score, making way for this year's upcoming events, such as the Youth World Championships. This way, a boxer's most recent performance will be given more weight.

The next official AIBA World Rankings will be finalized at the end of the AIBA Youth World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan this April.

To view the latest AIBA World Rankings, [click here](#).



(AIBA)

AIBA BIDDING PROCESS

This year's AIBA bidding process has been opened for three major events:

1. The 2012 Continental Qualifying event for the 2012 Olympic Games
2. The 2012 Women's World Championships
3. The 2011 Women's Youth and Junior World Championships

The main purpose of opening these bids at such an early stage is to give a sufficient lead time to federations and bidding cities to prepare the bid files and the necessary guarantees, including the budget. The host cities for these events will be decided at the 2010 AIBA Executive Committee Meeting to be held in July.

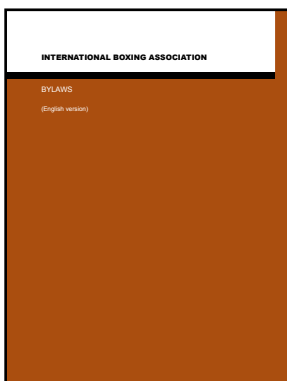
If you are interested in hosting any of these events, please fill in the Letter of Intent and send it to AIBA HQs office by **March 31, 2010**.

Find the letter and all necessary information on the [Bidding Process Web page](#).

ENGLISH AND FRENCH REVISED AIBA BYLAWS

The English and French versions of the revised AIBA Bylaws, which were amended by the AIBA Executive Committee at its meeting in Xiamen, China on January 30, 2010, are now available online.

View the revised AIBA Bylaws [here](#).



LATEST VERSION OF TECHNICAL & COMPETITION RULES PUBLISHED

The AIBA Executive Committee adopted changes to the AIBA Technical and Competition Rules at its meeting last month in Xiamen, China. The changes were made to increase the safety and protection of boxers and to pave the way for the introduction of a new Coaches Management System and are effective as of January 30, 2010.

Rules 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 and competition officials (Deputy Technical Delegates, ITOs and coaches) rules have changed.

Rule 1

The rules now fix the age range for Elite boxers at 19-34 and that for Youth boxers at 17-18.

Weight categories have been harmonized at 10 divisions for Elite and Youth competitions for both men and women. These categories will apply from 1 September 2010.

Three weight divisions have been fixed for Women's Boxing at the 2012 Olympic Games

Read about the other new rules in detail [here](#).

Download the latest version of the Technical and Competition Rules in PDF [here](#).

NEWS FROM THE CONFEDERATIONS

HISTORICAL BANGLADESHI GOLD MEDALS IN THE SOUTH ASIAN GAMES

Bangladeshi boxers Mohamed Jewel Ahmed Jony (60kg) and Mohamed Abdur Rahim (64kg) won historic gold medals in the 11th South Asian Games held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from January 29 to February 8.

This was the third time that the Bangladeshi capital hosted the multi-sport event with more than 2000 athletes from eight nations: Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives and host country Bangladesh. The athletes competed in 23 different sports including men's boxing, with six weight classes from 48kg up to 64kg.

Bangladesh had not won any gold medals at the Games since 1993 when Mozammel Haque acquired the first place in Dhaka. Bangladeshi boxers trained and prepared in Thailand before the tournament.

Jony won the lightweight class in Dhaka against Ajit Gurung of Nepal in the final and Rahim defeated Sri Lankan Sisira Kumarasinghe, claiming the second boxing gold for Bangladesh at the newly-built Mohammad Ali Boxing Stadium. The local favorite, 25-year-old Rahim, coached by Shafiul Azam and Kazi Shahadat, was a member of the AIBA Road to Milan program last year.

The Indian trio at the event returned home without any defeats. Asian Championships bronze medalist 24-year-old Amandeep Singh of India (48kg) reached the final where he defeated 21-year-old Mohamed Aref Nazari of Afghanistan. Asian champion Imphal-based 24-year-old soldier Suranjay Mayengbam Singh of India (51kg) lost only two contests last year. Suranjay Singh defeated the boxers in the South Asian Games and won the gold medal, triumphing over 23-year-old Pakistan's best boxer, Ahmet Comert Tournament' bronze medalist Muhammad Waseem.

India's third gold medal in the Games was won by 21-year-old Asian junior champion and national champion Chhote Lal Yadav (57kg), proving himself too strong for his Bangladeshi opponent Mohammad Faysal Mollah.



(Col. Muralidharan Raja)

Pakistan also bagged one gold medal when 20-year-old Naimatullah (54kg) from Quetta, who won a silver medal in the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Tournament in January, beat Sigyel of Bhutan in the final, counting his first international tournament gold medal.

Top boxers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will continue to prepare for the busy year with the upcoming Commonwealth Championships and the Commonwealth Games, which will be held in Delhi, India in October.

BACSKAI ON TOP IN THE BOCSKAI MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

Former AIBA junior world champion and European Union champion Balazs Bacskai, the best hope for the Hungarians, hammered his opponents in the 54th traditional Bocskai Memorial Tournament in Debrecen, Hungary on the weekend of February 12th.

Bacskai began boxing in 1995 when he was only 7 years old. He was coached by his father, former European Championships silver medalist Imre Bacskai, who was very proud of his son's excellent performance in the Bocskai Memorial final.

More than 1,500 spectators brought a great atmosphere to the Gabor Olah Sport Hall, where the tournament took place. The event is the first preparation tournament for the 2010 Moscow European

Men's Elite Championships. The mayor of Debrecen, Lajos Kosa, Olympic and world champion Istvan Kovacs and amateur and professional world champion Zsolt Erdei, two Hungarian national boxing icons, were special guests of the tournament.

The 22-year-old Bacskai (69kg) defeated his strong Israeli opponent Konstantin Snigour in the quarterfinals, won against his old French rival Jaoid Chiguer in the semifinals, then struck back at the World Championships silver medalist Andrey Zamkovoy of Russia, to claim the gold.

To see who else earned a medal, read the entire article on AIBA's Web site, [here](#).

CUBA CELEBRATES ITS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Osmay Costa (91kg), the AIBA World Championships Milan 2009 runner-up, celebrated his fourth reign in Cuban national boxing tournaments when he prevailed in the recently concluded event in the oriental city of Santiago de Cuba.

Among its famous boxing kings, the event included the universally-renowned athlete Roniel Iglesias (64kg) who has claimed three titles, and the American titleholder Robert Alfonso (+91kg), now owner of four.

Another celebrated and internationally recognized athlete in attendance was the Olympic runner-up Carlos Banteur (69kg) who increased his consecutive gold medal count to three at the island's event.

The World Championships participants Daniel Matellón (48kg) and Yasniel Toledo (60kg) also prevailed, the former conquering the same 54kg weight category as he did three years ago.

Yorman Rodriguez (51kg) returned as champion after winning twice in the 48kg weight category (in 2003 and 2004), Arisnoide Despaigne (75kg) defended the title he claimed last year, this time winning against the Youth World Championships titleholder Rey Eduardo Reicio and Júlío César de La Cruz (81kg) regained the title he had won in 2008.



(Daniel Anaya)

Together with Matellón, Jorge Luis Mustelier (54kg) and Liván Herrera (57kg) made their boxing debuts. Liván Herrera was eliminated in his first bout against Yankiel Leon.

Other boxing celebrities in attendance were many of the well-known winners such as Yampier Henández (51kg), bronze medalist in Beijing 2008, and Idel Torriente (64kg), who won the gold in the 2008 World Cup in Moscow.

Santiago de Cuba dominated the team competition with 45 points, Camagüey was the second with 40 and the City of a Havana went down from first to third with 34.

ABAE'S 100 OPPORTUNITIES TO ACTIVATE GRASSROOTS BOXING

The Amateur Boxing Association of England and the National Skills Academy for Sport and Active Leisure (NSA) are to create 100 apprenticeships in community sport to support the development and growth of grassroots boxing.

The project, which is part of the Future Fund for Jobs (FFJ) program, will provide employability training and qualifications to long-term unemployed people that will help them to secure permanent jobs in health, fitness and community sport.

Participants who complete the course will be recognized as qualified coaches meeting the sport's required operating standards for delivering community boxing.

"This project is a great opportunity for long term unemployed people with an interest in boxing to receive skills training and advice that could lead to a full time career working within the sport and assisting the spread of boxing in communities and schools," said the ABAE's Boxing Development Manager, Rebecca Gibson.

Apprentices will be assigned to work with a Boxing Development Officer (BDO) who will provide support and assistance in the delivery of non-contact boxing programs in education and community settings in hard-to-reach communities.

All apprentices will receive mentoring and support and will participate in an agreed and personalized program of work that will cover aspects such as leadership and coaching, with those who complete the six-month program being able to choose further elements such as officiating and judging.

All apprentices will receive employability advice and assistance and support in securing a permanent job at the end of their training. Potential employers with a track-record of creating jobs in the development of community sport, particularly boxing, include local authorities, the leisure and fitness industry, the third sector, the armed forces and the fire and police services.

EC APPROVES TWO NEW FEDERATIONS

The AIBA Executive Committee unanimously approved the applications for membership from two African boxing federations: Guinea Bissau and Tanzania.

Both dossiers were submitted in accordance with AIBA Statutes and ByLaws and met all the application criteria. The Executive Committee's decision from late January means that the two new federations are now provisionally admitted as members of AIBA until their membership is ratified by the AIBA Congress later this year.



NEWS FROM WSB

FOUR ASIAN WSB FRANCHISES SIGN WITH WSB

The World Series of Boxing (WSB) took on a tangible form as the cities of Astana, Baku, Beijing and Delhi emerged as the franchise holders for the four teams in the tournament's Asian conference. The cities signed their final franchise agreements at the first-ever joint meeting between the AIBA Executive Committee and all AIBA Commissions on January 28 to 30 in Xiamen, China.

The agreements pave the way for the franchises to start recruiting their top national boxers, developing their brands and structuring their operations ready for the start of the first regular season of the WSB, which starts in November this year.

Proceedings respected strict alphabetical order as the first Asian franchise to sign the final agreement was Astana, Kazakhstan. AIBA President Dr Ching-Kuo Wu stressed that Kazakhstan "was one of the first cities to agree to take a WSB franchise. The country has a very high standard of boxing and I am therefore very happy that it will have a team in the tournament," he said.

Mr Jambulat Sarsenov, Vice President of the Kazakhstan Boxing Association, thanked Dr Wu for leading the efforts in this important project. "For us this is a new challenge and a new opportunity for our boxers," he said. "I hope it will be a new beginning for boxing in Kazakhstan."

Mr Suleyman Mikaylov, Vice President of the Azerbaijan Boxing Federation, initialed the agreement. Dr Wu expressed his gratitude for the federation's quick action: "Azerbaijan only took the decision to take a WSB franchise at the AIBA President's Cup in Baku in December last year. Now, only a month later, they have signed the agreement."

China Boxing Industry Group (CBIG) is behind the Beijing franchise. Its Chairman, Li Hou Qiang, a former heavyweight boxer, formalized the WSB agreement. CBIG has been involved in the China Boxing market

for over 10 years and its main focus is to develop an understanding of boxing and the sportsmanship associated with the sport throughout China.

"The fact that we are signing a Chinese franchise at a meeting being held in China is significant," Dr Wu said. Boxing is growing very fast in China and the Beijing WSB franchise will undoubtedly help the sport to develop even further."

The final franchise to sign was Delhi. Franchise owner Videocon Industries was the first organization to commit to the WSB by signing the heads of agreement. The USD 2.5 billion conglomerate was represented at the signing ceremony by its Chief Marketing Officer, Mr Sunil Tandon, who said that "Videocon looks forward to developing boxing on a global scale, since we are present all over the world. The vision of Colonel Raja, the President of the Indian Boxing Federation, made the decision to commit to the World Series of Boxing easy. It was a 'no brainer.'"

To read the entire article, [click here](#).



(AIBA)

TOP UKRAINIAN BOXERS SIGN UP FOR WSB AT NATIONALS



(AIBA)

Five of the country's top boxers signed up for the World Series of Boxing at the 2010 Ukrainian National Boxing Championships in Sumy, Ukraine on the 11th of February.

The list is headed by World Championships super heavyweight (+91kg) silver medalist Roman Kapitonenko, who is fifth in the latest AIBA World Rankings, which were published at the beginning of February.

Sergiy Derevyanchenko, bronze medalist at 75kg in Milan, is Ukraine's second World Championships podium finisher to join the World Series of Boxing.

The other Ukrainian WSB hopefuls are Vitaly Volkov and Ivan Kabanchuk at 54kg, gold and bronze medalists respectively at the Military World Championships, and Maxim Tretjak at 57kg.

As part of a firm commitment to the World Series of Boxing, which is scheduled to start in November, the Ukrainian Boxing Federation also expressed an interest to dispatch its coaches to the franchises teams and offered its training manual as a valuable input in the process of preparing boxers for this new style of boxing.

BERNATH AND SZELLO STRENGTHEN HUNGARY'S WSB CONTINGENT

Hungarian national champions Imre Szello (81kg) and Istvan Bernath (+91kg) are the latest boxers to sign participation agreements for the World Series of Boxing. They join their compatriot Gyula Kate, the world number two at 64kg.

Szello, who is 26 years old, is 12th in the latest AIBA World Rankings. He made the quarter finals at the 2007 AIBA World Championships in Chicago, which qualified him for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, where he was defeated in his opening bout by Great Britain's Tony Jeffries.

After knocking out England's Obed Mbwakongo in the second round of the final in Odense, Denmark, last year, Szello became the reigning European Union champion

At the same competition, 21-year-old Bernath, who is coached by Imre Backsai, took the silver medal in the super heavyweight contest.



(AIBA)

AIBA EC ADOPTS BASIC PRINCIPLES OF WORLD SERIES OF BOXING RULES

The AIBA Executive Committee adopted the basic principles of the future World Series of Boxing Technical and Competition Rules at their meeting in Xiamen, China at the end of January. The rules have been designed with a view to ensuring spectacular boxing shows while giving top priority to the safety of the WSB boxers.



(AIBA)

The WSB will be open to AIBA registered boxers between the ages of 18 and 35. There will be five weight categories: Bantam (54kg), Light (61kg), Middle (73kg), Light heavy (85kg) and Heavy (+91kg) and the weigh-in for the competition will take place 24 to 30 hours before the start of the first bout.

There will be 5 rounds of 3 minutes in the team competition and 7 rounds of 3 minutes in the Individual Championships. Match decisions will be based on points, Technical Knock-Outs, Knock-Outs and disqualifications – there will be no draws.

A new computerized scoring display with electronic input is being studied in order to provide an open scoring system that will be based on the so-called 10-point "Must System" (10-9, 10-8, 10-7, to indicate the winner of each round and rank the second-placed boxer based on the level of their performance). Scores will be publicly displayed at the end of each round and at the conclusion of the bout. The scores will be given by three judges seated ringside.

The boxing gloves used in the World Series of Boxing will be 8 ounces for bantamweight and lightweight and 10 ounces for all other weights. However, completely new boxing gloves are currently being developed specifically for the WSB.

TRAINING CAMP AND TEST EVENT ANNOUNCED

Between April 8 and April 19, athletes, coaches, referees and judges will attend a week-long WSB training camp at the flagship facilities in Assisi, Italy that were used for the Road to Milan training camp. The WSB will select two potential WSB boxers in each of the five WSB weight classes for the training camp and test event.

The test event will take place on 21 April at the Serhedchi Olympic Sport Complex in Baku two days before the first bouts of the AIBA Youth World Championships. The test bouts will be the first opportunity for boxers to compete under the new WSB rules, which were adopted by the AIBA Executive Committee last month.