



International Boxing Association

**Circular letter to International Olympic Committee Members, National Olympic Committees and International Sports Federations.**

Lausanne, February 5, 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

We hereby send you AIBA's official position (in the form of a direct reply) regarding the recent articles concerning our organisation and its President, Dr C.K. Wu, which have been published in Sport Intern.

As a reminder, AIBA has already sued the publication in question, with success, last year and will not hesitate to take appropriate legal action against such continued harassment.

With best regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PO' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Paul O'Neil  
AIBAWSB PR & Communications Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AD' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Anthony Downes  
AIBA Legal Manager



International Boxing Association

Lausanne, February 5, 2010

Mr Karl-Heinz Huba  
Sport Intern  
Postfach 1364  
D-64649 Lorsch

Subject: Sport Intern article about AIBA

Dear Mr Huba,

In reference to the article published in *Sport Intern* (Volume 42 Issue 20100202), we are very disappointed that, despite our earlier cooperation in providing you with clear answers to your inquiries, you nevertheless published an article containing such speculative and misleading statements. Such action leads inevitably to the conclusion that, for reasons unknown, it is your intention to subvert the proper administration of AIBA and to damage the reputation and interests of its esteemed President and Executive Director.

In our reply to you, we clearly stated that the AIBA Executive Committee is responsible for deciding the host cities of the AIBA Congress. Yet you state, wrongly and without any supporting evidence, that this is allegedly done by the "President's Office". We categorically refute this allegation.

Furthermore, you report only selectively on the recent disciplinary case against Mr Obreja. Firstly, Mr Obreja had already been suspended by the AIBA Disciplinary Commission and was therefore in breach of this suspension by acting as President of the Romanian Boxing Federation, and was sanctioned accordingly. It is crucial to the proper administration of AIBA that its members and their officials respect the decisions of its judicial bodies (decisions which we remind you have been upheld by the Court of Arbitration for Sport), and they must be sanctioned for failing to do so.

Secondly, Mr Obreja was sanctioned for ordering that the finals of the 2009 Iasi Romanian Cup be contested without headguards, a serious violation of the AIBA Technical & Competition Rules which endangered the health of the boxers and was therefore a serious breach of article 45 of the Disciplinary Code. It is ludicrous to suggest that the creation of the new World Series of Boxing competition should in any way excuse this breach of the AIBA Technical and Competition Rules by Mr Obreja. The World Series of Boxing is a completely separate tournament that will be governed by separate Technical and Competition Rules, which provide additional safeguards to ensure that the absence of protective headgear does not endanger the health of boxers competing under such Rules. AIBA's Technical and Competition Rules, which make the use of protective headgear mandatory, remain valid for all AIBA competitions and are not affected by the new competition.



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Finally, Mr Obreja was also sanctioned for presenting evidence to the Disciplinary Commission during the proceedings which was known to be falsified and forged in an attempt to mislead the Disciplinary Commission and exonerate Mr Obreja, in breach of article 52 of the Disciplinary Code. This is again a serious violation of the AIBA Disciplinary Code.

On the basis of these conclusions, the AIBA Disciplinary Commission reached an independent decision to suspend Mr Obreja for a period of 11 years. In the opinion of the AIBA Executive Committee, such suspension was excessive. Accordingly, an appeal was lodged with the Appeals Commission, concurrently with an appeal lodged by Mr Obreja himself. This clearly shows that all parties to the process, and indeed the entire AIBA Family, follow and respect the "basic democratic principles" and the rule of law in relation to the administration of AIBA.

We also wish to respond to your incongruous accusation that the Disciplinary Commission resigned in protest to the appeal lodged by AIBA in these proceedings. In fact, the Disciplinary Commission determined to resign for personal reasons in late December. At the request of the President, the Disciplinary Commission agreed to delay their resignations until reaching a final decision in the proceedings against Mr Obreja and the Romanian Boxing Federation, as these proceedings were completed and only a formal decision was required to be prepared before an announcement could be made. Accordingly, there is no connection whatsoever between the appeal of AIBA in these proceedings and the resignation of the Disciplinary Commission, and the President and the former members of the Disciplinary Commission continue to enjoy good relations.

We hereby inform you that we will be forwarding this letter in response to your injurious article to the IOC, NOCs and International Federations and we will continue to respond vehemently to any false accusations against AIBA by further legal action against you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. O'Neil', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Paul O'Neil  
AIBA/WSB PR & Communications Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Downes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anthony Downes  
AIBA Legal Manager