



EUROPEAN BOXING UNION (EBU) – NEWS (February 2023)

Dear friends in boxing

This January wasn't a busy month for our EBU-titles, but some of the best European fighters have been active. I had the pleasure and opportunity to supervise for the WBC the World-Lightheavyweight-clash (WBC-, IBF-, WBO-titles) between the champion Artur Beterbiev (CAN) and Anthony Yarde (UK), both of European origin; it took place in the sold-out OVO-Wembley Arena in London, and it was a thrilling close contest until the end. Both contestants gave everything, and finally Beterbiev was a bit stronger, winning by TKO 8 and keeping his three titles. Yarde was and is an honour and pride for British and European boxing, and I would be delighted to see him fight for the EBU-title. As it is always the case, the whole show was perfectly under control of the BBBoC, several doctors were at ringside and in the dressing rooms, the medical assistance and the ambulance were on site, the pre- and after medicals took place, the antidope control was made, and everything was done to care for the best of the involved boxers.

We boxing people do not like to hear it, but it stays a fact that **boxing can be a dangerous sport!** It is therefore our firm obligation to do everything we can to prevent our boxers from damage and accidents. Very important is to see that the fights we authorise are not onesided and dangerous, that the boxers we allow to fight are in a good shape and medically fit, and that we do not allow fighters to perform that are too old (for boxing!), have had too many fights and suffered too many (stoppage) defeats. Of course our boxers are entitled to expect capable referees and well organized shows. What is dangerous in the long run are too many punches to the head over a too long period and not enough recovery time (without fighting nor sparring). The effect of too many punches to the brain may be CTE (Chronic traumatic encephalopathy), which can cause depressions, premature dementia, Alzheimer, Parkinson etc.

Recently I had to notice that a boxer was authorised to fight by his EBU-Federation and authorised to fight as well by the local EBU-Federation, and this boxer is 43 years of age, has a record of 40 wins, 61 defeats (48 by KO), and he lost his last 8 fights by KO/TKO. I understand that some boxers need to fight to earn their living, but I beg you all to understand that this is dangerous; this fighter risks to suffer from the effects of CTE and he should no longer receive punches to his brain. What is the future of this boxer, if he continues fighting and suddenly starts to suffer from CTE, which is irreversible? **Please pay attention, please stay human, the health of your boxers may stay in your hands!**

I repeat myself, when I urge you to send your authorizations to fight only and exclusively from Federation to Federation and no longer to managers, promoters, matchmakers nor boxers, and to accept such authorizations only when they are sent by the licensing Federation! It is to prevent dangerous fake authorizations!

I thank you for reading me; your comments are always welcome

With my warmest personal regards

Peter Stucki, EBU-President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Stucki', is written over the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.