



## EUROPEAN BOXING UNION (EBU) – NEWS (May, 2025)

Dear boxing friends

May I beg you to excuse me for having left out the EBU-News as of April, 2025. This April gifted us two EBU-Silver title contests and three EBU-female fights but no EBU-male championship contest.

Please allow me to draw your attention on some of the problems the EBU-General Secretary and the EBU-Council often have to deal with.

As you well know the EBU-champion has the possibility to make a voluntary defence against any top-20 EBU-rated contender, and then he has the obligation to meet his official challenger, who is the highest EBU-rated contender that agrees. If the parties are unable to find an agreement there will be an auction where the interested promoters may make a purse-bid for the net purse they offer for both boxers. The highest bidder wins and the purse will be split into 60% for the champion and 40% for the challenger. Recently the promoters of the two boxers found an agreement, but they didn't sign it and didn't confirm it to the General Secretary, who arranged for the auction of the contest. At the day of the opening of the purse-bids it became clear that only one promoter had made a bid, such winning the auction for a purse that was lower than previously agreed. Of course the only purse-bid offering promoter won the auction, and the opponent was so very much disappointed about the low purse that he didn't want to fight any more, which means that he has to be penalized for pulling out of the contest after the purse-bids. What we may learn from this experience is that both boxers and their representatives have to inform the EBU in writing and with a signed contract once there is an agreement; only then the EBU will refrain from arranging an auction.

Another never ending problem are the constant postponements of already arranged contests, above all after purse-bids. The EBU-rules state in art. 7.8: The purse-bid winning promoter shall have 30 days to specify the date of the contest. He shall organize the contest within 75 days but not before 21 days from the date of the opening of the purse-bids, **unless agreement of the involved parties**. For various reasons (TV-date, venue, holiday season etc.) it happens very often that the purse winning promoter has to ask the EBU for a postponement of the contest, many times beyond the 75 days stated by the rules. This means for the boxers that they have to rearrange their preparations for the fight (training, weight-making etc.) which is simply unbearable when several postponements are agreed. I am of the firm opinion we should stick to our rules and grant postponements only when all the involved parties agree. If there is no agreement then we have to repeat the auction.

It happens that an EBU-champion pulls out of a championship-contest whose date and venue have been fixed already. According to art. 13.6 of our rules he will then lose his title. Exceptions have been made if there is a valid medical reason. In such cases the EBU needs a neutral medical report. Very recently an EBU-champion pulled out of the contest after the weigh-in and without any medical report. This means cheating the promoter and cheating the public which we cannot accept.

The IBA keeps organizing tournaments where professional boxers are participating with their IBA-licences. May I beg our member-Federations to make sure that these boxers are medically fit to fight, and that the organizing Federation is EBU-affiliated according to the EBU-agreement?

**Please show responsibility and care for all boxers, not only for those that are licensed with you!**

With my warmest personal regards

Peter Stucki, EBU-President