



**BOXING
SOUTH
AFRICA**

SANCTIONING AND CHAMPIONSHIP POLICY AND RULES

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Sanctioning Committee is an appendage of BSA. From its inception, BSA created a championship system, whose basic tenets are competition, activity and experience. The system is designed to be open and transparent and to reward deserving boxers across the broad spectrum of the weight divisions. Boxing remains a unique sport in various ways and thus, from time to time, special and unique circumstances arise which cannot at all times be anticipated and addressed adequately by applying the Regulations. It is for this reason that the Chairperson of the Board, in consultation with his Board, is empowered and authorized to interpret these Regulations and apply rulings as he/she shall, in his/her sole discretion deem to be serving the best interests of boxing in South Africa.

2. ABBREVIATIONS

BSA:	Boxing South Africa
The Act:	The Boxing Act No.11 of 2001
Regulations:	The Boxing Regulations, 2004

3. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Tournament – any function to which the public have access to, whether on payment of charge for admission or not, and at which two or more licensed professional boxers engage in boxing for gain, whether by way of competition, exhibition or otherwise.

Promoter – Any person to whom a certificate of registration as a Promoter has been issued in terms of regulation 5 (1) of the Regulations.

Boxer - Any person whom a certificate of registration as a Boxer has been issued in terms of section 3 (1) of the Regulations.

Sanctioning Committee – A committee that consists of no fewer than four members appointed by the BSA Board to sanction tournaments in the Republic in line with the prescripts of the Act and Regulations.

4. BACKGROUND

In all BSA sanctioned championship and elimination contests, general rules as promulgated by BSA from time to time, apply. These rules reflect the basic principles of BSA and shall apply in all boxing matters unless a written modification or an exception is issued by BSA in its role as the sole Boxing Regulator in the country. For the effective application of the digression, each case is decided on its merits and demerits.

BSA shall have sole authority and discretion to apply these rules through its Sanctioning Committee. All actions will be taken in accordance with the Regulations and the attendant Act of 2001. All actions of BSA shall be interpreted solely in accordance with the Act and Regulations of BSA. The correct interpretation of the Act and Regulations is deemed to supersede and control any conflict or inconsistency with any other applicable regulation of a boxing commission.

5. APPLICATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE GENERAL RULES

BSA is the custodian of professional boxing in South Africa; consequently, it is endowed with the necessary capacity to bestow titles, crown champions and award deserving boxers. In equal measure, this august organization is empowered to strip and declare titles vacant when the occasion arises.

6. RULES APPLICABLE TO BSA CONTESTS

6.1. Approval of championship fights and elimination bouts:

Promoters must request, in writing, the approval of BSA and its Sanctioning Committee for championship, elimination or qualifying bouts. All bouts shall receive sanction from the Chairperson of the Sanctioning Committee or, where necessary, direct approval from the Chairperson of the BSA Board. Necessarily, the Promoter must comply fully with all the terms and conditions of BSA's sanctioning, including payment of all fees and compliance with all applicable Regulations

6.2. BSA's powers to deny sanction:

BSA reserves the right to refuse to sanction any bout, or to withdraw its sanction prior to the bout taking place. BSA may at its sole discretion stop a fight taking place in its area of jurisdiction. Such instances may include, but not limited to the following:

6.2.1. Non-compliance with the Act and Regulations

- a) BSA may deny or withdraw its sanction of any contest where the gate takings or any portion of the monies concerned will be used for fraudulent or racketeering purposes.
- b) BSA may deny or withdraw its sanction of any contest where the Promoter, either by omission or commission, violates the basic principles of the Act and Regulations.
- c) BSA may deny or withdraw its sanction of a tournament involving a Promoter whose behaviour is inimical to the fundamental principles governing boxing in South Africa and/or acts in opposition to BSA's standpoint on safety and other measures to protect licensees and the public, or any other violations of BSA's Act and Regulations.

6.3. BSA's right to revoke a sanction after a contest:

6.3.1. BSA reserves the right to revoke its sanctioning and approval of any bout that it had previously approved or had agreed to sanction as a result of, but not limited to, the following:

- i. If for any reason or another the Act and Regulations were undermined and not complied with and this has, directly or indirectly, severely affected the end result of a contest.
- ii. If bona fide BSA Ring Officials were not used in the adjudication of the fight result.

6.3.2. Should the sanctioning of a bout which was sanctioned as a title fight be revoked, but the contest allowed to stand as a permissible fight, the status of that bout may be downgraded to that of a non-title fight.

6.3.3. In the case of an elimination contest, the revocation of sanctioning shall not affect the rights of boxers to participate in the elimination contest however none of the boxers will gain any right to a claim for a mandatory status or progress to the next stage of the elimination contest. BSA might however, in its discretion, consider the action or result of the bout in determining its rating of the boxers. The ruling of BSA in matters of this nature, is final and binding on all parties.

6.3.4. The decision of a provincial manager does not supersede the authority of BSA in these matters. BSA is duly authorised to sanction tournaments across the face of the republic. If an event where the sanctioning of a bout or a tournament is revoked for any reason, BSA reserves the right to collect any monies due to boxers in respect of purses or retain all monies deposited in its account in lieu of the said fight. These will include but not limited to sanction fees, BSA's propriety trademarks, and BSA's intellectual property rights.

7. DISPUTE BETWEEN A BOXER AND A BOXER'S REPRESENTATIVE

Should a dispute arise between a Boxer and a Manager, Promoter, or any other representative claiming contractual rights with respect to a Boxer, BSA might order the boxer to go ahead with the fight as scheduled on condition that a whole or portion of the boxer's purse shall be withheld and be kept safe by the BSA until the dispute is resolved. The Boxer indemnifies BSA from all claims, demands, and liabilities of any kind related to the dispute.

8. TITLE FIGHTS AND ELIMINATION BOUTS

Correspondence, in lieu, of title fights and elimination contests will be forwarded to the Boxer or representatives at their last known contact details, in the possession of BSA. There shall be a period not exceeding thirty days within which the parties concerned must negotiate and finalize the contract. Should the parties fail to do the business within this allocated time they, under reasonable reasons, are free to negotiate with BSA for a reasonable extension of time.

9. CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS

Privileges of BSA Promoters – All Promoters who are registered with and in good standing with BSA may register contracts for championship and elimination fights with BSA. BSA's Sanctioning Committee will always be at hand to assist. BSA also offers opportunities for its Promoters to engage and compete in purse bids. Promoters are free to participate in any other activity whose programme is consistent with BSA Rules and Regulations.

10. CONTRACTS WITH BOXERS

- 10.1. In order to be recognized by BSA, all contracts between Boxers and Managers and/or Promoters, or any other BSA licensee must be filed with BSA.
- 10.2. It is the responsibility of the Manager and/or Promoter or any BSA licensee contracted to a Boxer to convey the substance of BSA communiqués to the Boxer. The boxer, at all material times, must be kept abreast of all boxing developments in his/her space.
- 10.3. In the event where a Boxer is not represented by a Manager or Promoter, the Boxer bears the responsibility to keep him/herself informed of all boxing developments in his/her space.

11. CHAMPIONSHIP DEFENCE OBLIGATIONS

- 11.1. A South African champion must defend his/her title in the same weight division at all times and persistent failure to maintain this standard might result in the champion having to relinquish the title.
- 11.2. A national title holder may defend his/her title at least once every three (3) months in a voluntary defence option against any of the top ten rated contenders as compiled in the BSA ratings, except if the contender has lost his/her previous fight. The champion in a voluntary defence period must make his/her voluntary choice and fight within the stipulated period. Should a champion fail to make a voluntary defence within the stipulated period, he/she will forfeit the voluntary status and automatically inherit a mandatory defence.
- 11.3. Champions who, at the time of a challenge, are contracted to fight for a fully-fledged world title of a sanctioning body recognized by BSA and furnish BSA with such a contract, will be allowed to go through the world title challenge before fulfilling the SA title obligation, but will be required to honour the SA title defence as their next fight.

- 11.4. South African champions are free to engage in non-title bouts with authorization from BSA.
- 11.5. A champion, by virtue of his status as a champion, has the first privilege and opportunity to challenge another standing champion in a different weight division, provided that he/she meets all other BSA rules and/or policies applicable to sanctioning of championship titles.
- 11.6. Should a champion, who meets all applicable sanctioning rules and/or policy requirements, challenge and engage another champion in a title fight in a different weight division than the one he/she holds lose the fight, he/she will not forfeit his/her championship status.
- 11.7. All South African champions are expected to honour the mandatory status of a mandatory challenger. It remains the prerogative of the Sanctioning Committee to nominate mandatory contenders in the respective weight divisions.
- 11.8. A challenger who wins a title in a specific weight division during a voluntary defence challenge shall automatically inherit the mandatory defence obligations of the erstwhile champion.
- 11.9. The winner of a vacant title earns a mandatory defence against the next highest rated boxer in the BSA's rating list in the same weight division. It remains the prerogative of the Sanctioning Committee to nominate and sanction the mandatory challenger to face off with the champion.
- 11.10. BSA might, in its discretion, sanction and approve elimination bouts in certain weight divisions for the sole purpose of improving the BSA's ratings lists.
- 11.11. BSA reserves the right to either withdraw or suspend recognition of a Boxer as a national champion should he/she fail to defend the title in accordance with the Boxing Act or Regulations, or for any other

reason/s which justify suspension or withdrawal of such championship, such as the violation of the Boxing Act.

11.12. Should a national champion be convicted or imprisoned for a crime involving moral turpitude, be banned by a recognised sport and/or legal organisation from the sport of boxing, or any other sport to which he/she competes professionally; BSA shall declare the title vacant and set out a procedure to crown a new champion. Consequently, the offender will immediately be removed from the BSA 's ratings list.

11.13. Should a title become vacant for any reason whatsoever, BSA may in its discretion take appropriate steps to fill the title. Inter-alia, BSA may order and sanction a series of elimination bouts by appointing leading contenders with the ultimate winner being recognized as the new champion. Alternatively, BSA may order a title fight between the two top contenders as listed in the BSA's rating list.

12. INTERIM CHAMPIONSHIPS AND CHAMPIONS IN RECESS

12.1. Whenever a champion, nationally or provincially, is temporarily unable to defend his/her championship for whatever reason/s, the Sanctioning Committee will appoint and sanction the mandatory contender to contest the title against another deserving contender. This in its development will lead to two champions simultaneously existing in the same weight division, with the latest crowned champion known as an Interim Champion.

12.2. As and when the original champion is able to return, he/she must fight against the Interim Champion in a 'unification bout'. The winner of this contest will then be crowned and conferred as the Undisputed Champion of that weight division.

- 12.3. In an instance where the original champion cannot return or transfers to a different weight division, the Interim Champion will automatically be crowned and conferred and the Undisputed Champion.
- 12.4. Whenever a Champion or a rated boxer is temporarily unable, due to injury or illness, to fight for a period of no more than 12 months, he/she shall be placed as a Boxer/Champion in Recess, subject to him/her providing to BSA a medical certificate confirming such. Upon his/her return he/she will be afforded the privilege of being included in the top ten SA rankings and/or shall be entitled to claim recognition as the first contender for a title, subject to BSA's discretion and certain conditions imposed on him/her by BSA.

13. CHAMPIONSHIP APPROVALS

Subject to approval by BSA and its responsible committees, national champions are expected to voluntarily or mandatorily defend their titles as outlined in the Boxing Regulations. The challengers will be boxers rated in the top ten BSA's rating list in the same weight division and must meet, but not limited to, the following criteria.

- 13.1. The challenger must have either won or drawn his/her last fight
- 13.2. Must not have been inactive for a period of more than twelve (12) months

14. REMATCHES IN CHAMPIONSHIP CONTESTS

BSA does not promote direct return fight contracts, as such fight arrangements tend to stifle the movement of other boxers in the particular weight division.

In certain instances where a decision was close and/or controversial the Sanctioning Committee may recommend to the Chairperson of the Board to order a return fight within 60 days. The Committee may also recommend that the said champion be

allowed to continue with the next defence. The aggrieved challenger” would then be designated as the next available challenger.

15. INACTIVE CHAMPIONS AND DORMANT WEIGHT DIVISIONS

The Sanctioning and the Ratings Committees are both charged with the responsibility of activating and rekindling the different weight divisions and much more scrutiny is needed where pole contenders are not getting due opportunities to contest titles. In this regard the following is to be noted.

15.1. Mandatory challengers are expected to prioritise their mandatory challenger status and therefore must always declare their readiness to challenge for national titles. Should the mandatory challenger be unwilling or unable to honour his/her obligations as the mandatory challenger, BSA and the Sanctioning Committee reserve the right to pursue remedial actions that will ensure that other deserving contenders in the weight division are not disadvantaged by the mandatory challenger’s decision. The remedial actions may include but not limited to the removal of the said mandatory challenger in the Boxing SA’s ratings list.

15.2. The respective Committees will, in the interest of resuscitating the various weight divisions, order round robin contests where necessary.

16. BSA RING OFFICIALS

The appointment, approval and acceptance of Ring Officials who work under the aegis of BSA is the prerogative of the BSA Chairperson. BSA will strive to appoint men and women of integrity to serve the sport of boxing and BSA may periodically call upon Ring Officials to undergo performance tests as well as oral or written tests to determined their competency as and when mandated by BSA.

Whilst on BSA duties, Ring Officials are expected to act as paragons of virtue impartial, non-partisan and fair. All their actions must be guided by BSA's moral and ethical standards.

17. APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

- 15.1. This policy is effective from the date of approval by the Chairperson of the Accounting Authority.
- 15.2. The CEO will be responsible for implementation and monitoring of the policy.
- 15.3. This policy will be reviewed as and when there are amendments or every 3 years and revision thereto must obtain Board approval.

18. LEVEL OF APPROVAL

Dr. Malefetsane Ngatane



Signature

9 Dec 2019

Date

