

2020-2021 SUMMARY REPORT

## Introduction

The year 2020-21 was a crucial one in AIBA's history, in which AIBA undertook a full set of reforms and recovered financial stability, thanks to the input of Russia's Umar Kremlev, who was elected as the federation's new president in December 2020.

President Kremlev, who had been secretary general of the Russian Boxing Federation since 2017 and was already an AIBA Executive Committee member, prevailed over a historic six other candidates in the fully transparent and democratic elections.

He replaced Morocco's Mohamed Moustahsane, who had been acting as interim president since July 2019.

The voting process, conducted via LUMI's online platform, was fully anonymous and monitored by an independent public notary, Edward Gardener.

Ahead of the election, Bernard Welten, the new head of AIBA's Ethics Commission, who is also a Swiss arbitrator at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, said: "Despite the ongoing pandemic, AIBA has treated it as an important mission to implement reforms. Our Ethics and Disciplinary Commissions have both been strengthened to oversee governance and ensure transparency."

Upon his election, President Kremlev said: "We have to unite together and work with one mission, and one mission alone: rebuilding the credibility and trust that AIBA once had in the minds of sports people worldwide and that includes, of course, restoring AIBA's Olympic status."

President Kremlev said that he would work for AIBA without any remuneration, deciding to waive the representation allowance and any other expenses to support his activities as the AIBA President. All these funds will be used to support boxing veterans. Following the election, AIBA adopted a new constitution, with an overwhelming majority of 98 votes in favour, six votes against, and 26 abstentions. The key objectives of the constitutional reform are to improve democratic governance, transparency, efficiency and ethical oversight at AIBA, in line with the recommendations of the IOC.

In January 2021, President Kremlev resigned from his position at the Russian Boxing Federation to concentrate on his work at AIBA.

Before his election, President Kremlev had been closely involved in the organisation of the successful 2019 AIBA Men's and Women's World Championships hosted by the cities of Yekaterinburg and Ulan-Ude, Russia.



### Addressing Financial Problems

During his election campaign, President Kremlev said AIBA could raise \$50 million in sponsorship revenue, while also promising to wipe out AIBA's debt if he was elected.

He said: "Getting rid of AIBA's debt will be the first priority. As I promised when I announced my run for the presidency, I will clear this debt in the first six months. My administration will aim to raise \$50m within two years, all of which will be used to rebuild AIBA."

President Kremlev has been as good as his word. A major sponsorship deal with Gazprom, the Russian energy company, has been announced, enabling AIBA to settle its longstanding debts, inherited from the past, with losses caused notably by the World Series of Boxing programme.

President Kremlev said: "Closing the debt is a core achievement for our financial health and future Olympic prospects. I am very happy that we have been able to resolve this and ensure stability for AIBA."

During the tenure of former President Ching-Kuo Wu, AIBA became guarantor to the loan of \$10 million provided by Benkons. The resulting debt was identified by the IOC as a key reason for suspending payments to AIBA in 2017 and later the complete suspension of AIBA. AIBA hopes the settlement of this debt, and the resulting stability. will now prove to be a significant step towards resolving the IOC's concerns.

### **AIBA Financial Support Programme**

President Kremlev also announced plans to provide annual funding of \$2 million to AIBA's national federations and to set up boxing academies on each continent to train athletes, coaches, referees, and judges.

The AIBA Financial Support Programme was launched to provide development and equipment resources for the work of its NFs and Confederations. AIBA will provide support in the form of boxing equipment or financing of boxing development programmes, up to a maximum aggregate yearly amount of \$2 million for NFs. Additionally, each of the five AIBA Confederations will receive support totalling \$500,000 per year.

The funds to make these developments possible derive from AIBA's own reserves, without involving any indebtedness, thanks to the significant sponsorship agreement with Gazprom.



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## **The new Constitution**

The new Constitution gives more authority to National Federations, notably in that the Presidents of Continental federations will be elected by the Congresses of Continental Confederations, and automatically become members of the AIBA Board of Directors.

The number of members of the AIBA Board of Directors is being reduced from 32 to 22, with the vast majority representing Confederations. At least six Board members have to be women, with athletes also represented.

The new Constitution also clarifies the tasks of AIBA's corporate bodies and simplifies the structures within AIBA.

The Ethics Committee has been granted an extended role. Several financial control mechanisms, including the creation of an internal audit body, have been approved by the Congress. Five amendments introduced by the Spanish Boxing Federation, England Boxing and US Boxing were passed, which further extend the powers of Confederations to organize training courses for referees and judges, in addition to boxing competitions.

The amendments also specify that only the Congress can dismiss members of the Ethics and Disciplinary Committees while limiting the terms of office for the AIBA President and Board members by taking into consideration the number of years they previously served.

The amendments also ensure that the people appointed to serve on the Ethics and Disciplinary Committees by the AIBA Board of Directors, and approved by Congress, are recommended by a suitable independent body.

AIBA changed its statutes to improve its governance, in response to criticism by the IOC. The constitutional reform process had been launched by AIBA even before it was suspended by the IOC in 2019.

The draft of the AIBA Constitution was presented to the National Federations during a series of webinars for each of the five Confederations held on November 20, 23 and 24, 2020. More than 65 National Federations in total joined the webinars and had a chance to make comments and raise questions during dedicated Q&A sessions.

The process of reforming AIBA's governance has not yet been completed. A Governance Reform Group led by the well-known CAS Arbitrator Prof Dr Ulrich Haas has been appointed in order to assist AIBA in further assessing its level of governance, and to assist it in successfully implementing all necessary reforms to become a role-model federation.



### **Standing Committees**

The new Constitution provides for four Standing Committees.

- **Disciplinary Committee** to adjudicate on complaints made before it, and to sanction any breaches of AIBA Disciplinary Regulations.
- Ethics Committee with an expanded role that means it will not only provide advice and help in developing and implementing ethical principles, but will also issue decisions and sanction breaches of the Code of Ethics. The Ethics Committee will also play a role in solving conflict of interest issues and vetting candidates before elections.
- Audit Committee (new) to conduct internal reviews of financial statements and accounting records and report to the Board, in collaboration with AIBA's external auditor.
- Athletes Committee the voice of Boxers within AIBA, representing and defending Boxers's interests at all levels.

### **Athletes Commission**

AIBA successfully conducted an Athletes Committee election, with the new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Athletes Committee joining the AIBA Board of Directors as voting members.

## **Other key AIBA achievements in 2020-21**

•	Enhanced governance with more frequent Board Meetings, fully engaging all of the members in decision-making
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•	Empowerment of AIBA National Federations (involvement in the development of the new Constitution, requirement to provide activity reports, request to submit development projects to benefit from the Financial Support programme)
•	AIBA's financial stability and quality decision-making ensured, despite past burdens and new COVID-19 consequences
•	Total transparency for a democratic election process with historic seven candidates eligible
•	More efficient AIBA Committees centred around diversity, gender equity and high level of expertise
•	Clean sport and full compliance with World Anti-Doping Code at the core of AIBA's strategy
•	New competition with innovative format - Global Boxing Cup to be launched in 2021 (postponed until 2022 because of COVID-19)
•	First ever online development courses for AIBA officials
•	AIBA Medical Handbook updated to ensure the continued safety and health of AIBA's Boxers
•	New protest rule featuring a video review scheme introduced in AIBA competitions, ensuring fair- play and increasing the trust of Boxers.

## **2020-21** Key events in summary

### AIBA Mens' World Boxing Championships 2023

In April 2021, the city of Tashkent in Uzbekistan was awarded the 2023 AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships after a successful bid presentation by the Boxing Federation of Uzbekistan.

### European Games 2023

In February 2021, AIBA welcomed a decision to include boxing as part of the programme of the 2023 European Games in Kraków-Małopolska, Poland. This will be the third edition of the Games for boxing, after successful tournaments in Baku 2015 and Minsk 2019. In total, 50 nations will take part in the competition.

### AIBA Youth Men & Women World Boxing Championships 2020, Kielce, Poland: 10-24 April, 2021

The Championships were postponed from 2020 because of the pandemic crisis. Because of the special circumstances, AIBA Board of Directors made a unique and exceptional contribution to the additional costs caused by the pandemic. The event, which was organized safely according to COVID restrictions, involved

- 487 boxers
- 66 participant nations
- From 4 Confederations

Successful 2020 AIBA Forums were held in Panama, Fiji and Jordan. EUBC and AFBC Forums were postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic

### World Combat Games 2023

On 28 May, 2021 the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) announced that Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, will be hosting the World Combat Games 2023, an international multi-sport event featuring 15 combat sports and martial arts. Boxing will be one of the sports on the programme. AIBA is proud to be a longstanding member of GAISF and will be collaborating closely with both GAISF and the Saudi organisers to ensure the success of the WCG 2023.

### AIBA Mens' World Boxing Championships 2021

The Championships were awarded to Belgrade in Serbia.

- Competition venue Štark Arena (Belgrade Arena)
- Total floor area 48,000 m2
- Capacity up to 18,386 seats
- Part of the European Arenas Association (EAA)
- New proposed dates: 26 November to 6 December 2021.

### ASBC Asian Men's & Women's Boxing Championships, Dubai, UAE: 21 May-1 June, 2021

The Championships were moved from India to Dubai in view of the COVID outbreak in India.

- Bouts: 130
- Number of participating boxers: 150
- Number of participating nations: 17
- Number of medallist nations: 12

## **AIBA** Finance

### **PROJECTED FINANCIAL FIGURES FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE, 2021**

### AIBA financial report 2020 and 2019 (CHF)

Year ending 30 June	2021 (projected)	2020	
Total assets	36,219,482	2,019,663	
Total liabilities	43,646,000	11,883,254	
Total liabilities and funds	36,219,482	2,019,663	
Total operating income	8,002,768	9,206,452	
Total operating expenses	(5,565,695)	(1,567,236)	
Operating result (gain/loss)	2,437,073	7,639,216	
Accumulated loss at end of year	(7,426,518)	(9,863,591)	

NB: the total of liabilities is entirely driven by deferred incomes of CHF43.6m.

All regular liabilities (current and non-current) have been paid to date. Any current liabilities will be closely monitored to be paid before year end.

From the CHF43.6m of deferred income:

- CHF38.6m is related to sponsorship (cashed in April 2021), to be released monthly from July 2021 to December 2022;
- CHF5m is related to competition revenues (cashed in Q4 2020), to be released at end of 2022 (October 2022, November 2022 or December 2022).



## **AIBA Committees**

The new AIBA organisational regulations have introduced six new Committees, composed of new, highly qualified officials. The Regulations warrant that each committee comprises Boxers and Coaches, while ensuring a fair balance between genders, as well as continental representation.

- Coaches Committee which solves the issues of training of qualified coaching staff and develops methods for athletes' preparation programmes;
- Champions & Veterans Committee which consists of the most respected worldwide boxing veterans and champions who have achieved significant results and who are ready to share their experience;

- Competitions Committee which aims to oversee the organization of AIBA events and to ensure that they meet all international requirements and standards. It also helps to deal with any competition issues;
- Refereeing and Judging Committee which deals with all issues related to refereeing and judging, such as education, selection processes, supervision, control, etc;
- Women's Committee which aims to ensure gender equality in the boxing world;
- Medical & Anti-doping Committee which will ensure that athletes comply with all medical and anti-doping rules.

## Medical – Athletes' safety

### **AIBA Medical Handbook Review**

- AIBA Medical Committee: Continental Chairs held meetings in 2020 to review the AIBA Medical Handbook, to be up to date with current best practices for the safety and health of the athletes.
- Several amendments and recommendations were made, further to meetings and consultation with committees dealing with competition and refereeing and judging issues. These amendments were approved and entered into force.



### **Anti-doping**

In January 2021, the Board of Directors of AIBA extended its agreement with the International Testing Agency (ITA).

The agreement covers the general management of the Anti-Doping programme (including whereabouts, TUE, biological passport, etc), follow-up of WADA compliance and all out-ofcompetition testing for the sport of boxing during the year 2021, including the pre-Olympic testing programme. In-Competition testing is organized by the Local Organising Committees, in collaboration with ITA.

With the support of the ITA, AIBA also launched a large-scale anti-doping educational programme in the framework of AIBA's Continental Forums.

**Online courses** 

President Kremlev said: "We have agreed with the ITA to hold at least four seminars per year not only for representatives of national federations but also for athletes and coaches. This is an important step towards making boxing a completely dopingfree sport."

AIBA is fully committed to clean sport and was one of the first international federations to use the services of ITA for all its anti-doping activities. Since 2020, anti-doping rule violations are referred to the CAS anti-doping division for adjudication.

Thanks to its collaboration with ITA and the CAS anti-doping division, AIBA ensures that a state-ofthe-art anti-doping programme is in place for the sport of boxing.

### **Online courses for AIBA officials**

- Referee & Judges Seminars: AMBC 780 attendees; AFBC 44 attendees; ASBC 344 attendees on Zoom, and over 2,500 via Facebook streaming.
- Coaches courses: 1-Star AIBA Coach Course hosted online by Ecuador Boxing Federation on 14-18 November 2020 with 30 participants from Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru and Honduras; 1-Star AIBA Coach Course hosted online by Kenyan Boxing Federation on 2-6 December 2020 with 30 participants.



## **New Communications Strategy**

The key messages of a new communication strategy were presented to the AIBA Board of Directors; the creation of a unified information space is the main task for AIBA in developing its communication.

Each of the National Federations will have a website on the subdomain of AIBA's, which will help to organize a unified communication platform for the entire boxing community. AIBA will develop its digital communication by creating accounts on social media. They will be connected with the AIBA account through hashtags, subscriptions and editing formats.

President Kremlev said: "We've chosen a policy of total openness with our activities, and communications are a key tool to report to everyone how transparent we are. We are going to help our National Federations with their websites and social media accounts in order to promote boxing in each country."

## International Boxing Day 22 July 2020

International Boxing Day, celebrated on 22 July 2020, took place online because of the pandemic situation. AIBA member countries took part in the celebration.

International Boxing Day originated in 2017 in Russia and was recognized by AIBA Executive Committee in 2019.

As part of the celebration, AIBA launched the International Boxing Day flashmob under the motto 'Boxing is everywhere'.

Anyone could participate by making short shadowboxing videos in front of their country landmark – the Eiffel Tower, the Pyramids, the Statue of Liberty, Sydney Opera House, etc – and publish it on Instagram with the hashtag #BOXINGEVERYWHERE and tag @aiba\_official. Dozens of athletes from more than 35 countries have participated in the online event dedicated to the celebration.

Participants sent their videos from Iran, Turkey, Australia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, France, Ireland, Colombia, Belarus, India, Poland, Monaco, Montenegro, UAE, Sweden, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, China, Georgia, Jordan, Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Venezuela, Mexico, Morocco, Brazil, Great Britain, Croatia, Armenia, Wales, Spain, and others.

The best ones were published in a video dedicated to International Boxing Day.



## Virtual Youth Festival 2020

AIBA took part in United Through Sports' International Virtual Youth Festival, with its youth athletes participating.

The COVID-19 pandemic has given life to the UTS Virtual Youth Festival, which goes far beyond a temporary solution to the cancellation of sports events. It was a positive opportunity to move forward and bring us all back together. The unique Virtual Youth Festival was held and broadcast online.

Over 60 organizations joined forces to unite on the digital platform where qualification events took place between August and the end of October, 2020. The finals were hosted in Thailand and held as a hybrid event around the world in celebration

of the United Nations' World Children's day, on November 20-22.

The festival was under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, Special Olympics, SportAccord and the Global Association of International Sports Federations.

Many International Federations, global NGO's and sport-affiliated entities united to showcase, demonstrate and promote inclusion, equality, non-discrimination and peace-promotion.

The UTS Virtual Youth Festival is a celebration of our youth who will carry the torch of life for the next generations, and on this platform everybody is equal.

## New membership policy

In January 2021, the AIBA Board announced a new membership policy providing for the highest standards of governance to be met by all members of the boxing family. For instance, National Federations must ensure that:

- Officials are democratically elected, in full independence and without influence from third parties or government
- Delegates at an AIBA Congress are validly appointed
- Officials have an untarnished reputation
- Each gender is adequately represented.

Moreover, National Federations will have increased reporting obligations. In addition to informing AIBA about holding national elections and their outcome each federation should report each year, before February 28, about its structure, activities and projects. President Kremlev said: "We have established new membership criteria to ensure good governance, integrity and transparency. Together, we can take all the necessary measures to bring AIBA back to the Olympic family. For this, the efforts and work of each of our National Federations is important to us."

## **AIBA Forum for Europe**

Mr Francesco Ricci Bitti, President of ASOIF, was the guest of the AIBA Forum for Europe held on 27 February, 2021, where more than 40 countries participated virtually.

Mr Ricci Bitti said: "Boxing is one of the most traditional and universal sports in the Olympic Programme. Therefore, it is very important for the Olympic Movement to have a reinstated, well-functioning and recognized International Federation to govern this sport. I urge the AIBA leadership to engage constructively with the IOC Special Monitoring Committee and consider consequent actions."

President Umar Kremlev responded: "We have already done a lot, and we will not stop developing. Some changes require a bit more time, and we have confidence in our success. I would like to underline that we are ready for an open dialogue and full cooperation with the IOC. However, my first task is to show concrete steps, not words."

## István Kovács appointed Secretary General of AIBA

István Kovács, the two-times AIBA World Champion and Olympic champion, was appointed as Secretary General of AIBA during a meeting of the AIBA Board of Directors on 22 March, 2021.

President Umar Kremlev commented: "The fate of our organization has to be decided and will be decided by the boxers themselves. They have dedicated their entire lives to boxing, they know it from the inside and understand the needs for our sport effective development better than any managers.

"Therefore, I am pleased to announce that the Board of Directors members have approved István Kovács as AIBA Secretary General. István Kovács is a two-time World Champion and an Olympic champion, boxing is life and AIBA is a family for him. I am positive that as Secretary General he will be able to bring AIBA to a fundamentally new efficiency level and transparency of management."



## **Continental European Boxing Academy**

In April 2021, AIBA signed an agreement to establish the Continental European Boxing Academy in Assisi, Italy, in support of an initiative by the European Boxing Confederation (EUBC). Educational programmes for boxers and coaches will be delivered within the academy. The Academy's marketing and communication advisor will be ARTMEDIASPORT company.

## **Rashed Al-Swaisat**

In April 2021, following the sad passing of boxer Rashed Al-Swaisat of Jordan during the AIBA Youth World Championships, AIBA hired a fully independent medical expert from the Lausanne University to conduct an independent process to investigate and review the circumstances of his participation in the Championships, his injury, his treatment and the protocols followed on that occasion.

While internal reviews conducted with the currently available information concluded that AIBA's protocols were properly followed, a wider

investigation with independent expertise will consider all available materials, including those of public authorities.

Deaths in boxing are extremely rare and AIBA is determined to ensure that the circumstances of this tragedy are fully and completely clarified and that any and all lessons are learned, in order to maintain its total commitment to the wellbeing of boxers. AIBA is continuing to do everything it can to support Rashed's family, friends and teammates at this immensely difficult time.



## AIBA and CISM sign historic Convention of Collaboration

In May 2021, AIBA and the International Military Sports Council (CISM) signed a Convention of Collaboration at the Centre National des Sports de la Defence (CNSD) in Fontainebleau. In the framework of the Convention, AIBA plans to conduct joint training camps, open a museum and build a military boxing academy. This convention will permit the development of a true collaboration between the two parties across their complete interests.

# Thorough investigations of allegations against officials at AIBA Competitions

AIBA has appointed Prof Richard McLaren to conduct a full and independent enquiry into AIBA. This enquiry comprises several steps. First, the investigation team will focus on refereeing and judging issues, mainly relating to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Once completed, the investigators will then conduct a broader investigation of AIBA. In the event that wrongdoing or acts of corruption are discovered, the investigation will help identify the authors and collect evidence enabling their prosecution, while assisting in implementing the necessary mechanisms to prevent such wrongdoing from occurring in the future.

Following the ASBC Asian Men's & Women's Boxing Championships held in Dubai on 24-May – 1 June, 2021, several allegations were made with respect to Refereeing and Judging at this competition. AIBA takes such allegations very seriously, and the Refereeing and Judging Committee began a preliminary investigation into the work of all relevant appointed officials.

Further to this preliminary work, the Board of Directors resolved to extend the mandate of the investigation group led by Prof McLaren to also investigate such allegations, and any possible allegations pertaining to recent competitions.

Under the new leadership of President Umar Kremlev, AIBA has made it clear that it is determined to resolve issues relating to boxing Refereeing and Judging, with the help of independent expertise. Any officials found to have contributed to unfair fights will become permanently ineligible to serve at AIBA competitions and will be fully sanctioned.

President Kremlev and all at AIBA are totally committed to ensuring that all boxers are always given the opportunity of a fair fight.