

A CLEAN BREAK FOR WORLD BOXING

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**Dear Presidents and Secretaries General of AIBA National Federations,
Dear World Boxing Family,**

We all know that our sport is in serious trouble. The President of AIBA had to step down under a cloud of allegations. The IOC has cast doubt on the inclusion of boxing in the Olympic Games and suspended our governing body, after numerous calls for fundamental changes in AIBA's governance, ethics, financial management and sports integrity (refereeing, judging and anti-doping).

To put it in boxing terms, AIBA has had several eight counts, spent much of the bout on the ropes with only one round remaining to turn things around to accomplish victory.

For far too long, we have been told that our leadership is working extremely hard to resolve these issues, that reforms are on the way and that AIBA's debts will soon disappear. Now, more than a year after the release of the damning Inquiry Committee Report, IOC continues to be 'very worried' about the lack of progress.

It is time for a complete change of leadership, financial management and culture within our sport. Those responsible for the current situation cannot lead AIBA back into the family of trusted International Federations. **Unless we intend to continue the bout with the same tactical plan that got us knocked down in the previous rounds.**

I have decided to stand for the Presidency of AIBA. This position comes with great responsibility and I have thought long and hard about this. Over the past months, I have had the privilege of meeting with many of you, both virtually and in person. Many of you – colleagues, partners, and friends – urged me to run as a candidate. I greatly appreciate your encouragement and guidance, it was a major factor in my decision to put my name on the ticket.

My mission is to speak with **honesty** to the World Boxing Family and to set the direction for a detailed plan, which will ensure a clean break and a relaunch for our sport. This requires open dialogue, thorough analysis, and tough decisions. We have no time to waste to change course. As your President, I will do whatever it takes to ensure that AIBA regains its status as an IOC-recognized International Federation. I envision an organization that will facilitate **fair and inclusive** participation for boxers of all levels across the globe.

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I grew up in a boxing family. My uncle used to run a boxing school in Utrecht, in the Netherlands, and I fell in love with the atmosphere in the gym. I would spend countless afternoons and evenings there, observing him at work, coaching and managing operations at the same time. Boxing has given me an enormous amount of joy and gratification. In addition, it has provided me with the necessary skills to succeed as an entrepreneur in the healthcare industry.

When I was elected President of the Dutch Boxing Federation, it faced similar challenges as AIBA now. I was fortunate to engage and unite the members of the executive board, while creating a professional management team. I visited every boxing club in the country and joined their training sessions. I got the conversation going about where to go next and what changes to make. Today, the Dutch Boxing Federation is in great shape, regularly staging high level, financially sound boxing events, developing medal-winning athletes and inspiring more people to pick up the great sport of boxing.

As your President, I expect to draw from my different sources of experience: as a boxer, as a businessperson, as President of a National Federation, and as Chair of the European Boxing Confederation Passion for Boxing Commission.

There is no silver bullet. To overcome our difficulties, **teamwork** will be of the essence. I invite all of you, all of you who love our sport and stand firm for the interests of our athletes, to engage in an open discussion aimed at further developing and finalizing the plan to relaunch world boxing. I know that our Association is full of professionals who strive for **excellence**, who believe that our sport deserves more **respect**, and who stand ready to contribute to practical solutions.

As a lifelong entrepreneur, I always look ahead with optimism and determination. I believe it is not too late to turn things around, but the time to act is now.

I sincerely hope that you will grant me the honor and privilege of leading our organization through the current crisis.

It is Time to Rumble!

Please stay healthy and resilient in these challenging COVID times. I eagerly look forward to our virtual discussions, and meeting each other in person again as soon as it is safe to do so.

**Respectfully yours,
Boris van der Vorst**

