



May 1, 2023

To: Nederlandse Boksbond Members and the Dutch boxing community

Re: Announcement of my resignation as President of the Dutch Boxing Federation

Dear boxing friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I would like to announce my resignation as President of the Dutch Boxing Federation (Nederlandse Boksbond, NBB) at the upcoming General Assembly that will take place on May 29, 2023, in Eindhoven.

For the past fifteen years, I have enjoyed serving on the Board of our National Federation. It has become an important part of my life, and I will certainly miss it. With the support of my family, I have invested a lot of time in it, first as a Board Member and later as Chairman. In this farewell letter, I look back on these amazing fifteen years on the Board.



My motivation for this work has always been passion and love for our sport. However, such motives alone are not sufficient for good governance. Each boxing administrator has his or her strong and weak points. Therefore, it was absolutely necessary to work together with others who also have a passion for boxing and who could strengthen me in this role.

And that was the case. The compositions of NBB Boards, of which I was a part, worked in harmony to promote boxing domestically and internationally. During the first tumultuous years the focus was on stabilizing the situation in the Netherlands. Our NF had to become financially sound, internal relationships and image needed a boost, and with the help of NOC NSF and Peter Bonthuis, a top sports program had to be developed from a blank sheet.

Highlights in the early years included the European Youth and Women's Championships, which we were able to organize in the Netherlands under the inspiring leadership of the unparalleled event manager and colleague Board Member Hans de Bruin, with a great partner like Rotterdam Topsport.

Initially, perhaps less visible to the avid boxing fans, were the activities to strengthen the foundation of the sport. With the help of Chris Moerkerken, Paul de la Chambre, Rob van de Watering, Ronald Blom, and Pelle Tuinenburg, among others, an excellent foundation was laid at the governance level, allowing the sport of boxing to flourish. Regarding boxing as a mass sport, more and more target groups discovered the benefits of a boxing workout. Under the leadership of René Braad and John Kenbeek, many certified KSS2 and KSS3 trainers who could provide responsible guidance to beginners emerged through our accredited courses. Nowadays, this is carried out by the team of Samira Jahouhi.





And from a certain point, this went hand in hand with impressive achievements at the top sports level. Under the guidance of national coaches Hennie van Bommel and Abdul Fkiri, came the golden times for Dutch Boxing. The highlight was the qualification for the Olympic Games of Peter Mullenberg, Enrico Lacruz, and Nouchka Fontijn in 2016. For the first time in 24 years, we were represented at the Olympics again. Furthermore, Nouchka won silver during a thrilling final, under the watchful eye of the Dutch Royal Family. It was also the most watched boxing TV moment worldwide during Rio 2016. Five years later in Tokyo, Enrico and Nouchka were back and the latter won a bronze medal, to become a double Olympic medalist. Now, under the guidance of

national coaches Waleed Shekho and Sayit Yanik, we are working hard with the current talented boxers to qualify for Paris 2024.

The Board of the Boxing Federation must know what is happening among its members. That is why I, together with Alex van Klooster and others, have trained with more than 60 boxing centers to get to know the Board Members, trainers, and boxers and to hear what is happening in the country. Everywhere we spoke to people with a passion for boxing. There is a beautiful and colorful boxing family active in the Netherlands, and I would like to specifically point out:

- Coaches such as Patrick Driessen, Ron Rovers, and many others with a clear vision of the sport;
- Modern, well-equipped centers such as Boksfabriek Nijmegen, Eastside Boxing, and Amsterdamse Boksschool that appeal to new target groups;
- Starting boxing schools with trainers such as Willeke Verdellen, Eric Vredeveldt, and Thomas Mboua who are making their way;
- Beautiful old-school gyms such as De Voltreffer, Albert Cuypp, and Bokschool Twente;
- Boxing Associations as in Assen, Breda, Den Helder, Nijmegen, and Leeuwarden, who have a large following and proactive and capable coaching staff;
- Coaches such as Harold Verhoekx, Harm Blijd, Yvonne van der Ley, Piet Roozendaal, Eduard van Uffelen, Semmy Pattiwaël, Dis Paulussen, Peter van der Pas, Ton Dunk, Dirk Chevalking, Henni Mandemaker, Paul Holzken, and others who make a great contribution to the competitive sport;
- Former Olympic champions such as Raymond Joval, Orhan Delibas, Arnold Vanderlyde, and Hüsnü Kocabas who are still heavily involved in boxing;
- Special boxing families where multiple generations are/were active in the boxing sport, such as the Hallie, Zwezerijnen, Verhaegen, Verbon, Lenten, and Gerritsen families;
- Coaches, such as Marichelle de Jong, John Bersch, and Frank van Zomeren who introduce the business target group safely and responsibly to boxing through vibrant boxing events;
- Boxing centers with a focus on the social impact of boxing, that carry out special social and medical projects, such as at BBG Boxing Club, Boksschool Sedney, 'uncle' Jan Schildkamp, Haagse Directe, Boksacademie Amersfoort, Boksschool Teus de Kruyf, and NSC Haarlem of Hannes Schneider.



Special initiatives arose with many partners, such as the Eindhoven Box Cup, which under the



direction of Jeremie Besson has become the largest annual international boxing event in the Benelux.

An absolute highlight is the year-end gala World Port Boxing, where Boxing Team NL crosses swords with big boxing countries such as Cuba, USA, France, and Italy, thanks to the great people of Gladiatoren aan de Maas.

Thanks to Robert Verwijs, the collaboration with the professional union got off to a good start.

In terms of medical matters, Ed van Wijk and his team of ring doctors can always be called upon, and the same applies to Gerard Hartman regarding the regulations.



In the first years, Paul Hartog was a great support for the federation office. In recent years, Louiza Winter has taken over Paul's tasks with verve, and it is truly a pleasure to work with her.

The many competition officials, referees and judges must also be praised, such as Tom de Raad, John Vergouwe, Dick Zwiers, Chris Dijkstra, and Frans van Hak. This largely happens under the responsibility of Charles Blesgraaf, Robert Verwijs, and Kees van Sluijs, who are respectively responsible for events and officials. Without them, no bout could be fought. The same goes for the dedication of countless volunteers, for example, at our National Championships.

We can also be proud of our internationally certified competition officials, such as Ben van Til and Cem Dünar, who have officiated at top level for many years and have earned impeccable reputations.



Looking back, I see a lot of positive developments in Dutch boxing. Not that it has always been easy (and it has not). After all, we are in the business of boxing, where everyone is ready to speak their minds. Nevertheless, the good feeling always prevails overwhelmingly.

So why have I decided to say goodbye? This has to do with the fact that in recent times, I had to increasingly focus on international developments. After the judging scandals at Rio 2016, the international association was under a magnifying glass of its partners and stakeholders, including the IOC. The leadership culture within the IBA caused great concern for the IOC, as well as for many National Federations, particularly in the areas of sports integrity, governance, and financial management. The election of the controversial AIBA President, Gafur Rahimov, led to the suspension of AIBA's recognition by the IOC in 2019.



Since then, the situation has only deteriorated, and that is why a group of like-minded representatives of National Federations from around the world, have been trying to change the leadership culture within the IBA. Unfortunately we have not succeeded until now and the Olympic recognition of the IBA is about to be permanently lost. This would be a doomsday scenario, an outright nightmare for our sport. For this reason, World Boxing was presented to the global sports community on April 13, where I am among the Interim Executive Board Members, together with leaders from GB Boxing, USA Boxing, and others. World Boxing aims to save the Olympic-style boxing for the future generations by securing its place within the Olympic Family. That requires an immense investment of time

and attention. For that reason, I have decided to step down as the President of the Dutch Boxing Federation.

As I said at the very start, I do this with a heavy heart. I sincerely thank everyone for the cooperation, knowing that I have not been able to mention everyone in this short letter. Of course, I am pleased that our current treasurer and Vice Chairman, Jeroen van den Berg, is willing to replace me and would like to be elected as President at the upcoming General Assembly. He certainly deserves for the dedication and good work in recent years. In fact, I have full confidence in the entire current Board, including Jeroen, Ab el Ballouti, Len Huard, Roos Spanjer, John Bersch, Saskia Aben, Paul Wenting, Michel van Halderen, Jeremie Besson, and Bernard Jansen. They are all carrying our important and meaningful projects for Dutch boxing. I also hope to remain involved in the Dutch Boxing Federation and wish boxing in the Netherlands all the success and prosperity in the years to come.

I hope to see you all on Monday, May 29, at the General Assembly in Eindhoven, where we will be making important decisions for the future of the Dutch Boxing Federation. We need all the expertise, passion and support of our united boxing family!



I will always remain in your corner.

Sincerely,

Boris van der Vorst
President
Dutch Boxing Federation