

IN THE MATTER OF

ENGLAND BOXING

-and-

MR GABRIEL DARAMOLA

DISCIPLINARY PANEL DECISION

A. INTRODUCTION

1. This is the decision of the Disciplinary Panel, consisting of Mr Derek Rulten, Mr Phil Trask and Mr David Mold in the matter of Mr Gabriel Daramola pursuant to the England Boxing Disciplinary Procedure 2016 (“the Procedure”).
2. The hearing of this matter took place on 17 April 2018 at 5:30pm.
3. The Disciplinary Panel gave their findings orally at the end of the hearing but indicated that these would be sent out in writing. These are those reasons.

B. PARTIES

4. The following participated at the hearing, in addition to the Disciplinary Panel:
 - i) Gordon Valentine (National Compliance Manager for England Boxing)
 - ii) Mr Reggie Hagland (London Boxing Medical Registrar)

5. Mr Daramola did not attend, was not represented and had not filed any evidence or representations in advance of the hearing.

C. THE CHARGES

6. The charge against Mr Daramola was that on 24 November 2017 at the Hilton Hotel, Croydon he assaulted Mr Reggie Hagland, an official of the London Regional Boxing Association contrary to Article 2(3) of the AIBA Code of Ethics and the England Boxing Code of Conduct (which incorporates the AIBA Code)

D. MATTERS TO BE DETERMINED

7. The matters to be determined by the Disciplinary Panel were:
 - 1) Whether the matter should proceed in the absence of Mr Daramola;
 - 2) If so, whether the charge against him was made out;
 - 3) If so, what the appropriate sanction should be.
8. The burden of satisfying the Disciplinary Panel of Mr Daramola's guilt was on England Boxing. The relevant standard was the balance of probabilities i.e. whether it was more likely than not.

E. THE HEARING

9. At the scheduled start time for the hearing Mr Daramola had not arrived. The Disciplinary Panel decided to permit a further 15 minutes for him to arrive. After that period of time, the hearing commenced.
10. Mr Valentine for England Boxing set out the charge against Mr Daramola.

11. Mr Valentine then informed the panel of the steps taken to notify Mr Daramola of the proceedings and the hearing. These were:

- i) On 27 November 2017 Mr Daramola contacted for a response to the allegation by email and letter sent by way of recorded delivery. Mr Valentine received a phone call from Mr Daramola in which he confirmed that he had received both the email and the letter sent by recorded delivery.
- ii) On 9 January 2018 he was sent by email notice of charge.
- iii) On 25 January 2018 he was sent by email notification of panel members
- iv) On 1 March 2018 he was sent by email notice of hearing
- v) On 9 April 2018 he was informed of the location of the venue for the hearing by email
- vi) No reply was received in respect of notifications (ii)-(v) above
- vii) In addition he was phoned on 25 January 2018 and 5 February 2018 and sent a text on 9 April 2018. There was no answer or response to these.
- viii) Mr Daramola was also emailed on the day of hearing to which there was no response.
- ix) Mr Daramola's club was contacted who indicated that Mr Daramola had an eye retina injury and had retired from boxing.

12. The Disciplinary Panel were satisfied that all possible steps had been taken to contact Mr Daramola and notify him of the proceedings. The Disciplinary Panel determined to proceed with the hearing in the absence of Mr Daramola pursuant to paragraph 31.6.2 of the Procedure.

F. THE EVIDENCE

13. Mr Reggie Hagland was called to give evidence. He confirmed that the content of his letter dated 25 November 2017 was accurate and correct. In addition, he answered questions from the panel. His evidence was that:

- He had been involved for two years with London Boxing as a Medical Registrar and was asked to perform the role of team manager on the night in question.
- He did not personally know Mr Daramola but was managing him that night. At the start of the night Mr Hagland gave instructions that shorts were to be returned at the end of the night but the boxers could keep the vests. Once the kit was returned the boxer would be given their medical card.
- After those instructions Mr Daramola had stated that he really wanted the shorts.
- Mr Hagland had to officiate and wasn't as able to do role as smoothly as he wanted to. It was a rushed situation.
- After the boxing had finished Mr Hagland went to recover the shorts, one pair was missing. He asked a couple of boxers if they had returned their shorts. Mr Daramola was one of them and said that they were on the side in the changing room.
- There was an equipment bag in the changing room which Mr Hagland presumed belonged to Danson ABC coach, John Green. In the bag he found the pair of shorts in a white plastic bag. The vest was also in the plastic bag. Mr Hagland then took the shorts out of the bag.
- Mr Daramola returned to the changing room angry that Mr Hagland had been through his bag. Mr Daramola asked why Mr Hagland had been through his bag and Mr Hagland apologized.
- Mr Daramola became aggressive towards Mr Hagland and slapped him with his open side of his right hand on the face. It was not a hard slap.
- Mr Daramola was a super heavy weight. Mr Hagland still had Mr Daramola's medical card (which he gave to Mr Valentine during the

hearing). The medical card stated that Mr Daramola was 93.5kg and 187cm who had over 20 bouts.

14. In addition, the Disciplinary Panel were invited to consider the letters provided from Mr G Willmott MBE dated 25 November 2017 and Mr Brian John dated 25 November 2017. These two letters broadly corroborated the account of Mr Hagland.

15. The Disciplinary Panel were informed that Mr Daramola had been suspended from 25 November 2017.

G. FINDINGS

16. The Disciplinary Panel were satisfied that the charge against Mr Daramola was made out to the relevant standard.

17. The Disciplinary Panel found Mr Hagland to be an honest witness who gave a credible account. Mr Hagland was frank about having gone into Mr Daramola's bag without permission, albeit he did not think it was Mr Daramola's bag. His account was also supported by the other two letters submitted in evidence.

18. The Disciplinary Panel, therefore, found that Mr Daramola was guilty of assaulting Mr Reggie Hagland, an official of the London Regional Boxing Association contrary to Article 2(3) of the AIBA Code of Ethics and the England Boxing Code of Conduct.

H. SANCTION

19. The Disciplinary Panel took all relevant matters into account. In particular, it considered that there was some mitigation for Mr Daramola's actions given that his bag had been entered without his permission. The Disciplinary Panel

felt, however, that the response to the actions of Mr Hagland was entirely disproportionate and the physical abuse of officials cannot be tolerated.

20. The Disciplinary Panel also noted that Mr Daramola had been suspended since 25 November 2017 and there was nothing to suggest he had not complied with this interim suspension.

21. In the circumstances, the Disciplinary Panel considered the following sanction appropriate:

- 1) Mr Daramola is to be banned from membership of England Boxing for a period of 3 years from 25 November 2017; and
- 2) Mr Daramola was to pay a fine of £300 payable within 28 days of the written findings being sent to all parties.

23 April 2018