

**DECISION OF THE ENGLAND BOXING DISCIPLINARY PANEL**

**In the matter of:**

**GARY WHITE**

---

**THE PANEL'S DECISION AND REASONS**

---

1. These are the written reasons and decision of the England Boxing Disciplinary Panel, which sat on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in the case of Gary White.
2. The independent Panel appointed by England Boxing, pursuant to its Disciplinary Procedure ("the EB Procedure"), was Mr. Craig Harris, barrister (Chair); Mr. David Mold, barrister; and Mr. Derek Rulten, England Boxing member.
3. The hearing was held by conference call pursuant to England Boxing's 'Summary Procedure', all criteria for the same been met [see §31.1-31.3 of the EB Procedure] and the Panel members having unanimously agreed in advance that the Summary Procedure should be used, at the invitation of England Boxing and with Mr. White's consent.
4. The 'Responsible Person' in the case was Mr. Gordon Valentine, although Mr. Valentine did not take part in the hearing, during which only members of the Panel (as above) were present and participated.

**CHARGE**

5. Mr. White was charged with having acted contrary to the AIBA Code and the England Boxing Code of Conduct as follows:

That you on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the England Boxing Youth Championships after the conclusion of the bout McWhinnie and Hardy, in your capacity of an England Boxing Coach, you verbally abused competition officials using foul and/or abusive language.

6. The wording of the particular Codes need not be rehearsed here, particularly given that the case came to the Panel following an admission by Mr. White (as to which, see below) and the requirements of the Codes are well known and/or available to all concerned.

## **BACKGROUND**

7. On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018 Mick Budden, a member of the England Boxing Judges and Referees Committee, made a complaint to England Boxing about Mr. White's conduct during the England Boxing Youth Championships four days earlier, on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018, in particular in relation to the stated bout.
8. That Complaint was supported by a letter from Lee-Roy Quilter, a supervisor at the event, which was undated.
9. The conduct complained of amounted to Mr. White, being a coach at the event, having demonstrated abusive behaviour towards the officials following the announcement of the result in the bout concerned. In summary, it was reported that he had repeatedly shouted that the officials were "*fucking cheats*" from the corner, left the ring momentarily and then returned to continue levelling abusive language at them, including swearing aggressively. This was apparently witnessed by others.
10. England Boxing charged Mr. White, as set out above, by charge letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018.
11. The Responsible Person invited the Panel to deal with the matter under the Summary Procedure, to which Mr. White consented (on the back of an admission of the charge) and the Panel agreed to take this course in advance of the hearing.

## **RESPONSE TO CHARGE**

12. As mentioned above, Mr. White had admitted the charge.
13. In a letter received by England Boxing on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2016 (pre-charge, but after the complaint) Mr. White accepted that his verbal conduct was "*unacceptable*" and said that "*there was no*

*physical abuse*". He went on to suggest that he was "*curious as to why these unfounded accusations have been made*", but given what went before, the Panel took it that he was concerned about (and denying) any allegation of physical abuse. He said that such things should not happen again.

14. In the event, there was no allegation that he physically abused any official and that did not form part of the charge when issued.
15. By way of formal response to the charge, in a letter received by England Boxing on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018, Mr. White made a full admission, taking "*full responsibility*" and saying that he "*did not deny that his actions and colourful language did happen*".
16. In that response, he noted that his actions were inappropriate and out of character and said that he would accept any punishment that was felt appropriate. He had expressed similar sentiments in his previous letter [see §13 above], where he put his actions down to "*post bout passion*" that was "*not the type of example of behaviour I want to show to any young boxers who may have witnessed it*".

## **SANCTION**

17. Under the Summary Procedure, the Panel's sanctioning options were limited to a reprimand, fine not exceeding £250 and/or a suspension from England Boxing membership for a period of up to 28 days. This had been borne in mind when the Panel initially decided to deal with the matter under the Summary Procedure.
18. The Panel considered the charge, evidence, Mr. White's admission and the matters put forward by way of his mitigation when deciding upon sanction.
19. The Panel noted that whilst there was reference in the statements of complaint to Mr. White conducting himself in this way "*once again*", with previous incidents also highlighted, they could not be – and were not – held against him for sanctioning purposes. Those matters had not formed part of any previous disciplinary process, so far as the Panel was aware, and Mr. White had not been charged or required to reply, let alone had any findings made against him, in respect of

them. As such, allegations of earlier misconduct (if that is what it would amount to) was not to be taken against him.

20. The Panel was particularly concerned, however, that the events on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018 involved officials being abused by repeated use of aggressive, foul language at a youth boxing championship, where the boxers would no doubt be impressionable and look towards those in coaching positions such as Mr. White for guidance when it comes to conducting themselves properly. He was in a position of responsibility and, having brought the integrity of the officials' decisions in a bout into question (labelling them "*cheats*") he returned to use further foul language towards them.
21. The Panel did note Mr. White's mitigation, in particular the fact that he had admitted the charge from the outset, showed remorse for his actions and was conscious that he should not behave in this manner – particularly showing this type of behaviour to young boxers who may witness it.
22. Bearing all of those factors in mind, by way of sanction the Panel decided that:
  - (i) **Mr. White be suspended from membership of England Boxing for a period of 14 days; and**
  - (ii) **Be fined £100.**
23. The sanction was reduced from what the Panel would have imposed had Mr. White contested the charge, affording him due credit for his admission. Had the charge not been admitted, the sanction would have been towards the higher end of the available suspension period and the fine would also have been in a higher amount.
24. There was no order as to costs.
25. The Panel's decision was unanimous.

#### **RIGHT OF APPEAL**

26. A right of appeal is available to both England Boxing and Mr. White in accordance with Rule 40 of the EB Procedure.

18<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Craig Harris (Chair)

David Mold

Derek Rulten