



20 March 2025 – For immediate release

World Boxing welcomes decision by IOC to include boxing at LA28

World Boxing has welcomed the decision by the 144th Session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to include boxing on the sports programme of the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028 (LA28).

The decision follows the recent decision by the Executive Board of the IOC to grant World Boxing provisional recognition as the International Federation (IF) within the Olympic Movement governing the sport of boxing at world level.

The two decisions mean that World Boxing will be the IF responsible for organising the qualification pathway and the boxing tournament at LA28.

Welcoming the news that boxing would be included at LA28, the **President of World Boxing, Boris van der Vorst, said:** “This is great day for boxers, boxing and everyone connected with our sport, at every level, across the world.

“This outcome has been achieved by a massive team effort by a huge number of people in every part of the world and would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of all of the National Federations, boxers, coaches, officials and boxing leaders that have worked together to enable this to happen. I would like to personally thank each and every one of them for their support and determination to ensure boxing remains at the heart of the Olympic Movement.

“World Boxing is very grateful to the IOC for the faith they have placed in our organisation by restoring boxing to the programme for LA2028, and I can reassure them that we will do everything in our power to ensure that we operate to the highest standards of governance and transparency and deliver sporting integrity.

“World Boxing understands that being part of the Olympic Games is a privilege and not a right and we are determined to be a trustworthy and reliable partner that will adhere to and uphold the values of the Olympic Movement.

“There is still a lot of work to do, and everyone at World Boxing is committed to continuing to work together and doing everything within our power to deliver a better future for our boxers and for our sport.”

The Chair of World Boxing’s Olympic Commission, Gennadiy Golovkin, who secured a silver medal at the Athens Olympics in 2004 before going on to win the middleweight world title on two occasions, added: “The IOC decision to include boxing in the Los Angeles Olympics is a long-awaited result of the focused efforts and work of World Boxing and our entire Olympic Commission. This means that we have managed to preserve the dream that inspires thousands of athletes around the world. As an Olympian, I understand how important this is for future generations of champions. The Olympic Games are not just

competitions, they are a symbol of hope, striving for excellence and an opportunity to show the world what you are capable of.

“Step by step, we did everything to preserve boxing with its rich history and traditions in the Olympic program, so that every young athlete would have the opportunity to one day stand on the Olympic podium under the flag of their country.

“I realize what a great responsibility lies with us, and I understand that there is still a lot of work to do. World Boxing intends to continue working on maximum transparency in matters of fair judging, the selection of athletes for the upcoming Games and the creation of an objective evaluation system.”

The news was greeted with delight by other leading figures from across the sport of boxing.

Ukrainian legend, Wladimir Klitschko, who is the longest reigning heavyweight champion in history and won gold at Atlanta 1996, said: “This is absolutely fantastic news. Winning Olympic gold was one of the biggest highlights of my career and I would hate to see that opportunity get taken away from future generations.

“The Olympic Games is so important to our sport and to have not been part of it would have been a disaster for boxing and boxers everywhere from the grassroots to the professionals.

“This is another great comeback story for boxing. It has been a long hard battle, but the right decision has been reached in the end I would like to personally thank and congratulate everyone connected with World Boxing for the work they have done to save boxing as an Olympic sport.”

Cindy Ngamba, who was the first refugee in history to win an Olympic medal, when she won Middleweight bronze at Paris 2024, added: “This is a massive step for the boxing community. The uncertainty around our sport’s Olympic future has been tough, but this decision means everything to the athletes.

“As someone who had the honour of representing the Refugee Team, I know firsthand how much the Olympics represents hope and opportunity. It’s not just about medals—it is about giving fighters from all backgrounds a platform to showcase their talent. I look forward to seeing boxing on the Olympic programme at LA28.”

Richard Torrez Jr, who won a silver medal for Team USA at Tokyo 2020 before turning professional and now sits on the board of World Boxing as an Athlete Representative, said: “World Boxing securing boxing in the LA 2028 Olympics will bring the boxing community together like never before.

“This is a great accomplishment and is a true testament that the Olympics are better with boxing in them than without. This will inspire generations of boxers to achieve their lifelong dream of winning gold.”

World Boxing’s other Athlete Representative, **Tokyo 2020 gold medallist and current WBC, WBA, IBO and The Ring Welterweight World Champion, Lauren Price**, commented: “Competing at the Olympic



Games was always my dream and nothing I achieve in my professional career will ever top the achievement of winning gold at Tokyo 2020.

“It is what inspired me to take up the sport in the first place and has given me a platform that means I am now able to enjoy a successful career as a professional boxer. Restoring boxing for LA28 means that other boxers can continue to do the same and keeps the Olympic dream alive. It is fantastic news for boxers, boxing and the Olympic Movement.”

Australia’s Caitlin Parker, who won a bronze medal at Paris 2024 and is part of World Boxing’s Athlete Committee added: “The Olympic Games is the absolute pinnacle of our sport and there is no greater honour than to represent your country at the highest level. To have clarity around LA28 allows us to plan to the minute and build through major events like the World Boxing Championships and the Commonwealth Games in 2026.”

World Boxing was launched in April 2023 with a mission to ensure that boxing remains at the heart of the Olympic movement.

It held its first formal meeting with the IOC in May 2024 and on 26 February 2025, it was granted provisional recognition by the IOC as the IF within the Olympic Movement governing the sport of boxing at world level.

Further information on World Boxing is at www.worldboxing.org.

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For further media information, contact World Boxing’s media representatives at:

- Media@worldboxing.org
- Lee Murgatroyd, Director, Point Communications Ltd
 - Email: lee.murgatroyd@pointcommunications.co
 - Tel: +44 7974 161 166
- Zack Chavez, Communications and Digital Media Manager, USA Boxing
 - Email: zchavez@usaboxing.org
 - Tel: (806) 283-2502

World Boxing

World Boxing is a non-profit international federation set up to administer the sports of Olympic-style boxing, Paralympic boxing (otherwise called “Adaptive boxing”) and E-sport boxing. It is a civil association founded for an unlimited period of time having its own legal identity as a non-profit organisation in accordance with Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code. World Boxing is under the jurisdiction of Switzerland.

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World Boxing's website is www.worldboxing.org.

