



Official WBA Statement on Team Ruiz Claims:

September 15, 2008

After learning that serious allegations were made by Team Ruiz after his defeat against Nicolay Valuev last August 30th in Berlin, Germany, the World Boxing Association (WBA) strongly denies any wrongdoings by any of its appointed officials and wants make some statements about it.

- 1) None of the WBA-appointed officials, including the supervisor, Mr. Robert Mack, noticed that Valuev's cornermen received judges' scoring during the fight. However, as our practice, the partial results were shared with the Austrian Commission (the local commission in this case) who locally overlooked the fight. We are not aware that they shared the running totals with anyone.
- 2) None of the WBA-appointed officials, including the supervisor, Mr. Robert Mack, noticed at any time during the fight that judge Mr. Takeshi Shimakawa improperly kept a running score during the fight. Mr. Shimakawa only made a mistake by having altered the fighters' positions in his scorecard in the last round. He detected this error when he was revising the master scoresheet provided to him by Mr. Mack after the fight. As we are talking about the last round, which had ended about five minutes before, Mr. Shimakawa remembered that he had scored the round in favor of Valuev, not to Ruiz, so Mr. Mack proceeded to correct the result from a split decision to a unanimous decision in favor of Valuev. Mr. Mack showed the scorecard in question to both boxers' representatives and Mr. Anthony Cardinale thoroughly revised it along with the master scoresheet as Ruiz' representative. He agreed in front of everybody that it was only a human mistake.
- 3) Judge Antonio Requena simply considered that two rounds of the fight were even enough for him to declare a clear winner, which under no circumstance is a violation of any WBA rule.
- 4) Regardless of any statements made by any party at this time, as it is a usual practice in cases like this the WBA will review the video tape of the fight again if so properly required by any of the parties involved.
- 5) The press release sent by Team Ruiz under the title "Decked Stacked Against The Quiet Man" and the article published on the web site www.fightnews.com under the title "Team Ruiz claims corruption" make allegations not supported by the facts as we know them. They should immediately rectify unsubstantiated statements.