

APPG on Boxing
Boxing and the Olympic Games
1030am – 1130am
Tuesday, 29th November 2022
Room W1, Westminster Hall

In attendance:

Name	Organisation
Imran Hussain MP	Co-Chair, APPG on Boxing
Steven Sewell	Assistant to Imran Hussain MP
Murray Stewart	Stewart Public Affairs Ltd
Mike Penning MP	Member, APPG on Boxing
Margaret Ferrier MP	Vice Chair of the APPG on Boxing
Jonathan Djanogly MP	Vice Chair of the APPG on Boxing
Matt Holt	GB Boxing
Oner Avara	My Next Match
Finn Rogers	Entain Group
Lord Selkirk of Douglas	Member, APPG on Boxing
Jerome Pels	England Boxing
Colin Metson	Welsh Boxing
Avoen Perryman	England Boxing
Lee Murgatroyd	Point Communications / GB Boxing
Guy Letang	Baroness Grey-Thompson
Martin Le Jeune	Entain Group
Stephen Hills	London Metropolitan University
Ed Colin	Boxing Futures

Agenda:

1. **Introduction from Imran Hussain MP (IH)**
 - Murray Stewart (MS) welcomed all attendees to the session and gave the floor to Imran Hussain MP (IH).
 - IH stated that the purpose of the meeting was to hear the views of the Home Nations National Governing Bodies for Boxing (GB Boxing, England Boxing and Welsh Boxing) on boxing and the Olympic Games and passed the floor to **Matt Holt (MH) (CEO, GB Boxing)**.
2. **Introductory remarks**
 - **MH** explained that boxing is currently included in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games but has been omitted from the 2028 Los Angeles Games (LA2028).

- He said the decision by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on the 8th of September 2022 was taken due to several governance and sporting integrity issues concerning the International Boxing Association (IBA), including the Association's current President's relationship with the Kremlin, its "financial dependency" on the majority state-owned Russian company Gazprom, and ongoing "governance" issues.
- MH explained that IBA in its current form was "unreformable" and that an IOC Board Meeting on the 5th-7th December 2022 was expected to consider the future status of IBA as a member of the Olympic movement.
- MH added that he was in regular contact with DCMS and that there is a roadmap for boxing to be included on the LA2028 Olympics programme, but that IBA was not currently meeting the requirements and that there would be terminal implications for Team GB if boxing was not included.
- MH highlighted that UK Sport were developing an international relations strategy and were working with other National Governing Bodies to try to resolve this issue.
- MH concluded that a new international federation could be created to replace IBA but explained that this would take time and would be very complicated to progress.
- **Jerome Pels (JP) (CEO, England Boxing):** confirmed that the Home Nations were united in their approach that was being led by Team GB.
- He explained that the Olympics provided a vital aspiration pathway for boxers and if elite boxers get into the Team GB squad, they enter a professional environment with elite level coaching.
- JP stressed the importance of retaining the current Olympic pathway for boxers in England and that a way for boxing to be included in the LA2028 Olympics needs to be found urgently.
- JP concluded by stating that creating an alternative structure to IBA would be difficult and complicated.
- **Colin Metson (CM) (CEO, Welsh Boxing):** confirmed that the Home Nations were working together in their approach that was being led by Team GB.
- CM explained that a group of like-minded governing bodies within IBA were pushing for internal change including governing bodies in USA, Canada, Western Europe and Australia.

3. Q&A

- Members and attendees asked questions on what happens next, what the new Government can do, like minded organisations pushing for change within IBA, what an alternative governance structure might look like, IOC position, engagement with the new Minister for Sport, importance of the Olympic boxing pathway for grass roots boxing, possible impact on the Commonwealth Games, potential for the IOC to have responsibility for boxing at the LA2028 Olympics, and how the APPG on Boxing can effectively support the Home Nations Governing Bodies.
- It was agreed that the Home Nations National Governing Bodies would update the APPG following the IOC Board meeting in December and that the Secretariat would send a letter requesting to meet with the Sports Minister early in the New Year.

4. AOB and final remarks

- IH closed with a brief summary of the session, thanked the attendees for their participation, and the Stewart Public Affairs Ltd team for organising the event.