

A portrait of Boris van der Vorst, a man with curly brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light blue button-down shirt. He is standing in a boxing gym, with various pieces of equipment like boxing gloves and a red punching bag visible in the blurred background.

A NEW ERA FOR BOXING
FAIR – SUSTAINABLE – UNITED

BORIS VAN DER VORST
CANDIDATE FOR IBA PRESIDENCY

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DEAR BOXING FRIENDS,

In light of the IBA Election Congress in Istanbul, I am honored to share my Manifesto with all of you. You have helped me shape it through many meetings and conversations we have held over the past years, exchanging ideas and concepts on how boxing should develop around the world.

My vision for the future of our sport, my values and the strategy to support this vision have not changed since 2020, when I published my AIBA Presidential Election Program. I remain concerned about the future of our sport and believe more than ever that, irrespective of the country we represent or the position we hold, we must finally **unite** around a **fair** and **sustainable** approach towards boxing development.

With confidence in our continued cooperation and complete readiness to enter a **New Era for Boxing**, I submit this Manifesto for your consideration.

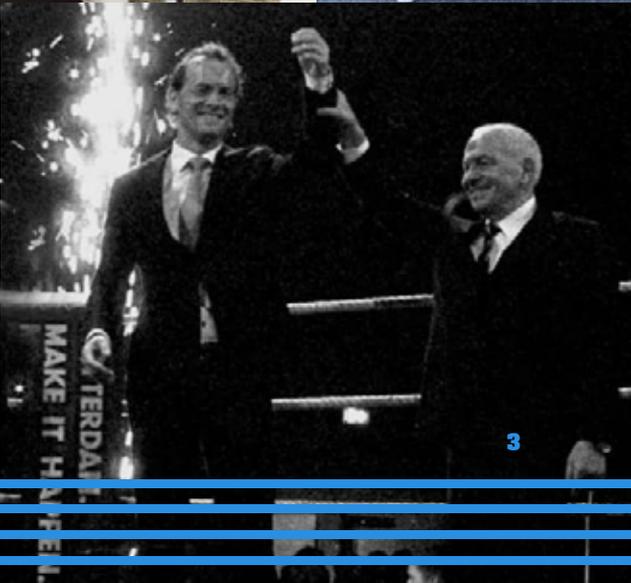
Boris van der Vorst

Dutch Boxing Federation President

EUBC Passion for Boxing Committee Chair



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IBA IN EXISTENTIAL CRISIS

For the first time in history, boxing has been excluded by the IOC from the Olympic Program for the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Our International Association continues to face serious sport integrity, governance and financial issues, as indicated in the recent IOC Interim Report on AIBA (IBA), the Professor McLaren's Investigation Reports, as well as in the Professor Haas' Governance Report.

The proposed **Paris 2024 Olympic Qualification System is under heavy fire from both the IBA National Federations and the IOC**. Unfortunately, it has not been developed to meet the high standards of the IOC or our expectations. Consequently, the IOC expressed concerns and denied that it had fully approved it (letter from the IOC dated April 12, 2022), despite the announcements of the IBA leadership.

Financial management of IBA in the past 18 months has proven to be ineffective, in not incompetent. IBA has not followed its own budget, which is its constitutional obligation. Instead of focusing on sport integrity, many millions have been spent on external consultants, marketing and communication without any success to generate additional revenue sources, such as TV rights sales of its major competitions or additional sponsorships. The fiscal year will not result in any net gains for IBA and it is a clear attempt to take all of us, National Boxing Federations, as hostages to yet another promise of certain individuals, who speak of bringing in yet another "miracle sponsor". Another "sponsor", that is clearly ready to advance individual interests, not the interests of our sport.

Despite the claimed settlement of IBA's debts, it has not been made clear to the National Boxing Federations what the terms and conditions of these settlements were. Neither the Board of Directors, nor the National Boxing Federations have received any reports on these settlements or heard any statements from IBA's creditors and investors to confirm how exactly it had been executed. Financial transparency of our world sport governing body often still resembles that of a private club.

Despite the commendable involvement of Professor McLaren and his important findings about **sport integrity issues** at the Rio 2016 Olympic Boxing Competition as well as other at IBA events (including in 2021), we have not observed any transparent investigations or sanctions in relation to those exposed. On the contrary, we witnessed invitations issued by the IBA to these compromised individuals to award medals at major boxing competitions, including at the 2021 Men's World Boxing Championships.



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Furthermore, the latest stage of the McLaren investigation of the possible corruption within AIBA and IBA has been delayed until after the 2022 Congress by the Board of Directors, dismissing its high urgency and significance to all of us.

Despite our shared optimism in relation to the involvement of Professor Haas in IBA's **governance reforms**, we now clearly see that the adoption of the proposed reforms has not resulted in their timely implementation. The judicial bodies of the IBA have not been restructured and have proven highly ineffective in processing any relevant cases. The whistleblowing system, which should serve as a bedrock to resolving all integrity issues and protect all of us, is completely broken. Recommended new and important committees, such as Strategy and Finance Committees, have not been appointed despite promises. The IBA lied to all of us about the IOC holding the responsibility for delaying the appointment of an IOC Liaison Officer, which had been defined as one of the "special emergency measures to enable AIBA (IBA) to overcome its acute crisis" by Professor Haas in November 2021. Haas' recommendations to develop an IBA Strategic Plan or for the IBA President to spend more time at the headquarters in Lausanne were also ignored.

In addition, the horrible invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Government caused suffering to millions of Ukrainians, but also exposed IBA and the sport of boxing to numerous additional risks. Countries around the world are implementing more and more sanctions against the Russian government, Russian companies, as well as Russian individuals. IBA is the only international sports governing body within the Olympic Movement that has retained a Russian government-owned company as its partner. Continued relationship with Gazprom, a company financing the illegal invasion of a sovereign nation, is undeniably a severe damaging factor to IBA, our sport, as well as to the Olympic Movement. It is a serious consideration that will not be overlooked when the IOC will be making their decision on IBA's recognition in the near future.

There is still a way to keep the promise we all give to our athletes as sports leaders and save their Olympic dreams. **We can still bring back boxing for LA2028 Olympic Games, and ensure that we never end up in this situation again.** There is a way to change the organizational culture and set on a sustainable development path for our sport. **We can still access the Tokyo 2020 funds that remain frozen by the IOC and bring back the Olympic Solidarity funding.** This can only happen, however, if National Federations make a brave and responsible choice in the interest of our sport on May 13, 2022.

MY VISION

“I envision a modernized, sustainable organization that facilitates fair and inclusive participation for boxers of all levels across the world.

I believe that IBA can still become a showcase partner to National Federations, Continental Confederations, sponsors and to all Olympic Movement stakeholders.”

MY VALUES

Aristotle, the ancient admirer of combat sports, declared: “Well begun is half done”. Therefore, I would like to launch the journey of modernizing boxing in Europe by communicating a set of values that guide me and that we can all embrace to lay the foundation for a change of culture.

HONESTY

Honesty, an element of fairness and integrity, should be implanted into the core of IBA, the Continental Confederations and all our National Federations. Without honesty, there is no safe future for boxing.

RESPECT

Respect is one of the three Olympic values that implies high regard for all people involved in the sport, as well as for the regulatory obligations. It is rooted in the belief that all stakeholders are important, starting with the boxers.

EXCELLENCE

Excellence, another Olympic value, is not a single notable act, but a habit of constant learning, setting and meeting quality standards, offering diligent consideration to any decision, as well as giving the best professional effort in all actions. In most cases, embracing the sport of boxing with excellence is about accomplishing the operational tasks efficiently, implementing proven solutions and practices that are already widely available, even closely following the lead of other established organizations, like the IOC.

INCLUSIVENESS

Inclusiveness is a value that promotes a culture of openness and friendship. It is key to raising the popularity of our sport and inspiring more people to take up boxing. It is very important to nurture equality and disallow any kind of discrimination.

TEAMWORK

Teamwork is paramount to overcoming complex challenges and modernizing IBA. To ensure lasting unity, it is crucial to constantly engage and listen to the voices of all National Federations.

“I am certain that IBA and its affiliated Members can flourish by promoting honesty and respect, always striving for excellence, working closely and openly as a team, without prejudice or discrimination!”

MY PLAN

We will immediately lay a solid foundation for a new era in boxing development. This era will be defined by fair competitions, professional and sustainable management, as well as unity among our Membership and with our major stakeholders. We will remove all existential risks to IBA and Olympic boxing, significantly improve relations with the IOC and ensure that boxing returns to the Olympic Program in 2028.

Together, we will:

I. Restore trust of boxers and fans

→ Relentlessly fight against sport manipulation

Our boxers expect more from the sport governing body and its leaders. I will make fair bouts the absolute priority for everyone: from IBA Board of Directors to boxing clubs across the world. We will follow the lead of the IOC Boxing Taskforce and fully implement the transparent and independent system of appointments of officials to competitions. We will also install control mechanisms and communicate zero tolerance for unethical conduct of officials and NF representatives. I guarantee transparency and consistency when it comes to the evaluation of officials' performance and application of sanctions. On the other hand, I will ensure transparent encouragement of good performance of officials with incentives at each major competition. Finally, we will form and reinforce the BIIU and implement effective whistleblowing mechanisms at the global level.

→ Develop competition officials

We will update the content of, standardize, and organize more certification and development courses for our officials to ensure equivalence of application of rules. We will encourage joint courses for coaches and officials to improve understanding.

→ Provide more independence and support to key committees

I will propose that R&J, Competitions and a number of other IBA Committee Chairs are elected by National Federations, not appointed. Candidates for these important positions will be required to put forward plans to protect our sport integrity and develop officials. IBA, in turn, will allocate sufficient funds for the committees' operations.

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→ Improve standards of event management

Staging a high quality event is showing respect to the athletes, coaches, fans and the sport of boxing. We will develop, communicate and implement reasonable event standards for all major events. Calendar will be finally coordinated with Confederations and National Federations. It will be set in stone for a quadrennial period. Event hosts will be assigned at least two years in advance to ensure better preparation, as it is the case in all other top International Federations.

→ Implement a digital transformation

We will expedite the digitalization of the IBA to make it more effective, transparent, accessible and responsive to all Members and stakeholders, starting with our boxers! We will finally implement a secure and functional sport management platform to support all members of the Boxing Family.



2. Ensure financial sustainability

→ Guarantee responsible and compliant financial management

I believe in professional and sustainable financial management, not a “miracle sponsor”. I will implement comprehensive and realistic budgeting, as well as ensure budget compliance. Going forward, all loans, joint ventures, rights transfers or other tenders will be openly examined and approved by the Board. It will be possible to implement a successful commercial strategy only after we ensure high standards of sport integrity, governance and management.

→ Develop a Strategic Plan

The environment in which sports federations operate is becoming increasingly complex. To thrive, boxing needs a clear strategic direction, shared and vastly supported by National Federations. Together, we will develop and implement a comprehensive Strategic Plan based on integrity, respect and inclusiveness, with key performance indicators and control mechanisms in place to ensure steady development of our sport across the continent.

→ Create additional sustainable revenue sources

IBA certainly has the potential to develop additional revenues from media rights, sponsorships, advertisement, ticket sales, licensing and governing fitness/business boxing. We will facilitate the organization of well scheduled and professionally organized tournaments, with TV production and broadcasting as a priority. This will lead to increased direct revenues and allow to engage new long-term commercial partnerships. Consecutively, it will lead to sustainable financial support for the National Federations.

→ Assist National Federations in developing and executing their own commercial strategies

Cumulative financial strength of IBA is defined by how strong its National Federations are. I plan to visit and start a productive dialogue with all National Federations of IBA. Together, we will find ways to attract more funding in the short-term through grants and aim to develop coordinated commercial strategies to generate sustainable long-term revenues.



3. Inspire a change of culture

➔ **Observe strict compliance with governance standards**

As indicated in the IOC Interim Report on AIBA (IBA), we need to ensure actual implementation of the governance reforms, not only their adoption. I guarantee strict practical adherence with the Constitution and regulations of IBA and the IOC, as well as with the recommendations of Professor Haas. With continued assistance of independent experts, we will openly resolve all outstanding conflicts of interest and implement due diligence practices in financial and administrative domains.

➔ **Encourage inclusiveness, athlete representation, and gender equality**

I will work to build bridges across borders and cultures, making participation possible at every level. I will encourage the formation of Regional Development Committees and facilitate their work to resolve boxing issues that are specific to regions around the world. It is also important that equality is respected and promoted by forming a Diversity Commission, as proposed by Professor Haas, as well as by assigning representatives of the Athletes Committee into all other commissions to ensure real teamwork and a coordinated development strategy.

➔ **Engage boxers in their personal development and wellbeing**

Boxers are the most important resource in boxing. Today's investment in boxers will shape the growth of our sport for the next generation. Although it is a direct responsibility of respective National Federations to nurture their boxers, IBA will take a lead in athlete safeguarding policies, provision of international educational opportunities and in ensuring their wellbeing.

➔ **Develop recreational and grassroots boxing**

We will promote a culture of openness and friendship to drive up the popularity of our sport and inspire more people to take up boxing. I know how to develop fitness boxing and recreational boxing programs to attract more people into our community. We will develop and implement continental and national action plans to develop recreational boxing competitions, which will offer additional local commercial opportunities.



“I am convinced that the implementation of my plan will take boxing into a new era of sustainable development and unity, full of exciting new commercial opportunities. We will achieve cultural change within our sport and stand ready to organize the most fair and successful championships and tournaments.

I promise to you that we will fulfil the criteria set in the IOC Interim Report and IBA will be reinstated as an IOC recognized International Federation. We will prove that we can develop, plan, and execute a fair, balanced, and comprehensive Qualification System for Paris 2024. Most importantly, we will safeguard the return of boxing into the LA2028 Olympic Program!”

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MY PLEDGE

As your President, I will speak with **honesty**. I will be open, impartial and considerate. I am determined to draw from my different sources of experience: as a boxer, as a businessperson, as President of a National Federation, and as Chair of the European Boxing Confederation Passion for Boxing Commission. I know how to reform and develop an organization. We will improve the financial position of IBA and I will care for the people that work together with me.

We all know that there is no silver bullet.

To overcome the challenges we face, **inclusiveness** and **teamwork** will be of the essence. I pledge to engage with all of you, all of you who love our sport and stand firm for the interests of our athletes. I will facilitate an open discussion on how to ensure **fairness**, **sustainability** and **unity**.

I know that the Boxing Family is full of professionals, who strive for **excellence**, who believe that our sport deserves more **respect**, and who stand ready to contribute to practical solutions.

I promise to you that IBA will be reinstated as an IOC recognized International Federation and boxing will be introduced back into the LA2028 Olympic Program!

During this existential crisis for our sport, I urge National Federation leaders to unite and take boxing into an entirely new era.

Always in your corner,

Boris van der Vorst



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“I grew up in a boxing family. My grandfather was a boxer and my uncle used to run a boxing school in Utrecht, the Netherlands. I spent countless days in that gym and fell in love with the atmosphere. Boxing has given me an enormous amount of joy and gratification. In addition, it has given me the necessary skills to succeed as an entrepreneur and sports administrator.”

BORIS VAN DER VORST

Date of birth	February 18, 1972
Residence	Bunnik, the Netherlands
Marital status	Married, three daughters

Passionate and transformative sports administrator, successful healthcare entrepreneur, boxer and football player at national level.

Sports Administration

Since 2016	Chair of European Boxing Confederation Passion for Boxing Commission – Presented with 2018 EUBC President’s Award ‘For outstanding performance and enduring efforts promoting the boxing sport all over the world’.
Since 2014	President of Dutch Boxing Federation – Developed and implemented policies, aimed at high-performance as well as recreational boxing development, image restoration, financial stability, innovation, and strengthening relationships with NOC, EUBC, AIBA/IBA and other NF’s. Increased NF gym memberships by 50% and individual memberships by 300%. First Olympic boxing medal won by a Dutch boxer in 24 years (Rio 2016).
Since 2008	Board Member of Dutch Boxing Federation

Professional Career

Since 2009	Founder and CEO of FysioHolland – A personal physiotherapeutic practice that grew into a national healthcare industry leader. Continuously expanding, innovative company with over 100 locations, 500 employees, and EUR 25 million annual turnover.
Since 2009	Co-owner of De Betere Plek – Real estate investments
2009-2021	Co-owner of TriageExpert – HR software development and advisory services provider that supports, directly and indirectly, hundreds of organizations and hundreds of thousands of employees in the healthcare industry with effective high-tech solutions.
Since 2005	Founder and co-owner of TopDoc – Healthcare solutions provider
2001-2009	Owner of WorkWell – HR advisory company, providing services for KLM HS, Randstad, and Ministry of Finance of the Netherlands among others.

Education

2019-2021	Nordic International Leadership Education Program
1997	University of Utrecht, Master’s Degree in Literature
1997	HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, Bachelor Degree in Physiotherapy

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