

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOXING AUSTRALIA INC. MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

FROM: TED TANNER, CHAIRPERSON OF BAI

SUBJECT: BOXER PATHWAY TO BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES

DATE: 1 DECEMBER, 2006

MESSAGE:

**The Board of BAI requests all State and Territory Member Associations to immediately bring to the attention of all male boxers registered with their association who will be at least 17 years of age and no older than 33 years of age at the commencement of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games Boxing Tournament (anticipated to commence on 9 August, 2008), the information provided in this message.**

The reason for urgency of the request is to comply with advice received from a representative of the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC).

Boxers should be advised that the qualification 'pathway' for an Australian Boxer to the Beijing Olympic Games is:

- ◆ If those competing in the weight divisions 48 kg. to 81 kg. finish in the first eight boxers in their weight division at the 2007 World Championships (anticipated to be held in Russia in September, 2007), they will qualify to compete in the 2008 Olympic Games if they are selected for the Australian Olympic Team by the AOC.
- ◆ If those competing in the weight divisions 91 kg. 91 kg.+ finish in the first four boxers in their weight division at the 2007 World Championships (anticipated to be held in Russia in September, 2007), they will qualify to compete in the 2008 Olympic Games if they are selected for the Australian Olympic Team by the AOC.
- ◆ That, if no boxer or boxers from AIBA's (the International Amateur Boxing Association's) Oceania Continent (which includes Australia) qualifies in a weight division at the 2007 World Championships to compete in the 2008 Olympic Games, then the winner of that weight division at the Oceania Continent's Olympic Qualifying Tournament (anticipated to be held in April, 2008), if an Australian, will qualify to compete at the 2008 Olympic Games if they are selected for the Australian Team by the AOC. However, please note that if a boxer or boxers from Oceania at the 2007 World Championships qualify to compete in the 2008 Olympic Games then the Oceania Continent's quota for a boxer in their weight division(s) to compete at the Olympic Games will have been filled, and that no further boxers from Oceania will be eligible to compete in the 2008 Olympic Games in that weight division(s), and there will be no contest in that division(s) at the Oceania Continent's Olympic Qualifying Tournament to be held in 2008.

The Australian Olympic Committee has made it clear that it will select the Australian Team to represent Australia at the 2008 Olympics and that the role of National Sporting Associations, such as BAI, is to nominate to it the proposed members of the Team.

**Additionally, the Australian Olympic Committee has made it clear that it will accept no 'retrospective' qualification criteria for nomination of Team members.**

Therefore, BAI's 2008 Olympic Games Shadow Team Nomination Process will commence with a Selection Tournament to be held in March, 2007, in Canberra.

Each Member Association will be entitled to enter one boxer in the men's weight divisions 48 kg. to 91 kg.+.

The winners of the weight divisions 48 kg. through to 91 kg.+ , if they comply with BAI's 2008 Olympic Games Shadow Team Nomination Criteria, will represent Australia at the 2007 Oceania Championships to be held in April, 2007, in Samoa and at the 2007 World Championships to be held in Russia in September.

If an Australian boxer qualifies to compete in the 2008 Olympic Games as a result of their performance at the 2007 World Championships and they comply and continue to comply with BAI's 2008 Olympic Games Shadow Team Nomination Criteria, BAI will nominate them to the Australian Olympic Committee to be a member of the Australian Team.

- ◆ In November, 2007, the Australian Championships will be held in Queensland. The winners of a men's weight division at those championships, if no boxer from the Oceania Continent has already filled the Oceania Continent's AIBA quota for that weight division at the 2008 Olympic Games, if they comply with BAI's 2008 Olympic Games Shadow Team Nomination Criteria, will be sent to compete by BAI to Oceania's Olympic Games Qualifying Tournament to be held in April, 2008, and if they win their weight division at that tournament and they continue to comply with BAI's 2008 Olympic Games Shadow Team Nomination Criteria, will be nominated by BAI to the Australian Olympic Committee to be a member of Australia's Team to the 2008 Olympic Games.

Additionally, BAI may hold a Selection Tournament in February/March, 2008, to select an Australian 'B' Team to compete, at its members own expense, in Oceania's 2008 Olympic Qualifying Tournament, which is anticipated will be held in Fiji.

**In addition to each Member Association immediately advising boxers registered with their Association of the above information each is requested to advise Boxing Australia as soon as possible of the fair and transparent selection process each adopts to choose their boxers to compete at the BAI Selection Tournament in March, 2007.**

This is an important matter as the Australian Olympic Committee is insistent that the 'pathway' for Olympic Games selection is fair and transparent and that such a process is followed not just at the national level but at the State/Territory level as well.

**It is of great importance that Member Associations immediately inform all their male boxers of the foregoing Olympic Games 'pathway' to selection and give them time to prepare to compete in February, 2007, in their Member Association's selection bouts.**

The information in this memorandum and a copy of BAI's 2008 Olympic Games Shadow Team Nomination Criteria will be posted on BAI's website to assist dissemination of this information as widely as possible.

A copy of BAI's 2008 Olympic Games Shadow Team Nomination Criteria will be posted on BAI's website and forwarded to all Member Associations when BAI is advised by the AOC that it is approved.

As will be apparent, BAI is acting in accordance with AOC advice and direction. The Board's decision to hold the Selection Tournament in March, 2007, is to enable a 'Shadow' Team/ Australian Team to be formed that the National Coach can work with and prepare for the important 2007 World Championships.