



International Boxing Association

January 4, 2008

Mr Franco Falcinelli  
President  
Italian Boxing Federation  
Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: Death of Korean Professional Boxer

Dear President Falcinelli,

I am very pleased to receive your request to obtain any information regarding the death of Mr Yo-Sam Choi, the Korean Professional Boxer who died immediately after the WBO title match held in Korea.

First of all, I would like to inform you of the following facts which took place before, during and after the bout of this boxer. As a conclusion, the cause of his death was a cerebral hemorrhage.

1. Before the match, he took a traditional nutritional food made by a mixture of animal and local liquor which caused a serious side-effect. Due to this side-effect, he lost some physical strength. Following his relatives advice, he started to complain to be tired.
2. Although he had this problem, he continued training hard. On the day of the match, he expressed to his coach that he was not feeling well. However, during the medical examination, the local doctor (not the ringside physician) did not have a full medical examination and relied on the boxer's simple comments and confirmed his physical conditions were OK.
3. At the end of the bout, 20 seconds left in the final round, he was knock-down but he got up and finished the match and won by unanimous decision.
4. As soon as the announcement was made, he collapsed in the ring.
5. Then, no one did the proper emergency treatment and waited for an ambulance. However, the waited ambulance was blocked by several other cars and that ambulance could not move for 20 minutes.
6. While they were waiting for the ambulance, no one even covered the boxer with blanket. He was lying down in the ring with cold temperature.
7. Then, the ambulance did not take him to the closest hospital which was located within 5 minutes. The Korean Professional Boxing people took him to the hospital which they had contracted (their designated hospital). The hospital was located almost 30 minutes from the venue.



8. When the boxer arrived at the hospital, his hand bandages were still on and the hospital took another 20 minutes to operate him.
9. Thus, all of this delay caused him a lack of oxygen in his brain since he had a cerebral hemorrhage.

Now, the experts and doctors have made a final decision on the reasons of his death and these are as follows:

- A. Improper emergency management by the organizer
- B. Mistreatment after bout medical procedure by the Korean Professional Boxing Federation
- C. No existence of designated and professional ringside doctor(s)

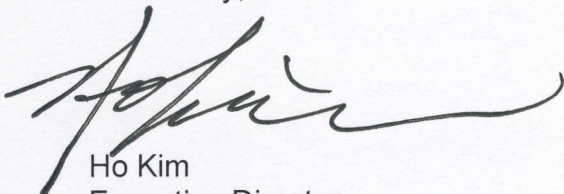
As we understand, some media/press from various countries is now talking about the danger of the sport of boxing as a whole. In this regard, the International Boxing Association (AIBA) as the governing body of Olympic Boxing, and not of Professional Boxing, would like to send the following statements:

First of all, AIBA has been concentrating on the issue of Safety of Boxer as the priority whenever facing an enhancement of competition rules and medical procedures. As a result, AIBA maintains head guards and very strict medical examination procedures before and after Olympic Boxing Competitions.

Secondly, our 3 ringside physicians are always ready to provide immediate emergency medical treatment and the designated ambulance is always ready to take the boxer(s) to any closest hospital for further treatments.

Finally, as the global boxing families approved recent AIBA's plan to launch its own professional boxing program which is the AIBA League, we truly believe it is now time for us to decide the destiny of the sport of boxing, not others. I sincerely hope the media/press will be able to separate programs between the Olympic style and Professional boxing, especially the differences on the way to operate the competitions and the welfares of the boxers.

Yours truly,



Ho Kim  
Executive Director