

Law Office of Leon R. Margules, P.A.



Leon R. Margules, Esquire
Zachary D. Margules, Esquire

May 15, 2019

The Honorable Mark Herring
Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Virginia
202 North Ninth Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Actions of the Boxing, Martial Arts and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board
Saturday, May 11, 2019

Dear Honorable Sir,

Please be advised this office represents the interest of professional boxer Matt Korobov, who competed in a 10 round boxing match ("Bout") against Richmond, Virginia resident Immanuel Aleem on May 11, 2019 at the Eagle Bank Arena on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

The Bout was nationally telecast on prime time on the Fox network at 8pm and viewed by millions of boxing fans around the world. The bout was sanctioned by the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulations under the supervision of the Boxing, Martial Arts, and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board ("Advisory Board").

In a Bout controlled by Matt Korobov, it ended first in the announcement of majority decision in favor of Mr. Korobov, and then some 20 minutes later an announcement that the result was being changed to a majority draw.

The reason for this letter is to formally ask the Attorney General's Office to investigate inappropriate actions of the Advisory Board with regards to the Bout, misapplication or mistakes in the officials' application of the rules, and conflicts of interests.

Since there are many issues that we are asking you to investigate, we will number them, but not necessarily in the order that they occurred.

1. **Conflict of Interest:** The 3 judges appointed to judge the contest involving a Russian Citizen residing in Florida and a Virginia resident living in Richmond and as appointed by the Advisory Board were as follow:

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- a) Mark D' Attilio, who we have now learned is an appointed member of the Advisory Board for the Sport of Boxing whose Second Four – Year Term expires June 30, 2022,
- b) Brian Costello, who is the Chairman and Representative of the Advisory Board for the Sport of Martial Arts whose of Second Four – Year Term expires June 30, 2022; and
- c) Dorothea Perry, who is from New York, but has never judged a professional boxing event outside of Virginia or Delaware, and never one of this magnitude.

In my 27 years of involvement as an attorney concentrating on the sport of professional boxing, I have never heard of appointed “commissioners” or “quasi government officials” judging a major Bout in a state where they are appointed, and where they are familiar with the local boxers as a licensing agency. Clearly State Commissions go out of their way to appoint neutral and experienced officials to oversee important bouts that could affect and impact Boxer’s earnings in the future by millions of dollars.

Mr. Attilio and Mr. Costello were not neutral officials who just happened to reside in Virginia. These judges were appointed members of the Advisory Board very familiar with, if not friendly with the local licensed boxers in Virginia.

Mrs. Perry scored the Bout 97-93 in favor of Mr. Korobov (7 rounds to 3) and Mr. Costello and Mr. D 'Attilio scored the Bout a draw 95-95. The Scorecard that was changed from 96-95 to 95-95 was the scorecard of Mark D 'Attilio. (See attached The Scorecard Master Scorecard marked Exhibit “A”). As you can see the score as changed and the score 10 of 10 in round 10 was crossed out and replaced by a 9, and the official decision in favor of Mr. Korobov was also crossed out some 20 minutes after the Bout. I am also attaching a copy of the Master Scorecard given to the television broadcasters prior to announcing the decision without the change (See attached Master Scorecard marked as Exhibit “B”).

Additionally if you look at the judging records of both Mr. D 'Attilio and Mr. Costello, neither has worked outside of the state of Virginia except for occasional bouts in Delaware and Washington D.C. despite their experience in 274 Bouts and 295 Bouts respectively.

This we also find odd, considering competent judges usually get hired and appointed out of state, where the fees paid for World Title Bouts are much larger. In fact, the judges appointed by your Advisory Board were all from outside of Virginia for the main event Saturday Night between a boxer from Maryland and one from Philadelphia. In the third televised bout all the

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same judges worked as in the Korobov v. Aleem bout, with both boxers residing outside of the State of Virginia. Why weren't neutral judges appointed for the Korobov v. Aleem Bout? Aleem is from Richmond, Virginia and may have been well acquainted with the Advisory Board members that judged the Bout.

Therefore, the appointment of 2 Judges and a Referee all from the state of Virginia for the Bout in question certainly has the appearance of impropriety and potential conflicts of interest, where the Advisory Board not only appoints the officials but supervises and enforces decisions and rules, and licenses the participants.

2. **Unskilled Poor Judging or Worse:** Not only did almost everyone watching the Bout between Korobov and Aleem believe Korobov won, but a fair majority of boxing fans on the various websites commented about the corruption and incompetence of the Virginia officials. I am also attaching for your review the unofficial scoring of legendary hall of fame boxing official Larry Hazzard, also works for Fox and who was the Head of the New Jersey State Boxing Commission for many years. After round 8, Mr. Hazzard has the Bout scored 79-72 in favor of Mr. Korobov (See attached pictures and scorecard of Mr. Hazzard attached as Exhibit "C"). I am also attaching Mr. Hazzard's scorecard through 6 rounds and a picture showing the CompuBox punches landed by the respective Boxers more than halfway through the Bout. (See Exhibits "D" and "E"). Clearly it shows Mr. Korobov's dominance through most of the bout. At best, the 2 Virginia members of the Advisory Board who are inexplicably working as self-appointed judges for the bout had a bad night, and at worst they showed improper favoritism for the Virginia based boxer. Lastly, I have attached snap shots of various comments found on the internet about what occurred. (See Exhibit "F")

3. **Misapplication or Mistakes in Applying the Rules of the Sport of Boxing:**
The Referee for this controversial Bout between Mr. Korobov and Mr. Aleem was Michelle Myers, also from Virginia. She made a mistake in applying the Rules of Boxing to an incident that occurred in the Bout in Round 4 that would have changed the scoring and outcome of the Bout and would have given Korobov a victory despite the poor judging of the 2 Advisory Board members (judges). In boxing, a knockdown should be scored when a fighter is punched and: "a part of his/her body other than the feet touch the canvas ("such as his butt or glove"). (See Rule from Boxrec.com, the leading source of official information as the web attached hereto as exhibit "G"). In the 4th round, Mr. Aleem was hit with a punch at his ear and shoulder as he was turning away from Mr. Korobov. (See picture attached hereto as Exhibit "H"). As a result he fell to the canvas. Everyone who saw this incident believed a knockdown occurred (even the television commentators), but the Virginia Referee did not rule it a knockdown. Had the Referee ruled it a knockdown, the 4th round would have been scored 10-8 for Mr. Korobov, who would have then been declared the winner of the Bout by unanimous decision. While we do not believe there was any intentional misfeasance by the Referee, we do believe her lack of experience (certainly for a Bout at this level) may have played a part in her missing that call.

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4. **Inappropriate Behavior of Virginia Supervisor of the Event:** Last but not least, I would like to bring your attention to the inappropriate behavior of Program Administrator David Holland the main supervisor for the Advisory Board at ringside. Mr. Holland was rude and disrespectful to Mr. Korobov's team when they approached him at ringside after the Bout result was changed, and when they asked to look at the scorecards. More specially, Mr. Holland pushed Mr. Korobov's co-manager and former World Heavyweight Boxing Contender Jameel McCline at ringside while Mr. McCline was attempting to take a picture of the scorecard provided to him. Mr. McCline reacted as most men and especially former professional boxers would and pushed back. After which, Mr. McCline was asked to leave the building which he obediently did. Had he not, and with his size and ability as a former Heavyweight Contender, we could have been involved in a terrible incident at ringside, provoked by Advisory Board Program Administrator at a time when the parties were clearly upset and a more professional and consoling approach would have been much better.

As we continue investigating all the legal remedies available to Mr. Korobov, and based on all the facts set forth in this letter and the attached exhibits, we respectfully ask that the Attorney General investigate this Bout and the surrounding incidents so the wronging done can be fixed, and this nationally televised event doesn't become a "black eye" and have a "chilling effect" on future major boxing events coming to Virginia.

Thank you for your anticipated attention and consideration of this matter, and if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Leon R. Margules, Esquire

Cc. Governor Ralph Northam



Boxing - MASTER SCORE CARD

Event Date: 05/11/2012

Promoter Name: Joan Bryson

Event Hurd vs Williams, Eagle Bank Arena, Fairfax, VA

BLUE Score Card				
Judge		Mark D'Attilio		
RED Corner			BLUE Corner	
Fighter's Name			Fighter's Name	
L ALEEM		Round	Matt KOROBOW	
Score	Total Points		Score	Total Points
9	9	1	10	10
9	18	2	10	20
9	27	3	10	30
10	37	4	9	39
10	47	5	9	48
9	56	6	10	58
9	65	7	10	68
10	75	8	9	77
10	85	9	9	86
10	95	10	9	95
		11		
		12		
	95	Deducted		
		Net Score		

Winner

Submission

Decision

TKO

KO

Time

Round #

Refs

Tracy Hagan
Event Official - Signature

05/11/2019
Date

Majority Don

Page 1 of 1

Exhibit "A"



Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
1960 Mayland Drive, Suite 400
Richmond, Virginia 23233-1405

Boxing - MASTER SCORE CARD

Event: Hard vs Williams, Eagle Rock Arena, Fairfax, VA

Promoter Name: Tom Rivers

Event Date: 05/31/2019

RED Score Card

Judge	RED Corner	BLUE Corner	Fighter's Name	Round	4	Score	Total Points
1	ALFEM	MALE KOBACHOV	Score	1	10	30	10
2	10	30	Score	2	10	30	20
3	10	30	Score	3	10	30	30
4	10	30	Score	4	10	30	40
5	10	30	Score	5	10	30	50
6	10	30	Score	6	10	30	60
7	10	30	Score	7	10	30	70
8	10	30	Score	8	10	30	80
9	10	30	Score	9	10	30	90
10	10	30	Score	10	10	30	100
11	10	30	Score	11	10	30	110
12	10	30	Score	12	10	30	120
				Deducted			
				Net Score			

WHITE Score Card

Judge	RED Corner	BLUE Corner	Fighter's Name	Round	4	Score	Total Points
1	ALFEM	MALE KOBACHOV	Score	1	10	30	10
2	10	30	Score	2	10	30	20
3	10	30	Score	3	10	30	30
4	10	30	Score	4	10	30	40
5	10	30	Score	5	10	30	50
6	10	30	Score	6	10	30	60
7	10	30	Score	7	10	30	70
8	10	30	Score	8	10	30	80
9	10	30	Score	9	10	30	90
10	10	30	Score	10	10	30	100
11	10	30	Score	11	10	30	110
12	10	30	Score	12	10	30	120
				Deducted			
				Net Score			

BLUE Score Card

Judge	RED Corner	BLUE Corner	Fighter's Name	Round	4	Score	Total Points
1	ALFEM	MALE KOBACHOV	Score	1	10	30	10
2	10	30	Score	2	10	30	20
3	10	30	Score	3	10	30	30
4	10	30	Score	4	10	30	40
5	10	30	Score	5	10	30	50
6	10	30	Score	6	10	30	60
7	10	30	Score	7	10	30	70
8	10	30	Score	8	10	30	80
9	10	30	Score	9	10	30	90
10	10	30	Score	10	10	30	100
11	10	30	Score	11	10	30	110
12	10	30	Score	12	10	30	120
				Deducted			
				Net Score			

Winner	Submission	Decision	TKO	KO	Time	Min.	Sec.	Round #	Referee
1					05:11/2019			13	13

Drayton Hogan
Event Official Signature

Virginia Boxing, Martial Arts, and Professional Wrestling Program
AS11-0001 (REV 12-14)
06/01/2017

Exhibit "B"

Exhibit "C"

EIGHT
BS

2:26

HAZZARD'S UNOFFICIAL SCORECARD

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL
	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	79
	9	9	9	9	9	8	9	10	72



Exhibit "D"

EIGHT
BS

2:17

HAZZARD'S UNOFFICIAL SCORECARD

	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
	10	10	10	10	10	10	60
	9	9	9	9	9	8	53



E

Exhibit "E"

WEIGHT
BS

0:33

LANDED

103

69





Deep In My Soul

@PractiKalMagic

SUch corruption .. No wonder boxing has both a bad reputation for being FIXED and has lost viewership. Scoring error my A\$ \$! BS. Matt Korobov was a CLEAR winner!. #PBConFOX



Deep In My Soul @PractiKalMagic · 3d

Replying to @premierboxing

Full-on corruption @premierboxing Racist, anti-Russian lying, malfeasance JUDGES!

@Matveyshhh If i was @Matveyshhh i would never fight in the USA again & I am an American! Contest this Matt & have it investig...

Exhibit "F"



Javier quispe

@boxingfanaticNY



Talk about corruption in [#boxing](#)

What just happened with
the override decision on the
Korobov fight

"Majority draw"???

9:20 PM · 11 May 19 · [Twitter for Android](#)





Ryan O'Hara

@OHaraSports



There was a tabulation error in the first Pacquiao-Marquez fight and the result remained the same. Not so much in this case.

Korobov got robbed again — this time in the nation's capital, the heart of corruption.

Ridiculous.

9:47 PM · 11 May 19 from [Denver, CO](#) ·

[Twitter for iPhone](#)

1 Retweet **3** Likes



Join Date: Mar 2010

Posts: 6,890

Rep Power: 27



Points Info



Korobov beat this guy easily 8 to 2. Then the wretched blind judges rob Korobov !

QUOTE



REPLY

05-13-2019, 07:16 PM

#9

PBR

Streetgang

Interim Champion

Join Date: Nov 2016

Posts: 824

Rep Power: 4



Points Info



Saw this fight live and up close, saw 3 maybe 4 rounds at most you could give to Aleem. Crowd was definitely pulling for Aleem but Korobov was catching him with clean counters for most of the fight and had him visibly hurt a few times.

QUOTE



REPLY

05-13-2019, 08:21 PM

#10

Boxing

Logic



[QUOTE](#)[REPLY](#)

05-13-2019, 10:33 AM

#5

kidaguilar

Interim Champion

Join Date: Feb 2011

Posts: 728

Rep Power: 10



Points Info

[QUOTE](#)[REPLY](#)

You mean corrupt not incompetent.

05-13-2019, 11:08 AM

#6

**The Big
Dunn**

Enemy of the State

Join Date: Sep 2009

Location: New
Jersey

Posts: 48,522

Rep Power: 125



Points Info



I didn't realize this happened. Terrible. Korobov won this fight. I thought he lost to Charlo but IMO he deserves a rematch of that fight.



BoXiNgRoB2018

@boxingrob1990

i got love for @boobooboxing
& korobov but like fuck am i
watching or supporting corruption
[@WorldBoxingOrg](#) [#BoxingHeads](#)

8:41 PM · 10 Sep 14 · [Twitter Web Client](#)



Knockdown

From BoxRec

An official knockdown is ruled in boxing when a fighter is punched and:

- a) a part of his/her body other than the feet touch the canvas (such as his butt or glove)
- b) when a fighter is being held up by the ropes (i.e. the fighter would have fallen had the ropes not been there)
- c) when a fighter is hanging on, through or over the ropes and
- d) cannot protect himself and, for whatever reason, is lodged on a position where he can't fall

A slip or fall to the canvas by a boxer, resulting in any of the above conditions, is not a knockdown.

Note: The Association of Boxing Commissions Referee Rules and Guidelines state: "Before a bout can resume after a boxer has been knocked down, fallen or slipped to the floor of the ring, the Referee shall wipe his gloves." The referee wipes the gloves on his shirt to remove any dirt or debris that might have gotten on the fighter's gloves from the canvas.

External Link

Association of Boxing Commissions Referee Rules and Guidelines (http://www.abcbboxing.com/documents/ABC_REFeree_GUIDELINES.pdf)

Retrieved from 'http://boxrec.com/media/index.php?title=Knockdown&oldid=544753'

Category: Glossary

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- This page was last modified on 6 November 2014, at 11:22.

Exhibit "G"



Exhibit "H"