

World Boxing Championship: Winning is one thing and getting paid is another

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International Boxing Association (Aiba) will award cash prizes to the medalists of the world championship that begins on October 24 in Belgrade.

Havana, September 18 (RHC)-- It is already known that the International Boxing Association (Aiba) will award cash prizes to the medalists of the world championship that begins on October 24 in Belgrade.

The news generates logical expectations because it will be the first fair of its kind endowed with "hard currency" and the figures are appreciable: 100,000, 50,000 and 25,000 dollars for the owners of gold, silver and bronze medals, in that order.

Cuba, the most successful country in such scenarios, does not escape the impacts of the announcement, given the possibility that several of its boxers will climb the podium shortly after winning four gold medals and a third place in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

The island has had a policy that for years has allowed the management of those revenues entirely destined to athletes, coaches and other specialists closely linked to the performances that originate them, and applauds initiatives that generate welfare.

But the economic, commercial and financial blockade maintained by the United States usually turns into an ordeal what others solve with simple bank transfers, and it has been unfortunately demonstrated that in our case it is not the same to earn money as to have it at our disposal.

This means that, contrary to all logic, the Aiba's decision also arouses uncertainties on the island, because the hostility of that policy has no room for exceptions, not even in a universe as noble as sports.

Those who refuse to recognize their impacts should ask Andy Cruz or Roniel Iglesias what it means to know that a prize won by sheer dedication might not benefit them or go through a long waiting period, conditioned by unimaginable obstacles for their rivals.

The answers have been given between the ropes, overcoming limitations of this and other kinds, but nothing justifies the disrespect they are victims of as a result of the terror of the banks before operations with any Cuban institution, including non-governmental ones.

Whoever doubts it should know that in order to make it useful, the Cuban Baseball Federation needed to deposit in the bank account of the international federation more than one million dollars from the training rights of athletes hired in Japan, because the financial persecution prevented it from depositing them in its own account.

And add, just to appeal to another case, that identical reasons made it impossible for the Cuban Football Association to enter 887 thousand 513.78 dollars accumulated since 2014 for concepts ranging from prizes to One Concacaf projects, which have meant nothing less than 452 thousand 453.00.

There are many examples, although the defenders of the blockade insist on denying them, entrenched in the brazenness with which they disregard the international community and make an initiative such as the one now approved by the Aiba reach Cuba with a mixture of joy and concern.

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