



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOXING FEDERATION LTD

ACN 007 060 399

ANBF Australian Title Sanctioning Guidelines 2026

This paper presents the processes / guidelines used by the ANBF in sanctioning Australian title contests.

These guidelines, dated 1 March 2026, were developed by the ANBF after input at the promotor's session held on 31 January 2026 as part of the ANBF 2024-25 Annual General Meeting.

A key principle of the guidelines is transparency of processes.

Use and relationship to the ANBF Rules

- These sanctioning guidelines are to be considered as part of the ANBF Rules
- These sanctioning guidelines describe the sanctioning processes and rules used by the ANBF
- The ANBF Rules state that if there is a conflict between these guidelines and the ANBF Rules, these guidelines will apply. (The ANBF rules provide for the ANBF to deviate from the rules.)
- All parties requesting a sanction of an ANBF Australian title agree to the decisions of the ANBF
- The ANBF may deviate from these guidelines as the ANBF considers circumstances require.

Standard matters that apply

- The boxer ratings used will be the most recently published ANBF National ratings unless specified by the ANBF
- The standard mandatory defence period for Women's and Men's Australian titles is 5 months after a championship contest
- The ANBF will consider special conditions that are agreed by both parties to a sanctioned contest.
- An Australian Title Request Form must be submitted if requested by the ANBF. This form is attached to these guidelines.

Situations of an ANBF Australian title Sanction request

Australian title responsibilities and sanction types are presented below under the following heading:

1. Defenses and obligations of an Australian champion
2. Voluntary Defence
3. Challenge to an Australian champion
4. When an Australian title becomes vacant and there is a 7-day Registration of Interest (ROI)
5. Requested sanction for a vacant Australian title
6. Changes to a previously sanctioned Australian title.

Special conditions that can apply

Special conditions can be agreed by all parties to apply to an Australian title sanction contract.

1 Australian Champion Defenses Obligations

An Australian champion meets his/her defense obligations by having sanctioned title defenses:

- Must have defended the title within 9 months after each championship contest (ANBF Rule 81 (2)). Failure to do would result in the title being declared vacant
- Undertaking voluntary defenses as described in Section 2 below
- Defending against challengers as described in section 3 below
- Defending when ordered to do so by the ANBF. Failure to do would result in the title being declared vacant.

2 Voluntary Defenses by a Champion

Proposal by the champion

A champion may submit a proposed title defence to the ANBF. Such defenses are referred to as voluntary defenses. Such submissions can be made at any time.

ANBF Process

To ensure rated challengers have the time to organize a challenge, the ANBF will not consider voluntary challenges until 3 weeks after a championship contest. After this, a voluntary defence proposal will be processed in the absence of any challenger submissions received after this date.

3 Challenging an Australian Champion

Challenge Process

A boxer can challenge a champion at any time by email to the champion and cc'ing the ANBF National Secretary / ANBF director. The conditions of this are as follows:

- This is subject to a two-week grace period after each championship contest, where the champion does not need to, but may, consider any challenges.
- A challenge will be made to the ANBF through completion of the ANBF Australian Title Sanction Request Form.
- This will specify the details (key matters are the promotor, opponent, date and location), whether the champion has agreed, and any special conditions requested. The ANBF may request additional information, such as on the boxers.

Challenge for a rematch

A boxer that has lost an Australian title contest may write to the ANBF requesting a review of the result and possible rematch.

A boxer that has lost an Australian title contest may challenge the champion immediately. Under such circumstances, and where the ANBF has not ordered a rematch, the champion has the right to have a contest with another boxer prior to being required to have the challenger treated in the normal way. The ANBF may award the challenger mandatory status as a result of the challenge and the performance of the challenger in the losing title contest.

Champion's Response

- Following a challenge that is also in writing to the ANBF, the ANBF will allow a period of 7 days (after the day of the challenge) for the champion to propose other defense matches.
- The ANBF provides a minimum time between the challenge and proposed date of the title fight. This minimum time is:
 - 10 weeks if the proposed date is before the Mandatory date
 - 8 weeks if the proposed date is after the Mandatory date
- The champion does not need to, but can, accept challenges with a fight date less than the minimum times listed above.

Additional Challengers

It may occur that after a challenge is made but before the ANBF sanctions the contest, the ANBF receives a challenge from a different boxer. These are allowed under the process described below.

ANBF Sanction Process

- The ANBF may not consider for sanction a contest that is more than:
 - 12 weeks from the date of the challenge, if the date is before the mandatory date
 - 10 weeks from the date of the challenge, if the date is after the mandatory date.
- The ANBF may not consider for sanction a contest if the match that is not considered suitable for an Australian title.
- If at the end of the 7 days (after the day of the challenge) there is more than one contest proposed, the ANBF would select the challenger. Factors in the selection are challenger boxing credentials, ratings, and the date of the proposed defense.
- No other challengers would be considered after 7 days (from the initial challenge) have passed.
- If both the champion and challenger have proposed the same contest and the ANBF would sanction the contest, the champion and challenger shall have 7 days (or as agreed) to agree on the promotion. If no agreement can be reached, the ANBF would instigate purse bids (Rule 76(5)).
- If the champion does not agree to defend against the sanctioned challenger the ANBF would declare the title vacant and commence a 7-day ROI for the title. The ANBF may state that submissions with the challenger in one corner would be preferred, based on the challenger being sufficiently rated and a suitable opponent.

4 Australian Title becomes Vacant

- Upon becoming vacant, the ANBF would instigate a 7-day Registration of Interest (ROI).
- If a title becomes vacant due to a champion vacating and the ex-champion is then part of a ROI submission, for the purposes of a 7-day ROI, the ex-champion is considered not in the ratings.
- Only submissions with a promotion, date and location, and agreed to by both boxers can be considered.
- The ANBF may sanction before the 7-day period is up if a submitted sanction must be preferred.
- A submission with the highest rated boxer is usually, but not always, favored. Factors in the selection are the ratings, the credentials of both boxers, the date of the proposed defense, and the quality of the match.
- If a submission does not have at least one boxer rated in the top 10 in a division, including a boxer that may be deemed to be preferred, then the ANBF may not sanction such a submission.
- In some circumstances the ANBF may request additional information, such as on the boxers.
- Before sanctioning, the preferred submission would send the ANBF a completed Australian Title Request Form.

5 Australian Title is Vacant

- If a 7-day ROI has occurred and there are no submissions or none that can be sanctioned, the title would remain vacant. Under such circumstances, proposals for sanction would be considered without referring to the industry. This may entail the ANBF requesting additional information, such as on the boxers.
- If a second proposal is received within 3 days (following the request for sanction) of the first proposal and before the first proposal is sanctioned, the second proposal maybe (but not necessarily) considered, and the best of the two proposals would be sanctioned.
- Below bantamweight, if no residentially qualified opponent can be found the No Australian Opponent Sanction rule (Rule 71.4) may be used.

6 Changes to a previously sanctioned contest

Boxer Withdraws - Sanctioned defence by a champion

It may happen that the ANBF is informed by a promotor or boxer manager, that a boxer (champion or challenger) of a previously sanctioned defence, is now not available and has withdrawn. This could occur at any time after a sanction was made. The guidelines for this situation are as follows.

- Champion withdraws:
 - If this is on medical grounds, the ANBF would require notification within 3 days and signed medical advice on this. Under such circumstances the challenger would have the option to be the mandatory challenger when the champion is recovered.
 - If this is not on medical grounds, the ANBF would vacate the title and either (1) conduct a 7-day ROI for an opponent to the original challenger, or (2) the challenger would be provided with the right to name an opponent. Which of these two options occurred would depend on the time to the scheduled title fight. The ANBF would make this decision.

- The terms of the sanction may have included a special term, allowed by the ANBF, that if the champion withdraws for whatever reason, including medical, the ANBF would treat this as withdrawing not on medical grounds, and the processes for that would apply.
- Challenger withdraws:
 - If this occurs for whatever reason, the challenger would have no rights to be the future mandatory challenger, other than the boxer's position in the ratings.
 - The ANBF would provide the champion the right to propose an alternative opponent. The ANBF would have the right not to sanction a proposed opponent if considered not suitable.

Boxer Withdraws - Vacant title

It may happen that ANBF is informed by a promotor or boxer manager, that a boxer of a sanctioned vacant title contest is now not available and has withdrawn. This may be for medical or other reasons. The vacant title contest may have been proposed through being preferred in a 7-day ROI process, or was proposed to the ANBF after a 7-day ROI that resulted in no sanctioned contest (this could be just after or months after).

If the sanction was the result of being preferred in a 7-day ROI process, the following would apply:

- If there were other suitable submissions, the ANBF may communicate with the next preferred submission.
- If there were no other submissions or the time to the event is short, the boxer that has not withdrawn can propose a new opponent to the ANBF. The ANBF would have the right not to sanction the contest of the opponent was considered not suitable. The boxer that withdrew would have no rights to be the mandatory challenger, other than the boxer's position in the ratings.

If the sanction was not the result of being preferred in a 7-day ROI process, the following would apply:

- The boxer that has not withdrawn can propose a new opponent to the ANBF. The ANBF would have the right not to sanction the contest of the opponent was considered not suitable. The boxer that withdrew would have no rights to be the mandatory challenger, other than the boxer's position in the ratings.

7 Special conditions that can apply

If requested and agreed by both boxers of a proposed Australian title contest and the ANBF, special conditions can be included in the sanctioning terms of an Australian Title Contract.

A special agreement may include that if the champion withdraws for whatever reason, or requests a higher purse, then the Australian title would be declared vacant, and the challenger would be able to arrange a new opponent subject to the processes in these guidelines.



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Application for an ANBF Australian Title

Promotor	Name _____ Company (if applicable) _____
Title Description	Women's / Men's _____ Weight _____ Defence / Vacant _____
Champion (if applicable)	Boxer name _____ Manager name _____ Email _____ Has agreed to the contest (Y/N) _____ Mobile _____
Challenger	Boxer name _____ Manager name _____ Email _____ Has agreed to the contest (Y/N) _____ Mobile _____
Challenger (if applicable)	Boxer name _____ Manager name _____ Email _____ Has agreed to the contest (Y/N) _____ Mobile _____
Date of Promotion	If a range of dates _____
Location of Promotion	_____
Special Conditions (if any)	_____ _____

The promotor and all parties agree to the following:

- The Australian title contest described above.
- The mandatory defence date will be 5 months from the title fight.
- The sanction fee will be (1) Men's title \$2,500 (2) Women's title \$1,450.
- The ANBF will arrange the method of payment of sanction fees.
- The ANBF will appoint a supervisor for the contest, and a ringside seat must be provided for the supervisor.
- An ANBF Australian title contract will need to be signed by the promotor and both boxers /managers before the bout.
- If there is a change to any boxer or a change to the date of the promotion (or any reason) the sanction would be withdrawn and a new request would need to be provided.
- Any decisions by the ANBF in relation to the above-mentioned Australian title.

Promotor agrees to the above (Yes / No / Comment)