

Given the financial clout of professional sport, it is little wonder that many athletes are tempted to turn professional after amateur wins. Boxing is perhaps the clearest example of a sport where athletes are faced with the fundamental amateur v pro debate: do they retain amateur status to live the dream of competing on home soil as Olympic boxers in the London 20102 Games, or take the tempting financial route of lucrative professional contracts and World Championship titles, with the downside of potentially entering the ring too fast than their experience and youth might ideally allow?



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The sport of boxing has taken the bull by its' metaphorical horns, and developed a World Series of Boxing, that gives amateur boxers a reason to retain their amateur status, at least until the next Olympic Games. This increases the potential for great young Olympic fighters to develop their skills in a supportive environment, to earn money as amateurs (an interesting concept in itself), to be eligible to fight in upcoming Olympic bouts, and to not have to depend on pro contracts to earn a This is a real blow to athletes, as the competition could have earned them up to £200,000 a year towards their Olympic training, and pitted their skills against other Olympic hopefuls from countries such as the USA, Russia and Italy.

living. The World Series of Boxing was devised by the Amateur International Boxing Association (AIBA).

AIBA proposes to fund the World Series via the sale of media rights, and has also asked for a £50,000 deposit from each city that wishes to take part.



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Britain's Knockout Blow

But British boxing chiefs have dealt a blow to any young British World Series hopefuls. The British Amateur Boxing Association (BABA) recently issued a statement saying that they are not in a financial position to commit to the £50,000 deposit, due to a shortfall of almost £1million that the sport is currently experiencing. Derek Mapp, Executive Chairman of the BABA, commented: "*We remain in discussions but current financial circumstances mean it would be unwise for us to commit.*"

Start the Discussion

- Whose interests would it primarily serve?
- What do you think the ramifications of introduction of a World Series might be for both the professional and amateur sport?
- Do you think that this model might be applicable to other sports? Give reasons for your answer.

Find out more

AIBA News Release

<http://www.aiba.org/default.aspx?pld=2703>

CREDITS

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