Youth World Boxing Championships
St Petersburg 2016
Press Kit
November 17 - 26

Official Websites:
aiba.org
boxing2016.ru
AIBA President’s message

Dear boxing fans,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2016 AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships in the beautiful Russian city of St Petersburg.

This will be the fifth edition of the competition in its modern format. Two years ago in Bulgaria, the likes of the USA’s Shakur Stevenson and Uzbekistan’s Bektemir Melikuziev made their names at these championships, and I am once again looking forward to watching the next generation of great boxers in action across the ten men’s weight categories.

It has always been AIBA’s mission to support boxers throughout their chosen career paths. Today, we remain as committed as ever to providing a structure within which athletes can perform to the best of their abilities, helping them to fulfil their potential from Junior and Youth competitions all the way through to the greatest honour: representing their countries at an AIBA World Championships or Olympic Games.

AIBA has always looked to encourage more young men and women into our sport, no matter where they may be in the world. In this day and age, factors like age, gender, nationality and background shouldn’t stop anybody trying to fulfil their dreams, and it has always been our desire to break down barriers and provide as many opportunities as we can for young people the world over to experience the magic of boxing.

I would like to thank the LOC for their hard work in staging this prestigious event for our youth boxers from 17-26 November, and I greatly look forward to sharing ten days of exciting boxing with you all here in St Petersburg.

Yours in Boxing,

Dr Ching-Kuo Wu

AIBA President
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1. Facts around the World Championships

The 2016 AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships is the 5th edition of the legendary event. It will be hosted in St Petersburg, Russia with more than 400 boxers competing, hailing from more than 70 countries.

The Mexican city of Guadalajara hosted the first edition of the AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships in 2008. The biennial tournament took the place of the prestigious Junior World Championships for 17-19 year-old boxers, which replaced the longstanding Cadet World Championships for 15-16 year-olds.

The competition has always been a superb testing-ground for the potential elite-level champions of the future. Previous winners include Rio 2016 Olympic Champion Tony Yoka of France, Cuban Pan-American Games winner Erislandy Savon and Croatia’s European Champion Filip Hrgovic.

List of previous editions:

2008 – Guadalajara, Mexico
2010 – Baku, Azerbaijan
2012 – Yerevan, Armenia
2014 – Sofia, Bulgaria
2. St Petersburg 2016 Edition

a. Date and place

St Petersburg, Russia November 17 to 26

b. About St Petersburg

Established by Peter The Great at the start of the 18th century, Saint Petersburg was conceived to provide Russia with a great port city on the edge of the Baltic Sea. The country’s administrative capital during two separate periods, Saint Petersburg has developed into one of the truly great European cities and a symbol of Russian modernity that today is home to 5 million inhabitants.

The city is also Russia’s cultural capital and home to The Hermitage, one of the world’s finest art museums. Spread across six historic sites, Prehistoric, Ancient Egyptian and Ancient Greek works sit alongside paintings by modern greats such as Picasso, Rembrandt and Van Gogh in its permanent collection, and days are needed to visit them all.

Geographically striking, Saint Petersburg’s canals and waterways and the local architecture lend themselves to comparisons with Venice. Located on the River Neva that runs from vast Lake Ladoga to the Baltic Sea, the city boasts 342 bridges of which the Palace Bridge and the 17th century Lomonosov Bridge are among the most famous. As the world’s most northerly major city, midsummer days here stretch seamlessly into one another as the sun struggles to set below the horizon, the so-called ‘white nights’ giving Saint Petersburg a unique, 24-hour bustle.

Sport has always played a huge role in the city’s daily life. Football club Zenit Saint Petersburg plays its home games at Petrovsky Stadium, while basketball and ice hockey are also immensely popular. One of the city’s favourite sporting sons is the former boxing champion Nikolai Valuev, who now runs a local gym that helps to ensure that the sport continues to attract huge attention here.
c. The Venue - Sibur Arena

The Sibur Arena will be the host venue for the 2016 AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships. One of the city’s most modern sports venues and with a capacity of over 7,000 spectators, the Sibur is located on Krestovsky Island in the heart of the city. Since its inauguration in 2013, the arena has hosted some of Saint Petersburg’s biggest sporting events, from WSB franchise Russian Boxing Team’s home matches to ATP Tennis tournaments, the World Combat Games and the city’s Zenit team’s basketball games.

Capacity: 7,120 seats

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d. Boxers

417 boxers from 75 countries including 2015 Junior World Boxing Championships gold medallists such as Mahammad Abdullayev (AZE), Cosmin Petre Girleanu (ROU), Bilolbek Mirzarakhimov (UZB) and Dainier Pero Justiz (CUB) are registered to the 2016 edition.

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e. The Mascot

St. Petersburg Lion impersonates the sport’s key values — strength, confidence and willpower.

Behind the mascot, there is a complex background binding it with the host city and the history of boxing. Lions are among the symbols of Saint Petersburg: around the city, there are hundreds of images depicting the regal felines. From the very foundation of the Northern Capital, the statues and reliefs of lions ornate its architecture, symbolizing the city’s calm yet confident might. Referring to the host city, the mascot also pays a respectful tribute to the historical homeland of boxing, the United Kingdom, whose symbol the lion has also been for centuries.
f. Competition Schedule

Official Draw: November 16

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*Time data may be rounded depending on the number of boxers during BW.*
3. Contacts on-site during the event

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4. Useful information