



MEDIA RELEASE
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TAB takes firm line on 'Pick the Round' betting

The TAB will retain 'Pick the Round' betting on selected boxing matches but reserves its right to not offer option in the event of any doubts around specific bouts.

The underlining of the proviso, as set out in TAB betting rules, comes after the confusion of the Sonny Bill Williams-Francois Botha fight in Brisbane on Friday night, when the scheduled 12-round WBA title bout was inexplicably reduced to 10 rounds.

All Pick the Round bets placed by TAB customers on the fight were refunded, while Head-to-Head and Decision bets were honoured after Williams won by unanimous decision.

TAB General Manager Martin Saunders said that as the Pick the Round bet was popular with customers, it would be unfair to stop offering it on boxing matches across the board.

"We routinely make every effort to ensure the terms and conditions of all sporting events are clearly agreed and understood. Given Sonny Bill Williams was involved in two fights previously where the number of rounds was reduced without notice, we undertook all due diligence around the number of rounds for his fight with Botha.

"So we are as confused and disappointed by what happened in Brisbane as our customers are, given there was clear acknowledgment the bout was scheduled for 12 rounds."

Saunders said the TAB would continue to take into consideration a range of factors when opening a Pick the Round book on any boxing match.

"If there are any doubts, we simply won't offer it. We'll look at the fighters involved, the organisers and promoters running the fight and the sanctioning and governing bodies overseeing it. We don't want to see a repeat of the Sonny Bill Williams situation ever again."

ENDS

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