

## Would You Be Upset If Floyd Mayweather Jr. Unified The Welterweight Division?



Part of what made the Golden era of Boxing “Golden” were the distinct categories of fighters. There were Stars, Champs, Contenders, and Tomato cans. They also had a clear cut path to glory and recognition. The idea fighter fought successfully through a local league like PAL, won the Golden Gloves, successfully competed in a regional tournament, national tournament, world tournament, eventually fought for Olympic Gold, turned pro, and won meaningful world titles (The old WBA, WBC, and IBF) kind of like guys named Ali, Leonard, Spinks, and De La Hoya just to name a few. Today, boxing has Stars, Contenders, Tomato Can Champs, and no distinct or meaningful titles. So, would it be so bad if Floyd Mayweather Jr. decided to unify the Welterweight division?

Before you launch your flattering insults and pass ceremoniously hypocritical judgments, let’s really examine this and make a somewhat... ok, maybe, an angry, intelligent decision (guesstimate). The best place to start is to find out what the recognized belts are and who holds those “Current” Welterweight Titles. Current is the operative word here, because at any time while I’m typing this or while you are reading and cussing me, one of the deplorable organizations may strip the belt holders (Read faster).

I did some research and found the recognized organizations to be the WBA, WBC, IBF, and the WBO. In the Welterweight division, Paulie Malignaggi holds the WBA, Floyd Mayweather Jr. holds the WBC, Devon Alexander holds the IBF, and Timothy Bradley holds the WBO belt. On a side note, a fighter by the name of Diego Chaves is the WBA interim holder and Roberto Guerrero is the WBC interim champ. Interim? What the hell is that? Well, Webster defines interim as “a period of time between events; provisional or temporary.” Unfortunately, it doesn’t define what those events might be or how long. But, I have a pretty good con artist type suspicion Money does.

Now, here is where this entire fantasy article get’s good. WBC champ Floyd Mayweather Jr. tweeted he is close to finishing negotiations with IBF champ Devon Alexander. That is a fact. Back to fantasy...Let’s say for the sake of rhetoric the deal is announced and at the announcement Floyd Mayweather Jr.

boldly says, I'm taking this fight as the 1<sup>st</sup> step to finally unify the Welterweight Division. I want to become the undisputed Welterweight Champ of the World. At this point, he also announces that he will fight 2 more times after this and retire. The next two fights in order will be for the WBA and then the WBO. Floyd Mayweather Jr. has one of his people, (Al Haymon himself) bring a bag up to the podium. Floyd Mayweather Jr. takes the bag, unzips it, dumps a pile of cash on the floor, and yells here is your expletive sanctioning fees. Now, make it Happen. Pause Rhetorical fantasy and quickly what if....

If Floyd Mayweather Jr. fought Devon Alexander and beat him, Floyd Mayweather Jr. would now be the WBC and IBF champ. His next fight (in our rhetorical fantasy scenario) would be against Paulie Malignaggi. If he won that, he would have the WBC, IBF, and the WBA titles. Next up would be the Top Rank, I mean the WBO title (Did I just say that out loud?) Excuse me!! The Unification bout would be against...are you finally following me? Timothy Bradley. Hit the rhetorical play button.

Let's say for the sake of Rhetoric the promoters and the organizations fall in line and agree to this entire deal. Promoters agree to cross promote and organizations won't strip titles. Can you imagine the hellacious matchups the WBA and WBO would have to see who would next fight Floyd Mayweather Jr.? I'm assuming Paulie Malignaggi and Timothy Bradley couldn't just sit on their title and wait for Floyd. Malignaggi could go on and fight the hideous match up with Shane Mosley. That might even be an acceptable tune up. Do you think Timothy Bradley would get a tune up with Ruslan Provodniko? Hell, no! I could see Bob Arum standing at the podium now. Yesterday, we lied. Today we stand here telling the truth so Bradley will not fight Provodniko and who cares about Marquez Pacquiao V! Bradley will fight....Wait for it. Wait for it. Wait for it....Juan Manuel Marquez. C'mon man! You didn't think I was going to dangle a fight between Manny and someone else, did you?

All BS aside and in my humble (I really don't know Shi\$%# about boxing) opinion, I truly believe Floyd Mayweather Jr. could shake up boxing by trying to unify the Welterweight title. The matchups to see who falls in line would be really good. Guys would be stripping down and eating up to get to 147. Trout, Canelo, Angulo, Matthyse,...all of them. And if they couldn't make the weight, the natural 154 pounders and the 140 or less could fight each other..Canelo vs. Trout, Angulo, or even Golovkin isn't so bad. Matter of factly, that is exactly why the Golden Era was so damn good. Hey, it beats the alternative Floyd Mayweather Jr. vs. Saul Canelo Alvarez, Yawwwn!!!

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