

1. Interested Party
2. Ultra Events Ltd
3. Fifth
4. "JL1", "JL2"
5. 23.07.24

IN THE WORCESTER CORONER'S COURT

INQUEST TOUCHING ON THE DEATH OF MR DOMINIC CHAPMAN

INTERESTED PERSON: ULTRA EVENTS LIMITED

**RESPONSE TO REGULATION 28 REPORT
ON BEHALF OF ULTRA EVENTS LIMITED**

1. I, [REDACTED], make this statement on behalf of Ultra Events Limited in response to a Preventing Future Deaths report dated 6 June 2024 prepared by HM Coroner David Reid following the conclusion of the Inquest touching on the death of Dominic Chapman.
2. The concerns raised by the learned Coroner were, to summarise:
 - a. The criteria set down by Ultra Events Ltd. to match opponents for bouts, specifically relating to the maximum allowable weight difference between boxers, were (a) insufficiently clear, and (b) not always applied by the event organiser. The new wording of the criteria amended post-inquest still lacks clarity, and the Coroner is concerned that instructions about weight differences between boxers taking part in charity white collar boxing bouts are important

and should be unequivocal, and that coaches and event organisers should be clear about their responsibilities in this respect.

- b. It remains unclear when the proposed changes to the training regime, including introduction of Training Session planning and a Training Workbook requiring signature from all coaches confirming that they will follow this planning, will be introduced and how they will be disseminated and enforced so that they are followed to the letter.
 - c. Ultra Events Ltd. does not carry out a satisfactory individualised risk assessment tailored to each specific event at each specific venue used by them, and relies upon the venue notifying them of any potentially relevant changes. In addition, it does not carry out its own risk assessment for the provision of medical cover at its white collar boxing events, and does not ask to see or to check risk assessments carried out by external medical providers. This means that there is no effective oversight to ensure that the medical cover provided for each individual event at each venue is based on a suitable individualised risk assessment
3. The company's response must be filed by 1 August 2024 and must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for any proposed action or an explanation when no action is proposed.

MATCHING CRITERIA

4. Following this incident, we introduced a system requiring all coaches to score participants by ability from 1 to 5, and to keep a written record of their findings.
5. As a result of the evidence heard during the inquest, that system was formalised into a new workbook that must be signed by coaches and area representatives. That document was disclosed to the Coroner, family, and Interested Persons as an exhibit to my witness statement on the final day of the inquest. Although the changes were welcomed, the learned Coroner remained concerned about clarity of the wording, specifically the section which reads *"If a match is over 7kg simply explain it on the fight order"*.
6. We have therefore amended the wording, and a copy of the new document is attached as exhibit "JL1". The wording requires all weight discrepancies of more than 7kgs between boxers to be referred to HQ for approval by explaining the match-up on the new version of the vest order, a copy of which has already been provided to the Coroner as an exhibit to the statement that I filed on the final day of the inquest.
7. If the bout is not approved by HQ, it does not go ahead.

Introduction of Training Planning and Workbook

8. As set out above, the new workbook was introduced immediately. It has been sent out to all gyms and franchisees, and they have signed and returned copies for us to retain on file. As such, all gyms have already signed their agreement to coach within the requirements of the workbook.

9. Our Area Representatives attend training regularly to check that participants are progressing, to record weights, and to assist with matching. As such, they can see first-hand whether the training is incorporating all the workbook requirements.
10. We also operate an exit survey in which all participants are asked to provide feedback on the event. Any training concerns are discussed with the coach/training provider to ensure standards are being maintained.
11. This level of hands-on attendance exceeds the systems used by England Boxing and the British Boxing Board of Control, neither of which have a physical presence at training sessions conducted by member gyms.

Risk Assessments

12. We have always carried out risk assessment for all new venues by attending them in person. We have also always conducted individualised risk assessments for each event and, indeed, one was carried out for the Worcester event that Dominic attended. However, we have traditionally been reliant upon the venue volunteering details of any changes to their premises during that process.
13. Following this inquest, we now pro-actively contact venue owners in advance of an event to specifically enquire as to any changes that may have occurred since the last event. If there have been any, the venue is required to provide us with details of changes so we can formulate a new risk assessment and, if applicable, a plan.

14. Medical providers are best placed to carry out risk assessments, as they are the ones with the specialist knowledge required to ensure safety in their field of expertise. As such, risk assessing of medical provisions at each event at each venue remains with the medical provider.
15. However, we now ask our medical providers to supply us with their event-specific risk assessment and Medical Plan. Our email explains that they are required to carry out a thorough assessment of all of the risks which pertain to this event at particular premises, to an extent that ensures that they are fully capable of dealing with any medical event, emergency or otherwise, which may occur.
16. If that requires them to conduct a site visit, analyse plans, or carry out any further enquiries, then they are required to do so.
17. The risk assessment must then be sent to us to be logged with other event specific paperwork.

General

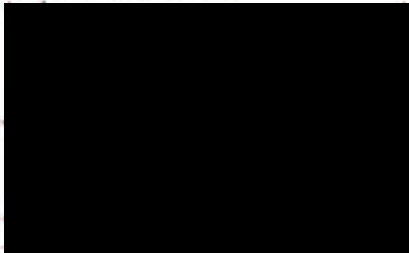
18. In the statement that I filed with the Coroner on the final day of the inquest, I set out a number of other changes that we implemented immediately post-incident and over the two years since, such as shorter duration of rounds, more stringent standing 8 counts, and clearer wording in the event instructions.
19. I have not dealt with those in this statement as they do not appear as a cause for concern in the Coroner's Regulation 28 report.

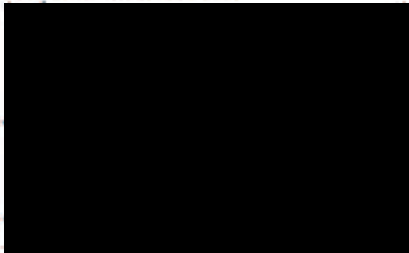
20. I can, however, confirm that those changes will continue to be operated and refined in the future.

21. I hope that this statement helps the learned Coroner in understanding relevant changes made since April 2022.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed: 

Full Name: 

Capacity: DIRECTOR

Dated: 29/7/24

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EXHIBIT "JL1"

This is the exhibit "JL1" referred to in the witness statement of 

Signed: 

Full Name:

Capacity: *DIRECTOR*

Dated: *29/7/24*