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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
PRESS RELEASE**

## **RICHARD MCLAREN DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE INTERNATIONAL BOXING ASSOCIATION'S GLOBAL BOXING FORUM**

**Abu Dhabi, UAE – December 11, 2022** – Today, Professor Richard McLaren, O.C., and president of McLaren Global Sport Solutions, was the keynote speaker at the IBA's annual Global Boxing Forum. The focus of his talk was on two important aspects of integrity in sports: accountability and its impact on the abuse of athletes. He argued that setting up integrity units within sports organizations and International Federations is not enough. Something must be done to address the root cause of abuse, the culture within the sport.

"In an effort to restore or establish integrity, many sports organisations have moved to creating an Integrity or Ethics body within their sport. Unfortunately, such bodies have frequently become the burial ground for the skeletons of corrupt individuals. That is not the robust reform and regulation they are meant to achieve," said Professor McLaren.

He drew on his vast experience in sports arbitration, law, and investigation to illustrate his arguments.

"Accountability is a necessary precondition to protecting the integrity of sport. However, neither accountability nor integrity in sport can exist without serious reform to the sport culture," said Professor McLaren.

Professor McLaren and his team recently completed a year-long investigation into judging and refereeing irregularities in international boxing. He has provided the International Boxing Association with a framework for reform that the organization can use to re-build its reputation on the world sporting stage.

"There is still much that needs to be done. Setting up codes of conduct, rules of ethics and independent review of these policies is one way. However, rules and regulations are only as good as the people who oversee them. It is the vigilance and the oversight throughout all the layers of athletes and sport organisational involvement that will start the changes that are necessary and imperative to ensure that our athletes of the future can compete and know that it is their best effort that makes them winner," he concluded.



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During the conference, Professor McLaren participated in two round-table discussions and a presented in a seminar on the use of AI in identifying potential risks in choosing judges and referees. He also presented a summary of his investigation into international boxing.

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