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Meeting Information

Purpose:	Assessment Committee (concerning protest)
Dates:	2011-05-02 -- 2011-05-16
Participants:	Ulf Silverbern, Vice-chairman Jesper Gunnarson, Member Mikael Forsgren, Member

Ruling Protocol

Concerning the protest in the match between Reza Madadi and Rich Clementi.

Match:

Reza Madadi vs Rich Clementi (title bout) (70 kg, 155 lbs).

Place and Time:

Hovet, Stockholm. 2011-04-30. (Event: Superior Challenge 7)

Acting referee and judges:

Marko Gyllenland (referee), Bobby Rehman (judge), Robert Sundel, (judge), Hans Ersson (judge).

Judges' scores:

Judge:	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	TOTAL	WINNER
	Madadi - Clementi	Madadi - Clementi	Madadi - Clementi	Madadi - Clementi	
Bobby Rehman	9 – 10	10 – 10	10 – 9	29 – 29	DRAW (Madadi) ¹
Robert Sundel	10 – 10	10 – 10	10 – 10	30 – 30	DRAW (Madadi) ¹
Hans Ersson	9 – 10	10 – 10	10 – 9	29 – 29	DRAW (Madadi) ¹

Winner: Reza Madadi; unanimous decision 3 - 0.

¹ If the total score for the two contestants is the same after full time the judges must pick a winner according to the criteria's in the SMMAF rule set § 30.2. The name of the winner should be clearly marked on the judges' score card.

Protest argumentation sent to SMMAF:

(Received: May 1st 2011 at 22:34)

President Sallfeldt,

As manager of Rich Clementi, I would like to protest the judges' decision in the fight between Rich Clementi and Reza Madadi on April 30 in Superior Challenge. I have not had a chance to see the tape of the fight, but have been told by numerous people that the decision was not fair. I was also told Reza himself said he did not win the fight in interviews after the fight.

I have included Clementi's reasoning in feeling the decision should be changed. Let me know if I have to do anything else to make this an official protest.

Monte Cox
President of Ultimate Productions

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Rich Clementi:

First off I would like to give thanks that there is a process so that issues like this can be addressed so action can be looked into on such matters.

I am submitting this request myself even thou my manager wanted to do so. Just some background on myself as well. Most know me as the "MMA fighter" but I am also a licensed promoter in two states and have promoted over 60 shows including casino level shows and all of the largest venues in Mississippi and Louisiana. I have been a licensed promoter for over 10 years and have also assisted the state of Louisiana in writing laws and guidelines for the sport of mixed martial arts.

I felt that my scoring and reffing in my fight was very unjust and I will list the following issues that are troubling me in what I feel is a unjust decision.

(The fight)

I was not able to game access to the score cards so I am not sure how accurate the information is so I may be wrong. I was told the first 2 rounds were scored as a draw. There is no possible way that can be the case. I feel in my experience (especially with a decision having to be made because of the title) that anyone that cannot list me the winner of the first 2 rounds should not be qualified as a judge. My opponent was dropped almost knocked out and also almost finished on the different occasions. I also finished the round ontop of Reza. This is very difficult for me to swallow.

The second round I also feel was dominant with unanswered punches and kicks. Even with Reza getting takedowns no attempt was made for finish or pass and no matter when we were on the ground i always reversed and ended the round on top of my opponent again.

Round three was one given to Reza with the takedown but still with no finish attempt

To summarize the fight (even if you were to score the whole fight as a whole, which is still wrong because I feel like I convincingly won the first and second) was won by me.
Stand up= Not even close, unanswered leg kicks, one near knock out, head kick
Submission attempts= Reza had one submission attempt that I baited him for the reversal, I had numerous close submission attempts.
Ground control= Reza never passed my guard. I was always in control taking light strikes even when I was on bottom but always ended up reversing and improving positions
Takedown= That was Reza's only offense

So my true problem is if a person was to score it Reza winning the fight someone would have had to decided that the takedowns (most which were reversed won that fight) That is just not fair or right due to the criteria given. It was even stated in the rules meeting on how important trying to finish is in the scoring. All of Reza takedowns were off of getting punished from on the feet.

(The ref)

I also had a big problem with the quick stand up from side mount in the first round. Anyone who has watched any of my fights can tell you that this is my most dominate position were I set up taking my opponents backs and finish most of my fights. If a person was to agree with the fast standup so be it but you cannot have one standard for one fighter and not the other. In the third round I tied Reza up expecting a fast stand up. I was even talking to the ref during my fight about it. He let reason be in my guard for a loooooong period of time. I felt this was the only reason Reza won the third round. This was not fair and cost me the clean sweep in all three round.

(Judging) I do not know the validation in this because I do not know the people involved and I'm not one to speculate but I would like you to look into the matter of one of the judges being Reza personal fitness trainer. This is a huge conflict of interest being if Reza

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wins it makes this individual more money because of the popularity in the person he is training. This puts a personal financial interest in the judging.

I am sorry I even feel I have to type this type of letter but I do feel like some unfair acts have happened during this bout including the outcome. thank you again for reviewing this matter and I appreciate the country of Sweden that they care enough about the sport to have people in place to handle these matters.

Thanks again
Rich Clementi

Answer from George Sallfeldt; SMMAF President:

(Sent: May 2nd 2011 at 11:31)

Dear Mr. Cox and Mr. Clementi

I hereby confirm that the Swedish MMA Federation (SMMAF) has received your protest concerning the match between Rich Clementi and Reza Madadi that was held at the Hovet Arena in Stockholm, Sweden, during the event Superior Challenge 7 on the 30th of April 2011.

Your protest has promptly, this day, been sent to the chairman of the SMMAF Assessment Committee. The SMMAF Assessment Committee has a processing period of two weeks from the day of receipt of the protest.

This is the SMMAF's formal procedure concerning the handling of protests:

§ 32 Protest

32.1 If a contestant or his/her seconds finds the result of a match to be incorrect then a protest can be handed in to the event coordinator within 48 hours upon conclusion of the match.

32.2 A protest must be submitted from the contestant's association (Swedish athletes) or from the contestant's club/team or manager (foreign athletes), not from the contestant personally.

32.3 The protest shall contain information regarding which match it concerns, what the protest is in regards to, reasons for protesting, how one finds that the match should be judged as well as complete contact information.

32.4 The results of a match shall only be changed if an obvious mistake has been uncovered, one that had an effect on the outcome of the match and was made by the referee, judges or another official.

The decision of the SMMAF Assessment Committee shall be provided to you via e-mail no later than the 16th of May 2011.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,

George Sallfeldt, President, Swedish MMA Federation.

Assessment Committee protest handling:

The Assessment Committee has received the protest text as well as recorded video material of the match. The Assessment Committee concludes that no obvious mistakes were committed such as, for example, missed point deductions, erroneous round lengths etc. The Assessment Committee remaining task is therefore to evaluate if any obvious mistakes were made during the scoring of the match.

Ulf Silverbern

Name of contestants	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Rich Clementi	10	10	9	29
Reza Madadi	9	10	10	29

Comments Round 1

This round goes to Clementi with clear 10-9. Clementi knocks down Madadi in the beginning of the match and shows more offensiveness than Madadi. Madadi defends well but I find that Clementi is the one "applying pressure" and also has some good submission attempts.

Comments Round 2

This round is very even and could be scored either way but I score it 10-10. Many active attempts but nothing much really happening. Most of the striking is powerless.

Comments Round 3

This round goes to Madadi 10-9. It shows that he wants to win and gets two takedowns and is somewhat more aggressive in his boxing. He is also more dominant in his positions.

Summarized Comments:

The match between Madadi and Clementi ends a draw. It is an even match where Clementi takes command in the first round. Madadi evens it out in the second round and wins the third round. There is no foundation for the protest since no obvious mistakes were made.

Jesper Gunnarson

Name of contestants	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Rich Clementi	10	10	9	29
Reza Madadi	9	10	10	29

Comments Round 1

Even ground game but the knock down from Clementi in the beginning of the round gives him an advantage. The round goes to Clementi 10-9

Comments Round 2

This round is very even with powerless boxing and one takedown each. An even round that could be scored either way or 10-10.

Comments Round 3

This round goes to Madadi since he is more active in his boxing and since he gets two takedowns and has better positions on the ground than Clementi.

Summarized Comments:

The match is a draw. Giving it to Madadi isn't an obvious error.

Mikael Forsgren

Name of contestants	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Rich Clementi	10	10	9	29
Reza Madadi	9	9	10	28

Comments Round 1

There was a lot of "back and forth" in this round. In total I find that Clementi controlled the round and the ground game. He also connected well with strikes early in the round. I score round 1: Madadi 9p / Clementi 10p.

Comments Round 2

The round is even but Clementi counters/reverses all Madadis attempts of getting top control and submissions whereas Madadi doesn't succeed in reversing Clementis top control in the same way. Instead it is the referee who stands them up in the middle of the round and Madadi gets up from bottom position. At the end of the round Madadi gets up from bottom position due to time. In total I find this round even but Clementi is connecting more and has top control longer and reverses all situations. I score round 2: Madadi 9p / Clementi 10p.

Comments Round 3

Again an even round. However I believe Madadi gets the round due to the last takedown and top position where he works actively until time is up. I score round 3: Madadi 10p / Clementi 9p.

Summarized Comments:

A very even match where I find Clementi to be somewhat better.

Ruling:

The three evaluations of the scoring above shows that the match was very even. However it cannot be said that the original decision was obviously erroneous. Therefore the ruling is to let the original decision stand, with Reza Madadi as the winner.

The Assessment Committee would also like to comment on the discussed early standup in round 2. According to paragraph 27.1 in the SMMAF International Professional set of rules for MMA, the referee has the right to stand the contestants up if: "...the contestants are in a stalemate or aren't actively seeking to better their position or aren't actively working on finding advantages and dominance." The rules do not specifically determine how long this stalemate must be before the referee calls for a standup. Therefore the Assessment Committee cannot say that the referee has made a mistake or committed an obvious error.

Nyköping May 16th 2011

**Ulf Silverbern
Jesper Gunnarson
Mikael Forsgren**