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# Don King's Co. Says 'Grudge Match' Violates Boxer's Contract

By Maya Rajamani

Law360, New York (August 14, 2015, 5:24 PM ET) -- Boxing promotion company Don King Promotions Inc. hit boxers Ricardo Mayorga, Shane Mosley and Mosley's two promotion companies with a suit in Florida federal court on Thursday, claiming Mayorga is breaching his contract by agreeing to participate in a "Grudge Match" against Mosley.

Mayorga, who retired from boxing in 2011, re-signed with DKP in 2014 when he decided to return to the boxing world, but he plans to re-launch his career in a "Grudge Match" against Mosley at the Forum in Inglewood, California, on Aug. 29, sponsored by Mosley's companies, according to the suit.

"Mosley, [Sugar Shane] Mosley Promotions [Inc.] and Gobox Promotions [Inc.]'s actions in organizing and promoting the event and in soliciting and contracting with Mayorga infringe upon and are interfering with DKP's exclusive contractual rights with Mayorga," the company said in its complaint.

DKP has accused Mosley and his two companies, which promote boxing and MMA events around the world, of interfering with a contractual relationship and alleges breach of contract by Mayorga.

The promotion company also claims Mayorga risks both injury and a damaged reputation by fighting a "highly recognized former champion who was once known as the pound for pound best fighter in the world," as the suit refers to Mosley, which could render him unable to perform his contractual obligations to DKP and damage the company's reputation.

"Given the violent nature of boxing events, and the amount of time that Mayorga has been away from the ring, there is substantial risk and it is entirely realistic to conclude that Mayorga may be injured if he participates in the event," DKP said in the suit.

In the complaint, DKP claims it entered into a three-year promotional agreement with Mayorga in

October 2009, in which Mayorga signed DKP as his exclusive promoter.

As part of the agreement, Mayorga agreed not to participate in any fights that weren't promoted or co-promoted by DKP, or were not approved in writing by the promotion company, and promised not to sign any other contracts that conflicted with the DKP agreement, according to the suit.

But in May 2010, DKP brought a suit against Mayorga in the Circuit Court of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in Florida to prevent him from participating in an MMA event that was not promoted by DKP.

The court granted DKP's motion for an injunction barring Mayorga from participating in the fight, and nearly a year later, in March 2011, Mayorga "temporarily" retired from professional boxing, according to the suit.

In July 2014, DKP claims, Mayorga entered into another agreement with DKP, agreeing that the terms of the original agreement would be extended by the time of Mayorga's retirement.

But DKP says Mosley and his promotion companies recruited Mayorga to fight against Mosley in the "Grudge Match," to be broadcast on Pay-Per-View, in violation of his contract with DKP.

Although DKP reached out to Mosley and his promotion companies asking them not to allow Mayorga to participate in the event, the parties have refused, DKP maintains.

The promotion company seeks injunctive relief against the defendants to keep them from promoting the event and allowing Mayorga to participate.

Sugar Shane Mosley Promotions Inc. and Gobox Promotions Inc. did not immediately respond to request for comment Friday.

Alejandro Brito and Robert Zarco of [Zarco Einhorn Salkowski & Brito PA](#) are representing Don King Productions Inc.

Counsel information for the defendants was not available Friday.

The case is Don King Productions Inc. v. Shane Mosley et al., case number [1:15-cv-23038](#), filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami Division.

--Editing by Jeremy Barker.

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##### Case Number

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