

King of Pancrase Council  
Chief Councilor Takashi Hirose  
January 13, 2024

In reference to the Pancrase 340 event held at the Yokohama Budokan on December 24th, 2023, and the case that followed the match between Ryogo Takahashi and Sang Won Kim, two points of contention were made by the Korean Top Team.

1. The injury Mr. Takahashi sustained during the match resulted in the ruling as a technical decision draw on the day due to a headbutt. However, there appeared to be no evidence of a headbutt, and the injury sustained was the result of a valid attack.
2. A request to amend the official result was made in light of point 1.

With regards to the claim, two members of the King of Pancrase Council were summoned to review the video footage of the match and discuss the matter. The following is the ruling in response to the appeal.

1. Conclusion: The result of the match is amended to a TKO victory in favor of Sang Won Kim in Round 3 at 0:00.
2. The reasons are:
  - 1) The main referee called for a time stoppage in the interval between rounds two and three to have the doctor check the condition of Mr. Takahashi's right eye, and following the doctor check the main referee stopped the match due to a suspected orbital fracture; the injury resulting from an accidental head collision at the end of the first round. In accordance with the official rules, the result was declared a decision and scored 30-28 Takahashi, 29-29 even, 28-30 Kim, resulting in a 1-1 technical draw. A post-fight examination of Mr. Takahashi was carried out a hospital and the injury indeed diagnosed as an orbital fracture.
  - 2) The video footage was reviewed from the following perspectives:

① Was there any evidence of a collision of heads at the end of the first round when it was deemed to have occurred?

② Was the injury that caused the match stoppage due to a legitimate and effective attack by Mr. Kim?

3) The result was verified regarding ① where no evidence of headbutting could be identified, and

② at 3:50 of the first round, Mr. Kim landed a straight right hand cleanly below the right eye of Mr. Takahashi which caused him to move backwards in apparent concern. A few seconds later, the area under the right eye was observed to be bleeding.

From the above: Mr. Takahashi's injuries that ended the match were not caused by a headbutt, but by a legal strike by Mr. Kim.