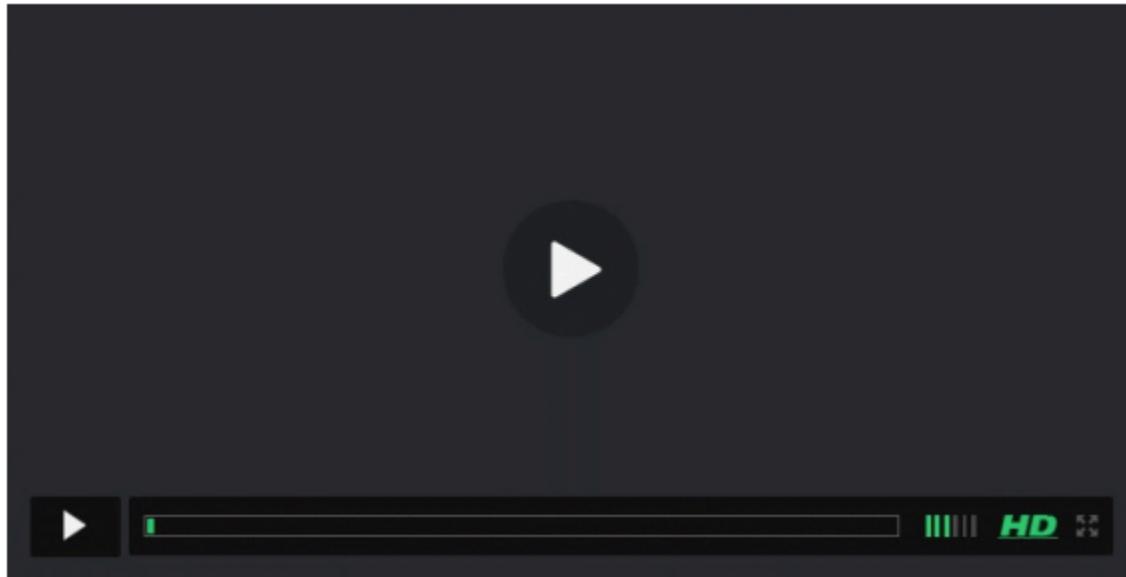


(LIVE) Kelly vs Murtazaliev LIVE STREAM FREE 31 JAN 2026

When Batyrzhan Murtazaliev and Josh Kelly share a boxing ring, the stakes are undeniable. This is more than a fight; it's a pivotal crossroads bout in the ultra-competitive welterweight division, pitting a relentless, undefeated contender against a supremely talented former star prospect looking to reclaim his place at the top. For fans of the 147-pound weight class, this matchup promises a fascinating stylistic collision with major ranking implications.

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The Fighters: Undefeated Force vs. Technical Redemption

Batyrzhan Murtazaliev: The Silent Assassin

Kazakh-born and now fighting out of Los Angeles, Murtazaliev has steadily built a formidable reputation as one of the division's most avoided fighters. With a perfect record, he represents the classic, pressure-based "Kazakh style" of boxing—disciplined, powerful, and relentless.

- Record: 22-0 (16 KOs)
- Fighting Style: A methodical, high-pressure technician. Murtazaliev excels at cutting off the ring, throwing heavy shots in combination (particularly to the body), and imposing a physically draining pace. He is a patient but persistent hunter with solid fundamental skills and respectable power.
- Career Context: As the current IBF #1 ranked contender, Murtazaliev is the mandatory challenger for Jaron "Boots" Ennis's world title. A fight against Kelly is a chance to stay sharp, earn a high-profile win, and cement his status as the division's top contender.



Josh "Pretty Boy" Kelly: The Enigmatic Talent

From Sunderland, England, Josh Kelly burst onto the scene with dazzling hand speed, elusive movement, and flashy skills that drew early comparisons to Naseem Hamed. After a high-profile loss to David Avanesyan in 2021, he has rebuilt his career, showcasing improved discipline and power in recent performances.

- Record: 16-1-1 (8 KOs)
- Fighting Style: A slick, athletic boxer with exceptional speed and footwork. Kelly's strengths are his ability to box from range, use angles, and pot-shot with fast combinations. The key question is

whether his improved defensive resilience and punch resistance can hold up under Murtazaliev's sustained pressure.

- Career Context: For Kelly, this is the ultimate test of his redemption arc. A victory over the IBF's top contender would be a career-defining win, propelling him into world title conversations and erasing any remaining doubts about his elite potential.

The Stylistic Matchup: Relentless Pressure vs. Elusive Boxing

This fight is a classic boxer vs. puncher dynamic with a modern twist:

1. The Pressure vs. Movement Chess Match: Can Kelly use his lateral movement and ring IQ to stay off the ropes, frustrate Murtazaliev, and rack up points? Or will Murtazaliev successfully cut the ring off, trap Kelly, and unleash his punishing body attack?
2. The Stamina & Chin Equation: Murtazaliev's style is designed to break opponents down over time. Kelly's ability to maintain his speed and defensive focus for 12 rounds under constant duress will be critical. Can Kelly's chin withstand Murtazaliev's thudding power when he is finally cornered?
3. Mental Fortitude: This is a high-pressure fight for both. For Murtazaliev, it's about justifying his #1 ranking. For Kelly, it's about proving he belongs with the division's best after his setback. Who handles the psychological pressure better?

What's at Stake? Everything.

- World Title Pathway: For Murtazaliev, a win keeps him first in line for Jaron Ennis. For Kelly, a win catapults him into the mandatory position, creating a massive opportunity.
- Division Relevance: The welterweight division is in flux. The winner of this fight immediately becomes a central figure and an attractive option for other champions like Terence Crawford or the winner of the Spence-Crawley rematch.
- Legacy Defining: This is a legacy fight for both. It validates Murtazaliev's standing or completes Kelly's remarkable comeback story.

How to Watch Murtazaliev vs Kelly

As a high-profile contender bout, this fight would likely be featured on a major platform. Given Murtazaliev's alignment with Premier Boxing Champions (PBC), it could headline a Showtime Championship Boxing event or be a featured bout on FOX/FS1 PBC Fight Night. For UK fans, Kelly's involvement would likely secure broadcast coverage on DAZN or Sky Sports. Always check official promoter and broadcaster announcements for confirmed details.

Why Boxing Fans Should Be Excited

This is the type of fight that hardcore fans demand:

- Clarity in the Rankings: It definitively sorts out a top contender.
- Style Contrast Guarantees Drama: The pressure of Murtazaliev vs the movement of Kelly cannot produce a boring fight.
- High Skill Level: Both are elite technicians, just with different approaches.
- Unpredictable Outcome: Kelly has the tools to outbox anyone on his night, but Murtazaliev has the style to dismantle anyone over the distance.

Conclusion: A Potential Welterweight Classic

Batyrzhan Murtazaliev vs Josh Kelly is a premier matchup that delivers significance, intrigue, and guaranteed action. It's a fight that answers critical questions about both men and will reshape the landscape of the welterweight division.

Whether Murtazaliev's relentless march continues or Kelly's "Pretty Boy" brilliance shines on the biggest stage, this is a must-watch event for any follower of the sweet science. Tune in for a masterclass in high-stakes boxing.