# ASSOCIATION OF BOXING COMMISSIONS AND COMBATIVE SPORTS BOXING REFEREE MANUAL

## APPLICATION OF THE RULES AND GUIDELINES

The general purpose of the Referee's Manual is to provide criteria and guidance on referee mechanics for each bout ensuring **uniformity and consistency** in actions, responsibilities, duties, and overall performance of all Professional Boxing Referees.

Each referee is encouraged to take the time to read this manual to ensure that the control of each bout and the physical protection of each boxer are always maintained.

## GENERAL PROCEDURES

The referee is the sole arbiter in the boxing ring, and responsible for controlling the boxers and ensuring their safety. A referee should say what he means and mean what he says.

Referees' primary duties are to:

- Protect boxers from serious injuries
- Enforce the rules fairly and consistently
- Always maintain control of the action
- Ensure both boxers compete honestly

## ATTIRE

To maintain a uniform appearance, referees should adhere to the following attire standards:

- Gray or blue shirt (either short or long sleeves) with black or blue bow tie
- Dark blue or black pants

- Black belt (optional)
- Boxer-type shoes (preferred)
- Plastic gloves (optional)

## APPEARANCE

Referees should exhibit a professional appearance and behavior by:

- Maintaining neat hair
- Keeping nails trimmed
- Refraining from wearing jewelry
- Avoiding gum chewing
- Abstaining from alcohol
- Ensuring physical fitness to perform at your best

## PRE-BOUT

Arrive at least 1-2 hours prior to the first bout. Check in with Commission to confirm your bout assignments and to see if there are any concerns/observations the Commission may have about a particular bout or boxer.

Ask a Commission representative about the boxers, such as if they speak English or are making their pro debuts. This is a good time for you to verify and review the rules that will be in effect that night.

## RING CHECK

Check the ropes, ensuring the lowest rope is a little looser to cushion a falling boxer's head. The canvas should be clean and dry. Confirm that the canvas, ring ropes, post tops, turnbuckles, and corner posts are suitably padded and secured. If there is a problem, contact the Commission immediately.

Know the location of the following:

- ✓ Doctor: Introduce yourself and make sure you're on the same page.
- ✓ Timekeeper: Ask to hear the 10-second warning and bell.
- ✓ Judges
- ✓ Commission Representative
- ✓ Inspectors

## DRESSING ROOM

Go to the dressing rooms with a Commission representative, verify who the Chief second is. The Chief Second is responsible for the conduct of the corner. Any violation of the rules may result in a corner persons immediate removal from the corner for the remainder of the event.

Give the boxers a general review of the rules that will be in effect that night, what is expected of them, what your verbal commands and hand signals will be, and what they can expect of you.
Review your expectations of them regarding common situations and dangerous fouls you feel the necessity to discuss such as:

1. Knockdown procedures
2. Breaking procedures
3. The importance of following and responding to your commands
4. Dangerous fouls such as Rabbit punches or hitting a “downed” opponent
5. Stopping when they hear you say the word “Stop”
6. Protecting themselves at all times
7. End of round procedures
8. Mouthpiece procedures

Always ask if the boxers have any questions or concerns. Check the boxer's appearance and equipment to determine if it follows commission rules and best practices.

Inspect the mouthpiece, the trunks (anything on these trunks that may cause a problem), the protective foul proof cup (especially the height of the cup), and look for any type of jewelry, piercings (including tongue), hair ties, abrasive materials, or temporary tattoos. Any Issues should be rectified immediately with the Commission.

## ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR FEMALE BOXERS

Female boxers shall box in boxing shorts, shoes, and a mouthpiece. Additionally, a breast protector, abdominal guard, or foul proof cup may or may not be required, depending on the local commission’s rules. The referee should verify this with a commission representative. Boxers must not wear any facial cosmetics. Hair shall be secured with soft, non-abrasive materials. The weight classes and glove sizes shall be the same as those used by male boxers.

## IN THE RING

- ✓ Check boxers for mouthpiece and ensure they have two (2) ringside.
- ✓ Protective cup (make sure it does not extend above the boxer’s hip line).
- ✓ Trunks (are they regulation? Is there anything on them that could cause a problem?).
- ✓ Ensure the gloves are properly taped and initialed by an inspector, with smooth, non-abrasive tape. Verify the gloves’ condition and size, and ensure they are free from grease or other substances.
- ✓ With the assistance of the assigned inspectors, keep the boxers and handlers in their respective corner areas upon entering the ring, and prevent any taunting, using inspectors if necessary.

- ✓ After boxers are announced, they must come to the center of the ring "clean", and ready to fight, no robes or hats. Referee should check for excessive Vaseline or other substances on their face or body. Boxers should be accompanied to the center of the ring by their chief second only.
- ✓ In the center ring, before the match begins, it's advisable for the referee to determine each boxer's beltline (top of the hip) and communicate that point to the fighters, their cornermen, and the audience.
- ✓ General instructions in the middle of the ring should be brief and to the point. Do not use "catchy" phrases or say things that will bring attention to yourself.

Remind them to:

- Obey your commands at all times
- Protect themselves at all times
- Reiterate anything specific to the bout (such as trunk height)

Ensure that the boxers touch gloves and return to their corners without engaging in any taunting. You as the referee must set the stage.

## THE BOUT

- ✓ Be positioned in the CENTER of the ring before the bell rings to commence each round and maintain control to keep boxers in their corners until the bell sounds.
- ✓ Utilize basic commands: STOP-BREAK-BOX, especially when boxers don't speak English (refer to Spanish Commands Attached).
- ✓ Employ simple hand signals to indicate the start/end of a round, excessive holding, rabbit punching, or low blows.
- ✓ To best observe the boxers', referees should position themselves at appropriate distances, while maintaining a side view, perpendicular to the boxers.
- ✓ When either or both boxers commence holding and/or fouling, the referee should immediately take the necessary action required to stop and prevent any such further tactics.
- ✓ Referees should be clear and direct in their warnings, remain impartial, and not allow their decisions to be influenced by spectators.
- ✓ Not all rule violations require immediate interruptions of the action; some can be more efficiently handled at the conclusion of the round in the corner.
- ✓ Remember, it's all about Concentration and Positioning.

## MOVEMENT / DISTANCE

Experience and instinct will give the referee the sense of knowing when to move in closer and when to stay at a prudent distance. The referee should move around the ring in a smooth and graceful manner. In general, the referee should maintain a distance that allows for a clear view of the action and the ability to move quickly if needed.

The referee should shorten the distance in the following cases:

- ✓ When boxers are moving towards or fighting on the ropes.

- ✓ The fighting ability of one of the boxers is in doubt and a stoppage may be imminent.
- ✓ Boxers are mainly resorting to infighting, holding, or clinching.
- ✓ There is a good deal of noise, and verbal commands may not be easily heard.
- ✓ The timekeeper signals that ten seconds are left in the round.

## BREAKING THE BOXERS

When physically breaking the boxers, it is recommended to use the word “Stop” as your first command, followed by “Break” or any other word or phrase to get the fighters to separate cleanly. The referee should never walk through the boxers after a break. Be sure to break at a full arm’s length, addressing both boxers, and step straight back after the break to resume your normal distance.

## END OF THE ROUND

The referee should take advantage of the ten-second warning towards the end of the round by getting into a centered position between the boxers. When the bell sounds, call out "TIME!" and concurrently declare the end of the round with a hand signal. Ensure both boxers return to their prospective corners and observe the gait of either combatant when necessary.

## WHEN A BOXER IS DOWN

A boxer is down when any part of their body other than the soles of their feet touches the ring canvas.

## KNOCKDOWNS

A knockdown shall occur when one or more of the following conditions take place, as determined by the referee:

1. As a result of a legal blow or blows:
   a. A boxer touches the canvas with any part of their body other than the soles of their feet;
   b. A boxer is hanging defenselessly on, through, or over the ropes; and/or
   c. Only the ropes are preventing a boxer from being knocked down.

2. A boxer voluntarily goes down (e.g. takes a knee).

When a boxer is struck by a legal blow(s) and goes down, the Referee should command “Down!” and signal by pointing to the canvas.

When a knockdown occurs, the referee should direct the standing boxer to the farthest Neutral Corner and then pick up the count from the Timekeeper.

During the count, keep an eye on the standing boxer to assure they stay in the neutral corner. If boxer comes out of the neutral corner, STOP THE COUNT, put boxer back into neutral corner and then resume counting. Referees should practice counting.

The referee should ensure that the fallen boxer can clearly see and hear their count. If the fallen boxer arises any time before the count of (10) is completed, the referee, after giving the mandatory (8) count, should verify the fighter's ability to intelligently defend themselves by performing the "Referee Gait Test" (see below), and asking the boxer a few questions. "Are you OK? Do you want to continue?" A general rule is if the referee has any doubt, stop the bout.

If the referee is satisfied that the fighter can safely continue, the Referee shall wipe the fallen boxer's gloves of any debris, then stay close and monitor the hurt boxer to ensure they can effectively defend themselves. At the end of the round watch how the boxer walks back to the corner. Check the injured boxer between rounds. It is recommended to have the doctor check the boxer at this time.

The referee may stop this count at any time if in their judgement, the fallen boxer is unable to intelligently defend themselves. If this should occur, the referee shall rule the bout over and immediately signal for the doctor.

When a boxer gets legally knocked down and attempts to get up to continue the bout, they shall no longer be considered a downed fighter once no part of their body other than the soles of their feet are touching the canvas without any support or assistance. If the boxer is bent over (not fully upright) they shall no longer be considered a downed fighter. The referee should stop their count and continue with their assessment after completing the mandatory 8 count.

- ✓ If during the count, the boxer gets up and then falls again, resume the original count. The referee should not assist the downed fighter in any way. The referee should always count in a clear and straightforward manner and when necessary, should kneel to the fallen boxer so he can hear and see the referee. The referee should always use hand signals (fingers) during their count. They should not just rely on their voice.
- ✓ If the boxer taking the count is still down when the referee completes the count of TEN, or if in the opinion of the referee, the boxer who was knocked down is in no condition to continue, the referee shall wave their arms above their head to signal the bout is over.
- ✓ A boxer who is knocked out of the ring (off the apron onto the floor or a table) has 20 seconds to return to the ring with no assistance from anyone. This boxer shall receive a mandatory 18 count if they return to the ring sooner. The referee shall use their discretion to allow this boxer reasonable additional time to return to the ring due to mitigating circumstances. If this boxer stalls while re-entering the ring, the referee may count this boxer out or stop the bout without a count.
- ✓ If both boxers go down at the same time from a punch, counting shall continue if one of the boxers is still down. If both boxers remain down and the

count of (10) has been completed, the bout shall be stopped, and the decision shall be a Technical Draw.

- ✓ Throwing the towel cannot stop a professional boxing match. In the US, the chief second should notify the inspector when they want the bout stopped who will in turn inform the referee. Abroad, towel throwing may be allowed and if this occurs, investigate. Call time-out, get the towel out of the ring, look who threw the towel. Is the corner on the apron? If so, then stop the bout.
- ✓ While a 3-knockdown rule doesn't exist, boxers knocked down 3 times in a round should be closely observed.
- ✓ Remember, there's no saving by the bell in any round.

## REFEREE GAIT TEST

When a knockdown occurs and the boxer appears concussed or unsteady after rising before the full "10-Count" is reached, a Referee should give the downed fighter the "Referee's Gait Test." You can accomplish this by directing the fighter to walk a few steps to their right or left, stop, turn their body, and walk back to you. Assess their balance and ability to control their body. Is the boxer steady? Is their balance good?

## SLIPS

When a boxer goes down and the referee deems it not to be a legal knockdown, they should immediately wave both hands in a crisscrossing motion at or below their waist level, and verbally command "No Knockdown," or "Slip."

A Boxer shall not hit an opponent who is down or attempting to rise from a knockdown or slip. Both Boxers must wait for the referee's command before resuming action.

## STOPPING THE BOUT

The Referee, and in most jurisdictions, the Ringside Physician may stop the bout. The referee can stop the contest at any time if they believe that one boxer is in any type of physical danger, or if the contest becomes too one-sided. The referee should always feel free to consult with the ring-side physician to determine a boxer's medical/physical condition.

The referee should look for signals; Are the boxer's hands up? Is their head snapping back from the punches? How are their legs (wobbly-sturdy)?

When stopping a bout, try to step in between the two boxers while trying to block the injured boxer from any further punches—always protect the injured boxer.

Remember, the referee has this boxer's life in their hands. If a boxer goes down hard (knockout), and their eyes are closed or the referee notices their muscles

twitching/spasms, the referee may want to stop the count and immediately end the contest.

Time is precious. Always stay with a hurt boxer until the doctor enters the ring to attend to the boxer.

## MOUTHPIECE MECHANICS

All boxers should have (2) mouthpieces. If a boxer loses a mouthpiece (gets lost in the stands/crowd) and has no second mouthpiece, they lose by TKO.

The referee should make sure both boxers start each round with a mouthpiece.

When a mouthpiece becomes dislodged concurrent with a knockdown and the boxer rises before the count of ten, the mandatory 8-count will be given, and the referee shall evaluate the boxer's condition. In this situation, a knockdown should always be treated as a lull in the action, and the mouthpiece should be replaced before allowing the fight to resume.

When replacing a mouthpiece, the referee may call time and have the mouthpiece rinsed and replaced, or the referee may quickly replace it without calling timeout or rinsing it depending on the circumstances.

It will be the referee's discretion on whether a mouthpiece was intentionally spit out or naturally dislodged.

If the referee determines the boxer intentionally spit out their mouthpiece, particularly after they have been knocked down, or if it repeatedly becomes dislodged, it will be the referee's discretion to deduct points in these situations. A referee should use warnings, point deductions, and in VERY RARE cases disqualify a fighter.

## LOW BLOW MECHANICS

The reference point on a fighter's body where a punch becomes a "Low Blow" is the "top of the hip." This can easily be visualized by drawing an imaginary line from the top of one hip across the body to the top of the other hip.

This is the point on a human's body where the average person measures and wears a belt around their waist.

Punches to the "top of the hip" (beltline) and above are fair punches, and punches completely below the "top of the hip" (beltline) are illegal.

The upper portion of a fighter's trunks usually has an elastic band called a "waistband." This "waistband" sits at the atop the hip bones and encompasses the body to keep the trunks from sliding down.

Fighters choose their trunks with fashion/style and comfort in mind. Many fighters wear trunks that have very tall “waistbands.” Do not let the size of a fighter’s “waistband” become an issue for you. Neither the top of a fighter’s waistband, nor the navel (bellybutton) determines the point of a low blow. Remember, the “top of the hip” (beltline) should be the reference point for a “low blow.”

Referees should use discretion and “good judgement” on whether to issue a fighter a hard “warning” for punches that land on the beltline, (Top of Hip) and for punches that drift a bit low where the glove still makes contact slightly above the hipline.

When necessary, in the center ring before the start of a fight, a Referee should determine where the beltline (Top of Hip) is on each fighter and communicate that point to the fighter’s, their cornermen, and everyone else who is watching the bout.

## HEAD BUTTS

- ✓ Temporarily stop the action, examine both boxers quickly, and take appropriate action to include notifying the commission.
- ✓ If the fouled boxer needs medical attention, call time and summon the ringside physician while directing the other boxer to the furthest neutral corner.
- ✓ Caution both boxers for head butting and take appropriate action.
- ✓ Consider granting any injured fighter up to 5 minutes to recover.
- ✓ Call time back in.

## PENALIZING-POINTS

Point deductions are not just tools, they're powerful levers to maintain order and can influence the fight's outcome. Referees must wield them carefully and with awareness.

Generally, a referee may give some soft warnings with hand signals, then a hard warning, where the referee would call time, stop the action, and clearly talk to the offending boxer about their actions.

If the referee gives a hard warning, at the next serious violation of the rule, they should consider deducting a point or multiple points from the offending boxer. Immediately inform judges and commission personnel of your actions and do so with unwavering clarity. Mean what you say and say what you mean.

While warnings are generally preferred, the severity of a foul can warrant an immediate point deduction without any prior warnings.

## ACCIDENTAL FOULS

When a fighter is unable to continue due to an accidental foul and (4) rounds have been completed, the bout should go to the judge's cards for a **TECHNICAL DECISION** to the

fighter ahead on the scorecards at the time of the stoppage. Partial rounds are scored. If (4) rounds have not been completed, then the bout will be ruled a **NO DECISION**.

Be sure to inform both boxers, their corners, and the Commission as soon as possible that the foul was ruled accidental.

When a punch is ruled an accidental low blow, and the boxer declares they are unable to continue after being granted a (5) minute rest period, the bout will end, and the boxer who was accidentally fouled will lose by **TKO**.

If the boxer goes down from a body shot and claims low blow, you as the referee must make an immediate call. When the referee signals a knockdown and begins the count, then the boxer should know they are considering it a legal blow.

## INTENTIONAL FOULS

The referee should consult with the ringside doctor to determine the severity of the injury, especially if it is a head blow. Remember under the Unified Rules there is a mandatory (2) point deduction if an intentional foul causes an injury.

The referee should not rush to have the boxer continue. Always consult with the doctor.

If an intentional foul causes an injury and the bout is allowed to continue and said injury results in the bout being stopped before four (4) completed rounds, the bout will result in a **NO DECISION.**
If an intentional foul causes an injury and the bout is allowed to continue, and the same injury results in the bout being stopped in any round after the fourth ($4^{th}$) round, the injured boxer will win by **TECHNICAL DECISION** if they're ahead on the score cards; and the bout will result in a **TECHNICAL DRAW** if the injured boxer is behind or even on the score cards.

Immediately following an intention foul, if the referee or doctor determines that the injured boxer cannot continue, the offending boxer will lose by **DISQUALIFICATION**.

Remember, partial rounds are scored. If an intentional foul occurs without injury, it is at the referee's discretion on whether to deduct a point or points.

## FIVE-MINUTE ALLOWANCE

The referee, at their discretion, may grant a boxer up to five-minutes to recover from any foul, whether intentional or accidental.

If at any time the boxer is deemed unfit to continue by the referee or ringside physician, the referee must immediately call a halt to the bout.

## SELF-INJURY

If a boxer accidentally injures themselves or while attempting to intentionally foul their opponent, or gets injured, knocked down, or knocked out while performing an illegal or unorthodox move, the referee will not take any action in their favor, and the injury, knockdown, or knockout will be considered the same as one produced by a fair blow.

If the injured boxer cannot resume boxing when ordered to do so by the Referee, he or she will lose the bout by TECHNICAL KNOCKOUT.

In cases of Self-Injury, neither the Four (4) Round nor Five (5) Minute Rules apply.

## RABBIT PUNCHES

The referee should never allow any direct targeting to the back of the head, also known as “rabbit punches.” Upon witnessing such an offense, the referee should take immediate and decisive action such as giving a warning, taking points, or disqualifying the offending fighter. Clearly communicate the severity of the foul and emphasize that further infractions will have consequences.

## POSTING/MEASURING

Referees should discourage boxers from leaving their advanced arm straight out to measure their opponent or obstruct their opponent’s vision.

## UNSPORTSMANLIKE

If a boxer fouls or acts in an unsportsmanlike manner during the bout or in-between rounds, the Referee should admonish or disqualify the offending boxer depending on the severity of the offense.

Any boxer who deliberately commits or attempts a foul with the intent to injure their opponent and forces them to be unable to continue, will be disqualified.

## PUNCH AT THE BELL

Any punch that is thrown (and thus in motion) before and as the bell sounds is a legal blow. If this does occur and the boxer receiving this punch falls, then the referee shall start their count (the bell should not ring) if the boxer rises before the 10-count is completed, the referee shall still give the full mandatory 8-count.

If the referee determines this boxer is okay to continue, the referee shall signal the bout to continue at which time the bell should immediately sound, ending the round and beginning the one-minute rest period

## PUNCH AFTER THE BELL

If a blow strikes a boxer after the sounding of the bell, the referee will determine whether it was accidental or intentional. If a blow causes a boxer to go down after the bell has sounded to end the round, it is at the referee's discretion to decide if it was a legal punch or not.

If the blow is ruled intentional and causes injury, a 2-point deduction shall be given. The boxer receiving the late blow shall be awarded a 5-minute rest. This 5-minute rest should be granted before the mandatory 1-minute rest period. During this rest period, it is strongly advised that the referee consult with the ringside physician. If this boxer can continue, then the bout goes on. If this boxer cannot continue, then the offending boxer loses by DQ.

If the referee deems the late blow accidental, the injured boxer is still entitled to a 5-minute rest period. If injured boxer is unable to continue and 4-rounds have been completed, the fight goes to the scorecards. If 4-rounds have not been completed, the fight is ruled a No Decision.

## LOOSE TAPE

The referee should temporarily stop the bout (call time if necessary) and see if they can remove the loose tape and resume the action and let the round finish. During the 1-minute rest period direct the cornermen to cut and fix the tape. Generally, the referee should not let the corner re-tape during a round. If the referee feels it cannot wait until the round ends, the referee should only allow the cornermen to remove the loose tape.

## CUTS

Although you as the referee can stop a bout at any time, it is generally preferable to consult with the ring-side physician to determine the severity of the cut and if the bout shall be allowed to continue or not. Remember, if the ringside physician says stop the bout, then the bout shall be STOPPED.

During a round, if the referee believes a cut has worsened and is hampering the boxer's vision or may cause more permanent damage, the referee should call time and consult with the ringside physician.

- ✓ When possible, the referee should give the corner time between rounds to try to stop the bleeding before making judgement. Have the ring-side physician also use this time to examine the cut.
- ✓ Most cuts within the orbit of the eye (eyelid) should be stopped.
- ✓ If the cut is above the orbit and impairs the fighter's vision, it should be stopped.
- ✓ If the eye is swollen enough that the examination is difficult, it should be stopped.
- ✓ Although the referee is the sole arbiter of the bout and can stop the bout at any time, they should consult with the ring-side physician to determine the severity of any injury, especially facial/eye cuts.

## MEDICAL TIMEOUT

At any time during the progress of a bout, the referee may stop the bout by signaling the timekeeper and require the ringside physician to enter the ring to examine the boxer.

In the event of an injury sustained to a boxer, the referee may interrupt the progress of the round and call the ringside physician into the ring to examine and advise upon the condition of the injured boxer.

If the examination exceeds 5 minutes, the bout should be stopped.

The use of a medical timeout during or immediately after a legal knockdown is not recommended, unless there are exceptional circumstances indicating an immediate and serious medical emergency requiring urgent intervention.

The referee, at the request of the ringside physician, may extend the intermission between rounds, if necessary to examine a boxer, for up to 30 additional seconds.

Recommended Procedure:

- During any extended break, grant the boxer's corner their full minute rest.
- When the rest period ends, start the next round.
- Immediately call time after the bell rings to allow the doctor to examine the boxer.
- Send the opposing boxer to a neutral corner.

## GENERAL CONCUSSION SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Commissions do realize that you as the referee are not a doctor, but as a referee, you should be fully aware of the Signs and Symptoms of a concussion. One of the referee's many duties is to always observe the fighter especially after that fighter has suffered head blows. The referee needs to know the likely possibility of when a fighter is concussed.

Part of this is by observing the fighters body language; and another part is listening to the fighter while they are in their corners. Any fighter that expresses feeling pressure in their head, has a headache, appears confused or dis-oriented, is feeling nauseated, is slurring his speech; these are warning signs and symptoms. If any of these signs and symptoms appear, the referee should immediately call in the ringside doctor and notify the Commission. Remember to observe the fighters body language for signs of a concussion as they walk back to their corner after the round ends.

During that 1-minute rest period, especially after this fighter may have suffered some significant head blows; you as the referee should strictly observe this fighter while in their corner. Observe the body language for signs of distress, listen for complaints from the fighter, and briefly converse with the fighter to assess their mental state.

**Signs and Symptoms of a concussion may include:**

- Headache or a feeling of pressure in the head
- Temporary loss of consciousness
- Confusion or feeling as if in a fog
- Amnesia surrounding the traumatic event
- Dizziness or "seeing stars"
- Ringing in the ears
- Double vision/blurred vision
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Slurred speech
- Delayed response to questions
- Appearing dazed
- Fatigue

## ETHICS

All referees should be familiar with the Federal Law regarding disclosures and conflicts of interest. (See attached.)

Generally, if it seems wrong or appears wrong it probably is. If a potential conflict arises, don't wait for it to become an issue. Be upfront and transparent with the commission and relevant parties. Avoid close relationships with promoters, boxers, or licensees. These connections can create perceived bias and compromise your ability to make impartial decisions.

Officials should be supportive of one another and render assistance whenever possible. Do not discuss the merits of another official's decision. They may be subject to criticism today; you may be subject to criticism tomorrow.

Remember, your actions reflect on the entire sport. Conduct yourself with professionalism and integrity to uphold the highest ethical standards.

## GENERAL SUMMARY

A referee should be thoroughly knowledgeable of the boxing rules and regulations. The referee must, without hesitation, be able to control their actions and take the proper action to handle and control all situations as they arise.

Pre-Fight Preparation:

- Arrive early and check-in: Follow instructions from the Commission.
- Clear instructions: Brief boxers in their dressing rooms with Commission personnel present.
- Ring inspection: Check ropes, canvas, and apron – report any issues.

- Official placements: Ensure judges, commission members, doctor, and timekeeper are seated correctly.
- Equipment check: Verify gloves, mouthpiece, cup, and trunks meet regulations.

Fight Management:

- Brief in-ring instructions: They've been prepped – keep it short. Boxers should touch gloves at this time and again before the final round.
- Knockdown procedure: Send scoring boxer to the neutral corner, monitor neutral stance of opponent during count.
- If the ropes are the only thing preventing a boxer from falling after being hit by the opponent, then the referee may rule it a knockdown and start counting.
- Never walk between boxers after breaking a clinch.
- Swift consequences for fouls: Use stern warnings, points deductions, or stronger actions as needed, make all calls clear.
- Point deduction: Stop the fight, clearly announce the point deduction to boxers, judges, and Commission.
- Doctor intervention: Call for the doctor, when necessary, especially for any medical concerns.
- If a foul has been committed and after consultation with the doctor, the referee can grant the injured boxer a reasonable length of time to recover before resuming the contest, not to exceed (5) minutes.
- The referee has the power to stop a contest at any stage and render a decision if they consider it too one-sided or feels one boxer is no longer demonstrating the ability to successfully defend themselves.
- Announcement assistance: Help the ring announcer declare the fight result accurately.

Professional Conduct:

- Avoid unnecessary interactions: Refrain from getting into any discussions with seconds, managers, or public at ringside. Watch what you say—especially if wearing a microphone for television.
- Media silence: No fight commentary to ringside or press. Clear statements to the press only after Commission approval.
- Stay in your lane: Don't coach the boxers.
- Remain available: Stay at the ringside until officially dismissed by the Commission.

## BASIC SPANISH COMMANDS

**BREAK** - Although universal, you may also get your message across by saying "FUERA" (FOO-AY-RA) or "SALGA LIMPIO! 'I" (SAL-GAH LEEM-PEE-OH) Most Spanish boxers will understand both commands.

**HEADBUTT** - If a headbutt occurred or there is a danger that a headbutt will occur you may say: "CABEZA!" (KA-BAY-SSAH) or "CUIDADO CON LA CABEZA!" (KWEE-DA-DOE KOHN LA "-BAY-SSAH)

**PUNCH OUT OR LET HIM GO** - "SUELTELO" (SUE-EL- TAY„LO) or "DEJELO SALIR!" (DEI-I-HAY-LO SAPI- LEER)

**LOW BLOW** - "GOLPE BAJO!" (GOL-PAY BAH-HOE) or "MAS ARRIBA!" (MAHSA-REE-BAH)

**PUNCH BACK** - "TIRE GOLPES!" (TEE-RAY GOL-PAYS)

**STOP PUNCHING** - "NO TIRE!" (NO TEE-RAY) or "NO TIRE GOLPES!" (NO TEE-RAY GOL-PAYS)

**STOP HOLDING** - “SUELTELO!"(SUEELTAY-LO)

**STOP** - "PARE!" (PAH-RAY)

**DON'T DO THAT** - "NO HAGAS ESO!"(NO AGAS AYY-SO)