



ASSOCIATION OF BOXING COMMISSIONS AND COMBATIVE SPORTS

REFEREE MANUAL OF PROFESSIONAL BOXING

PURPOSE

The general purpose of this Referee's Manual is to establish criteria to be followed in all professional boxing contests held in the United States. This manual will aid in the **uniformity and consistency** in actions, responsibilities, duties and total 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 MECHANICS

The referee has the sole responsibility of controlling the action of the boxers in the ring. By immediately establishing the respect of the boxers, the referee's job becomes easier and, as a result, a greater effort will be put forth by the boxers.

Primarily, the basic functions of the referee are to protect the boxers from serious injuries, enforce the rules and regulations in a fair and consistent manner and to see that these rules are obeyed by each boxer, and to maintain control of the action at all times. **A referee should say what they mean and mean what they say.**

The referee should avoid close contact with the boxers and should maintain their position as far away from the boxers as possible. The referee should utilize the perimeter of the ring and continue to move in a graceful manner. **They should not interfere with the boxers by over-playing their part.**

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. 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. The referee should be discrete in counseling and cautioning the boxers during a round and avoid making a scene with their warnings. **All warning should be clear and direct.** The referee should not allow their attention, actions, and decisions to be diverted and/or influenced by emotionally involved spectators, nor should they engage them in conversations.

The referee should move around the ring in a smooth manner; they should not bounce or give the appearance by their actions that they are also boxing. If possible, the referee should try to maintain the pace of the circling boxers, maintaining a side view of both boxers which allows the referee to observe a greater degree of the offenses and defenses of both.

UNIFORM and APPEARANCE

Uniform should be worn at all bouts. Gray or blue shirt (either short or long sleeves) with black or blue bow tie. Dark blue or black pants. If wearing a belt, the belt should be black. Be careful of the size of the belt buckle. Shoes should be "boxer-type" and preferably black. In addition:

- ✓ Plastic gloves should be worn.
- ✓ Hair should be neatly groomed; nails cut, and no jewelry (rings, watches) should be worn during your work.
- ✓ No gum chewing while in the ring.
- ✓ Light meal 4/5 hours before — no alcohol/medications Be physically fit
- ✓ "look well" — perform well

PRE-BOUT

Arrive early — at least one hour before the bouts. Upon arrival, check in with Commission to get the bouts you are working and to see if there are any concerns/observations the Commission may have about a particular bout or boxer. Ask questions about the boxers such as: Do they speak/understand English or are any boxers making their pro debuts? This is a good time for you to sit down and review the rules that will be in effect that night.

Go to the dressing rooms with a Commission representative. Talk to all the boxers. Ask who is their Chief Second. This is the individual you are going to work with. Give them a general review of the rules, how you work, what is expected of them and what they can expect of you. Be very clear on the rules that will be in effect that night. Always ask if they have any questions or concerns.

RINGSIDE

Check the ropes. The lowest rope should be a little looser (to cushion a fallen boxer's head). Canvas should be clean/dry. Corner post and all pads are secured. Check to see if any press, photographers/cameras are crowded too close at ringside. If there is a problem, contact the Commission immediately. Put your towel in the neutral corner.

Know the location of the following:

- ✓ Doctor — Introduce yourself-make sure you guys are on the same page.
- ✓ Timekeeper — Ask to hear 10-second pound and bell they will be using that night- become familiar with this sound.
- ✓ Judges
- ✓ Commission
- ✓ Inspectors

DRESSING ROOM KEY ISSUES

The referee is to check the boxer's appearance and equipment to determine if it follows commission rules and best practices. The referee is to inspect the mouthpiece, the trunks (anything on these trunks that may cause a problem), the protective cup (especially the height of the cup), and look for any type of jewelry, piercings (including tongue), hair ties or temporary tattoos. Any Issues should be rectified immediately with the Commission.

Briefly go over fouls in general, but explicitly discuss the most common and harmful fouls; Head butting, Low Blows, Holding and Hits to the back of the head (Rabbit punches).

Inform all boxers what your verbal commands and hand signals will be. Be specific on how you will break or separate the boxers.

The referee should be specific on knockdown procedures and explain exactly what the boxers need to do if they suffer or score a knockdown. The referee should be very specific that the boxer suffering the knock-down must answer their questions affirmatively. Failure to do so may be grounds to stop the bout.

The referee should make it very clear that they are not to strike an opponent when they are down. They must go to a neutral corner after scoring a knockdown and are not to leave that corner until they are called out.

END OF THE ROUND PROCEDURE

The referee should explain the end of round procedure to the boxers. It is good practice to take advantage of the ten- second warning towards the end of the round by getting in good position so that the referee will be centered to the boxers at the actual end of the round. The referee should get in a centered position, call out "**TIME!**" and concurrently announce the end of the round with a hand signal.

MOUTHPIECE PROCEDURE

The referee should explain to the boxers how mouthpiece situations will be handled, and the consequences of purposely spitting out a mouthpiece. The referee should make it a point to mention that if the mouthpiece becomes dislodged concurrent with a knockdown, it is the referee's immediate decision on whether the mouthpiece was spit out or if it became dislodged because of natural bout action. The referee should ensure that the boxers know that the referee will decide when there is a "Lull in the action". and when the mouthpiece will be replaced. The referee should check to ensure all boxers have (2) mouthpieces.

IN THE RING

When the boxers come into the ring, the referee should:

- ✓ Check boxers for mouthpiece; protective cup (at the belly button); trunks (are they regulation? Is there anything on them that could cause a problem?), and gloves which should be taped and initialed by an inspector (tape should be smooth, not curled). Make sure the gloves are in good condition, no grease or substance on them. Make sure that they are the same size.
- ✓ Keep boxers and handlers in their own corner area after initially entering ring. Do not allow any taunting by either boxer. Use inspectors, if necessary.
- ✓ After boxers are announced, boxers must come to the center of the ring "clean", no robes or hats. Referee should check to see that there is no excessive Vaseline or other substances on face or body, nor any jewelry, belly button rings, or earrings. Boxers should only be accompanied to the center of the ring by their chief second.
- ✓ General instructions in the middle of the ring should be brief and to the point, such as:
 - Obey referee commands at all times,
 - Protect yourself at all times
 - Any questions
- ✓ Referee should make sure boxers touch gloves and go directly back to corners. There should be no taunting by either boxer, you as the referee must set the stage.

THE BOUT

- ✓ Remember to use basic commands: BOX-STOP-BREAK, especially if boxers do not speak English (see Spanish Commands — See Attached)
- ✓ Use basic signals to signify a bout, excessive holding or low blows
- ✓ Be in the CENTER of the ring prior to the bell ringing to start each round and always keep boxers in their corners until the bell. Also, always stay in center until both boxers go back to corners at end of each round. This will eliminate excessive taunting or late punches/actions.
- ✓ Keep a window between boxers. Position is important. Never get caught behind the boxers or the action. Try to close the gap when a boxer is on the ropes. Remember you can call a knock-down if the ropes are the only thing holding the boxer up.

It's all about Concentration and Positioning.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR FEMALE BOXERS

Female boxers shall box in boxing shorts, abdominal guard, foul proof cup, body shirt, shoes and mouthpiece. Breast protectors are optional.

Boxers shall wear NO facial cosmetics. Hair shall be secured with soft and non-abrasive materials.

The weight classes (and size of the gloves) shall be the same as used by male boxers.

No female professional boxing contest shall be scheduled for more than ten (10) rounds, although going to 12 rounds has been used in various commissions. Each round shall be two

(2) minutes in duration and have a one (1) minute rest period between rounds.

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN REFEREE AND THE BOXERS

Experience and instinct will give the referee the sense of knowing when to move in closer and when to stay at a prudent distance.

There is no set rule, but there are some situations where a referee should shorten his/her distance to the boxers. One is the case where there is a tough bout involving two hard punchers and they are infighting.

Another case is when the boxers are boxing close to the ropes or a corner and there is a possibility that they may get into a clinch, or a boxer may get tangled up on the ropes. Referees should be alert to their exact position so as not to interfere with or be trapped between the ropes and the boxers.

Generally, the referee should shorten his distance in the following cases:

- ✓ When boxers are moving towards or fighting on the ropes.
- ✓ When the fighting ability of one of the boxers is in doubt and a stoppage may be imminent.
- ✓ When the boxers mainly resort to infighting/holding/clinching
- ✓ When there is a good deal of noise, and your verbal commands may not be easily heard.
- ✓ At the sound of the timekeeper signaling that ten seconds are left in the round.

THE KNOCK DOWN/KNOCK OUT

- ✓ In the event of a knockdown, the referee should make sure standing boxer goes to the farthest Neutral Corner and then pick up the count from the Timekeeper — DO NOT RUSH!
- ✓ A boxer shall be deemed knocked down when due to a legal punch or punches any part of their body other than the soles of their feet touches the canvas.
- ✓ Keep an eye on the standing boxer and make sure he stays in neutral corner. If boxer comes out, STOP THE COUNT, put boxer back into neutral corner and then resume counting. Referees should practice counting.
- ✓ A knockdown can also be scored if the ropes are the only thing holding the boxer up.

During this count, the referee should ensure that the fallen boxer can clearly see and hear the count. (Remember, if during the count the standing boxer comes out of a neutral corner, the referee shall stop the count and instruct the boxer back into the corner. The referee shall then resume his count over the fallen boxer.) If the fallen boxer arises any time before the count of (10), the referee, after giving the full (8) count, shall wipe the fallen boxer's gloves of any debris and take a hard look at the boxer's eyes and assess his overall physical condition so as to determine if the fight should continue. The referee may want to ask the boxer to walk towards them or to walk to his/her left or right. Is the boxer steady? Is their balance good? A general rule is that if the referee has any doubt, stop the bout.

Remember, the referee has this boxer's life in their hands.

If a boxer goes down hard (knockout), and his eyes are closed or the referee notices his muscles twitching/spasms, the referee may want to end the count immediately. Time is precious. Always stay with a hurt boxer until the doctor or his cornermen come into the ring.

- ✓ Remember, during count if the boxer gets up then falls again, resume the original count. If a boxer tries to lean on the referee to get up gently, but firmly, the referee should push them away. The referee should always count in a clear and straightforward manner and if necessary, should bend down to a fallen boxer so he can hear 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.
- ✓ Remember, a boxer who is knocked out of the ring (platform onto floor) has 20 seconds to return 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
- ✓ If both boxers go down at the same time, counting shall continue as long as 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.

Remember when a boxer gets legally knocked down and attempts to get up to continue the bout, they shall no longer be considered a downed boxer once no part of his/her body other than the soles of their feet are touching the canvas.

A boxer that is bent over (not fully standing) is considered up and the referee's count should stop. If this does occur, it may be a sign that this bout should be stopped.

AFTER THE KNOCKDOWN

The referee should wipe the boxer's gloves, get the boxer's attention. Look into their eyes. Are they looking right back at you?

The referee should ask the boxer some questions to determine their current status. This is a face-to-face conversation. The referee should ask the boxer to walk towards them. The referee may want to ask the boxer to walk to his/her left or right. Is the boxer steady? Is their balance good?

The main thing is to make sure the boxer can protect him/herself — then stay close to see if the other boxer tries to finish. Check the injured boxer between rounds. See how the boxer walks back to the corner. Have the doctor check the boxer. Stay close at

the beginning of the next round in order to see if the boxer has recovered or if the other boxer is coming in to close the show. (Also see section on stopping the bout.)

Although there is NO (3) knockdown rule, it is strongly recommended that a referee take a hard-close look at any boxer who has been down (3) times in any round. Also, remember there is NO saving by the bell in any round.

- ✓ The referee can stop the contest at any time if he believes that one boxer is in any type of physical danger or if he wants a doctor to examine either boxer. The referee should always feel free to use the ring- side physician to determine a boxer's medical/physical condition.

BREAKING THE BOXERS

When physically breaking the boxers, this should be done at an angle (between the boxers) NOT from behind. The referee should never walk through the boxers after a break, simply take a full step straight back and assume your normal distance. When breaking boxers be sure to break at a full arm's length and break both boxers, not just one.

THE MOUTHPIECE RULE

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

Replace the mouthpiece at the lull in action: At the referee's discretion, call time-out, put the other boxer into the neutral corner, give the mouthpiece to the corner that should clean it and replace it. Remember, the corner not the referee should always replace the mouthpiece. When replaced, the referee should always ask the boxer — Are you ready? If warranted, the referee may issue a warning at this time.

The referee must replace the mouthpiece after a knockdown. Stay with your mandatory (8) count. After the count, determine if the boxer can continue. If he can, then call time out and replace the mouthpiece. If the mouthpiece flies out into the stands, go to the corner for the second one. Do not waste time looking for the first one.

If the mouthpiece continues to come out, WARN the boxer, then (generally) unless the mouthpiece comes out from a punch, PENALIZE the boxer. This is at the referee's discretion.

If a boxer intentionally spits out the mouthpiece, particularly after they have been knocked down (to gain a rest), the referee shall continue his count. If the boxer raises before the count of ten, the standard 8-count is given. The referee shall determine the boxer's over-all condition. If the boxer cannot continue the bout is stopped. If the boxer can continue the referee must call time (since this is the lull in the action) and have the mouthpiece replaced.

The referee, at his/her discretion can deduct point(s) at this time. If this same boxer commits this same action a second time, the referee may want to consider disqualification of this boxer. Make sure each boxer starts each round with a mouthpiece.

PENALIZING-POINTS

The deduction of points is one of the many tools the referee has to control the bout. Referees should realize that deducting points usually has a great impact on the outcome of the bout.

Generally, a referee would give (2) soft warnings with hand signals, especially if dealing with a foreign boxer, then a hard warning where the referee would call time, stop the action and clearly talk to the offending boxer about his actions.

If the referee gives a hard warning that basically means that at the next infraction, he/she will deduct points, then he/she must deduct points. Let the judges and Commission personnel know IMMEDIATELY what actions you are taking. BE CLEAR, mean what you say and say what you mean.

Obviously, a referee can take points at any time based on the severity and of a foul. In general, it is always best to WARN before taking points.

ACCIDENTAL BUTT OR LOW BLOW - OR ANY ACCIDENTAL FOUL

- ✓ Let both boxers, their corners and Commission know as soon as possible that the butt/foul was accidental or at the very least this should be done at the end of the round.
- ✓ A boxer has (5) minutes to continue — if he cannot and (4) rounds have been completed, then the referee should go to the judge's cards. Partial rounds are scored. If (4) rounds have not been completed, then it is ruled a No Decision.
- ✓ If the boxer cannot continue after (accidental) low blow after a (5) minute rest, the bout ends, and he/she loses. A boxer cannot win on an accidental low blow.
- ✓ If the boxer goes down from a body shot and claims low blow, YOU as the referee must make an immediate call. If the referee picks up the count, then the boxer should know they are considering it a legal blow. The referee should MAKE IT CLEAR, non-injured boxer goes to neutral corner.

INTENTIONAL FOUL AND INJURY

The referee should use the ring-side doctor to determine the severity of the injury, especially if it is a head blow. Points should be taken if the referee rules it intentional. Remember under the Unified Rules there is a mandatory (2) point deduction if an intentional foul causes an injury.

Even if it is an intentional foul, the injured boxer can still have (5) minutes to continue. The referee should not rush to have the boxer make a call. Always consult with the doctor. If the bout continues and the "same" injury becomes aggravated in the later rounds by fair blows, then the referee should go to the judge's scorecards. If after (4) rounds have been completed and the injured boxer is ahead, he wins. If he's behind, it is ruled a technical draw. Again, partial rounds are scored.

If a boxer strikes another boxer while that boxer is down, if ruled accidental, and the referee feels that the blow landed with significant impact, then this can be a 1-point deduction. If it is ruled intentional, it must be a 2-point deduction. Striking a down boxer is one of the most dangerous fouls in boxing. In either case, the downed boxer shall be granted a 5-minute rest and should be examined by the physician.

It should also be noted that the medical community has also stressed the dangers of hits behind the head "rabbit punches". The referee should never allow any direct targeting to the back of the head. If this occurs, this should be immediately followed by a hard warning and any other direct targeting by this fighter should have point deductions or a possible DQ. This is at the discretion of the referee.

HEAD BUTT/LOW BLOW MECHANICS

- ✓ Secure a safe distance and assume a centered position to the boxers and call "TIME!" Assure that the boxers are completely apart.
- ✓ Examine both boxers quickly and take appropriate action to include notifying the commission.
- ✓ If the fouled boxer needs medical attention, summon the Ring-side physician while ushering the other boxer to the furthest neutral corner.
- ✓ Caution both boxers for head butting/low blows and/or take appropriate action.
- ✓ Call time back in.

*** Have boxing resume immediately.**

PUNCH AT THE BELL (BEFORE/AFTER)

Any punch that is thrown (and thus in motion) before the sound of the bell is a legal blow. If this does occur and the boxer receiving this punch falls, then the referee shall start his count (the bell should not ring) if the boxer rises before the 10-count, the referee shall still give the full mandatory 8-count. If the referee determines this boxer is OK to continue, the referee shall signal that this bout shall continue at which time the bell should immediately sound- ending the round. It should be noted that in this situation the referee can stop this bout at any time if they feel the boxer cannot safely continue. Since this is the end of the round, the ideal scenario would be to have the boxer get the one-minute rest and also gives the referee and the ringside physician a chance to observe this boxer. However, the rule has always been the referee can stop the bout at any time.

In the event that a legal blow lands and that boxer goes down after the bell has sounded to end the round, it shall be the referee's discretion to decide if it shall be considered a knock-down or not. The referee may start a count on the downed boxer or may consider the round is over and the one-minute rest period has begun.

The KEY is if the knock-down occurs immediately after the landing of a legal punch than the count should be started. If a boxer is wobbly or unstable but has not gone down than this boxer shall be deemed to be in the rest period and his corner can come into the ring to assist the boxer. In this case, the referee should have the physician immediately up to observe/check this boxer. Remember, you as the referee can STOP a bout at any time. If you feel that this boxer (even after getting or during the 1-minute rest) is not ready to safely continue, then the referee can stop this bout during the rest period. There have been occasions when a referee has stopped a bout when a boxer is walking back to his corner – mainly because this boxer was very unstable and staggering the referee can stop the bout at any time.

If the referee rules that a blow is after the bell, then time shall be called and if the boxer receiving the punch falls, then no count shall begin. The referee must decide if this late blow was intentional or accidental. If intentional, a 2-point deduction shall be given. The boxer receiving the late blow shall be awarded a 5-minute rest. This 5-minute rest is granted after 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 this late blow was ruled intentional. If ruled accidental, then you go to the score cards, if 4-rounds have been completed. If 4 rounds have not been completed, then it will be ruled a No Decision. Once again partial rounds are scored.

STOPPING THE BOUT

No question that this can be the toughest call for the referee. The referee should look for signals such as; Are the boxer's hands up? Is his head snapping back from the punches? How are his 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.

The referee should always stay with a hurt boxer until his/her corner or doctor comes into the ring to attend to him/her. Never leave a hurt boxer. He may fall again.

Whenever a boxer is knocked down, the fallen boxer shall take a mandatory (8) count. If a knockdown occurs, the referee shall direct the standing boxer to the farthest neutral corner and then pick up the count from the timekeeper. The referee may stop this count at any time if in his/her judgement, the fallen boxer is in immediate physical danger. If this should occur, the referee shall immediately signal for the doctor and rule the bout over via knockout. During this count, the referee should ensure that the fallen boxer can clearly see and hear his count. (Remember, if during the count the standing boxer comes out of a neutral corner, the referee shall stop the count and instruct the boxer back into the corner.) The referee shall then resume his count over the fallen boxer. If the fallen boxer arises any time before the count of (10) the referee, after giving the full (8) count, shall wipe the fallen boxer's gloves of any debris and take a close, hard look at the boxer's eyes and assess his over-all physical condition so as to determine if the fight should continue.

The referee should ask the boxer questions. Do you want to continue? Put your hands up! Make sure the boxer knows you are speaking directly to him; this should be a face- to-face conversation. Before the referee lets the fight continue, you must be sure that this boxer can defend himself.

- ✓ Remember throwing the towel in from the corner cannot stop a professional boxing match. If this does occur, 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.

CUTS-FROM LEGAL PUNCHES

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 all cuts and if the bout shall be allowed to continue or not. If the doctor says no; it's NO.

If the referee feels that the cut (usually above the eyes) is affecting the vision of the boxer and thus this boxer cannot protect himself, the bout should be stopped or at the very least stopped (call time) and have this boxer examined by the ringside physician. Remember, the referee must wait for the lull in the action, call time, put the other boxer in the neutral corner and take the injured boxer to doctor. Do not let his corner aid this boxer, they are not allowed to touch their boxer unless requested by the doctor. Also, there is no coaching at this time. It should be

noted that it is strongly advised (if you can) to wait until the end of the round to have this boxer examined by the ringside physician so as to eliminate any stoppages in the action.

CUTS FROM HEAD-BUTTS (OR OTHER SIMILAR BLOWS)

On cuts from a head-butt, elbow or etc., the referee usually has more flexibility regarding time to allow the physician to examine this boxer. 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. Remember, if the ringside physician says stop the bout, then the bout is **STOPPED**.

TAPE COMES LOOSE

The referee should stop the bout (call time) and see if he/she can tuck the loose tape back into the glove 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 he/she cannot wait until the round ends, the referee should only allow the cornermen to cut the loose end of the hanging tape. Let them waste their minute rest time on the re-taping the wrap and not waste time during the action of a round.

MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR REFEREES

General Procedures (on cuts):

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ All cuts within the orbit of the eye (eyelid) should be stopped.
- ✓ If the cut is above the orbit and will impair vision, it should be stopped.
- ✓ If the eye is swollen enough that the examination is difficult, stop the bout.
- ✓ Although the referee is the sole arbitrator of the bout and can stop the bout at any time, he/she should utilize the ring-side physician to determine the severity of any injury, especially facial/eye cuts.

GENERAL CONCUSSION SIGNS

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 observe the fighter at all times especially after that fighter has suffered head blows. The referee needs to know "when that fighter is in "danger". Part of this is observing the fighter; and another part is listening to the fighter while they are in their corners. Any fighter that you hear is feeling pressure in his head, has a headache, appears confused or dis-oriented, is feeling nauseated, is slurring his speech; these are danger signs. If any of these symptoms appear, the referee should immediately call in the ring-side doctor and notify the Commission.

During that 1-minute rest period, especially after this fighter may have suffered some significant head blows; you as the referee should always strictly observe this fighter while in his corner; have your ears open to hear anything that would indicate a problem. The referee should talk to the fighter (not the seconds) sometimes these short conversations can tell you exactly how this fighter is doing.

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
- Any type of 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. Don't wait for something to come out—be upfront if you feel there may be a conflict. Don't call promoters to get assignments nor have personal relationships with the boxers or any licensees that could put you in an awkward position come fight time.

There is also a definite need for fellowship between all officials. 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.

***BE PROFESSIONAL AT ALL TIMES.**

GENERAL SUMMARY

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

The referee has the power to stop a contest at any stage and render a decision if he/she considers it too one-sided or feels one boxer is in immediate physical danger.

Be at the arena well in advance and report to the Commission for any instructions.

Give (clear) instructions to the boxers in their dressing rooms in the presence of Commission personnel.

Inspect the ring: check ropes for looseness; check canvas and apron. Report any problems to the Commission.

Prior to the beginning of the bout, the referee must check where the following are seated; Judges, Commission members, Doctor and Timekeeper.

Check the fighter's equipment: gloves, mouthpiece, protective cup, color of trunks, etc.

Final instructions to the boxers in the ring should be very brief as they have already been briefed in the dressing rooms. Boxers must touch gloves at this time and again before the final round.

In the event of a knockdown, the referee will send the boxer scoring the knockdown to the farthest neutral corner. While counting over the fallen opponent, the referee must position himself so he can see that the other boxer stays in this neutral corner.

If the ropes are the only thing preventing a boxer from falling while being hit by the opponent, then the referee may rule it a knockdown and start counting.

The referee must never walk between the boxers after breaking a clinch.

In the event a boxer violates the rules, the referee must quickly take charge by giving a stern warning or deduct points; otherwise, it will be meaningless. If the boxer continues to violate the rules, the referee must quickly take charge by enforcing the rules. All warnings and/or cautions should be loud and clear.

When a point is deducted because of a violation of the rules, the bout will be stopped immediately with boxers, judges and Commission members being notified. This should be done quickly and clearly.

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.

A doctor should always be called when cuts are severe or if there is any doubt. Always take a cut boxer directly to the doctor, not his corner. When doing this, (at the lull in the action) call timeout and make sure the other boxer is in a neutral corner. Assist ring announcer in correct announcement of the result of the contest, i.e., KO, TKO, Technical Draw, Stopped by Referee, No Decision, etc.

Refrain from getting into any discussions with seconds, managers or public at ringside. Watch what you say— especially if wearing a microphone for television.

Refrain from making any comments about bouts to ringsiders or press. Before making any statements to the press, the referee must check-in with the Commission.

Do not coach the boxers — this is not your job!!
Stay at the ring area at all times until dismissed by the Commission.

PL 104-272 - Professional Boxing Safety Act - 1996 PL 106-210 -
Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act - 2000

To provide for the safety of journeymen boxers, and for other purposes.

To reform unfair and anti-competitive practices in the professional boxing industry

REQUIRED DISCLOSURES FOR JUDGES AND REFEREES.

A judge or referee shall not be entitled to receive any compensation, directly or indirectly, in connection with a boxing match until it provides to the boxing commission responsible for regulating the match in a state a statement of all consideration, including. Reimbursement for expenses that will be received from any source for participation in the match JUDGES AND REFEREES. No person may arrange, promote, organize, produce, or fight in a professional boxing match unless all referees and judges participating in the match have been certified and approved by the boxing commission responsible for regulating the match in the State where the match is held.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.

Regulatory Personnel - No member or employee of a boxing commission, no person who administers or enforces state boxing laws, and no member of the Association of Boxing Commissions may belong to, contract with, or receive any compensation from any person who sanctions, arranges, or promotes professional boxing matches or who otherwise has a financial interest in an active boxer currently registered with a boxer registry. For purposes of this section, the term "compensation does not include funds held in escrow for payment to another person in connection with a professional boxing match. The prohibition set forth in this section shall not apply to any contract entered into, or any reasonable compensation received, by a boxing commission to supervise professional boxing match in another state as described in section 4.

ASSOCIATION OF BOXING COMMISSIONS FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

The Association of Boxing Commissions recommends that all Referees and Judges who have been appointed to a Title Bout read and sign the following:

Except as provided herein, I hereby firm that I DO NOT have any direct or indirect financial or pecuniary interest in any boxer, manager, second, promoter or any ratings or sanctioning body in regard to the bout between,

_____ AND _____
Boxer's Name Boxer's Name

I also hereby affirm that I have received \$_____ as payment for my services and received \$_____ for travel expenses for the professional boxing match on _____(Date of event) in the State of _____.

Name of organization that is sanctioning the bout:_____.

I also hereby affirm that I have received no other payments for my services in association with the above stated event.

I DO REALIZE that a violation of the above could result in disciplinary actions.

(Official's Name - print) (Official's Signature)

(Type of Official)

* This form should be kept on file after every title bout by the local commission where the bout is held.

Basic Spanish commands

BREAK- Although universal, you may also get your message across by saying "*FUERA*" (FOO-AY-RA) or "*SALGA LIMPIO! !*" (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!*" (MAHS A-REE-BAH)

PUNCH BACK - The Referee is not a Second, but if you feel you have to, the best way is to say, "*TIRE GOLPES!*" (TEE-RAY GOL-PAYS)

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

STOP HOLDING - In Spanish the best command would be, "*SUELTELO!*" (SUEELTAY-LO) This implies that the boxer is holding and that you want him to stop.

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

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