

ARMY BA – MASTER OF CEREMONIES / ANNOUNCER ADVISORY NOTES

GENERAL

1. A major difference in civilian boxing and military boxing is the appointment of the Master of Ceremonies (Military) / Announcer (civilian boxing), and their duties and responsibilities. Announcers in civilian boxing events are announcers, introducing the boxers and announcing the results of the bouts. In military boxing events an MC has significantly more responsibility and essential duties which are detailed in this section. It is customary within Army BA circles to invite the senior Warrant Officer within the hosting unit to undertake the duties of Master of Ceremonies (MC).. These individuals are usually highly experienced, intelligent and sensitive to the need for a common-sense approach to military boxing events. These advisory notes should, therefore, be given to the MC well before the event, together with an explanation that they are offered for advice and assistance with the role.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY

2. The major responsibility of the MC is to ensure the safety and good order of those attending the event. This is significantly different to a civilian event where the Announcer's duties are to introduce the boxers and to announce the result of the bout To this end the MC will require the assistance of seating stewards, fire piquet and similar 'duty' personnel. A safety briefing is to be given by the MC to the whole audience prior to the start of the event.

BOXING DUTIES

3. The MC's boxing duties are to call for the boxers to enter the arena/ring, to introduce them to the audience at the appropriate moment and announce the judges' decision.

SAFETY BRIEFING POINTS/SUGGESTED SCRIPT

4. The MC should enter the ring to deliver the introductory briefing. The following script is offered in order to cover the fundamental points that need to be included within the safety brief. There are, of course, local factors for the environment/building that will need to be addressed also.

“Before the start of the boxing, and in the interests of safety, there are a few points that I need to bring to your attention. Firstly, please switch off/or switch to silent mode, any mobile phones. In the unlikely event of a fire or other circumstance that requires the building to be cleared, you are to leave in an orderly manner via the following exits.” (Illustrate which section of the audience is to vacate the building by the most appropriate door.)

“Once outside of the building you are to move to (state where) and to form up in (state which) groups, where the senior person present is to call the roll. You are then to await further instructions.”

“In the event of a failure of the main boxing lights you are to remain seated and to keep silent. Either the main hall or emergency lighting will function - you will then be briefed as to what action you are to take.”

“Are there any questions on this briefing?”

AUDIENCE BEHAVIOUR/SUGGESTED SCRIPT

5. The following script is offered to cover the fundamental points that need to be included within the audience behaviour brief:

“You are encouraged to support your boxers. However, the following points are to be noted and complied with. There is to be no booing, slow-handclapping, jeering, whistling, catcalls or chants of ‘easy’. Boxing is not easy. You are to remain silent at the following times: when I am talking; whenever I blow my whistle; whenever the referee is talking to the boxers; whenever a boxer is receiving a count from the referee or the boxer is down on the canvas; whenever the Medical Officer is talking to or attending a boxer; when the boxing lights fail.”

FOLLOW-ON FORMAT

6. Having covered the points in paras 4 and 5 above, the MC should tell the audience to **‘sit easy’** until they are told to either stand or sit up upon the arrival of the principal officer/guest/VIP. The MC should remain in one neutral corner of the ring. Immediately prior to the arrival of the Principal, call the audience to the state previously decided. Upon the arrival of the Principal at his/her seat, move forward and halt without stamping the foot. Give the welcome and ask for permission to continue; once given, return to the neutral corner and give permission for the audience to relax. The referee will then enter the ring and move to the free neutral corner; boxing can now commence.

7. Call **‘boxers’**. The boxers enter the arena in the pre-arranged order and enter the ring via their respective corners. When they are both in the ring the referee will go to one boxer to check the dress and equipment. The MC should go the other boxer to confirm the personal details are as published on the programme and to offer good luck. When the referee moves to check the other boxer, the MC should establish the details of the opponent and repeat the good luck offering. The MC then retires to the neutral corner and the referee to the other one. When both are present, the MC then makes the following announcement:

“ The (state number) bout on your programme is a (state weight) contest between in the red corner and representing (state unit, boxer’s rank and surname) and in the blue corner representing (state unit, boxer’s rank and surname).”

8. After this announcement, the referee will move to the centre of the ring and call both boxers to come together there. After a short briefing and shake of hands the boxers are instructed to return to their respective corners. When they arrive there, the MC states loudly:

“ Red (state name only), blue (state name only).”

Leave the ring via an area adjacent to the neutral corner. The referee will then start his pre-bout checklist with officials; check the ring and apron are clear and tell the timekeeper to begin.

9. On the conclusion of the bout, re-enter the ring via the neutral corner area. Wait there until the referee has completed the check on scoring with the Supervisor. The referee will approach you with a result sheet with the decision that you are to announce. The referee will then call both boxers to together at a pre-designated area, face them towards the principal and take hold of the wrist of the inside arm of both boxers.

10. After the announcement, both boxers leave the ring. When the referee is assured that the MO is present and the officials are ready, announce, **“boxers”** and the process is repeated. If the MO is not present at the ringside, announce to the audience, **“there will be a short delay whilst the**

MO is checking on a boxer. Boxing will resume when the MO returns.” After the announcement of the winner of the bout preceding the interval, the MC orders, **“Sit up.”** Approach the Commanding Officer and seek approval to invite the guests to leave the area and the other members of the audience to depart once the guests have left. Once approval is given, return to the neutral corner and announce the arrangements made by the OIC Boxing, together with a notification of what time people are to return and be seated by. Leave the ring. Return in good time to repeat the 2nd phase of the evening and continue the process.

POST-BOXING ARRANGEMENTS

11. Once the last boxers have left the ring, the ring-manager will arrange for the presentation table, trophies and medals to enter the ring. When this phase is complete, the MC calls, **“boxers”** and all boxers and the coaches enter the arena and then into the ring. Ensure that the boxers are kneeling in two rows on either side of the ring facing inwards and opposite their opponents. Approach the Commanding Officer and invite him/her and the agreed guests/sponsors to enter the ring. After the Commanding Officer/senior guest have entered and have spoken, announce,

“The runner up of the (state weight) is (state Rank and Surname) of (state unit).

“The winner of the (state weight) is (state Rank and Surname) of (state unit).

These announcements continue to cover all bouts boxed.

Note: Prize giving for individual bouts may take place throughout the tournament, after each bout

12. Depending on what agreement has been reached previously regarding who is to present what trophies/medals and where in the proceedings speeches are made. The next announcement is:

“As judged by (nominated individual or often the officials), the most gallant contender is (state Rank and Surname) of (state unit).

“The award of best boxer as judged by (nominated individual or often the officials) is (state Rank and Surname) of (state unit).

13. If applicable, announce the winning team and the competition:

“ The winners of the (state year and competition title) are (state team).

14. The MC then orders the audience to, **“Stand up.”** The National Anthem is played. On completion, seek the authority of the Commanding Officer to carry on. Once given, assist the Commanding Officer/guests to leave the ring. After they have departed the building, ask the officers to leave, followed by the warrant officers and senior non commissioned officers and then the other ranks. Often, there will be photographs taken of the boxers, Commanding Officer and principal guests. These arrangements should be under the control of the OIC Boxing, but be masterminded by the MC.