

NOTES FOR NOVICE REFEREES

1. This Annex is included to provide further guidance for Referees. Much of this is common sense and can be found in England Boxing and/or AIBA Rules.

GUIDANCE NOTES

2. This section should be considered as advice for Referees; the full duties of a Referee can be found in References A to C to Section 6.

- a. The referee must ensure that both boxers contest the bout in a fair and sportsmanlike manner. Boxers who continually fail to abide by the rules should be warned or disqualified without hesitation.
- b. If boxers believe that they are competing under a weak referee who is unsure of the rules or does not apply them, they will generally attempt to take unfair advantage of their opponent. This often leads to a series of foul tactics being resorted to by both sides until finally the contest gets completely out of control and develops into anything but a good clean boxing match. The referee shall indicate to a boxer by suitable explanatory signs or gestures as appropriate any infringement of the rules, especially the too common offences of hitting with the open glove or inside of the glove, lying on, holding in various ways, dangerous use of the head, and not stepping back on the command "break".
- c. When refereeing raw developments, the referee may give the boxers guidance, where possible this should be conducted during the pre-competition brief. Caution on the move is permissible.
- d. Signals or gestures must be unambiguous; as a tip, an unambiguous signal is one that is clear enough for the audience to understand the offence. The Army BA maintains a list of Army BA authorised gestures and signs and Army BA officials are not deviate from this list. Officials, who believe they have a more appropriate signal, should submit details to the Major Panel Convention for authority to have the signal included into the list of authorised signals.
- e. Cautions and Warnings. A referee may give a caution without actually stopping the bout, **however** when doing so, he must not refer to a specific boxer/colour; in doing so, he may put a boxer at a disadvantage or risk. Where necessary, the referee should stop the boxing to deliver a caution. A referee should not be too eager to give frequent cautions. He should ensure that a caution is needed, and that he is quite certain of the offender, and then make the caution as brief as possible. The Referee should only speak to development class boxers, i.e. "don't hold". Boxers of intermediate standard or above should be given gestures only. The referee must ensure that cautions are given at such a time and in such a way that there is no danger of one of the contestants stopping in order to listen to the referee and thereby receiving a knockout blow from an opponent who continues to box.
- f. The Referee must stop the bout when giving warnings. Where there are only 3 judges, the Referee must stand where he can see all three judges before delivering the warning. When there are 5 judges, the Referee must stand in the centre of the ring.
- g. Referees should remember that bad behaviour in the crowd is often caused by what goes on in the ring, and this is entirely in the referee's hands. Prompt decisions and firm handling of dirty tactics will usually prove a protection.

h. A Referee should be careful to differentiate between deliberate bad behaviour from ignorance or intent and excitement, often the cause of spontaneous outbursts which die down almost at once. Treat the boxers in the ring with firmness but fairness and you need anticipate no great trouble with those outside the ring.

i. After a particularly hard, clean bout, or if one of the boxers shows exceptional 'pluck' and determination, the referee may express his approval for the boxers' performance. This should however, only be done on very few occasions and only when exceptional courage or determination has been exhibited. The most favourable time to do this is immediately prior to informing the MC/Announcer whom to announce as the winner. *NOTE:* A referee must be careful not to allow a boxer to receive unnecessary punishment. This applies particularly to developments and the less-experienced boxers. If a bout is very one-sided and a boxer who has no chance of winning or a boxer is receiving heavy punishment, the bout should be stopped. At the same time, a referee must be careful not to stop a bout when a strong but unskilful boxer is waiting for an opportunity, whilst boxing a much more skilled boxer. Nothing is more annoying for a boxer than the bout being stopped when he is still feeling strong and keen and he considers that he has a chance to win.

3. Reporting action after a disqualification. Following disqualification, if the Referee must report the matter to the Army BA, through the Supervisor and inform the boxer that he may not box at any meeting held until he hears further. In reporting the case, the Supervisor must suggest a term of suspension after consulting with the Referee, Comd Chair and Secretary Army BA. The decision of the Army BA will be reported to the boxer's Commanding Officer, the Referee, the Supervisor, the Comd Chair and to the boxer concerned.

4. Refereeing In the Ring. Muscular relaxation and mental alertness is the keynote of refereeing in the ring. Ostentation or theatrical tendencies should be avoided. A referee should assume a cheerful, but not, of course, hilarious attitude, and should avoid all inclination to display a "parade-ground" manner. A development referee will probably feel self-conscious but provided that he knows his job, he can rest secure in the knowledge that the spectators have not come to watch him, but to watch the boxers!

a. Movement in the Ring. The principle is to keep in view as much of each boxer's target as possible throughout the bout. To do this he should endeavour always to keep himself at right angles to the line joining the two boxers and as far away from them as the ropes will allow. Obviously no hard and fast rules can be laid down as to the direction in which a referee will move around the ring. Experience will teach a referee to move quickly and unobtrusively in the direction which will enable him to see as much of the boxers' targets for as long as possible; this will necessitate switching quickly from circling clockwise to anti-clockwise to keep the targets in view.

b. This does not mean that the referee must never get close to the boxers; indeed with boxers who tend to disregard the rules it is often necessary to get near to them to ensure that a command such as "break" or "stop" is instantly obeyed. It will sometimes be found that one boxer maintains a position in the centre of the ring and causes his opponent to dance round him. In such cases it is not practicable for the referee to keep up on a longer perimeter with the resulting roundabout. The spectacle of a referee sprinting round the ring is irritating to the spectators. On the other hand, a referee who stands still obscures the view of spectators behind him and sometimes a judge or the timekeeper. The happy medium is to keep circling with quick switches to the opposite direction, when you find that both boxers are about to get end on to you.

c. Some referees find that they get a better view of the boxers' targets by looking slightly sideways whilst moving round the ring rather than by fixing their gaze directly at a point between the two boxers. A referee should avoid rigidity in his movements and should not be afraid to use his arms freely in assisting him to change direction. At suitable moments he

should glance at the boxers' corners to ensure that the seconds are not contravening the rules by interfering with the progress of the bout.

d. Decisions should be made without hesitation and observations made in a firm and distinct voice.

e. In the event of a boxer falling between or outside the ropes the referee should be careful that neither seconds nor spectators assist him back into the ring. In cases where the boxer is seen to be falling off the platform outside the ropes, and there is a danger that he may have injured himself by the fall, the referee should not stop seconds or spectators from breaking his fall, but their assistance must not go beyond this point and the boxer must be left on the floor and he must make his own way back into the ring before the count reaches "ten". If, in the course of a knockdown, a boxer grounds his gloves it is the referee's duty to ensure that boxing is not continued if there is dirt on them.

f. The rules state that when a boxer is knocked down as a result of a blow the bout shall not be continued until the referee has reached the count of eight, even if the boxer is ready to continue before then. This rule means that when a boxer receives a blow on the target with sufficient force to knock him down, the referee will begin the count and count to eight irrespective of whether the boxer is up before that time and ready to continue boxing.

g. The Referee should guard against counting when a boxer slips or falls or goes down without being hit. In these cases the eight-second count will not apply.

h. The referee in the ring has a great advantage over his counterparts at the ringside in that, he is able to assess damage to boxers more easily; a quick look at such things as cut eyes should be taken without waste of time. Normally a referee will, if in doubt as to the seriousness of an injury, consult the medical officer. Once having consulted the medical officer he must accept his recommendation.