

523 CMR 15.00: BOXING CONTESTS AND EXHIBITIONS

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15.01: Method of Judging Boxing Contest or Exhibition

- (1) In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 36, each bout shall be judged by three judges. Each judge of a boxing contest or exhibition that is being judged shall score the contest or exhibition and determine the winner through the use of the *10 Points Must System* as follows:
 - (a) The better boxer of a round receives ten points and their opponent proportionately less.
 - (b) If the round is even, each boxer receives ten points.
 - (c) No fraction of points may be given.
 - (d) Points for each round must be awarded immediately after the end of the period of unarmed combat in the round.
- (2) After the end of the boxing contest or exhibition, the announcer shall pick up the scores of the judges from the Commission's desk. The majority opinion is conclusive and, if there is no majority, the decision is a draw.
- (3) When the Commission has checked the scores, they shall inform the announcer of the decision and the announcer shall inform the audience of the decision over the speaker system.
- (4) Incomplete rounds shall be scored by the judges. If the referee penalizes either unarmed combatant in an incomplete round, the appropriate points shall be deducted.

15.02: Fair Blow in Boxing

A fair blow in boxing is one delivered with the padded knuckle part of the glove on the front or side of the head or the front or side of the body above the belt.

15.03: Acts Constituting Fouls in Boxing

The following acts constitute fouls in boxing:

- (1) Hitting below the belt.
- (2) Hitting an opponent who is down or is getting up after being down.
- (3) Holding an opponent with one hand and hitting with the other.
- (4) Holding or deliberately maintaining a clinch.
- (5) Wrestling or kicking.
- (6) If the referee has signaled that the opponent has been knocked out, striking an opponent who is helpless as a result of previous blows and so supported by the ropes that he or she does not fall.

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- (7) Butting with the head or shoulder or using the knee.
- (8) Hitting with the open glove, the butt of the hand, the wrist or the elbow, and all backhand blows.
- (9) Purposely going down without being hit.
- (10) Striking deliberately at that part of the body over the kidneys.
- (11) Deliberately using the rabbit punch.
- (12) Jabbing the opponent's eyes with the thumb of the glove.
- (13) Using abusive language in the ring.
- (14) Engaging in any unsportsmanlike trick or action which causes injury to an opponent.
- (15) Hitting on the break.
- (16) Hitting after the bell has sounded the end of the period of unarmed combat.
- (17) Hitting an opponent whose head is between and outside of the ropes.
- (18) Pushing an opponent about the ring or into the ropes.

15.04: Duties of Referee; Warnings; Deduction of Points; Disqualification

- (1) A referee is the sole arbiter of a bout and is the only individual authorized to stop a contest. A referee is responsible for enforcing the rules of the contest or exhibition. They shall not permit unfair practices that may cause injuries to an unarmed combatant.
- (2) The referee shall warn the unarmed combatants whenever they are committing fouls.
- (3) If a boxer commits a foul, the referee may deduct points from them or disqualify them.

15.05: Fouls; Deduction of Points; Effect of Low Blow

- (1) If a boxer fouls their opponent during a contest or exhibition or commits any other infraction, the referee may penalize them by deducting points from their score, whether or not the foul or infraction was intentional. The referee may determine the number of points to be deducted in each instance and shall base their determination on the severity of the foul or infraction and its effect upon the opponent.
- (1) When the referee determines that it is necessary to deduct a point or points because of a foul or infraction, they shall warn the offender of the penalty to be assessed.
- (3) The referee shall, as soon as is practical after the foul, notify the judges and both unarmed combatants of the number of points, if any, to be deducted from the score of the offender.
- (4) Any point or points to be deducted for any foul or infraction must be deducted in the round in which the foul or infraction occurred, and may not be deducted from the score of any subsequent round.
- (5) A boxer may not be declared the winner of a contest or exhibition on the basis of their claim that his or her opponent committed a foul by hitting him or her below the belt. If a boxer falls to the floor of the ring or otherwise indicates that they are unwilling to continue because of a claim of a low blow, the contest or exhibition must be declared to be a technical knockout in favor of the boxer who is willing to continue.

15.06: Fouls: Disqualification; Withholding of Purse in Professional Contests

A boxer guilty of a foul in a contest or exhibition may be disqualified by the referee and their purse ordered withheld by the Commission. Disposition of the purse and the penalty to be imposed upon the boxer will be determined by the Commission.

15.07: Fouls: Intentional

(1) If the referee determines that a contest or exhibition may not continue because of an injury caused by an intentional foul, the unarmed combatant who committed the intentional foul loses by disqualification.

(2) If the referee determines that a contest or exhibition may continue despite an injury caused by an intentional foul, the referee shall immediately inform the Commission's representative and the judges and shall deduct two points from the score of the unarmed combatant who committed the intentional foul.

(3) If an injury caused by an intentional foul results in the contest or exhibition being stopped in a later round:

- (a) The injured unarmed combatant wins by technical decision, if they are ahead on the scorecards; or
- (b) The contest or exhibition must be declared a technical draw, if the injured unarmed combatant is behind or even on the scorecards.

(4) If an unarmed combatant injures themselves while attempting to foul his or her opponent, the referee shall not take any action in their favor and the injury must be treated the same as an injury produced by a fair blow.

15.08: Fouls: Accidental

(1) If a contest or exhibition is stopped because of an accidental foul, the referee shall determine whether the boxer who has been fouled can continue or not. If the boxer's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of a foul and if the foul did not involve a concussive impact to the head of the unarmed combatant who was fouled, the referee may order the contest or exhibition continued after a reasonable interval. Before the contest or exhibition begins again, the referee shall inform the Commission's representative of his determination that the foul was accidental.

(2) If the referee determines that the contest or exhibition may not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an accidental foul, the contest or exhibition must be declared a no decision if the foul occurs during:

- (a) The first three rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for six rounds or less; or
- (b) The first four rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for more than six rounds.

(3) If an accidental foul renders an unarmed combatant unable to continue the contest or exhibition after:

- (a) The completed third round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for six rounds or less; or
- (b) The completed fourth round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for more than six rounds,

the outcome must be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops the contest or exhibition.

(4) If an injury inflicted by an accidental foul later becomes aggravated by fair blows and the referee orders the contest or exhibition stopped because of the injury, the outcome must be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops the contest or exhibition.

15.09: Gloves to be Wiped by Referee after Fall of Unarmed Combatant

Before an unarmed combatant may resume competing after having been knocked or having fallen or slipped to the floor of the ring, the referee shall wipe the gloves of the unarmed combatant with a damp towel or the referee's shirt.

15.10: Procedure for Counting; Knockdown; Knockout; Technical Draw

(1) When a boxer is knocked down, the referee shall order the opponent to retire to the farthest neutral corner of the ring, by pointing to the corner, and shall immediately begin the count over the unarmed combatant who is down. The referee shall audibly announce the passing of the seconds, accompanying the count with motions of his or her arm, with the downward motion indicating the end of each second.

(2) The timekeeper, by effective signaling, shall give the referee the correct one-second interval for their count. The referee's count is the official count. Once the referee picks up the count from the timekeeper, the timekeeper shall cease counting. No boxer who is knocked down may be allowed to resume competing until the referee has finished counting to eight. The boxer may take the count either on the floor or standing.

(3) If the opponent fails to stay in the farthest corner, the referee shall cease counting until they have returned to their corner and shall then go on with the count from the point at which it was interrupted. If the boxer who is down arises before the count of ten, the referee may step between the unarmed combatants long enough to assure themselves that the unarmed combatant who has just arisen is in condition to continue. If so assured, they shall, without loss of time, order both unarmed combatants to go on with the contest or exhibition. During the intervention by the referee, the striking of a blow by either unarmed combatant may be ruled a foul.

(4) When a boxer is knocked out, the referee shall perform a full ten-second count unless, in the judgment of the referee, the safety of the boxer would be jeopardized by such a count. If the boxer who is knocked down is still down when the referee calls the count of ten, the referee shall wave both arms to indicate that he or she has been knocked out.

(5) If both boxers go down at the same time, the count must be continued as long as one is still down. If both boxers remain down until the count of ten, the contest or exhibition must be stopped and the decision is a technical draw.

(6) If a boxer is down and the referee is in the course of counting at the end of a period of unarmed combat, the bell indicating the end of the period of unarmed combat must not be sounded, but the bell must be sounded as soon as the downed unarmed combatant regains his or her feet.

(7) When a boxer has been knocked down before the normal termination of a period of unarmed combat and the period of unarmed combat terminates before he has arisen from the floor of the ring, the referee's count must be continued. If the boxer who is down fails to arise before the count of ten, they are considered to have lost the contest or exhibition by a knockout in the round containing the period of unarmed combat that was just concluded.

(8) If a legal blow struck in the final seconds of a period of unarmed combat causes a boxer to go down after the bell has sounded, that knockdown must be regarded as having occurred during the period of unarmed combat just ended and the appropriate count must continue.

15.11: Resumption of Count in Certain Circumstances

If a knockdown occurs before the normal termination of a period of unarmed combat and the unarmed combatant who is down stands up before the count of ten is reached and then falls down immediately without being struck, the referee shall resume the count where it was left off.

15.12: Adjudication of Technical Knockout

(1) If a contest or exhibition is terminated because a boxer is:

- (a) Unable to continue;
- (b) Not honestly competing;
- (c) Injured; or
- (d) Disqualified,

it may be adjudged a technical knockout to the credit of the winner.

(2) A contest or exhibition which is won by other than a full count of ten or the scoring of the judges must be adjudged a technical knockout to the credit of the winner.

15.13: Determination of Whether Boxer Is Down; Effect of Hanging onto or Being Held up by Ropes

(1) A boxer shall be deemed to be down when:

- (a) Any part of their body other than their feet are on the floor; or
- (b) They are hanging over the ropes without the ability to protect themselves and they cannot fall to the floor.

(2) A referee may count a boxer out if the boxer is on the floor or is being held up by the ropes.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 15.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.