

"Officials Pathway"

Rules and Mechanics

TimeKeepers, Clerks and Glove Table Officials



**USA
BOXING®**

2022 - Referee and Judges Committee

Welcome,

USA Boxing wants to thank you for your commitment to the sport of Boxing. You may be a new Official or a veteran of the sport but your willingness to help the Boxers, Coaches and other Officials is appreciated. In this document we will cover some of the rules and mechanics that pertain to the positions of the Timekeeper, Clerk and Glove Table. The content within this manual was used to create the questions on the "Officials Pathway Exam." You should familiarize yourself with this document and refer back to it when a question arises on the test or during competition. It would be best to print this manual and place it in a binder along with the National Rulebook located at USABoxing.org.

After you have completed this course, please contact your LBC Chief of Officials for more information.

Again, thank you for the time you give to amateur boxing and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Shawn Reese
Chairman
Referee and Judges Committee

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Member Officials

Officials and non-athlete members who are responsible for and/or enforce USA Boxing policies, rules, regulations, etc., must be registered and certified. Registration includes annual background checks (members are charged bi-annually) and completion of SafeSport as required by the US Center for SafeSport and the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee. Registration is for all individuals who are involved in local boxing programs; referees, judges, timekeepers, computer technicians, weigh masters, physicians, clerks, glove stewards, competition directors, administrators, draw masters, trainers, match makers, and coaches.

All certified officials are required to have a Blue passbook with proof of registration and certification for all USA Boxing sanctioned events before they are allowed to work in any capacity. It's important that an officials passbooks reflect all work and participation. Passbooks are checked at advancing tournaments and prior to elevation or testing for the next level of certification.

TimeKeepers

RULE 24 - TIMEKEEPER & BELL OPERATOR

24.1 The Duties of the Timekeeper and Gong/Bell Operator are as follows:

- 1)** The main duty of the timekeeper and gong/bell operator is to regulate the number and duration of the rounds and the intervals between rounds. The intervals between rounds must be one (1) minute.
- 2)** The timekeeper and gong/bell operator must start and end each round by striking the gong/bell.
- 3)** Ten (10) seconds before the end of each round, the timekeeper and gong/bell operator must signal the approaching end of the round.
- 4)** Ten (10) seconds before the end of each rest interval, the timekeeper and gong/bell operator must signal the approaching end of the rest interval.
- 5)** The timekeeper and gong/bell operator must regulate all periods of time and counts by a watch or clock, but must only stop the clock when instructed by the referee with the command "time" resuming after the referee gives the command "box."
- 6)** Following a knockdown, the timekeeper and gong/bell operator must give the sound signal to the referee indicating the elapsing seconds while the referee is counting.
- 7)** If, at the end of a round, a boxer is knocked down and the referee is in the course of counting, the gong/bell indicating the end of the round must not be sounded. The gong/bell must be sounded only when the referee gives the command "box" indicating the continuation of the bout.
- 8)** The timekeeper and bell operator must regulate the time when a Low Blow or LOC occurs and if a Boxer falls out of the ring.

24.2 Location of the Timekeeper

The timekeeper will be seated directly at the side of the ring next to the gong/bell operator.

Mechanics of the Timekeeper

Boxer Knocked Out of the Ring In the case of a Boxer being punched out of the ring by a legal blow, the Boxer must be allowed thirty (30) seconds to come back into the ring, after the eight (8) count, without the help of anyone. In the case the Boxer is not able to come back within the above-mentioned timeframe, such Boxer will be deemed to have lost the bout by RSC:

- The Referee will start the count (8 count) as soon as the Boxer goes out of the ring.
- If the Boxer is still out of the ring after the 8-count, the Referee must command the “Time” signal to the Timekeeper to start the clock for thirty (30) seconds.
- After twenty (20) seconds has passed, the Timekeeper will start the ten second count with a signal for each second.

In the case of a Boxer who falls out of the ring - due to his own accord and does not come back within the above-mentioned timeframe, such Boxer will be deemed to have lost the bout by RSC:

- The Referee will command the “Time” signal to the Timekeeper to start the clock for thirty (30) seconds.
- After twenty (20) seconds passed, the Timekeeper will start the ten second count with a signal for each second.

In the case of a Boxer being pushed out of the ring:

- The eight (8) count is not necessary
- The Referee will command “Time”
- It is necessary for the Timekeeper to begin the sixty (60) seconds count
- If the Boxer is unable to enter the ring or enters the ring but seems unfit to continue, the Referee will ask a Ringside Physician to examine the Boxer
 - If the Ringside Physician declares that the Boxer is unfit to continue, then the opponent of the Boxer will lose by Disqualification.
 - If the Ringside Physician declares that the Boxer is fit to continue, then the Referee will issue a warning to the offending boxer, then resume boxing.

Knockout

After the Referee says “ten”, the bout ends and must be decided as KO.

The Referee may stop the count if in his/her opinion the Boxer needs immediate medical attention. In this case it is also considered a KO.

- The Timekeeper will make a note of the round and the time in which the bout was stopped. The Timekeeper will notify the Supervisor of that round and time.

R/JM - pg.20 - 2.8 - Boxer down from a foul blow

If the Referee did see the blow - After a low blow

- If the offended Boxer does not complain and the low blow was not hard and intentional, the Referee must signal the foul without interrupting the Bout.
- If the offended Boxer complains about the severity of the low blow, the Referee will have two (2) options:
 - The offending Boxer will be immediately disqualified if it is an intentional and hard blow.
 - Start the eight (8)-count.

Note: The option to disqualify the offending boxer is still available to the Referee after starting an eight (8)-count, as long as the eight (8)-count is not completed. In other words, the Referee may stop the eight (8)-count and dis-qualify the offending boxer. However, once the Referee completes the eight (8)-count, the Referee must continue to the next 2 options in the procedure.

- After the eight (8)-count, the Referee will have (2) options:
 - The Boxer is fit to continue: the Referee may give a warning to the offender, if the Referee considers necessary, and the Bout will continue.
 - The Boxer is unfit to continue: the Referee will give a certain amount of time to the Boxer to try to recover with a maximum of up to 90 seconds.
 - **The Timekeeper will signal 30 seconds, 60 seconds and 90 seconds.** The Timekeeper will slap the canvas (1) time for 30 Seconds, (2) times for 60 Seconds, and (3) Times for 90 Seconds. The timekeeper may use wooden clackers or the seconds out device for this mechanic.

Clerk

The Clerk Position for Officials is one of high importance and an essential part of the success of an event. The Clerk will effectively protect every member of USA Boxing by being the second line of defense to ensure the bouts are held according to the rules. The Clerk will check each Boxers passbook to ensure they are registered members of USA Boxing for that calendar year. They will use the "Guide for making matches at the local level" (Appendix F), to ensure Boxers are correctly matched according to their age and weight differential. Prior to the bouts, they will look in the passbooks to ensure both Boxers have seen the Ringside Doctor for their pre-bout physicals by confirming the Ringside Physician's signature. As a clerk you will sort the passbooks so that they can be easily identified and sent to the ringside physician while the bout is taking place. After the bout, you will receive the passbooks and then enter the outcome of the match (Win/Loss) and the decision (WP, RSC, RSC-I, DQ, WO, ABD, DEV), that was rendered. During the rest of the event you will be interacting with Boxers and Coaches when they approach you to ask for their completed passbooks.

Duties of the Clerk

- Check Boxers registration for the calendar year
- Check Boxers age and weight to ensure they are within the legal parameters. (Appendix F)
- Check for pre-bout physical (signature of Ringside Doctor)
- Sort the Passbooks
- Check for post-bout physical (Signature of the Ringside Doctor)
- Enter bout results for each Boxer (Win/Loss)
- Enter the decision of the bout (WP, RSC, RSC-I, DQ, WO, ABD, DEV)
- Return the completed Passbook to the Boxer or Coach when approached

So, you see, this is a very important position and without Officials that are willing to fill this position, the event may not run as smoothly as it could.

Glove Table

Officials working the Glove Table have a responsibility and duty to protect the Boxers. They are the first line of defense to ensure a Boxer is wearing the proper uniform. The Uniform includes the correct mouthpiece, headgear, handwraps and foul protector. A hairnet shall be worn for Boxers with long hair, no earrings, jewelry, studs or posts will be worn. The correct glove size is worn according to the Boxers weights as found in the Appendix F. All items worn must fit correctly

After the bout, the Glove Table steward will clean the Gloves and headgear with 10% bleach solution or comparable wipes. They will check the gloves to ensure there are no tears in the leather and the foam padding within the gloves is not displaced or broken. This will ensure the next Boxer that is issued the equipment, will be given gloves and headgear that meets its original state.

RULES FOR COMPETITION EQUIPMENT RULE 36 GLOVES

36.1 The construction of the gloves shall be in accordance with the specifications approved by USA Boxing and shall have the USA Boxing or IBA label in each glove. Only gloves listed on the certified equipment memo, which is posted on USA Boxing website under officials, are permitted

36.3 Red and blue gloves are recommended for all USA Boxing sanctioned events.

36.4 In all USA Boxing competitions, gloves have to be provided by the event organizer and have to be approved by the Official In Charge. Boxers will not be allowed to wear their own gloves.

36.5 Boxers must put on their gloves before entering the ring. Tape or another flat binding material may be used to secure the cuff of the gloves.

36.6 Gloves must be taken off immediately after the bout is over and before the decision is announced.

36.7 The padding of the gloves must not be displaced or broken.

36.8 Only clean and serviceable gloves may be used. All gloves must be cleaned using 10% bleach solution or comparable wipes before they are used again. 36.9 Specifications

- 1) Everyone will wear 10, 12 or 16 oz. gloves.
- 2) Boxers 139 lbs. or less may wear 10 oz. gloves
- 3) Boxers over 139 lbs. may wear 12 oz. or 16 oz. gloves
- 4) Master boxers will wear 16 oz. gloves
- 5) 16 oz. gloves may be used at the discretion of the official in charge.

RULE 37 HEADGEAR

37.1 The construction of the headgear shall be in accordance with the specifications approved by USA Boxing and shall have the USA Boxing or IBA label in each headgear and listed on the certified equipment memo, which is posted on the USA Boxing website under officials are permitted.

37.2 In USA Boxing local, regional, and national competitions, headgear is required for all divisions.

37.3 In all Affiliated Organizations, LBC and regional competitions boxers must use headgear (with or without cheek protectors) that is USA Boxing or IBA approved.

37.4 For all USA Boxing sanctioned events red and blue headgear are recommended, headgear of other colors may be used as long as they are USA Boxing or IBA approved. USA Boxing national events may be more restrictive, refer to the specific event fact sheet.

37.5 Headgear may be provided by the event organizer. Boxers may be permitted to provide their own headgear as long as it meets the approved specifications and approved by the Official In Charge.

37.6 Headgear must be taken off immediately after the bout is over and before the decision is announced. All headgear must be cleaned using 10% bleach solution or comparable wipes before they are used again.

37.7 For all competitions, boxers with long hair must wear a hair cap or net underneath headgear. Hair may extend outside the headgear but must be secured to and remain at the back of the boxer's head or the bout will be terminated, and boxer disqualified.

RULE 38 BANDAGES/HANDWRAPS

38.1 For all USA Boxing bouts bandages (gauze or handwrap) must meet specifications below. Training handwraps are allowed. USA Boxing may provide specific handwraps for USA Boxing national competition.

38.2 Use of Bandages The equipment inspector(s) will sign off directly on the bandage verifying its compliance as outlined below.

38.3 Specifications

1) In all categories, the bandage for each hand shall be made of:

a. Gauze Specifications

- **a maximum of 49 feet length and 2 inches width of gauze plus a maximum of 16 feet length of 4 inches width of gauze pad.**
- **Athletic Tape: A maximum 16 feet length and 1 inch width.**
- **In all categories, athletic tape, no more than ¼ inches wide, may be applied between the fingers.**
 - **A boxer may apply the bandage to the hands as he/she likes, provided that the knuckles are not covered by the tape.**

b. Handwrap Specifications

- **Bandages must not be longer than 14.76 feet and not shorter than 8.2feet.**
- **Bandages may be no wider than 2 ¼ inches wide.**
- **Bandages must be made of stretchy cotton material with a velcro closure.**
- **A small piece of tape can be used around the wrist to secure the handwrap at the fastening site.**

2) The use of any substance on the bandages, stacking of gauze and tape, placing tape directly on the skin, using other foreign materials in or on the bandages is prohibited and will result in Disqualification (DQ).

RULE 39 MOUTHPIECE

39.1 A Mouthpiece must be worn by boxers.

39.2 Boxers who wish to compete with braces are required to have attached to their passbooks a completed Release to Compete with Braces form (Appendix G). This form requires the written approval from parent and/or guardian (if under 18 years of age). Boxers competing with braces waive the right to dental coverage under the USA Boxing insurance program.

RULE 40 COMPETITION UNIFORM AND PROTECTORS

40.1 Competition Uniform

- 1) Boxers must box in lightweight boots or shoes (without spikes or heels), socks (not to be worn higher than knee length).**
- 2) The length of the shorts must not be shorter than mid-thigh, cannot cover the knee and must not be worn above the belt line. The belt line is an imaginary line from the navel to the top of the hips and must not cover the navel.**
- 3) The belt line must be clearly indicated by a contrasting color and by using a 2-4 inches wide elastic waistband (the belt line is an imaginary line from the navel to the top of the hips).**
- 4) Coordinating uniform with respective red or blue corner is strongly recommended but not required. (For national tournaments refer to the fact sheet.)**
- 5) No tape or binding of any kind will be permitted for the purpose of securing the competition uniform at national competition or competition leading to national competition. This rule may be relaxed at the club and LBC level.**
- 6) Sport Hjab and modest dress is allowed for female boxers for example long sleeve fitted shirt and tights are allowed under competition jersey and trunks.**
- 7) Detailed specifications on uniforms can be found in Boxers' Uniform Guidelines (Appendix E).**

40.2 Cup Protector

A cup protector must be worn by male boxers. Women may wear a groin protector, if they so choose.

40.3 Breast Protector

Breast Protector is optional for women.



Appendix F: Guide for Making Matches at the Local Level

This chart does not replace the rulebook. Revised 11/14/21.



				Junior	Youth		Elite		Masters	
	Pee Wee	Bantam	Intermediate	Junior	Youth		Elite		Masters	
Age Division	8, 9, 10	11, 12	13, 14	15, 16	17, 18		19 to 40		35 and older	
Match ages by Date of Birth	8 yr old = 8-9 9 yr old = 8-11 10 yr old = 9-12	11 yr old may box 9-13 12 year old may box 10-14	13 yr old may box 11-15 14 yr old may box 12-16	15 yr old may box 13-17 16 yr old may box 14-17	17 yr old may box 15-18 18 yr old may box 17-40		All ages may box 18-40		May only box other Masters, within 10 years of opponent	
	24-month maximum age difference for boxers 8-17.									
Weight Differentials for Matched Bouts	101, and under = 5 lbs	101, and under = 5 lbs	101, and under = 5 lbs	101, and under = 5 lbs	Men 106 = 6 lbs	Women 106 = 8 lbs	Men 106 = 6 lbs	Women 106 = 8 lbs	Men 106 = 6 lbs	Women 106 = 8 lbs
	106 = 7 lbs	106 = 7 lbs	106 = 7 lbs	106 = 7 lbs	112 = 6 lbs	110 = 8 lbs	112 = 6 lbs	110 = 8 lbs	112 = 6 lbs	110 = 8 lbs
	110 = 7 lbs	110 = 7 lbs	110 = 7 lbs	110 = 7 lbs	119 = 8 lbs	115 = 8 lbs	119 = 8 lbs	115 = 8 lbs	119 = 8 lbs	115 = 8 lbs
	114 = 7 lbs	114 = 7 lbs	114 = 7 lbs	114 = 7 lbs	125 = 8 lbs	119 = 8 lbs	125 = 8 lbs	119 = 8 lbs	125 = 8 lbs	119 = 8 lbs
	119 = 7 lbs	119 = 7 lbs	119 = 7 lbs	119 = 7 lbs	132 = 8 lbs	125 = 8 lbs	132 = 8 lbs	125 = 8 lbs	132 = 8 lbs	125 = 8 lbs
	125 = 9 lbs	125 = 9 lbs	125 = 9 lbs	125 = 9 lbs	139 = 10 lbs	132 = 10 lbs	139 = 10 lbs	132 = 10 lbs	139 = 10 lbs	132 = 10 lbs
	132 = 9 lbs	132 = 9 lbs	132 = 9 lbs	132 = 9 lbs	147 = 10 lbs	139 = 10 lbs	147 = 10 lbs	139 = 10 lbs	147 = 10 lbs	139 = 10 lbs
	138 = 9 lbs	138 = 9 lbs	138 = 9 lbs	138 = 9 lbs	156 = 10 lbs	146 = 10 lbs	156 = 10 lbs	146 = 10 lbs	156 = 10 lbs	146 = 10 lbs
	145 = 9 lbs	145 = 9 lbs	145 = 9 lbs	145 = 9 lbs	165 = 15 lbs	154 = 10 lbs	165 = 15 lbs	154 = 10 lbs	165 = 15 lbs	154 = 10 lbs
	154 = 9 lbs	154 = 9 lbs	154 = 9 lbs	154 = 9 lbs	176 = 15 lbs	165 = 15 lbs	176 = 15 lbs	165 = 15 lbs	176 = 15 lbs	165 = 15 lbs
	154+ = 12 lbs	154+ = 12 lbs	154+ = 12 lbs	154+ = 12 lbs	189 = 15 lbs	178 = 15 lbs	189 = 15 lbs	178 = 15 lbs	189 = 15 lbs	178 = 15 lbs
					176 = 12 lbs	165 = 15 lbs	176 = 15 lbs	165 = 15 lbs	176 = 15 lbs	165 = 15 lbs
					176 = 12 lbs	165 = 15 lbs	176 = 15 lbs	165 = 15 lbs	176 = 15 lbs	165 = 15 lbs
					176+ = no limit	178+ = n/l	178+ = n/l	178+ = n/l	178+ = n/l	178+ = n/l
				203 = 15 lbs	203 = 15 lbs	203 = 15 lbs	203 = 15 lbs	203 = 15 lbs	203 = 15 lbs	
				203+ = n/l	203+ = n/l	203+ = n/l	203+ = n/l	203+ = n/l	203+ = n/l	
Rounds	3 Rds of 1 to 1.5 mins	3 Rds of 1 to 1.5 mins	3 Rds of 2 mins, or less	3 Rds of 2 mins, or less	3 Rds of 3 mins, or less		3 Rds of 3 mins, or less		3 Rds of 2 mins, or less	

- MatchMaking on experience:** Coaches' discretion and common sense are used when considering experience, with official in charge providing final match approval.
- Development Bouts at Sanctioned events:** Ages 8-12 maximum round length is 1.5 mins. Ages 13+ box maximum of 2 min rounds. Exhibition bouts are prohibited.
- Coed competition:** Boys & girls (ages 8-10) may compete against each other in local and Developmental bouts.
- Uniform:** Sleeveless shirt. Waistband must contrast from shirt. No metal on the body (such as piercings). Sponsor and club logos are permitted.
- Bandages:** Gauze = 49' x 2" + 16' x 4" for knuckle pad. Tape: 16' x 1" or Handwrap (stretch material w/ velcro closure) = 8' to 14.7' x 2.25"
- Long hair:** Must wear hair cap or net underneath headgear. Hair may extend beyond the back of the headgear but must be secured to remain to the back of the boxer.
- Beard:** Beards are permitted at the local and regional level, but the length may not extend past the collar bone.
- Mouthguard:** Mouthguards may be any color. Losing mouthguard due to blow = Caution. 3rd Caution = Warning. Spitting out the mouthguard = Warning.
- Protectors:** Men must wear a groin protector. Women may wear a groin protector and/or breast protector. Protectors may not conceal any part of the target area.
- Allowable items in the corner:** A thin coat of vaseline may be used on the face. Water (in clear plastic bottle), towel, ice bag, cold compress, vaseline, swabs, medical gloves. Medications must be labeled.
- Equipment:** Boxers 139 lbs or less may wear 10, 12, or 16 oz gloves. Boxers over 139 wear 12 or 16 oz gloves. 16 oz "Masters-approved" gloves okay for all weights. Boxers wear gloves provided by the LBC or sanction holder, and both boxers wear the same size. Headgear must be worn, either open face or with cheek protectors. Masters boxers must use equipment that is "Masters-approved." List of current headgear & gloves approved for competition: www.teamusa.org/usa-boxing/officials

Weigh-in

Master/Mistress

The Weighmaster and Weighmistress are given the authority by the Official in Charge to conduct the weigh-in process. All amateur Boxers **MUST** weigh-in on the day they compete. This is a very important role to ensure all Boxers are weighed in as in accordance with the National Rulebook. In order to create an event that is free from bias it start with the Boxers weight is the one shown on the scale, the body being naked except for a swimming suit or underwear. No boxer under the age of 18 may weigh-in naked. Below you will see more rules as it pertains to the weigh-in process at the LBC Level.

Rule 11 Weigh-in

No type of body jewelry and no body accessories will be permitted to be worn.

11) Scale - The weight is the one shown on the scale, the body being naked except for a swimming suit or underwear. No boxer under the age of 18 may weigh-in naked. When necessary, a boxer over the age of 18 may take off their underwear; however, prior to the removal of their underwear the weigh in area must be cleared of all boxers under the age of 18. An official scale must be used.

12) Test scales must be available. Test scales must be calibrated the same as the official scale(s). Should the test scale not be available, the official scale may be used as the test scale.

11.2 Regional, LBC, and Club Competitions

1) The competition/event Official in Charge will establish the weigh-in process.

b. Duration of Weigh-in. Weigh-in shall last no more than two (2) hours or until completed.

The Most important rule all Officials must follow with no exceptions is as follows;

The Official in Charge will ensure that the weigh-in of boxers is done by officials of the same gender and in a private location.