Licensed referees, judges and timekeepers

**Duties and responsibilities**

Licensed officials (referees, judges, and timekeepers) play a significant role in ensuring contestant safety and upholding the highest levels of integrity. The duties and conditions of all licensed officials are the minimum standards expected in fulfilling the role of a referee, judge, or timekeeper.

In addition to the minimum standards all officials are encouraged to review the Board’s rules as they relate to a licensed official's roles, duties, and responsibilities.

# General duties and responsibilities

* Ensure compliance with the Board’s Rules for the proper conduct of a professional contest.
* Ensure compliance with all the conditions of your licence and that your licence is current and up-to-date.
* Ensure compliance with the Code of Conduct (as set out below).
* Be in possession of their licence during a promotion, and if appropriate, ensure their licence is displayed at all times.
* Not consume or be under the influence of alcohol or prohibited drugs whilst officiating.
* Not perform their duties in cases where there is an existing or potential conflict of interest. Any such conflict must be immediately disclosed prior to the promotion or to the supervising Board member at the promotion.
* Ensure they are proficient in the understanding and application of all rules and scoring systems as they apply to their role and those rules are applied fairly and without bias, or influence.
* Ensure they arrive at the promotion 1 hour prior to the promotion start time and reeport to the supervising Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Board member(s).
* Attend pre-fight briefing with Board member(s) prior to the commencement of the first contest.
* Attend the post-fight briefing convened by the supervising Board member and be prepared to discuss individual bouts, decisions, and scores. All officials are expected to keep notes throughout the promotion to inform this discussion.
* Be dressed in the appropriate attire - black pants, white or black shirt, black shoes. A bow tie is optional. An official’s attire should not feature any distinguishing badges, pockets, names, logos, trademarks, or distinctive signs of any kind, except where prior approval of the Board has been granted.
* Remain impartial when performing duties and apply 100% concentration for the whole of each round.
* In the event that an official is not able to carry out all duties as outlined, they must alert the attending Board member immediately.

# Code of conduct

Officials are expected to exhibit exemplar standards at all times and not engage in:

* Violent, threatening, obscene, indecent or abusive language or behaviour.
* Vilification of any kind towards another person.
* Discrimination against another person based on their age, gender or sexual orientation.
* Discrimination against another person based on their race, culture, religion or any other personal characteristic (protected or otherwise).
* Sexual harassment, intimidation or victimisation of another person.
* Competition manipulation and gambling on any activity that you are directly or indirectly connected to.
* Improper use of drugs and medicines.
* Conduct that is detrimental to the reputation or interests of the boxing and combat sports industry.

The Board may make any further duties and responsibilities specific to an official’s licence and will write to officials to advise of any specific additions. Failure to comply with the duties and responsibilities may result in licence cancellation or suspension.

# Referees

It is expected that referees:

* Familiarise themselves with the ringside seating plan and understand where the timekeeper, judges, and ringside doctor are seated.
* Discuss and agree with the ringside doctor on a clear, pre-determined means, whether by bell, air horn, hammer, prescribed hand signal or other method, by which,
  + the ringside doctor can indicate the need for, or desirability of, a medical examination of a contestant during the contest;
  + the ringside doctor can stop the contest; and
  + the referee can indicate to the ringside doctor the need for, or desirability of, a medical examination of a contestant during the contest.
* Not allow a contest to commence without the ringside doctor seated ringside.
* Ensure that the contestants are only accompanied in the ring by a licensed trainer.
* Will not move injured contestants. A referee must call the ringside doctor who will apply appropriate treatment and activate the injured fighter evacuation procedures as required.
* Not wear spectacles during a bout. Contact lenses may be worn.
* Prior to the start of a contest the referee must:
* Give instructions to all contestants in the dressing room.
* Call the contestants together before each bout for final instructions.
* Check contestants for mouth guards and groin protection before each bout starts.
* Inspect the contestants and the contestants’ gloves to ensure that no foreign substances have been applied to either the bodies and, or the gloves of the contestants.
* Examine each contestant to ensure they are wearing a groin guard (if applicable) and a mouth piece.
* During a contest, the referee must:
* Demonstrate vigilance to ensure that contestants are competing and defending themselves competently.
* Assess at all times, the contestants’ ability to defend themselves.
* Ensure contestants act in accordance with all rules.
* Maintain control of the contest at all times.
* Call ‘Time’ in the event that a contestant’s gloves or dress become undone or displaced and have the issue attended to.
* Call ‘Time’ immediately if the ringside doctor indicates a medical examination of a contestant is required at any point during a contest.
* Collect the scorecards from each judge and hand them to the recorder for official scores and final results. For MMA contests, the Board member will perform this duty. The scorecards are to be collected in white, green, pink order.
* Carry out all actions in a definite and unambiguous manner so that there is no doubt as to their intention.

# Judges

It is expected that judges:

* Ensure they are not distracted by any persons or engage in conversations during bouts.
* Independently judge the merits of the two contestants and decide the winner according to the rules of the bout.
* Know and apply the judging guidelines set out in the rule documents.
* Treat each round independently. Judges are not to keep a running total of the scores given and are not to be influenced by scores for previous rounds.
* Not speak to a contestant, nor to another judge, or other persons seated around the ring during the bout.
* Not discuss the contest during or between rounds.
* Behave in a professional manner at all times. Judges must be relaxed, self-confident and free from outside influences and distractions.
* Enter the number of points awarded to each contestant on their scorecard immediately after each round.
* Sign the scorecard at the end of the bout.
* If a point or points are deducted before a round is completed, these points will be taken off the tally at the end of the bout. The point or points to be deducted are noted by the judge in the relevant section of the scorecard, but are only deducted by the official recorder.

# Timekeepers

It is expected that timekeepers:

* Provide their own equipment for a contest which comprises a bell, two stopwatches and a whistle.
* Must do the following during a contest:
* Sound the bell at the end of each round.
* Stop the time if a contest has been stopped by the referee by calling ‘stop’.
* Restart the time when the referee calls ‘fight’ to restart the contest.
* Start the second stopwatch if the referee calls ‘time’ for a foul or a medical practitioner to enter the ring.
* Sound the whistle ten seconds before the end of the rest period between rounds.
* Advise the announcer to call ‘seconds out’ and announce the number of the ensuing round before sounding the whistle.
* Adhere to the rule that if at the end of any round, except for the final round, a contestant is down and the referee is in the course of counting over the fallen contestant, the bell indicating the end of the round must not be sounded by the timekeeper.
* Sound the bell, if the fallen contestant rises before the count of 10 and the referee gives the command to continue, indicating the continuation of the bout.