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Chapter RL 114

CONDUCTING A PROFESSIONAL BOUT

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RL 114.005 Authority. The rules in this chapter are adopted pursuant to ss. 227.11 (2), 444.02, 444.09 and 444.12, Stats.

History: Cr., Register, September, 1997, No. 501, eff. 10-1-97.

RL 114.01 Inspection of gloves and bandages. The inspector or the inspector's designee shall inspect the bandages, gloves and dress before a boxer enters the ring.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85.

RL 114.02 Referee's duties. In addition to the general responsibilities of s. RL 111.02, a referee shall:

(1) Indicate to a boxer by suitable explanatory signs or gestures any infringement of the rules.

(2) Caution, warn or disqualify a boxer for committing a foul. Before issuing a warning, the referee shall order the boxers to stop. The warning shall be clearly given and describe the reason and purpose for the warning. After giving the warning, the referee shall order the boxers to "Box". A boxer who is given 3 warnings in a bout shall be disqualified.

(3) Caution a boxer by advice or admonishment to check or prevent an undesirable practice or a less serious violation of the rules.

(4) Interrupt a bout and warn a boxer against fouls or for any other reason in the interests of fair play, or to ensure compliance with the rules.

(5) Terminate a bout at any stage:

(a) To prevent a weakened, outclassed or injured boxer from receiving excessive punishment.

(b) If one of the boxers has received an injury which, in the opinion of the referee, would result in harm or an unreasonable risk of harm to a boxer if the bout were to continue.

(c) If the referee considers one or both of the contestants are not in earnest.

(6) Disqualify a boxer who fails to comply immediately with the referee's orders or behaves toward the referee in an offensive or aggressive manner at any time.

(6m) If the referee decides that a boxer has conducted himself or herself in an unsportsmanlike manner, the referee may stop the bout and disqualify the boxer.

(7) Disqualify a second or assistant who has violated the rules and disqualify the boxer if the second or assistant does not comply with the referee's orders.

(9) Call the ringside physician into the ring to examine an injured boxer whenever the referee believes an examination is necessary.

(10) Use commands as necessary to control the bout, including:

(a) "Stop" when ordering the boxers to stop boxing.

(b) "Box" when ordering them to continue.

(c) "Break" when breaking a clinch, upon which command each boxer shall step back before continuing boxing.

(11) Interrupt or stop a bout at the order of the ringside physician who mounts the apron of the ring and signals to the referee that the bout shall be interrupted or stopped.

(12) Raise the hand of the winning boxer when the winner of a bout is announced.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85; am. (11), Register, July, 1988, No. 391, eff. 8-1-88; am. (7), Register, July, 1993, No. 451, eff. 8-1-93; cr. (6m), r. (8), Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7-1-01.

RL 114.03 Injuries sustained by fouls. (1) INTENTIONAL FOUL. (a) If an intentional foul causes an injury and the injured boxer is not able to continue, the boxer causing the injury shall lose by disqualification.

(b) If an intentional foul causes an injury and the bout is allowed to continue, the referee shall notify the boxer and the judges that 2 points shall be deducted from the score of the boxer who caused the foul.

(c) If an intentional foul causes an injury and the injury results in the bout being stopped in a later round, the injured boxer shall win by technical decision if the boxer is ahead on the scorecards, or the bout shall result in a technical draw if the injured boxer is behind on the scorecards.

(d) If a boxer injures himself or herself while attempting to intentionally foul an opponent, the referee shall consider the injury the same as one produced by a fair blow.

(2) ACCIDENTAL FOUL. If an accidental foul occurs before the completion of 4 rounds of a bout and the injured boxer is not able to continue the fight, the fight shall be declared a no contest. If the accidental foul occurs after the completion of 4 rounds of a bout and the fouled boxer is not able to continue, the judges shall score the bout as a technical knock-out and the boxer who is ahead on points shall be declared the winner. In determining the points, the judges shall score the completed rounds and the incomplete round. If no action has occurred in an incomplete round, the round shall be scored as an even round. When a boxer is not able to continue boxing, the referee shall stop the action and inform the department's inspector, the judges and both boxers that the foul was accidental. If in the later rounds the injury has worsened as a result of legal blows, and the injured boxer is not able to continue, the judges shall score the bout based on the completed rounds and the incomplete round. A referee, in consultation with the ringside physician, shall allow the injured boxer up to 5 minutes to recover from the foul. A boxer who is hit with an accidental low blow, shall continue after a reasonable amount of time, not exceeding 5 minutes, or the boxer shall lose the bout. If a boxer is hit with an accidental low blow, the referee shall stop the action in a bout and inform the judges of any deduction of points made by the referee.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85; r. and recr., Register, September, 1997, No. 501, eff. 10-1-97; r. and recr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7-1-01.

RL 114.04 Fouls. The following are fouls:

(1) Hitting below the belt; and holding, tripping or kicking.

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(2) Hits or blows with the head, shoulder, forearm, elbow, knee, or foot; pressing with arm or elbow in an opponent's face or neck; or pressing the head of the opponent back over the ropes.

(3) Hitting with an open glove, the inside of the glove, or the wrist or side of the hand.

(4) Hits which land on the back of the opponent, and especially any blow on the back of the neck, or head or kidney caused by the boxer administering the punch.

(5) A blow which is delivered during or at the end of a 360-degree pivot.

(6) Attacking while holding the ropes or making any unfair use of the ropes.

(7) Wrestling, clinching or leaning on an opponent.

(8) Attacking an opponent who is down or who is in the act of rising.

(9) Holding.

(10) Holding and hitting, or pulling and hitting.

(11) Holding or locking of the opponent's arm or head, or pushing an arm underneath the arm of the opponent.

(12) Ducking below the belt of the opponent in a manner dangerous to the opponent.

(13) Defending one's self passively by means of double cover or falling intentionally to avoid a blow.

(14) Not stepping back when ordered to break.

(15) Attempting to strike an opponent immediately after the referee has ordered "Break" or before taking a step back.

(16) Assaulting or behaving in an aggressive manner towards a referee.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85; am. (2) and (5), Register, September, 1997, No. 501, eff. 10-1-97.

RL 114.05 Procedures after knock-downs.

(1) **WHEN DOWN.** A boxer is considered down:

(a) If the boxer touches the floor with any part of the body other than the feet as the result of a blow or series of blows, or

(b) If the boxer hangs helplessly on the ropes as the result of a blow or series of blows, or

(c) If the boxer is outside or partly outside the ropes as the result of a blow or series of blows, or

(d) If, following a hard punch, the boxer has not fallen and is not lying on the ropes, but is in a semi-conscious state and cannot, in the opinion of the referee, continue the bout.

(2) **NEUTRAL CORNER.** When a boxer is down, the referee shall immediately begin to count the seconds. When a boxer is down the opponent shall go at once to the neutral corner as designated by the referee. The bout may not continue until the command "Box" is given by the referee. If the opponent does not go to the neutral corner on command the referee shall stop counting until the opponent has done so. The counting shall then be continued where it has been interrupted.

(3) **COUNT.** When a boxer is down, the referee shall give a mandatory 8 count and shall continue to count to 10 if the downed boxer is not able to continue fighting after the mandatory 8 count. The referee shall count aloud and provide intervals of one second between the numbers, and shall indicate each second with his or her hand in a manner such that the boxer who has been knocked down is aware of the count. Before the number "one" is counted, an interval of one second shall have elapsed from the time the boxer went down and the time of announcing "one." The referee shall continue counting, even if the bell sounds, indicating the end of the round.

(4) **MANDATORY 8 COUNT.** When a boxer is down as the result of a blow, the bout may not be continued until the referee has reached the count of 8, even if the boxer is ready to continue before then.

(5) **CONTINUED COUNT.** If a boxer is down as the result of a blow and the bout is continued after the count of 8 has been reached, but the boxer immediately falls again without having received a fresh blow, the referee shall continue the counting from the count of 8.

(6) **BOTH BOXERS DOWN.** If both boxers go down at the same time, counting shall be continued as long as one of them is still down. If both boxers remain down until the count of "10", the bout shall be stopped and the decision given in accordance with the points awarded up to the time of the knock-down.

(7) **FAILURE TO BOX.** A boxer who fails to resume boxing immediately after the termination of the rest interval, who sustains an injury from a fair blow and the injury is severe enough to terminate a bout, or who, when knocked down by a fair blow, fails to resume within 10 seconds, shall lose the bout. A referee may not give a standing 8 count.

(8) **THREE KNOCKDOWNS.** The referee may not stop a bout solely because a boxer has been knocked down 3 times in one round.

(9) **TWENTY-SECOND COUNT.** The referee shall give a 20-second count to a boxer who is knocked out of the ring and onto the floor. The boxer shall return to the ring with assistance from his or her seconds. Otherwise, the referee shall disqualify the boxer.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85; am. (5), Register, September, 1997, No. 501, eff. 10-1-97; am. (3) and (7), cr. (8) and (9), Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7-1-01.

RL 114.06 Head blows. (1) PROCEDURE. If a boxer has been knocked out in a bout as the result of head blows or received serious head blows, the boxer shall be examined by a ringside physician immediately. If the ringside physician determines that the boxer may have received head injuries, the ringside physician shall give the boxer a head injury slip and explain its meaning. A head injury slip is illustrated in s. RL 114.08.

(2) **PERIODS OF REST REQUIRED AFTER KNOCK-OUT OR TECHNICAL KNOCKOUT.** (a) A boxer who is knocked out during a bout may not take part in competitive boxing or sparring for a period of at least 60 days from the date of the bout. A boxer whose bout was terminated by a technical knock-out may not take part in competitive boxing or sparring for a period of at least 30 days from the date of the bout.

(b) A boxer who, twice in a period of 3 months, has been knocked out may not take part in competitive boxing or sparring during a period of 6 months from the second bout.

(c) A boxer who has been knocked out 3 times in a period of 12 months may not take part in competitive boxing or sparring for a period of one year from the third knock-out.

(d) Before resuming boxing after any of the periods of rest prescribed in par. (a), a boxer shall satisfy any requirements imposed by the department after receiving the recommendations of the ringside physician under s. RL 114.065.

(e) The requirements and conditions enumerated in pars. (a) and (d) apply to knock-outs and technical knock-outs in bouts that occurred in Wisconsin. The requirements and conditions enumerated in pars. (b) and (c) apply to knock-outs and technical knock-outs regardless of whether the bouts occurred in Wisconsin or another jurisdiction.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85; cr. (2) (e), Register, July, 1993, No. 451, eff. 8-1-93; am. (2) (d), Register, September, 1997, No. 501, eff. 10-1-97; am. (2) (a) to (e), Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7-1-01.

RL 114.065 Ringside physician's requirements relating to injuries. (1) A ringside physician may recommend to the department that the department prescribe that a boxer obtain an examination or a medical procedure following a technical knock-out. A ringside physician shall recommend to the department that the department prescribe that a boxer obtain an examination or a medical procedure following a knock-out. The medical procedure may include an electroencephalogram (EEG),

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a computerized axial tomography (CAT) scan, a magnetic resonance imaging scan (MRI), or any other scan which the examining physician believes is as reliable or more reliable than an EEG or a CAT scan for determining the presence of brain damage.

(2) A boxer whose bout was terminated by a technical knock-out or by a knock-out may not take part in competitive boxing or sparring until the boxer has completed a medical procedure or an examination that was recommended by the ringside physician and prescribed by the department following the bout in which the injury or action occurred, and has submitted the results of the medical procedure or physical examination to the department.

History: Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7-1-01.

RL 114.07 Attending a boxer injured or knocked out.

(1) In the event of a knockout or serious injury, the referee shall immediately request the ringside physician to check the boxer's condition and to render aid if necessary. A ringside physician shall enter the ring immediately if a bout ends in a knock-out or if it is stopped because of an injury.

(2) The attending ringside physician may on his or her own initiative enter the ring between rounds and, at the request of the referee, during the round for the purpose of examining an injured boxer. If in the opinion of the ringside physician a boxer is in danger of further physical injury, the ringside physician shall notify the referee to terminate the bout. Except for those situations when a fight is terminated under s. RL 114.03 (1) (a), results in a technical draw under s. RL 114.03 (1) (c), or is declared a no contest under s. RL 114.03 (2), the injured boxer shall lose the bout by a technical knock-out.

(3) In the event of any serious injury, the ringside physician shall immediately render treatment and prescribe further treatment if necessary.

(4) Any boxer who sustains a severe injury or a knock-out in a bout shall follow the instructions of the attending ringside physician until the boxer's personal physician is available.

(5) A boxer who has been knocked out may not be touched, except for removal of the mouthpiece, until the attending ringside physician enters the ring and personally attends the boxer and issues any instructions the ringside physician deems necessary.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85; am. (2), Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7-1-01.

RL 114.08 Head injury slip. The following shall be included in a head injury slip:

"If any of the following symptoms occur, contact a physician immediately:

(1) Headache or dizziness lasting over 2 hours.

(2) Increasing drowsiness or loss of consciousness following the bout, awoken every 2 hours during the night following the bout to check for alertness.

(3) Vomiting.

(4) Blurred vision.

(5) Mental confusion or irrational behavior.

(6) Convulsive seizure.

(7) Inability to move a limb.

(8) Excessive restlessness.

(9) Oozing of blood or watery fluid from the ears or nose.

(10) Inability to control urine or feces."

History: Cr. Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85.

RL 114.09 Stimulants prohibited. A second may only give a boxer water to drink during a bout. No manager or second may give any drug, narcotic or stimulant to a boxer before or during a bout. The department may require a boxer to submit to a drug test or HIV examination before a scheduled bout.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85; am. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7-1-01.