

INTERNATIONAL BOXING FEDERATION



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Rules for IBF, USBA & Intercontinental Championship and Elimination Bouts

Rules for Championship fight of _____ to weigh no more than _____ or _____ kilograms between Champion _____ of _____ and challenger _____ of _____ on _____. The Championship fight will be governed by the rules and regulations of the IBF. The bout will be supervised by the local Commissioner _____ and the IBF representative _____ who must be given seats at the ring apron. Both boxers shall be present during the initial weigh-in ceremony at _____ hrs of _____ (day of) _____ (month of) _____ (year) at _____ (place) which shall take place no less than twenty (20) nor more than thirty (30) hours from the commencement of the boxing card. Both boxers shall be examined by the local boxing Commission doctor immediately after the weigh-in; the referee must take a medical examination as well prior to the fight. The Champion will wear _____ trunks and be in the _____ corner while the challenger will wear _____ trunks and be in the _____ corner.

UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 2025

ILLEGAL BLOWS AND FOULS:

1. It is expressly understood that the championship contest will not be terminated by a low blow. The protector that must be used by both contestants is to be sufficient protection to withstand any so-called low blow.
2. If one of the contestants shall fall to the ring floor or otherwise indicate an unwillingness to continue because of a low-blow foul, the contest will be terminated and the referee will award the contest to the opponent.
3. In the case of an accidental foul as determined by the referee, he shall determine if the boxer who has been fouled can continue or not. If his chances have not been seriously jeopardized as a result of a foul, the referee may order the bout to continue after an interval of not more than five (5) minutes.
4. Any contestant who deliberately fouls his opponent during a contest will be penalized with loss of points or disqualification, depending upon the severity of the foul and the effect upon the opponent.

INJURIES (CUTS):

1. **Fair Blows**-When an injury (cut) is produced by a fair blow and because of the severity of the same the contest cannot continue, the injured boxer will be declared the loser by TKO.
2. **Unfair Blows (Fouls)-may be the result of:**
 - a. Intentional fouls that cause a severe cut and the contest has to be terminated. The contestant that committed the foul will be declared the loser by disqualification.
 - b. If there is an intentional foul and the contest can continue, a two point deduction for intentional fouls is mandatory. The referee will notify the judges, the Commissioner and the IBF representative that the injury (cut) was produced by an intentional foul. If in the subsequent rounds the injury becomes so severe that the contest has to be suspended, the decision will be awarded as follows:
 - i. **Technical Draw**-if the injured boxer is behind in points or even on the scorecards of the judges when the bout is stopped.
 - ii. **Technical Decision**-if the injured boxer is ahead in points on the scorecards of the judges when the bout is stopped.
 - c. If the contestant injures himself trying to foul his opponent, the referee will not take any action in his favor and the injury will be the same as one produced by a fair blow.

ACCIDENTAL FOULS:

If the referee determines that a boxer has been accidentally injured and the bout cannot continue, the referee shall immediately call a **Technical Decision** to be awarded to the contestant who is ahead on the scorecards. If the fight can continue, the referee will notify the Commissioner and the representative of the IBF of the accidental foul and if the fight has to be terminated because of the injury in a later round as a result of the injury, the fight will be awarded in accordance with the majority vote of the judges as disclosed on the scorecards. **No Decision** will be awarded to any of the contestants if the situation occurs before four rounds have been completed.

REFEREE:

The referee shall exercise immediate authority, direction and control over the contest to which he has been appointed.

1. He shall be the only one to determine if injuries have been produced by a foul.
2. He shall be the only one to determine an intentional foul and cause points to be deducted.
3. He shall have the power to stop a contest and render a decision at any stage if he considers it to be too one-sided, or if either contestant is in such condition that to continue might subject him to serious injury.
4. The referee may stop the contest to consult with the ringside physician on the advisability of allowing the bout to continue.

RINGSIDE PHYSICIAN:

He may enter the ring during the round at the request of the referee.

SECONDS:

1. No second may enter the ring and assist a boxer back to his corner unless the bell has rung or the bout has been terminated by the referee.
2. If any cornerperson stands on the apron or enters the ring during a round, the referee shall disqualify the boxer.

ANTIDOPING:

Drugs:

1. The use of substances and procedures banned by *the* WADA Prohibited list before or during a match or by any boxer is prohibited. The use of smelling salts, ammonia capsules or similar irritants is also prohibited. Any contestants violating this rule shall be subject to disqualification.
2. Any substance other than plain water or sports drinks, if permitted by the Local Commission, given to a contestant during the course of the contest is absolutely prohibited. The discretionary use of Vaseline may be allowed around the eyes, however, the use of Vaseline, grease or any other substance on the arms, legs and the body of either contestant is prohibited.
3. The following coagulants are approved for use during a championship bout: Adrenaline 1:1000, Avitine and Thrombin. Any others must be approved by the ringside physician, the local commission. The use of iron type coagulants such as Monsel's solution is absolutely prohibited and the use of such coagulants to or by any contestant shall be considered a violation and shall be cause for immediate disqualification.

Antidoping:

1. Each boxer is required to take an anti-doping test immediately following the bout. The sample must be collected, and the sample collection procedure must be in line with the standards of the World Anti-Doping Agency (including but not limited to the use of accredited Doping Control Officers, use of tamper proof containers, and shipping of the sample to a WADA-accredited laboratory). The event promoter, in cooperation with the Local Commission, is responsible for organizing the Anti-Doping Tests. In cases where the Local Commission declares to be unable or unwilling to arrange the tests, the Promoter may appoint an acceptable Testing Authority with the promoter bearing the costs.
2. Should either boxer's A specimen be positive for a banned substance or procedure, all parties will be notified, and the Result Management process will start, which may include analysis of the B sample if requested by the boxer within the deadline specified upon notification of results. The IBF has adopted the World Anti-Doping Association ("WADA") World Anti-Doping Code prohibited list, with its annual updates. A link to the most current list of prohibited substances is located on the "WADA" website. It is the responsibility of the boxer and their camp to review the WADA website. The presence of any substance on the prohibited list in a boxer's specimen shall be considered a violation of IBF rules. The Local Commission is responsible for conducting the Result Management Process. In a case where the Local Commission declares itself unable or unwilling to conduct the process, the IBF may

administer the process by acting as Result Management Authority (RMA), with the promoter bearing the costs.

3. If an Anti-Doping rule violation is confirmed, disciplinary actions will be taken. The same will apply in cases of the occurring of non-analytical violations as defined by the WADA's World Antidoping Code (including but not limited to refusing to submit to sample collection or tampering with any part of the Doping Control Process).

4. The following sanctions will apply in case of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation confirmed by the Result Management Authority, either analytical or non-analytical:

First Offence

Any boxer suspended by a State, National Association of Boxing Commissions, Combative Sports, or Commission recognized by the IBF, when acting as RMA, is suspended for an Anti-Doping violation, shall be ineligible to be ranked by the IBF or participate in any IBF sanctioned bout for one (1) year.

Second Offence

Any boxer suspended by a State, National Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports, or Commission recognized by the IBF, or by the IBF itself when acting as RMA, for an Anti-Doping violation for a second time shall be ineligible to be ranked by the IBF or participate in any IBF sanctioned bout for two (2) years.

Third Offence

Any boxer suspended by a State, National Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports, or Commission recognized by the IBF, or by the IBF itself when acting as RMA, for an Anti-Doping violation for a third time shall be permanently ineligible to be ranked by the IBF or participate in any IBF sanctioned bout.

WEIGHT OF GLOVES:

Effective September 1, 1986, the weight of gloves to be used in title bouts is as follows: 105-154 8oz; 155 and above 10oz. Also, effective January 1, 1987, all IBF title bouts must be fought with gloves that have attached thumbs. There must be a "backup" set of gloves at ringside should the main gloves get torn.

BANDAGES:

The hand bandage shall be restricted to ten (10) yards of soft gauze bandage not more than two (2) inches wide held in place by not more than six (6) feet of surgeon's tape, one inch wide for each hand. In the Light Heavyweight, Cruiserweight and Heavyweight classes, bandages may be

twelve (12) yards in length and not more than two (2) inches in width held in place by not more than eight (8) feet of surgeon's tape, one inch in width for each hand. The binding of surgeon's tape must not be applied within one inch of the knuckles of the contestant's hands.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS:

1. Each IBF championship and elimination bout is to be for twelve (12) rounds, of three (3) minutes duration, and one (1) minute rest in between. USBA and intercontinental bouts may be staged for ten (10) rounds.
2. There will be no standing eight (8) count.
3. There will be a non-scoring referee and three judges who shall score the contest and determine the winner through the use of the ten points must system. In this system the winner of each round receives ten points and the opponent a proportionately less number. When the round is even, each boxer will receive ten points.
4. The scorecards will be picked up after each round and the tally made by the Commissioner and the Representative of the IBF.

WEIGH-IN CEREMONIES:

The initial weigh-in shall be no less than twenty (20) nor more than thirty (30) hours before the scheduled start of the first bout on the bout card or a time determined by the local commission. If either the Champion or Challenger fails to make the prescribed weight at the initial weigh-in time, each will have two (2) hours, or a time determined by the local commission thereafter to make the prescribed weight.

1. Champion's Failure to make weight

If a Champion fails to make the prescribed weight prior to the expiration of the two (2) additional hours or a time determined by the local commission, the title shall be forfeited on the scale. The contest may be staged, however, as a fight for the vacant title. If the Challenger, having made the prescribed weight, shall win, they will be declared the winner of the vacant title. However, should the former Champion win, the title will remain vacant.

2. Challenger's Failure to Make Weight

If the Champion makes the weight and the Challenger fails to do so, the fight may be staged with the understanding that the Champion will retain their title whether he wins or loses the bout.

3. Failure to Make Weight in Fight for Vacant Title or Elimination Bout

If a contestant failing to make weight in a fight for a vacant title or an elimination bout wins the bout, they shall not be declared the winner, and the title or ranking shall remain vacant. If a contestant who makes the weight defeats a contestant who did not make the weight, that contestant shall be declared the winner of the vacant title or the elimination bout. In the event both contestants in a vacant title or elimination bout fail to make the prescribed weight, the sanction of the bout will be withdrawn.

Second Day Weigh-In

There shall be a second weigh-in between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on the morning of the event, unless otherwise approved by the IBF. The Second Day Weigh-In rule shall be waived for Heavyweight Championships and Unification Bouts. At this weigh-in, boxers cannot weigh more than the Second Day weight limit listed in Rule 1. If a boxer weighs more than the Second Day weight limit, they will have two (2) hours, or a time determined by the local commission thereafter to make the prescribed weight. If after two (2) hours or a time determined by the local commission they still weigh more than the Second Day weight limits listed in Rule 1, the fight can proceed only as described below.

1. Champion's Failure to Make Weight or to Appear for the Second Day Weigh-In

If a Champion fails to make the prescribed weight at the second day weigh-in or prior to the expiration of the two (2) additional hours or a time determined by the local commission, or in the event the Champion fails to appear for the second day weigh-in, the title shall be forfeited on the scale. The contest may be staged, however, as a fight for the vacant title. If the Challenger, having made the prescribed weight, shall win, they will be declared the winner of the vacant title. However, should the former Champion win, the title will remain vacant.

2. Challenger's Failure to Make Weight or to Appear for the Second Day Weigh-In

If the Champion makes the weight at the second day weigh-in and the Challenger fails to do so, or fails to appear for the second day weigh-in, the fight may be staged with the understanding that the Champion will retain their title whether they win or lose the bout.

3. Failure to Make Weight or Appear at the Second Day Weigh-In in Fight for Vacant Title or Elimination Bout

If a contestant fails to make weight at the second day weigh-in or failing to appear for the second day weigh-in for a fight for a vacant title wins the bout, they shall not be declared the winner of the title. If a contestant who makes the weight defeats a

contestant who did not make the weight or did not appear for the second day weigh-in, they shall be declared the winner of the vacant title or the elimination bout. In the event both contestants in a vacant title or elimination bout fail to make the prescribed weight or fail to appear for the second day weigh-in, the sanction of the bout will be withdrawn.

KNOCKDOWN AND KNOCKOUTS:

1. A boxer shall be deemed to be down when any part of his body except his feet are on the floor, or if he is hanging helplessly over the ropes as a result of a legal blow as ruled by the referee, who is the only person authorized to determine this.
2. There will be a mandatory eight (8) count when one of the contestants is knocked off the soles of his feet or draped helplessly across the ropes. If this occurs, the knockdown timekeeper's count will commence and be picked up by the referee. At this point, the referee is in control and the knockdown timer will cease counting.
3. When a contestant is knocked down, the referee shall audibly announce the count as he motions with his right arm downward indicating the end of each second of the count. If the contestant taking the count is still down when the referee calls the count of ten (10), the referee will wave both arms indicating the contestant has been knocked out.
4. When a contestant has been knocked down, the referee will order the standing contestant to the farthest neutral corner and begin the count. If the contestant standing leaves the corner before the count has been completed, the referee shall discontinue the count and order the standing contestant back into the corner. The count will not resume until the standing contestant has returned to the neutral corner.
5. Three (3) knockdowns in any one round do not automatically terminate the fight. If in the referee's judgment, which must be keen and decisive, the knockdowns have been indecisive and clearly have no injurious effect upon the boxer, the contest may continue but with good sense and judgment and the boxer's welfare always paramount.
6. The bell will not save a boxer in any round of the bout. If a boxer is "downed" just before the 3-minute bell in any round, the referee's count shall continue and the bell will not ring until the boxer rises and his hands clear the floor.

MOUTHPIECES:

The use of a mouthpiece is mandatory for all boxers. No round may start without a boxer's mouthpiece being in place. Should a boxer lose his mouthpiece during a round, the referee will call time and have the mouthpiece replaced at the first opportune moment without interfering with the immediate action.

BOXER'S PURSE:

Each boxer participating in this contest shall hereby certify that, to the best of his knowledge, the amount of his purse reported to the IBF in his contract with the promoter under IBF Rule 2 is the true amount of the full gross purse and is prior to any deductions for trainers, managers, promoters and expenses. The boxer further acknowledges that if he does not report the full amount of the purse he is subject to financial liability to the IBF and to the penalties in IBF Rule 14.

LEGAL ACTION:

All actions against the IBF shall be filed in the State of New Jersey regardless of the venue of the bout. The boxers, seconds and any and all other representatives of the boxers hereby consent to submit to the jurisdiction of the federal or state courts in New Jersey in the event the IBF files suit against them. In any case filed against the IBF in state or federal court, the laws of the state of New Jersey and the IBF Rules Governing Championship Contests shall apply.

Champion

Challenger

Date: _____

Date: _____

Witnesses

For Champion
(sign above and print name below)

For Challenger
(sign above and print name below)

IBF Supervisor

Representative of Commission

**REPORT FORM
IBF CONTESTS**

Names of Contestants _____

Nature of Contest _____
(e.g. Mandatory Title Defense, Optional Defense, Vacant Title, Eliminator)

Date/Location _____

Promoter _____

IBF Supervisor _____

Weight division _____

Weights at first day weigh-in _____

Weights at second day weigh-in _____

Winner of contest _____

Name of Referee _____

Names of Judges _____

Was championship belt presented? _____

It shall be the duty of the IBF Supervisor to contact both the promoter and chairman of the local commission as soon as possible after his/her arrival at the site of the fight.

The Supervisor shall attend all press conferences, pre-fight meetings and officials commission meetings prior to the fight. He/she shall also conduct official weigh-ins in conjunction with local commissioners or duly appointed representative of the local commission.

The Supervisor must have a thorough knowledge of the IBF Bout Rules and the IBF Rules Governing Championship Contests and must insure that such rules are in full force at all championship contests. The Supervisor must also understand that in the performance of his/her duties, he/she will be called on for guidance and counsel on many matters pertaining to boxing and boxing championships. It is, therefore, mandatory that as a representative of the IBF, each Supervisor so assigned by the President conduct himself/herself in an exemplary manner and display the level of knowledge of boxing issues which will enhance the stature of the IBF.

Within seventy two (72) hours following the contest, The IBF Supervisor shall submit his/her report of the contest to both the President and the Chairman of the Championships Committee.