

CHAPTER 46

**RULES GOVERNING BOXING, WRESTLING
AND SPARRING EXHIBITIONS AND
PERFORMANCES**

Authority

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Chapter 46, Rules Governing Boxing, Wrestling and Sparring Exhibitions and Performances, expires on July 28, 2000.

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 46, Rules Governing Boxing, Wrestling and Sparring Exhibitions and Performances, was originally filed and became effective prior to September 1, 1969. Subchapters 2, 3, 7 and 12 were repealed and replaced by R.1984 d.611, effective January 7, 1985. See: 16 N.J.R. 2241(a), 17 N.J.R. 103(a). Subchapter 23, Standards of Conduct, was adopted by R.1985 d.164, effective April 1, 1985. See: 17 N.J.R. 55(a), 17 N.J.R. 837(a). Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 13:46 expired on June 3, 1990 and was readopted as new rules by R.1990 d.454, effective September 4, 1990. See: 22 N.J.R. 1231(a), 22 N.J.R. 2748(a). Chapter 13:46 was readopted as R.1995 d.458, effective July 28, 1995. See: Source and Effective Date.

See section annotations for specific rulemaking activity.

Law Review and Journal Commentaries

In the Aftermath of McClellan: Isn't it Time for the Sport of Boxing to Protect Its Participants? Ross Rosen, 5 Seton Hall J. Sport L. 611 (1995).

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SUBCHAPTER 1. DEFINITIONS**13:46-1.1 Definitions**

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Board" means the State Athletic Control Board.

"Championship boxing match" means any boxing match in which the championship of a recognized boxing association is at stake.

"Club" means any person, club, corporation, organization or association licensed under the act to conduct, hold or give professional boxing matches or exhibitions.

"Club contract" is an agreement between a boxer with a promoter that provides that the boxer shall participate in a bout with another named boxer.

"Commissioner" means the person appointed by the Attorney General with the concurrence of the Board to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Board.

"Licensee" means any person, club, corporation, organization or association licensed by the Board.

"Manager" means any person who:

1. By contract, agreement, or other arrangement with any person undertakes or has undertaken to represent in any way the interest in any professional boxing contest in which such boxer is to participate as a contestant; and is entitled under that contract, agreement or other arrangement to receive monetary or other compensation for his services without regard to the sources of such compensation; except that the term "manager" shall not be construed to mean any attorney licensed to practice in this State, whose participation in such activities is restricted solely to his representing the interests of a professional boxer as his client.

2. Directs or controls the professional boxing activities of any professional boxer.

3. Receives or is entitled to receive ten percent or more of the gross purse, or gross income of any professional boxing contest.

"Program" means the total of all boxing and wrestling matches presented on a particular occasion.

"Promoter" means any person, club, corporation, organization or association licensed under the act to conduct, hold or give programs or exhibitions.

"Purse" means the compensation, percentage or other remuneration for which the contestants are competing.

"Recognized boxing association" means an organization recognized by the Commissioner with the concurrence of the Board whose voting membership is composed of representatives of governmental agencies regulating boxing, including, but not limited to, the World Boxing Association, the World Boxing Council, the International Boxing Federation, the North American Boxing Federation, and the United States Boxing Association. The Commissioner may, with the concurrence of the Board, designate any regional, national, or international boxing organization pursuant to this definition.

"Special event" means a boxing card, boxing show, or any other combative sports event which has among its contests a championship elimination match, a pay-per-view or subscription television match, a nationally televised match, or any other match of significance to combative sports in this State as designated by the Commissioner with the concurrence of the Board.

As amended, R.1970 d.35, effective April 8, 1970.

See: 2 N.J.R. 27(a), 2 N.J.R. 44(a).

As amended, R.1982 d.389, effective November 1, 1982.

See: 14 N.J.R. 751(b), 14 N.J.R. 1220(a).

Changed subchapter heading from Boxing Weights and Classes to Definitions.

Deleted definitions of "club"; added definition of "program" and "promoter".

Amended by R.1985 d.284, effective June 3, 1985.

See: 16 N.J.R. 2962(a), 17 N.J.R. 1432(a).

Added definitions "club contract" and "program."

Amended by R.1995 d.398, effective July 17, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 1138(a), 27 N.J.R. 1959(a), 27 N.J.R. 2697(a).

1. Flyweight up to 112 pounds
2. Bantamweight up to 118 pounds
3. Featherweight up to 126 pounds
4. Junior Lightweight up to 130 pounds
5. Lightweight up to 135 pounds
6. Junior Welterweight up to 140 pounds
7. Welterweight up to 147 pounds
8. Junior Middleweight up to 154 pounds
9. Middleweight up to 160 pounds
10. Lighth heavyweight up to 175 pounds
11. Cruiserweight up to 195 pounds
12. Heavyweight all over 195 pounds

As amended, R.1982 d.389, eff. November 1, 1982.

See: 14 N.J.R. 751(b), 14 N.J.R. 1220(a).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 13:46-1.2.

Amended by R.1985 d.284, effective June 3, 1985.

See: 16 N.J.R. 2962(a), 17 N.J.R. 1432(a).

Deleted original (a)8 and inserted new (a)8 and 9.

Amended by R.1987 d.53, effective January 20, 1987.

See: 18 N.J.R. 1789(a), 19 N.J.R. 233(a).

SUBCHAPTER 1A. BOXING WEIGHTS AND CLASSES

13:46-1A.1 Classes of boxers

(a) Boxers shall be divided into the following classes:

See: 19 N.J.R. 1787(a), 20 N.J.R. 103(b).
Deleted old text and substituted new.

13:46-8.14 Mandatory eight count; stopping a bout

(a) A boxer shall be required to take a full count of eight if:

1. A boxer has been knocked down, even if he has regained his feet prior to or during the count of eight; or
2. A boxer has received a severe and sustained beating without defending himself.

(b) When a boxer receives a count of eight during a boxing contest, the referee or ringside physician may terminate the contest if a boxer appears to be in physical danger. In such cases, the decision of the ringside physician to terminate the contest shall be final.

(c) The referee or the ringside physician may stop a bout to protect a badly beaten boxer. The referee may also stop a contest if he considers it too one-sided. In cases where a boxer sustains a cut or any other injury which the referee feels may incapacitate the boxer, the referee shall immediately call the ringside physician into the ring for examination of the boxer. The referee or ringside physician may terminate the contest if a boxer appears to be in physical danger. In such cases, the decision of the ringside physician to terminate the contest shall be final and shall not be subject to change by any other official.

Amended by R.1984 d.611, effective January 7, 1984.

See: 16 N.J.R. 2241(a), 17 N.J.R. 103(a).

Section substantially amended.

Amended by R.1987 d.122, effective March 2, 1987.

See: 18 N.J.R. 2424(a), 19 N.J.R. 409(c).

Old text in (c) deleted and new text substituted.

Amended by R.1995 d.401, effective July 17, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 1144(a), 27 N.J.R. 1959(a), 27 N.J.R. 2700(a).

13:46-8.15 Failure to answer bell

If any boxer fails to answer the bell after his rest period between rounds, the referee shall declare his opponent the winner by a TKO in the round coming up. The judges shall so indicate on their scorecards.

Amended by R.1985 d.284, effective June 3, 1985.

See: 16 N.J.R. 2962(a), 17 N.J.R. 1432(a).

Deleted "referee" and substituted "judges".

13:46-8.16 Inspection of gloves

The referee shall inspect the gloves and make sure that no foreign substances have been applied to either the gloves or any part of a boxer's head or body to the detriment of an opponent.

13:46-8.17 Knocked down construed

A boxer shall be considered by the referee to be knocked down when any part of his body other than his feet is on the ring floor, or if he is helplessly on the ropes as a result of a legal blow as ruled by the referee.

Amended by R.1985 d.284, effective June 3, 1985.

See: 16 N.J.R. 2962(a), 17 N.J.R. 1432(a).

(a) substantially amended; (b) deleted.

13:46-8.18 Failure to compete

(a) In any case where the referee decides that the contestants are not honestly competing, the bout should be stopped.

(b) A contestant earns nothing and shall not be paid for an exhibition or contest in which there is stalling, faking or dishonesty or collusion or when a contestant severely or deliberately fouls his opponent.

(c) The Commissioner shall determine the merits of any such contest and take whatever action he considers proper including the suspension or revocation of the licenses of any boxer or manager.

(d) In any such case the representative of the Commissioner should order the purse of the offender held up and forwarded to the Commissioner for investigation and action.

(e) The Commissioner shall then proceed under the procedures prescribed in N.J.A.C. 13:46-5.15.

Amended by R.1985 d.284, effective June 3, 1985.

See: 16 N.J.R. 2962(a), 17 N.J.R. 1432(a).

Section substantially amended.

Amended by R.1995 d.400, effective July 17, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 1141(a), 27 N.J.R. 1959(a), 27 N.J.R. 2698(a).

13:46-8.19 Point system scoring

(a) The point system of scoring shall govern the decision and be rendered by three judges.

(b) The judges must mark their scorecards in ink or in indelible pencil at the end of each round, with the winner of a round receiving 10 points in the boxer's column, and the loser receiving nine points or less in his column. Except as permitted by (b)4 below, a round cannot be judged even; 10 points must be awarded to one boxer and nine points or less awarded to the other boxer.

1. If the boxer is just slightly superior to his opponent in a round, 10 points must be scored for such boxer, and the score of nine points must be marked down for his opponent.

2. If a boxer wins a round decisively, 10 points must be scored for such boxer, and the score of eight points must be marked down for his opponent.

3. If a boxer wins a round decisively with a knock-down or knockdowns, 10 points must be scored for such boxer, and the score of seven points must be marked down for his opponent.

4. A round may be judged even with 10 points awarded to each boxer only if: a boxer who suffers a knock-down but for that knockdown would have won the round decisively; or both boxers suffer a knockdown. In all

other circumstances, one boxer must be judged the winner of the round and awarded 10 points with the other boxer awarded 9 points or less. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a tie round as the result of a referee's point deduction pursuant to (c) below.

(c) If the referee penalizes a boxer for a foul during a round;

1. One point shall be deducted by the judges from that boxer's score for that round.

i. At the discretion of the referee, where the foul committed by the boxer is flagrant, repeated, or has the potential to cause injury to his opponent, the referee may order that more than one point be deducted from the boxer's score for that round.

2. The referee shall notify the judges and the announcer of the penalty imposed, and the announcer shall declare it to the public at the end of that round.

(d) At the conclusion of the bout, the decision shall be awarded to the boxer with the greatest number of points on a majority of the judges' scorecards. If the points for each boxer on a majority of the judges' scorecards are even, the decision shall be a draw.

(e) At the conclusion of each round, the judges shall submit their scorecards to the Commissioner or his representative. At the conclusion of the bout, the points shall be tallied by the Commissioner or his representative and given to the announcer who shall announce the decision from the ring.

(f) In all boxing contests, when the decision is announced from the ring, the announcer shall call out the total points credited to each boxer by each judge.

(g) Decisions shall be given in all bouts.

As amended, R.1971 d.171, eff. Sept. 30, 1971.

See: 3 N.J.R. 182(a), 3 N.J.R. 233(a).

Amended by R.1985 d.21, effective February 4, 1985.

See: 16 N.J.R. 1956(a), 17 N.J.R. 314(a).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1986 d.444, effective November 3, 1986.

See: 18 N.J.R. 1515(c), 18 N.J.R. 2211(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1995 d.401, effective July 17, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 1144(a), 27 N.J.R. 1959(a), 27 N.J.R. 2700(a).

Amended by R.1996 d.205, effective May 6, 1996.

See: 27 N.J.R. 4852(a), 28 N.J.R. 2392(c).

In (d) substituted "shall be awarded" for "must be awarded", and provided for a majority of judges' scorecards.

13:46-8.20 (Reserved)

Repealed by R.1984 d.611, effective January 7, 1984.

See: 16 N.J.R. 2241(a), 17 N.J.R. 103(a).

Section was previously "Referee sole judge for stopping bout".

13:46-8.21 Boxer fallen or knocked through ropes; return unassisted

(a) If a contestant has been knocked out or has fallen out of the ring during the contest, the referee shall at once order the other boxer to a neutral corner.

(b) The contestant who has fallen or has been knocked out of the ring must, within 20 seconds, return to the ring unassisted by his seconds. The referee, at his discretion, or guided by the expert judgment of the ringside physician, shall have the contest continue, unless he stops the contest and awards the other boxer the decision by technical knock-out.

As amended, R.1971 d.215, eff. December 1, 1971.

See: 4 N.J.R. 11(b).

Amended by R.1985 d.284, effective June 3, 1985.

See: 16 N.J.R. 2962(a), 17 N.J.R. 1432(a).

Section substantially amended.

13:46-8.22 Referee to forbid fouls

It shall be the referee's duty absolutely to forbid fouls.

Cross References

See Section 5.21 (Fouls) of this Chapter.

13:46-8.23 Low blow foul rule

(a) A contestant may not be awarded a contest on a claim of a low blow foul unless the referee determines that due to the severity and deliberativeness of the low blow foul, the boxer responsible for the low blow foul shall be disqualified. A referee may penalize any contestant who deliberately fouls his opponent during a contest with a loss of points and round.

(b) In the case of a foul when the referee does not determine that the boxer responsible shall be disqualified, the referee 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 the foul, the referee may order the bout to continue after an interval of not more than five minutes.

Amended by R.1985 d.284, effective June 3, 1985.

See: 16 N.J.R. 2962(a), 17 N.J.R. 1432(a).

Old text deleted and new substituted.

13:46-8.24 Referee's report of disregard of rules

(a) A referee shall submit a report of any and all contests which he referees where there has been a disregard of the rules.

(b) The original report must be mailed to the Trenton office of the Commissioner within seven days.

Amended by R.1985 d.284, effective June 3, 1985.

See: 16 N.J.R. 2962(a), 17 N.J.R. 1432(a).

Old (b) deleted and (c) recodified to (b).