

## **CHAPTER 20:81:04**

### **BOXING**

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**20:81:04:01. Applicability of rules.** This chapter applies to all amateur and professional boxing bouts or contests unless specifically exempted.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:02. Compliance with Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 and Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act.** The Commission recognizes and will fully comply with the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 and the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act (15 USC § 6301 et seq.) and any amendments made thereto.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:03. Rounds.** Twelve rounds is the maximum number of rounds for a boxing bout for males and ten rounds is the maximum number of rounds for a boxing bout for females. Each round shall consist of a three minute duration, with a one minute rest period between rounds.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:04. Referee.** The referee is the sole arbiter of a bout and is the only individual authorized to stop a bout.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:05. Judges.** All bouts will be evaluated and scored by three judges.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:06. Scoring system.** The Ten Point Must System is the standard system of scoring a bout.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:07. Knockdowns.** The mandatory eight count after a knockdown is standard procedure in all bouts. A boxer who had been knocked down cannot be saved by the bell in any round.

A referee shall rule a knockdown when, as a result of a legal blow or series of legal blows, a contestant:

- (1) Touches the floor with any part of the body other than the feet;
- (2) Is being held up by the ropes; or
- (3) Is hanging on, through, or over the ropes without the ability to protect himself and cannot fall to the floor.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:08. Mouthpiece required.** All boxers are required to wear a mouthpiece during competition. The round cannot begin without the mouthpiece. If the mouthpiece is dislodged during competition, the referee shall ~~call time and~~ have the mouthpiece replaced at the first opportune moment, without interfering with the immediate action. The referee may deduct points if the mouthpiece is purposely spit out intentionally.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:09. Weight classes.** The classes for contestants participating in a boxing contest or exhibition are as follows:

- |                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) Mini Flyweight      | up to and including 105 pounds |
| (2) Light Flyweight     | over 105 pounds to 108 pounds  |
| (3) Flyweight           | over 108 pounds to 112 pounds  |
| (4) Super Flyweight     | over 112 pounds to 115 pounds  |
| (5) Bantamweight        | over 115 pounds to 118 pounds  |
| (6) Super Bantamweight  | over 118 pounds to 122 pounds  |
| (7) Featherweight       | over 122 pounds to 126 pounds  |
| (8) Super Featherweight | over 126 pounds to 130 pounds  |
| (9) Lightweight         | over 130 pounds to 135 pounds  |
| (10) Super Lightweight  | over 135 pounds to 140 pounds  |
| (11) Welterweight       | over 140 pounds to 147 pounds  |
| (12) Super Welterweight | over 147 pounds to 154 pounds  |
| (13) Middleweight       | over 154 pounds to 160 pounds  |
| (14) Super Middleweight | over 160 pounds to 168 pounds  |
| (15) Light Heavyweight  | over 168 pounds to 175 pounds  |
| (16) Cruiserweight      | over 175 pounds to 200 pounds  |
| (17) Heavyweight        | over 200 pounds.               |

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:10. Gloves.** The glove weights for each weight class are:

- |                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| (1) Mini Flyweight      | 8 ounces  |
| (2) Light Flyweight     | 8 ounces  |
| (3) Flyweight           | 8 ounces  |
| (4) Super Flyweight     | 8 ounces  |
| (5) Bantamweight        | 8 ounces  |
| (6) Super Bantamweight  | 8 ounces  |
| (7) Featherweight       | 8 ounces  |
| (8) Super Featherweight | 8 ounces  |
| (9) Lightweight         | 8 ounces  |
| (10) Super Lightweight  | 8 ounces  |
| (11) Welterweight       | 8 ounces  |
| (12) Super Welterweight | 10 ounces |
| (13) Middleweight       | 10 ounces |
| (14) Super Middleweight | 10 ounces |
| (15) Light Heavyweight  | 10 ounces |
| (16) Cruiserweight      | 10 ounces |
| (17) Heavyweight        | 10 ounces |

If contestants fall into differing weight classes, each contestant shall use the same weight glove.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:11. Weight differentials.** Unless waived in writing and approved by the Commission, the maximum allowed weight differentials by weight class are:

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) Mini Flyweight      | not more than 3 pounds  |
| (2) Light Flyweight     | not more than 3 pounds  |
| (3) Flyweight           | not more than 3 pounds  |
| (4) Super Flyweight     | not more than 3 pounds  |
| (5) Bantamweight        | not more than 3 pounds  |
| (6) Super Bantamweight  | not more than 4 pounds  |
| (7) Featherweight       | not more than 4 pounds  |
| (8) Super Featherweight | not more than 4 pounds  |
| (9) Lightweight         | not more than 4 pounds  |
| (10) Super Lightweight  | not more than 5 pounds  |
| (11) Welterweight       | not more than 7 pounds  |
| (12) Super Welterweight | not more than 7 pounds  |
| (13) Middleweight       | not more than 7 pounds  |
| (14) Super Middleweight | not more than 7 pounds  |
| (15) Light Heavyweight  | not more than 7 pounds  |
| (16) Cruiserweight      | not more than 12 pounds |
| (17) Heavyweight        | no limit                |

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:12. Weigh-ins.** The time and place of the official weigh-in for a contest must be approved by the commission. The Commission may conduct the official weigh-in in a setting closed to the public. Unless otherwise arranged, the contestant must be weighed at least eight hours but not more than thirty hours before the contest. The contestants must be weighed in the presence of ~~the public, the opponent,~~ a representative of the ~~eCommission, and representative of the promoter,~~ on scales approved by the commission. A contestant must be allowed to be present for an opponent's weigh-in. A representative of the commission shall conduct the weigh-in and shall inform all contestants of the process for the weigh-in.

The official weigh-in must take place within a period of two hours. The Commission may allow for an open weigh-in during a specific two-hour period or for a specific time of weigh-in for each fighter during a specific two-hour period. Additional time for a contestant to make weight is determined by the process for the weigh-in period.

Only those contestants who have been approved for the contest may be weighed during the official weigh-in.

A contestant who has contracted at a given weight class may not be permitted to compete if the contestant's weight exceeds that class unless the contract provides for the opposing contestant to agree to a weight differential. Under no circumstances may the weight differential exceed the weight differential allowed for a weight class as provided by § 20:81:04:11.

If any contestant fails to reach the weight limit determined in the applicable category, at the indicated date and time for the official weigh-in, and even if the opposing contestant does not agree with the weight differential, each contestant, or both, ~~shall have~~ has up to two additional hours to make the prescribed weight, provided that weight loss in excess of two pounds is not permitted for

a contestant who weighs less than one hundred forty-five pounds and weight loss in excess of three pounds is not permitted for a contestant who weighs over one hundred forty-five pounds.

If the contestants fail to make weight after the ~~two-hour~~ allowable period, the bout may be cancelled.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014; 42 SDR 101, effective January 7, 2016.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10(1).

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10(1).

**20:81:04:13. Scales.** The scales to be used during the official weigh-in must be available to all contestants at least two hours before the official weigh-in at the place of the official weigh-in. ~~For a title fight, there~~ There must be two scales; one for the official weigh-in and one for the contestants' use. For any title fight, the official scale must be certified and calibrated within the preceding twelve months.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014; 42 SDR 101, effective January 7, 2016.  
**General Authority:** 42-12-10(1).  
**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10(1).

**20:81:04:14. Appearance and attire.** In a boxing bout or contest, each contestant must meet the following appearance and attire requirements:

- (1) Each contestant must be clean and present a tidy appearance;
- (2) The excessive use of grease or any other foreign substance may not be used on the face, hair, or body of the contestant. The referee or Commission designee shall cause any excessive grease or foreign substance to be removed. The Commission, or its designee, shall determine whether head and facial hair present any hazard to the safety of the contestant or opponent or will interfere with the supervision and conduct of the contest. The contestant may not compete in the contest unless the circumstances are corrected to the Commission, or its designee's, satisfaction;
- (3) A contestant may not wear any jewelry or piercing accessories while participating in the contest;
- (4) A male contestant shall wear boxing shorts, an abdominal guard, foul proof cup, and shoes, or other clothing approved by the Commission. A female contestant shall wear boxing shorts, an abdominal guard, foul proof cup, body shirt, and shoes, or other clothing approved by the Commission. Breast protection is optional for female contestants;
- (5) A contestant must use a mouthpiece that has been individually fitted;
- (6) All contestants shall secure their hair in a manner that does not interfere with the vision or safety of either contestant, including no products or ornaments;
- (7) No contestant may use cosmetics, perfumes, colognes, or other fragrances; and
- (8) Male contestants shall wear groin protection.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:15. Bandage and glove requirements.** In a boxing contest, the following bandage and glove requirements apply:

(1) The gloves will be approved at the weigh-in by the Commission, or its designee. The gloves will be examined by the Commission, or its designee, to make sure they are whole, clean, and in sanitary condition. The padding may not be misplaced or lumpy. No breaking, roughing, or twisting of gloves is permitted. Gloves must have the distal portion of the thumb attached to the body of the glove to minimize the possibility of injuring an opponent's eye;

(2) The gloves for every contest that is designated as a main event or title fight must be new, furnished by the promoter, and made to fit the hands of the contestant;

(3) The gloves of each contestant must be put on in the dressing room under the supervision of a Commission designee and examined in the ring by the referee. If a glove is found to be unfit, it must be replaced with a glove that meets the requirements of this section;

(4) The contestants must wear gloves of a weight designated for the weight class;

(5) Hand wraps are restricted to no more than twenty yards of soft gauze, not more than two inches wide. The gauze shall be held in place by no more than eight feet of surgeon's adhesive tape, no more than one and one-half inches wide. The adhesive tape may not cover any part of the knuckles when the hand is closed to make a fist;

(6) The use of water or any other liquid or material on the tape is prohibited; and

(7) Bandages must be applied and adjusted in the presence of the Commission's designee.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:16. Standing eight count not in effect.** There is no standing eight count in effect.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:17. Three knockdown rule not in effect.** There is no three knockdown rule in effect.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:18. Boxer out of the ring.** A boxer shall receive a twenty second count if the boxer is knocked out of the ring and onto the floor. The boxer shall receive a ten second count if the boxer is knocked out of the ring onto the apron. The boxer is to be unassisted by spectators or seconds. If assisted by anyone, the boxer may lose points or be disqualified, with such a decision being the sole discretion of the referee.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.  
**General Authority:** 42-12-10.  
**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:19. Technical knockout.** If a boxer sustains an injury from a fair blow and the injury is severe enough to terminate the bout, the injured boxer shall lose by technical knockout.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:20. Fouls.** Fouls by a contestant include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Hitting an opponent below the navel or behind the ear;
- (2) Hitting an opponent who is knocked down;
- (3) Holding an opponent with one hand while hitting with the other hand;
- (4) Holding or deliberately maintaining a clinch;
- (5) Wrestling, kicking, or roughing;
- (6) Pushing an opponent about the ring or into the ropes;
- (7) Butting with the head, shoulder, knee, or elbow;
- (8) Hitting with the open glove, the butt or inside of the hand, or back of the hand, the elbow or the wrist;
- (9) Purposefully falling down on the canvas of the ring without being hit or for the purpose of avoiding a blow;
- (10) Striking deliberately at that part of the body over the kidneys;
- (11) Using the pivot blow (pivoting while throwing a punch) or the rabbit punch (punches thrown to the back of the head and neck areas);
- (12) Jabbing an opponent's eyes with the thumb of the glove;
- (13) Use of abusive language;
- (14) Unsportsmanlike conduct causing injury to an opponent that does not meet the standard of a fair blow;
- (15) Hitting on the break;
- (16) Intentionally spitting out the mouthpiece;
- (17) Hitting on or out of the ropes;
- (18) Holding the ropes and hitting;

- (19) Biting or spitting;
- (20) Not following referee's instructions;
- (21) Stepping on an opponent;
- (22) Crouching below the opponent's belt;
- (23) Leaving neutral corner; and
- (24) Conduct of the contestant's second(s).

Fouls shall be called by the referee and announced to the judges for appropriate deductions.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:21. Injuries sustained by intentional fouls.** The following actions shall be taken in the event of an intentional foul:

(1) If an intentional foul causes an injury and the injury is severe enough to terminate the bout immediately, the referee shall disqualify the boxer causing the injury;

(2) If an intentional foul causes an injury and the bout is allowed to continue, the referee shall notify the judges and deduct two points from the boxer who caused the foul. Point deductions for intentional fouls are mandatory;

(3) If an intentional foul causes an injury and the injury results in the bout being stopped in a later round, the injured boxer wins by technical decision if the injured boxer is ahead on the score cards. The bout will be a technical draw if the injured boxer is behind or even on the scorecards when the bout is stopped.

(4) If a boxer injures himself while attempting to intentionally foul an opponent, the referee will not take any action in his favor and his injury shall be the same as one produced by a fair blow; or

(5) If a referee determines a boxer has acted in an unsportsmanlike manner, the referee may stop the bout and disqualify the boxer.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:22. Injuries sustained by accidental fouls.** The following actions shall be taken in the event of an accidental foul:

(1) If an accidental foul causes an injury severe enough for the referee to stop the bout immediately, the bout will result in no decision if the bout is stopped before one-half of the scheduled rounds are completed. Rounds are complete when the bell rings signifying the end of the round; or

(2) If an accidental foul causes an injury severe enough for the referee to stop the bout after more than one-half of the scheduled rounds are completed, the bout will result in a technical decision for the boxer ahead on the scorecards at the time the bout is stopped. Partial or incomplete rounds will be scored at the discretion of the judges, with rounds in which no action took place being scored as even rounds.

A boxer hit with an accidental low blow must continue after a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed five minutes. If a boxer hit with an accidental low blow cannot continue after five minutes, the boxer shall lose the bout.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:23. Results of contest.** A boxing contest may end under the following results:

- (1) Knockout, which occurs when the contestant is no longer physically able to continue;
- (2) Technical knockout, which occurs when:
  - (a) The referee stops the bout because the contestant can no longer defend himself or herself;
  - (b) The physician advises the referee to stop the bout; or
  - (c) An injury as a result of a legal maneuver is severe enough to terminate the bout;
- (3) A decision via the scorecards, including:
  - (a) Unanimous decision in which all three judges score the bout for the same contestant;
  - (b) Split decision in which two of the three judges score the bout for one contestant and the other judge scores the bout for the other contestant;
  - (c) Majority decision in which two judges score the bout for the same contestant and one judge scores the bout a draw;
  - (d) A draw, including:
    - (i) A unanimous draw in which all these judges score the bout a draw;
    - (ii) A majority draw in which two judges score the bout a draw; or
    - (iii) A split draw in which all three judges score the bout differently and the score total results in a draw;
- (4) A technical decision in which the bout is stopped prematurely due to an injury and a contestant is leading on the scorecards;
- (5) A technical draw in which an injury sustained during the competition as a result of an accidental foul causes the injured contestant to be unable to continue and the sufficient number of rounds has been completed with the results of the scorecards being a draw;

(6) A disqualification in which an injury is sustained during the competition as a result of an intentional foul severe enough to terminate the bout;

(7) A forfeit in which a contestant fails to begin the competition or prematurely ends the contest for reasons other than injury; or

(8) A no contest in which a contest is prematurely stopped due to an accidental injury and a sufficient number of rounds have not been completed to render a decision via the scorecards.

The Commission may on its own initiative review or investigate any bout or contest to determine compliance with South Dakota law pursuant to 20:81:10. ~~If the Commission determines the bout or contest failed to abide by SDCL chapter 42-12 or any rule promulgated pursuant thereto, the Commission may officially amend the results of the decision, which may include declaring a different contestant as the winner or loser of the bout or declaring the bout a no contest. If the Commission determines an official acted in error or reached a decision that was not in accordance with SDCL chapter 42-12 or any rule promulgated thereto, the Commission may similarly amend the results of the decision if such error or decision affected, or could have reasonably affected, the outcome of the bout.~~

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:24. Use and administration of drugs, stimulants, or nonprescription preparations.** The use or administration of drugs, stimulants, or nonprescription preparations taken by or given to a contestant, other than the following is prohibited:

- (1) Petroleum jelly for discretionary use around the eyes;
- (2) Adrenalin or epinephrine in a manufacturer's premeasured vial in a 1/1000 solution; and
- (3) Coagulant limited to avitene, thrombin, thrombinplastin, fibroplastic, or jellfoam powder.

All substances must be clearly labeled and available for inspection by the Commission.

If a contestant tests positive for an illegal or unauthorized substance, the Commission shall amend the results of the bout to a no contest decision if the offending contestant won the bout. If the substance is a controlled substance as defined by SDCL 22-42-1 subdivision (1) or a counterfeit substance as defined by SDCL 22-42-1 subdivision (2) the Commission shall provide a copy of the laboratory report and any Commission investigative reports in the matter to an appropriate law enforcement agency.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:25. Ring requirements.** The ring for a contest shall meet the following requirements:

(1) The ring for a contest may not be less than sixteen feet or more than twenty-two feet square with ropes and must be elevated three and one-half feet off the floor. The promoter shall provide suitable steps for the use of contestants;

(2) The ring posts must be constructed of metal not more than four inches in diameter. The posts shall extend from the floor to a height of fifty-eight inches above the ring floor and shall be fastened securely to the floor or to the other posts;

(3) The ropes must be a minimum of three in number, extending in a triple line eighteen inches, thirty-five inches, and fifty-two inches from the floor of the ring and be at least one inch in diameter and wrapped in soft materials. The ropes may not be closer than eighteen inches to the ring posts. If four ropes are used, the ropes must be proportionately spaced;

(4) The ring floor must extend beyond the lower rope for a distance of not less than eighteen inches;

(5) The entire floor of the ring must be padded to the thickness of at least one inch with felt, corrugated paper, matting, or other soft materials approved by the Commission. A canvas covering stretched tightly and laced to the ring platform must cover the padding materials; and

(6) The promoter must provide a suitable bell.

The ring must be assembled to provide ringside seating for assigned officials and the Commission at least fifteen feet from any ticketholders for the event. The space must be demarcated by a barrier to allow ringside officials and the Commission access to the entire space around the ring without interference from ticketholders.

The ring must be assembled and available for inspection by the Commission at least six hours prior to the first scheduled bout.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:26. Automatic suspensions following contests.** Boxers, under any circumstance, may not compete or appear in a contest for up to ninety days after being unable to defend themselves in a bout. Boxers knocked out in a bout may be suspended indefinitely, subject to medical clearance to compete.

Boxers, under any circumstances, may not compete or appear in a contest less than seven days after the completion of the contestant's last bout.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:27. Amateur contests -- Requirements and rules.** For all bouts or contests under the jurisdiction of the Commission, in which an amateur contestant competes, the USA Boxing Rules of Competition apply. The Commission has final decision-making authority concerning the enforcement, implementation, and interpretation of these rules and regulations.

**Source:** 41 SDR 7, effective July 28, 2014.

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.

**20:81:04:28. Ringside equipment.** The promoter shall provide the following items which must be available for use as needed by the corner:

- (1) Two buckets;
- (2) Chairs and stools;
- (3) Rubber gloves;
- (4) Towels; and
- (5) Receptacles for soiled towels and trash.

The promoter must designate the corner for each contestant's team and provide a chair for each corner and an assigned inspector to be seated in the corner area.

**Source:**

**General Authority:** 42-12-10(1).

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10(1).

**20:81:04:29. Conduct of contests.** A boxing contest is subject to the following:

(1) A boxing contest may not be less than ~~twenty~~ eighteen rounds or more than sixty rounds of boxing competition on any one program boxing program.

(2) At each regulated contest, there must be in attendance a licensed referee who shall direct and control the contest;

(3) At each regulated contest, there must be in attendance three licensed judges who shall at the termination of each boxing bout render a decision;

(4) At each regulated contest, there must be in attendance a licensed timekeeper who shall keep the official time of each bout; and

(5) At each regulated contest, the Commission shall act as the official scorekeeper for each bout.

**Source:**

**General Authority:** 42-12-10.

**Law Implemented:** 42-12-10.