

CHAPTER 30. No. 11.

BOXING CONTROL.

Ordinance No. 21—1933. AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE HOLDING OF BOXING CONTESTS.

Commencement. [1st January, 1934.]

Short title. 1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Boxing Control Ordinance.

Establishment of Board of Control. 2. (1) For the purposes of this Ordinance there shall be established a Trinidad Boxing Board of Control (in this Ordinance referred to as "the Board") which shall consist of a Chairman and four other members, to be appointed from time to time by the Governor in Council.

(2) The Chairman shall have a casting as well as a deliberative vote.

(3) Three members of the Board shall constitute the quorum necessary to constitute a meeting and may exercise all or any powers conferred upon the Board by this Ordinance or any regulations made thereunder.

Disqualification of members of the Board. 3. (1) No member of the Board shall be interested in the administration or executive of any promoting body of professional boxing.

(2) No member of the Board shall be interested in any promoter or receive payment of any kind from such promoter or promoting bodies.

(3) Any member of the Board disregarding the provisions of this section shall *ipso facto* cease to be a member of the Board.

4. Subject to any regulations made under this Ordinance the Board may appoint such officers and employ and pay such persons and take such other steps as it thinks necessary and expedient for properly carrying out its duties.

Board may appoint officers and employ and pay other persons.

5. (1) No person shall hold, assist in holding, or take any part whatsoever in any boxing contest, whether held for prizes or otherwise, unless a permit in writing has been first obtained from the Board authorising the holding of such contest.

Boxing contests forbidden except with the permission of the Board.

(2) The Board may refuse to issue such permit at its discretion and without assigning any reason or may attach any conditions it thinks fit as to the holding of any boxing contest or may cancel any permit after issue.

6. The members of the Board and any officer or member of the Police Force detailed for the purpose shall at all times have free access to any place in which any boxing contest is being or is about to be held.

Free access.

7. (1) The Board may prescribe the rules for boxing and may from time to time amend or revoke any such rules, and with the approval of the Governor in Council may make regulations as to all or any of the following matters:—

Power of Board to make regulations.

(a) the registration and licensing and the revocation or suspension of licences of—

(i) promoters of professional boxing contests;

(ii) professional boxers;

(iii) professional seconds;

(iv) referees, judges and time keepers;

(v) premises in which boxing contests may be held;

(b) the information to be supplied to the Board in respect of proposed boxing contests;

(c) the provision of medical certificates by contestants;

(d) the submission of articles of agreement signed by contestants;

(e) the provision or deposit of prizes or prize money;

(f) the forms of licences, permits, articles of agreement and any other documents to be furnished by or to the Board;

(g) the fees to be charged for any licence or permit and the accounts to be kept by the Board; and

(h) generally for carrying any of the purposes or provisions of this Ordinance into effect:

Provided that until varied or revoked by any such rules or regulations the rules and regulations contained in the Schedule to this Ordinance shall be in force.

(2) All regulations when so approved by the Governor in Council shall be published in the *Royal Gazette* and shall come into operation on the date of such publication. Any amendment to or revocation of the rules for boxing made by the Board shall be published in such manner as the Board may determine.

Offences and penalties.

8. Any person who—

(a) without being duly licensed in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance and any regulations made thereunder, holds, assists in holding, or takes part in any boxing contest,

(b) holds, assists in holding, or takes any part in, a boxing contest unless it be held under and in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance and any regulations made thereunder,

(c) refuses to grant to any officer or member of the Police Force free access as hereinbefore provided to any premises in which any boxing contest is being, or is about, to be held, or obstructs any officer or member of the Police Force in the course of his duty under this Ordinance,

shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of one hundred and twenty dollars or to imprisonment for three months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Saving.

9. The Board may by permit in writing either generally or in respect of any specific contest exempt any scholastic institution or any amateur athletic or any other organized association or body from all or any of the provisions of this Ordinance or any regulations made thereunder and may in its discretion revoke any such permit.

SCHEDULE.

PART I.

1. These regulations may be cited as the Boxing Regulations.
2. In these regulations "the Board" means the Trinidad Boxing Board of Control.
3. (1) The Board shall register and issue licences annually in respect of all premises approved by the Board for the holding of boxing contests and to all approved
 - (a) promoters of professional boxing contests;
 - (b) professional boxers;
 - (c) referees, judges and timekeepers.(2) Every licence so issued shall expire on the 31st of December following the date of issue unless previously revoked.
(3) The fees payable to the Board in respect of such licences shall be \$2.40 in respect of a promoter's licence and \$1.20 in respect of any other licence.
4. Applicants for referees' and judges' licences may be required to pass a test or otherwise satisfy the Board as to their qualifications for being so licensed.
5. No boxer's licence shall be issued to any applicant who is under 17 years of age.
6. Applicants for licences shall supply such information as may be required by the Board in respect of their qualifications for being licensed.
7. The Board may in its discretion and without assigning any reason therefor refuse to issue any licence or revoke or suspend any licence after its issue.
8. (1) Every application for a permit to hold a boxing contest shall be made in writing to the Board not less than 14 days prior to the proposed date for the holding of the contest and shall be accompanied by the following information:—
 - (a) the date and place of the boxing contest;
 - (b) the contest proposed and the names of the contestants;
 - (c) the names of the referees and judges for each contest;
 - (d) details of and the arrangements made as to prize money;
 - (e) any other information that the Board may require.(2) Articles of agreement signed by contestants must be submitted to the Board with the application for the permit.

9. The following fees shall be paid to the Board prior to the issue of any permit for the holding of a boxing contest:—

(a) for any contest including a championship—\$9.60;

(b) for any contest not including a championship—\$4.80:

Provided that the Board may remit any fees payable in respect of boxing contests held in aid of any charitable objects.

10. The Board may call upon any contestant to be examined in order to satisfy itself as to the fitness of the contestant.

11. All contestants must be medically examined to the satisfaction of the Board within three days of the date of the proposed contest.

12. The permit of the Board shall be in writing addressed to the promoter of the boxing contest and shall be signed by the Chairman of the Board or in his absence by two members of the Board and such permit shall specify the conditions under which the contest may take place.

13. The Board at its discretion may require a deposit of a sum of money or an approved guarantee for payment of such sum sufficient to cover the estimated amount of the prizes and any other commitments in connection with the holding of a boxing contest for which a permit is required.

14. All programmes and advertisements of boxing contests shall include the words "By permission of the Trinidad Boxing Board of Control."

15. All boxing contests shall be held under the Rules of Boxing prescribed for the time being by the Board.

16. The Board shall keep proper accounts of all fees and other moneys received by the Board which accounts shall be audited annually by the Government Auditor and a summary of the accounts so audited shall be published in the *Royal Gazette*.

17. The funds of the Board may be applied as follows:—

(a) in payment of the salaries and wages of the secretary and other clerks and servants for the time being of the Board;

(b) in defraying all expenses of or connected with the printing, publication, sale and distribution of the publications of the Board;

(c) in payment of the current expenses and other disbursements of the Board in the conduct of the business of the Board or in relation thereto;

(d) in providing championship cups or medals or other prizes for boxing contests;

(e) in making grants or donations to any amateur boxing association or in furtherance of professional boxing, or to such charitable objects as it may deem fit.

18. The Board shall keep a register of all permits and licences issued by the Board and shall enter or cause to be entered therein such details as may be determined by the Board,

19. The promoter of any boxing contest shall within 7 days of the holding of such contest make a return to the Board of the results of such contest in such form as the Board may determine.

20. If any contestant is disqualified the referee shall report such disqualification and the reasons therefor to the Board within 24 hours of the contest taking place.

21. (1) In the event of a contestant being disqualified he shall only be entitled to receive his bare travelling expenses, and any prize money that such contestant may be entitled to shall be withheld pending the decision of the Board.

(2) The Board may, after inquiry, order the forfeiture of such prize money and may at its discretion award any prize money so forfeited between the promoter (if his claim is found reasonable and correct), the manager, the trainer and sparring partner or partners of the contestant so disqualified, in such shares as the Board shall think fit.

22. (1) The Board may, upon complaint or upon its own initiative, invite any licence holder to appear before it in reference to any alleged misconduct on the part of such licence holder or otherwise. Misconduct in this connection will include amongst other things, conduct detrimental to the interests of the public.

(2) In the event of any licence holder, either after being heard, or if he declines to appear, in his absence, being adjudged guilty of misconduct or in the event of any other licence holder failing to appear before the Board upon being invited so to do, the Board may revoke or suspend the licence of any such licence holder for such period and between such dates as the Board may think fit.

23. No intoxicating liquor of any description shall be sold for consumption on any premises during the progress of any boxing contest which may be held thereon.

24. No betting shall take place during the progress of any boxing contest and any member of the Board may request the removal of any person offending in this manner and his request must be complied with by the promoter of the contest.

PART II.

THE TRINIDAD BOXING BOARD OF CONTROL.

Rules of Boxing.

SECTION 1.—EQUIPMENT.

1. *The Ring.*—All boxing contests shall be decided in an area termed "the ring," measuring not less than 14 feet nor more than 20 feet square,

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inside measurement. The ring floor must not be more than four feet above the floor level of the venue and suitable steps giving access to the ring must be provided. Three ropes, drawn as taut as possible of not less than one inch in diameter each and covered in soft material shall surround the ring. The top rope shall be placed 52 inches, the middle rope 35 inches, and the bottom rope 17 inches above the ring floor. At each of the four corners of the ring the ring ropes shall be connected by loops of other rope or other suitable fastenings to a post placed 18 inches outside the ring ropes. Such corner posts shall be properly secured and suitably padded throughout. The ring floor, which shall project at least two feet beyond the ring ropes shall be well covered to within six inches of its outer edges with canvas, duck or similar material, tightly stretched and securely fastened and extended beyond the ring ropes for a distance of 18 inches.

2. *Accessories.*—The promoter of any contest shall provide a sufficient number or quantity of chairs, buckets, bottles, gloves, spittoons, sponges, small tables, facilities for the announcement of rounds by means of numbers visible throughout the venue, scoring tablets for the use of referees and judges, powdered resin, clean water, a gong or electric bell which must be securely adjusted on a level with the ring floor, and some suitable means for (a) the sounding or signalling by the timekeeper of seconds of time in case of a contestant being "Down," (b) announcements by the M.C.

3. *Gloves and Bandages.*—Each glove shall not be less than six ounces in weight. Contestants may use bandages of soft cloth of not more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width and the length of each hand's bandage shall not exceed six feet. Bandages may be held in position by thin, adhesive tape, not more than two feet long by one inch wide for each hand. Gloves and bandages shall be adjusted by the seconds to the satisfaction of the referee.

SECTION 2.—CONTESTANTS: COSTUME, CONDITION, WEIGHING.

4. *Costume and Inspection.*—Contestants must box in light, heelless, spikeless boots or shoes or in socks and loose-fitting, dark-trunk-drawers, secured at the hips and with the bottom hems thereof reaching at least half-way between the knees and thighs. Tights are prohibited. A "Protector Cup or Shield," may be worn. (The medical officer shall, at the same time, satisfy himself with regard to the character of any markings visible in that region.) Shields for the gums may be worn also but not ear-guards or any other protection. The use of grease or other substance likely to handicap an opponent is prohibited also.

Weighing.—Contestants shall weigh in on the day of the contest at 10 a.m. for an afternoon tournament and at 2 p.m. for an evening tournament, unless, with the approval of the Board, another time is mutually agreed upon by the contestants.

SECTION 3.—DURATION AND NUMBER OF ROUNDS.

5. In all contests the number of rounds shall be specified and no contest shall exceed fifteen rounds and no round shall exceed three minutes in duration. There shall be an interval of one minute between each round. All championship contests shall be of fifteen rounds of three minutes each. Time occupied by stoppages ordered by the referee during the progress of a round shall not count as part of the time of such round.

SECTION 4.—OFFICIALS AND THEIR DUTIES.

6. At any contest the following officials shall act:—

- A referee;
- Two judges;
- A timekeeper;
- An M.C. or announcer;
- Seconds.

None of whom shall be personally pecuniarily interested in the contest whether as promoter or otherwise. This proviso shall, however, not debar any person from officiating at a contest merely because he happens to be a member of a club promoting the contest, provided that such club is approved of by the Board as a purely sporting club, nor shall this proviso apply to seconds.

The duties of these officials shall be as follows:—

Referee.

He shall be the chief official during a contest and shall take his position in or near the ring and shall exercise general supervision over a contest. He alone shall inform the M.C. what verdict to announce and his decision shall be final.

Prior to the start of a contest he shall—

- (a) ascertain the names of each contestant's chief second and hold them responsible for the conduct of their assistants during a contest and for the proper tying-on of the gloves;
- (b) see that the terms of clause 3 of Section 1, and clause 4 of Section 2, of these rules are observed;

During a contest he shall—

- (c) keep an independent score of each round and at the end of a contest give a decision if the judges disagree;
- (d) order whenever necessary, by the command "Stop," a cessation of boxing during a round and thereafter order, by the command "Box-on," a resumption of boxing. He shall see that during such stoppage the

contestant or contestants standing in the ring do so without any support whatsoever;

(e) order, by the command "Break," the contestants to separate when in a "clinch" and, at his discretion, to separate them himself should they fail to obey promptly;

(f) regard as an acknowledgment of defeat a contestant's inability to resume boxing at the timekeeper's signal;

(g) stop a contest and order the retirement of a second for the remainder of a contest in the event of that second's misbehaviour;

(h) stop a contest if he considers it to be one-sided and award the decision to the better man;

(i) stop a contest if a contestant is accidentally disabled or is unable to defend himself and award the decision to his opponent;

(j) stop a contest in the event of a contestant being "Down" and, immediately start announcing audibly the number of each second of time as it passes. He shall count up to ten seconds and indicate the end of the contest by the word "Out" and award the decision to the opponent if by that time the "Down" contestant has not arisen;

(k) stop a contest for the commission by a contestant of any one of the acts hereinunder classed as a "Class B Foul" and warn such contestant that further commissions of such foul would result in disqualification and the decision being given to his opponent;

(l) stop a contest and disqualify without warning a contestant who commits any one of the acts hereinunder classed as a "Class A Foul," and award the decision to his opponent;

(m) stop a contest if he considers the contestants are not in earnest, in which case he must disqualify one or both of them;

(n) decide (1) the interpretation of any one of these rules or all of them, and (2) any questions not provided for in these rules. (The Board shall, however, decide these matters at all other times.)

After a contest he shall—

(o) send immediately to the Board his own and the judge's scoring tablets;

(p) report in writing to the Board within 48 hours of their happening all cases of disqualification under clauses (l) and (m) above as well as any case of a contestant retiring from a contest without sufficient cause, all three of which acts render contestants found guilty thereof liable to forfeiture of their prize money.

Judges.

The judges shall be stationed on two sides of the ring opposite each other apart from the referee or timekeeper. Independently they shall assign marks to the contestants and be ready at all times to assist when requested by the referee to decide whether any foul has been committed. They may

also bring any other point to the notice of the referee at the end of any round. At the end of a contest that lasts the scheduled number of rounds they shall hand their scoring tablets to the referee.

Timekeeper.

He must be seated at the side of the ring close to the gong or electric bell. He shall provide himself with a suitable stop-watch or clock which shall permit of his making due allowances for stoppages ordered by the referee. He shall indicate the beginning and end of a round by sounding the gong or bell. Five seconds before the beginning of a round he shall call "Seconds Out" and the number of the round.

M.C. or Announcer.

He shall announce in a satisfactory manner (preferably by microphone) the names of boxers; their weights; the title at stake, if any; the number and duration of the rounds; the names of the referee, judges, timekeeper. He shall announce the decision when authorised by the referee to do so. At the request of the promoter and/or the referee he shall make any other announcements.

Seconds.

Each contestant shall be permitted to have not more than three seconds in his corner in a contest of 10 rounds or more, nor more than two seconds, in a contest of less than 10 rounds and all seconds must be suitably attired. A chief second must be nominated to the referee by each contestant and such chief second alone of the seconds can declare the retirement of his principal by throwing a towel into the ring and orally drawing the referee's attention to the fact. Seconds shall not coach principals during the progress of rounds and they must remain seated and silent. They shall not throw, spout nor spray water or other substance on a principal nor in any other way assist him during a round. They shall leave the ring enclosure at the timekeeper's call and they shall remove all obstructions such as chairs, buckets, etc., the instant the sound signal indicates the beginning of a round and none of these articles shall be placed on the ring floor again until the gong or bell signals the end of the round.

SECTION 5.—MARKING.

7. At the end of each round of a contest marks to the maximum number of five shall be awarded to the better man and a proportionate number of marks to the other contestant or, when equal, the maximum number to each. Halves or other fractions shall not be used in marking. At the conclusion of a contest if the total marks awarded the contestants by the referee and/or by a judge or judges are equal such official or officials may award an additional

mark to the contestant who does the most leading, or if equal also in this respect, to the one who displays the better style.

Marks shall be awarded for:—

(a) *Attack*.—Direct, clean hits with the knuckle part of either gloved hand on any part of the front or sides of the head or body above the “belt,” and for conspicuous endeavours to sustain action by leading repeatedly and by general aggressiveness.

(b) *Defence*.—“Guarding,” “slipping,” “ducking,” “blocking,” and in general cleverly evading blows and for “countering.” Marks given for defence shall not outweigh those given for attack.

(c) *Conduct*.—Displays of courage; refusing to take a mean technical advantage; ability to take advantage of every legitimate opportunity offered; style; generalship.

Marks shall not be awarded for:—

(a) Tapping.

(b) Hits with the knuckle part of the gloved hand at the back of the head, neck or body.

Marks shall be deducted for:—

Lack of initiative and general ineffectiveness, persistent clinching, fouling though not serious enough to warrant disqualification.

SECTION 6.—DECISIONS.

8. At the conclusion of a contest that goes the full scheduled number of rounds the winner shall be determined by the higher total number of marks and not by the greater number of rounds won. When judges' decisions agree in a contest that goes the full number of rounds scheduled the referee shall authorise the M.C. to announce their verdict. When the judges' decisions do not agree the referee shall give his decision and if two of the three decisions shall then agree the result shall be so announced. When all three decisions disagree the result shall be announced as a “draw.” In contests that do not go the full number of rounds scheduled the referee only shall give a decision.

SECTION 7.—FOULS.

9. The following acts are deemed foul and the referee shall have power to disqualify contestants for committing any one of them :—

Class A. (Without Warning.)

(a) Hitting below the “belt.”

(b) Hitting an opponent who is “down” or who is getting up after having been “down.”

- (c) Hitting with the inside of butt of the hand, the wrist or the elbow.
- (d) Butting with the head.
- (e) Use of the "kidney-punch."
- (f) Use of the knee.
- (g) Use of the "pivot-blow."
- (h) Use of the "rabbit-punch."
- (i) Purposely going "down" without having been hit.
- (j) Not trying or not being in earnest.
- (k) Retiring from a contest without sufficient cause.
- (l) Committing any unfair physical action which may injure an opponent.
- (m) Refusal to obey the referee in general.

Class B. (After Warning.)

- (n) Hitting or "flicking" with the open glove.
- (o) Holding an opponent.
- (p) Holding an opponent with one hand and hitting with the other.
- (q) Holding the ropes with one hand for the purpose of obtaining greater power when hitting an opponent.
- (r) Boring or lying-on an opponent.
- (s) Wrestling or roughing at the ropes.
- (t) Not breaking promptly when ordered to do so.
- (u) Resting on the ropes during a stoppage.
- (v) Resuming or attempting to resume boxing after a stoppage without being ordered to do so.
- (w) Use of profane, obscene or abusive language.

SECTION 8.—DEFINITIONS AND NOTES.

10. (a) "Stop" and "Box on."—Excepting only when the referee has given the order "Stop" contestants must protect themselves at all times whilst in the ring and on their feet, but they shall not resume boxing after a stoppage ("breaking" excluded) without the order "Box on."

(b) "Break."—Contestants when ordered by the referee to "Break" must break contact to the satisfaction of the referee, and be on the defensive while doing so. Having moved in this manner a contestant may immediately resume boxing without being told to do so by the referee.

(c) "Clinch."—A "clinch" is a locking-together of the contestants for which both are responsible.

(d) "Down."—A contestant shall be deemed "down" when—

- (a) any part of his body other than his feet is on the ring floor;
- (b) hanging over the ropes in a helpless condition.

Notes.—A contestant hanging over the ropes in a helpless condition is not officially "Down" until so pronounced by the referee, who can count the boxer out either on the ropes or on the floor.

Should a contestant arise fully but be unable to defend himself the contest shall be stopped and the decision given to the opponent.

Should a contestant who is "Down" arise before the count of ten seconds of time be reached and then at once go "Down" again without being struck, the referee shall resume the count where it left off provided that in his opinion such going down is the aftermath of the original knock-down blow and that the contestant's action does not warrant disqualification.

A contestant sent "Down" by a blow may remain "Down" until nine seconds of time have been counted without being disqualified but after an accidental fall he must rise instantly failing which the referee may stop the contest and award the decision to the opponent.

(e) "Counting Out."—The order "Stop" shall precede the beginning of any count. When counting the referee shall move either one of his arms in unison with his count. Immediately a contestant is "Down" the opponent shall retire to the corner farthest from the man who is "Down," and should he fail to do so, or having done so come out of that corner during the count, the referee shall suspend his count until the opponent returns to that corner, when the referee shall resume the count where it left off. A contestant counted "Out" shall be the loser of the contest irrespective of the number of marks awarded up to that time.

(f) "Double Knock-out."—In the event of a double knock-out the referee shall declare the contest to be a "Draw."

(g) "Tapping."—Direct, light blows are not regarded as "tapping" but a succession of taps, usually employed at close quarters, which have no effect upon an opponent are to be considered as such.

(h) "Back-hand Blow."—A "back-hand blow" is not a foul when it is delivered with the knuckle part of the gloved hand.

(i) "Holding."—Holding may be done with one or both hands and is the act of one of the contestants. Whilst it is not permissible for a contestant to hold an opponent with one hand and hit with the other, yet it is permissible for the opponent if he be so held and has one hand free, to hit with his free hand.

(j) "Hitting Below the Belt."—Hitting below the "belt" is hitting below an imaginary line drawn across the abdomen at the level of the tops of the front edges of the hip bones.

Note.—This includes the groins.

(k) "Kidney-Punch."—The "kidney-punch" is a blow delivered deliberately at that part of the body over the kidneys. The referee will not protect a contestant who, in his opinion, deliberately exposes the body to such blows.

(l) "Pivot-Blow."—A "pivot-blow" is made when a boxer pivots round on one foot swinging his arm with him and as he completes his revolution delivers a blow of any kind.

(m) "Rabbit-Punch"—The "rabbit-punch" is a downward chop on the back of the neck with the side of the glove or hand.