



## SCORING: USING A 10 POINT SYSTEM

A skilled judge establishes a method of determining when a point has been scored. One method employed by many of the best judges is the effective use of BOXING ZONES.

The zones are established by splitting the upper torso of the boxer with an imaginary line, down through the head and shoulders to the waistline. The zone is broken down into three parts: the head, the body and the arms.

**HEAD:** From the top of the head, splitting the ears. The description of the head is quite simple, with the only complication arising if the fighter turns their head so that the blow is struck behind the ear or on the top of the head. This is where the consideration of the judges comes into effect.

**BODY:** On scoring body punches, judges should mentally take away the arms and run an imaginary line from the shoulders, down to the side, to the top of the hip line. Any blow struck within this area should be considered a legal and scoring blow.

**ARMS:** Most often the arms are considered to be defensive mechanism. Punches landed directly to the arms should not be considered scoring punches unless they are high up on the arms. To be considered scoring punches, they should be near the shoulders, or on the front of the shoulders.

It should be noted that there are situations where one boxer does nothing but cover up. This again should be a judgement factor and considered in scoring the punches. There are situations where a boxer will intend to do harm to their opponent by striking the arms instead of the body. This should be closely observed and given consideration by the judge.

### FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

There are four basic factors that should be considered when scoring a boxing contest. If these factors are observed objectively, the scoring of the bout will for the most part be consistent. The factors are as follows:

**CLEAN and EFFECTIVE PUNCHING:** Simply put, fights are won by clean and effective punches landing. Not all punches are created equally. The effect of the punch is very important. Hard punches are certainly considered, as are the number of the punches. There is no mathematical formula that equates the hard punches with lighter punches, but judges must be fair to take both into account. Also, good, solid body punches must be considered when judging a bout. Judges should not concentrate on head shots and force the use of effective body work.



**EFFECTIVE AGGRESSIVENESS:** This is the boxer that is taking the fight to their opponent. Usually, one boxer will force the action (being aggressive and getting positive results from the aggression). This is the boxer that should be awarded points for this aggressiveness. But note that if this aggressive boxer is being beat to the punch (counterpunch) this is not effective aggressiveness. The key is which boxer is getting off first and landing the cleaner more effective punches.

**RING GENERALSHIP/RING CONTROL:** This is the thinking boxer. The boxer who, while punching or using clever footwork or moves, can keep their opponent off balance. This is the boxer that has controlled the action, the boxer who, by using feints or slips makes their opponent not only miss but then is able to put themselves in an offensive position. This is a fighter that puts him/herself in a position to score and not be scored upon. Running and simply avoiding action should not be rewarded.

**DEFENSE:** This is a display of boxing skills – basically punching while not being punched. The clever boxer can make all the classical moves, slip a punch, counter, fifth off the ropes and manage to keep his opponent off balance.

\*Remember good defense is not holding or clinching to avoid contact.

## **CALCULATING THE SCORE**

At all times during the fight, the judge should have a mathematical score in mind as to who is winning the round. This becomes particularly significant when a bout is stopped due to a foul or infraction and you now must score the round. Under the Unified Rules, partial rounds are scored if four rounds or more have been completed. In a 10 POINT system, the winner of the round gets 10 points, and the loser of the round gets 9 points or less.

Although no two rounds are exactly alike, the action obviously varies – a good judge will be able to score rounds in an exact manner. This will lead to consistency in your scoring. Also be cautious of close rounds. If one fighter wins all the rounds by the slimmest of margins, your championship score could read 120-108. Do not award rounds just to make your scorecard closer in a close fight unless the fighter deserves it.

The following is a good rule of thumb:

10/9 – One boxer routinely won the round.

10/8 – One knockdown (see language below) or one boxer wins the round in an extremely decisive manner, including hurting their opponent. This is particularly true if one boxer has done nothing offensively in a round (runs or just survives by being in a defensive mode throughout the round)



10/7 – Two knockdowns or one boxer clearly dominates and has knocked-down (at least once) their opponent. To reach this score you should always have at least one knockdown

10/6 – More than two knockdowns. Your score can continue to go lower than 10/6 if an additional knockdown occurs.

10/10 – Round ends, no clear winner. It should rarely happen.

### **THE KNOCKDOWN:**

If a Boxer A scores a knockdown, the round should be scored 10-8 for Boxer A. However, if the balance of the round is decisively and dominantly won by Boxer B, and Boxer B has actually hurt Boxer A during this time – you may score this round 10-9 for Boxer A.

A 10-10 in these circumstances is not advisable.

It is also possible for a round to be scored 10-7 with one knockdown if the boxer who scores the knockdown also wins the balance of the round decisively and dominantly and hurts their opponent.

Remember you must score the remainder of the round. Do not assume that a knockdown for a boxer gives him an automatic 10-8 round (especially if the knockdown occurs early in the round) you must score the entire round. Also, never act as a referee, when the ref says it is a knockdown, you score it as such.

A landed punch (including a knockdown) should count the same whenever it occurs in the round – you should now allow a fighter to try and “steal” the round by using a last second flurry. Remember each round is scored independently. If the bout is a six rounder, your score should reflect six individual rounds, each based on its own merit. Do not let any action in a previous round affect your score in a later round.

### **EXAMPLE:**

With the above-mentioned assumptions, let us look at some scoring situations:

- **Situation 1:** Boxer A is winning the round 10-9. Boxer A scores a knockdown. You now must have a 10-8 round.
- **Situation 2:** Boxer A is winning the round 10-9 b by a slight margin, but then gets knocked down in the middle of the round. Since Boxer A was only winning the round by a slight margin, your score should be 10-8 for Boxer B. Remember you must score the entire round. The action for the remainder of this round could determine your score. It does not matter when the knockdown occurs. You must score what happens before and after the knockdown.



- **Situation 3:** Boxer A is winning the round extremely decisively, and Boxer B has taken punishment the entire round. Boxer B then scores a flash knockdown late in the round. Keeping in mind that knocking down the opponent is second best only to a knockout; your score should be 10-9 for Boxer B.

### **Scoring a 10-8 round without a knockdown:**

Boxer A must be aggressively pursuing Boxer B and landing clean, effective punches throughout the round. Some of these punches must include “power” shots that although may not put Boxer B down they have stunned Boxer B. Also, Boxer B is just in a survival mode and continues to back up and only throws a few insignificant punches. If this happens, then Boxer A should be awarded a 10-8 round.

### **SCORING A FOUL/PENALTY:**

The scoring of penalty points may vary from commission to commission. Under the Unified Rules, if in any round a boxer shall be judged guilty by a referee of an intentional foul that causes an injury, the referee must deduct two points. When the foul occurs the referee shall immediately stop the action and notify the judges of the number of points that shall be deducted. As a judge, make sure you know which boxer is getting the points deducted. In such cases the judges shall mark their ballots in a normal manner. Then mark the number of points being deducted from the offending boxer next to the actual score. Remember the referee is the only one who can deduct a point. Do not let this point deduction influence your score.

### **What should a Judge do when a referee calls Time?**

When a referee calls time, it’s advisable for the judge to flip over their score card and make a notation as to which Boxer is ahead and by how much (for example you can mark Boxer A 10-9). You may even want to be more specific such as writing Boxer A slightly ahead. Often concentration is lost when there is a delay from a time out or any stoppage of a bout and you as a Judge must know where your score is always. Remember that under the Unified Rules after the completion of 4 rounds, partial rounds are scored in the event the bout is stopped because of an accidental foul. Therefore, as a Judge, you must always have your score in your head at all times.



## **ETHICS:**

All judges should be familiar with the Federal Law regarding disclosures, and conflicts of interest. (See attached).

Generally, if it seems wrong or appears wrong it probably is. Don't wait for something to come out – be upfront if you feel there may be a conflict. Don't call promoters to get assignments nor have personal relationships with the boxers or any licensees that could compromise your impartiality when scoring. Judges must disclose to the commission any relationship with any licensee which might create any conflict of interest. Judges shall conduct themselves with honesty and integrity, and act in the best interest of combative sports and the public.

There is also a definite need for fellowship between all officials. Officials should be supportive of one another and render assistance whenever possible. Do not discuss the merits of another official's decision. They may be subject to criticism today; you may be subject to criticism tomorrow.

**BE PROFESSIONAL AT ALL TIMES**