



## CROWD DISORDER POLICY

As a result of increased reports of incidents of crowd disorder at amateur boxing tournaments, a selected sub-committee appointed by the England Boxing Board Directors reviewed current policy regarding such incidents. The following revised policy was adopted.

The 'over-riding' principle will be that 'Clubs shall be at all times responsible for the behaviour of all their spectators at all / any boxing tournament'.

This policy does not seek to be the definitive answer to all cases of disorder.

For instance, cases such as non-authorized persons approaching the ringside, or the coaching from corners by seconds during a tournament can be interpreted as disorder, this policy does not seek to legislate for this level of abuse which can correctly be dealt with by the referee or Official in Charge, but it does seek to address the more serious levels of offending.

The offences of disorder covered by this policy are not specifically referred to within the England Boxing Discipline Procedures albeit, this policy should be used in conjunction with the Discipline Procedures and the England Boxing Code of Conduct.

The new offence categories shall be [in ascending order of seriousness]

1. Conduct unbecoming of a member of England Boxing;
2. To show dissent; [a]
3. Incitement to cause disorder; [b]
4. Causing disorder

Whilst Officials in Charge and disciplinary panels will clearly interpret their own assessment of offences, the following provides a guide to the type of offences falling within each of the four categories – it is important to note that this is not an exhaustive schedule:

1. Conduct unbecoming of a member of England Boxing

This shall cover such offences whereby a Coach or Boxer leaves the boxing ring area clearly as a means of showing discord [c] e.g.: a coach leaves the ringside abandoning his athlete before a decision has been announced, a boxer or coach in a bout or other member in any way openly displays disagreement with the results or actions of an official [s] in a given bout.

## 2. Dissent

This shall cover offences whereby 'any' member of the England Boxing openly and publicly expresses disagreement regarding any decision made by an official[s] acting in an appointed post. This shall include both verbal dissent and any action deemed to demonstrate dissent e.g.: addressing the audience or confronting the referee.

## 3. Incitement to cause disorder

This shall cover offences whereby the actions of a member of England Boxing either verbally or by his / her actions, causes or incites disorder whether that be his / her original intention or not. This shall include incidents where the person shouts words or gesticulates [d] in any way directly or indirectly towards the audience.

## 4. Causing Disorder

This shall cover offences whereby the actions of a member of England Boxing either verbally or by his / her actions, causes 'actual' disorder [e]

### **Responsibility for the prevention of Disorder**

It is the personal responsibility of 'all' members 'not to cause or permit disorder' it therefore follows that all who witness such behaviour should support any disciplinary procedures.

With regard to disorder in a tournament it shall be the over-riding responsibility of the club whose members or supporters cause the disorder

In apportioning responsibility for disorder, the Oi/c or Appropriate Authority will exercise the principle of 'Reasonable Suspicion' and 'Balance of Probability'

### **Jurisdiction**

Jurisdiction for dealing with 'disorder' related discipline matters must be dealt with as laid down for other disciplinary matters i.e.: club, division, Regional Association and England Boxing.

### **Prevention**

It is recommended that the following measures should be taken where appropriate:

That requests for permits include details of steps taken regarding stewards, security and / or anti disorder procedures;

That the rule regarding spectator encroachment of ringside be strictly enforced – the maintenance of a 'sterile area';

- That where appropriate, a steward is placed at the ringside at, at least two corners;
- That computer screens are not readily visible to spectators / non-officials;
- That scores are not announced publically;

- That bars selling / distributing alcoholic liquor are whenever possible not in the function room however, if they are they must have additional, appropriate numbers of stewards to prevent disorder;
- All receptacles holding drinks should be plastic or card;
- That a separate area for officials seating be provided where appropriate;
- Where possible, it is preferable that all spectators are provided with seating;
- That it be the responsibility of all Secretaries of Club, Division, Association [whomever is staging the tournament] to ensure that the Local / relevant A & E Department is informed of the event together with its timings, venue and general age range of athletes [The appropriate forms must be utilised for this purpose];
- That it be the responsibility of all Secretaries of Club, Division, Association [whomever is staging the tournament] to ensure that the Local Police Station is informed at least 48 hours before a proposed tournament, of the event together with its timings, venue and general age range of athletes AND any relevant information if known of possible disorder ;

### **Official in Charge responsibility**

The duties of an Official in Charge in these matters may be delegated by him / her to another capable official where appropriate.

Prior to this directive being issued, it is recognised that many Officials in Charge have not demonstrated a robust stance or capability to deal with disorder. The person delegated to deal with such matters must take robust action.

Upon the outbreak of disorder, the Official in Charge must carry out the following actions:

Consider temporarily / permanently suspending the tournament in order to carry out any / all of the following; -

- The identification and club of any offending persons including noting club colours etc;
- Secure material evidence video, literature, weapons etc;
- Secure details of any witnesses together with any immediate comments made by them;
- Compile a full and comprehensive report precisely outlining the details of the disorder;
- It is imperative that the Police are called if a criminal offence or serious disorder takes place;
- In accordance with our Discipline Procedures, precedence is given at all times to the Police if they are involved and no Disciplinary Proceedings shall take place until all Police action is concluded. Some England Boxing investigations may take place however, in such circumstances the National Equity Manager must be consulted.

### **Penalties and Sanctions**

Current levels of sanctions for offences outlined within this policy are adequately covered by the England Boxing Discipline Procedures excepting the following:

Levels of compensation shall be unlimited with regard to damage and restitution; That clubs shall be fined robustly and the 'suspended sentence' provision be initiated where appropriate.

### Publication of Findings at Discipline Hearings

Consideration will be given whether the findings of Disciplinary Panels will be shown on the England Boxing web site.

### Dictionary

[a] To Show Dissent

to put on an exhibition or performance, or be presented for the public to see which shows dispute, disagreement or dissension

[b] Incitement to Cause Disorder

to stir up feelings in or provoke action by somebody in order to cause or encourage a public disturbance or breach of the peace

[c] Discord

Conflict, dispute, rebellion or dissension

[d] To Gesticulate:

to move the arms or hands when speaking, or express something with movements of the arms or hands

[e] Disorder

A public disturbance or breach of the peace

Version: 3.1	Board	Date: March 2010
		January 2025
Version: 3.2	CEO	Date: 22-06-23

Review Schedule		
<i>Date of Review</i>	<i>Version</i>	<i>Summary of Changes</i>
22-06-23	3.2	Updated to include reference to the Code of Conduct and corrected terminology.