



**WBC CODE OF ETHICS  
FOR BOXING**

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**THE CODE**

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Foto: Waide Austin Ellis-unsplash

# WBC CODE OF ETHICS FOR BOXING. THE CODE

It takes more than just being a great fighter to be a WBC champion of the world. It takes time, dedication, and the will to be the best. Becoming a WBC world champion is the greatest achievement in a boxer's career.

By definition, ethics translates to the moral principles that govern a person's behavior and the way they conduct an activity. All boxers must understand that there is an expectation that their behavior, inside and outside the ring will be held to high standards in accordance with the honor and privilege associated with representing the World Boxing Council as a champion.

**The Code** of Ethics embodied in this document serves as a guide of proper conduct for all boxers by emphasizing that fighters must be a positive influence on our youth. It also serves as an excellent way to promote safe boxing. It is important to remember that the image of a boxer portrays the reflection of the organization.

**The Code** of Ethics applies to all boxers and is mandatory for all boxers ranked in the WBC or who participate in any WBC-related activity.

It is also of great importance to understand that this code applies to all members of the fighter's team and entourage.

**The Code** highlights, as a priority, the health of the boxer and places particular interest in ethical practices, and the respect for human rights structured in four pillars: Honor and Ethics, Exemplary Behavior, Respect, and Health.

**Let's work together in favor of the robust growth and protection of the boxing community.**

**MAURICIO SULAIMAN**

# INTRODUCTION

## Context

Boxing is a worldwide sport that brings pride to families, communities and countries. Boxing encompasses a sports community. Boxing requires courage, strength, discipline, effort, resilience, perseverance and physical fitness.

The WBC has developed this new code of ethics to promulgate the principles of sportsmanship, good faith, and conduct for all who participate in our sport.



## BOXING AS...

### A sport

We recognize all the members of the professional boxing community, which as all play an essential part in our sport and seek always to safeguard the integrity of the boxers and his or her teams.

### A sport management

We highlight the value of those who promote, manage, administer, market, sponsor and communicate boxing as key groups in the proper management of the sport; ethics, sportsmanship, respect for human rights and transparency to inspire the current and future generations, must be the collective principles of behavior.

# BOXING COMMUNITY

We recognize boxers, champions, cornermen, administrators, trainers, chief seconds, cut-men, ring officials, inspectors and all the members of the industry of boxing as a central part of the boxing community, who must comply with this Code of Ethics.

This regulation is based on the internationally recognized principles and ideals of boxing and a new perspective founded on four pillars:

- **Honor and Ethics**
- **Exemplary Behavior**
- **Respect**
- **Health**

## HONOR AND ETHICS

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All boxers, specially those who are champions are role models and must behave with exemplary actions.

## WBC

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Board members, federation members, executive committee, ring officials, committee members, staff, WBC affiliated titles, and WBC ranked boxers.

## BOXING SPIRIT

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Those who participate in the management of boxing should strive to enhance the values of and respect for the profession.

## VALUES

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Boxing is a sport that integrates courage, discipline, effort, perseverance, fitness, equality and emotional control. Therefore, the entire boxing community should respect and practice these values as exemplary members of the community.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

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The boxer will always be a public figure and a role model for society.

We recognize of his active career and in retirement as examples of strength and good behavior before society and the sports community.

# DEFINITIONS

## A. WORLD CHAMPION

A WBC World Champion is the best boxer in his or her division, and must be a true example of honor, sportsmanship, dignity, loyalty, and pride to the youth of the world; in and out of the ring.

## B. MEMBERS OF THE WORLD BOXING COUNCIL

Board members, federation members, executive committee, ring officials, committee members, staff, WBC affiliated titles, and WBC ranked boxers.

## C. BOXING COMMUNITY AT LARGE

Boxing commissioners, promoters, managers, trainers, media, advisors, lawyers, seconds, fighters, suppliers, vendors, sponsors, and fans.

# GENERAL CODE OF ETHICS FOR BOXING

Any person involved in professional boxing should:

- I.** Protect the health, safety and well-being of boxers at all times above any personal or financial interest.
- II.** Place loyalty, fairness, and integrity as the highest moral principles, and the sport of boxing above the financial interests of any person or group.
- III.** Reject any compromise that goes against justice and honesty in the ring, in the offices, and in the gym.
- IV.** Expose corruption of any kind wherever discovered.
- V.** Oppose discrimination on the basis of race, gender, nationality, and religion, and act forcefully to counteract it; never cooperating with those who practice it.
- VI.** Uphold the constitution, laws, and regulations of all countries affiliated with the World Boxing Council.

**VII.** Uphold and respect the Constitution, Rules & Regulations, and principles of the WBC and from the local boxing commissions.

**VIII.** Never; whether you are a member of the WBC or part of the boxing community at large, use communications' vehicles or media to slur, slander, libel, or otherwise defame, humiliate, or insult other members of the boxing community and thereby damage the sport itself. Instead, respectfully expose actions by persons who hurt others.

**IX.** Refrain from unethical behavior that may bring disrepute to our sport or hurt anyone involved in boxing.

**X.** Pursue absolute equality for the people of boxing by always respecting the rights of others, disregarding wealth or power as influencing factors on any decisions.

**XI.** Never engage in business or activities that might constitute extortion, create a conflict of interest, or present an unfair restriction of competition.

**XII.** We have to change the culture. Words are powerful weapons. Any form of usage of the word "Kill" is strictly forbidden. No boxer or any member of his or her team or entourage, or anyone in the arena, should use violent expressions against any opponent, with the "kill" or any acronym of such expression.



# WBC CODE OF ETHICS FOR BOXER AND BOXER'S TEAM

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## I. Code of Ethics for Boxers and their Support Teams

The WBC acknowledges the vital importance of the boxer's support team for his or her practice of the values of ethics, behavior, and sportsmanship. The support team comprises the chief second, trainers, advisors, cutman, staff, and everyone who forms part of his or her entourage.

The fighters from all over the world and their support team must recognize the supreme interest of the sportsmanship in boxing, and hence they must subscribe to the articles included in the present Code of Ethics:

**The athletes, champions and their respective support team:**

- Acknowledge the honor, privilege, and responsibility associated with representing the boxing community in all social, cultural and sports activities and in diverse settings around the world;

- Commit themselves at all times to maintain an exemplary behavior consistent with all applicable social norms and standards of behavior, vowing not to cause disturbances or physical confrontations outside the ring;

- Will publicly respect the WBC's and the sport's foundations of inclusion and of diversity. They will refrain from making comments or to participate in any manner in any discriminatory act based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or political opinions;

- Observe the highest standards of fair play and goodwill;

- Observe all the rules, protocols and normatives of the WBC Clean Boxing Program and will reject the use of banned performance enhancing substances;

- Honor, respect, and support the sport of boxing by accepting, satisfying, and backing the WBC's regulations as well as those of the local jurisdiction where a bout takes place;

- Acknowledge the integrity and transparency of the rules of boxing. So, they will never participate in suspicious activities or dishonest practices;

- Refrain from gambling on professional boxing matches;
- Be careful and sensitive about any type of communication in which they are involved. They have to take responsibility for the messages they send or the images they publish in social media. They should always comply with and respect their compromise of sportsmanship to society;
- Understand their commitment to the betterment of society. Therefore, they will participate in events required by the WBC associated with the promotion of safe, clean and disciplined boxing as well as with social responsibility programs;
- Reject any acts of harassment, sexual or otherwise, bullying and domestic violence;
- Advocate for the protection and respect of the rights of the young;
- Display clear indications of their good physical condition, personal care, weight, sportmanship and discipline at all times;
- Participate in contracted events for the promotion of their bouts; always respecting the standards of sportsmanship to their rival and his or her team;
- Respect the WBC authorities and the media at all times;
- Follow any and all guidelines related to knockouts and fulfill all medical dispositions that are issued for the benefit of the boxer; and
- Abstain from disrespectful celebrations after a victory, against their opponent, his or her team, or the audience.

## II. Outside of the Ring

1. The boxer must always maintain appropriate behavior without causing, or intentionally being involved in, any disturbances.
2. The boxer must not get into physical confrontations outside the ring.
3. The boxer must not discriminate by words or actions against any opponent, or any other person based on race, religion, sexual orientation or political opinions.
4. The boxer must be enrolled in the WBC Clean Boxing Program and reject the usage of performance enhancing substances.
5. All boxers must have their required up-to-date boxing license.
6. All boxers must honor, respect and support the sport of boxing.
7. Boxers must accept and support the rules and regulations of the WBC and of the appropriate local jurisdiction.
8. Boxers must never engage in using prohibited drugs or any illegal substances of any kind.
9. The boxer must never attempt to have contact with the appointed officials prior to a bout, or with any commission personnel to try to influence any aspect of the bout.
10. The athlete must never proffer insults or criticize or denigrate the WBC in any manner that could harm or jeopardize the organization.



11. The boxer must never engage in illegal or illicit activities because being involved in these situations would expose them to investigation and penalties.
12. The boxer must never use his or her boxing knowledge to harm anyone outside the ring.
13. The boxer must be aware that he or she is seen as a role model by the youth and by the community, and is expected to act in a manner that reinforces his or her role model status.
14. Being a WBC champion or a WBC athlete is not a right but a privilege, and with privilege comes responsibility. All WBC athletes must act accordingly.
15. Boxers must participate in WBC events to help promote safe and disciplined boxing, as well as social awareness and responsibility.
16. All boxers must refrain from any behavior that involves sexual harassment. Particularly, the WBC will not tolerate any athlete involved in the following types of actions:
  - **Sexual words or motions used to describe a person or people**
  - **Comment about another person's sex life**
  - **Unwelcomed sexual propositions**
  - **Sexual assault**
  - **Domestic violence**
  - **Bullying**
  - **Harassment of any kind**
17. Keep physically fit even when a fight is not scheduled; a boxer should always take pride in their conditioning and

their personal appearance, not just as a representative of the WBC, but also as a representative of themselves.

18. Boxers must take the proper precautions to make weight. It is important for the health and safety of the boxer to undergo weight loss gradually and to take his or her compliance obligations seriously. Irresponsible weight loss can cause irreparable health damage.

### III. Press Conference and weigh-in ceremony

1. When interviewed by the press the boxer must respond to the questions in the most appropriate and respectful manner possible.
2. During public, pre-fight events, boxers are expected to conduct themselves properly, and to behave like the sportsman he or she is. It is expected that both camps treat the opposing team with the respect they deserve. Confronting or fighting the opposing team during these types of events may jeopardize the bout and the responsible party will be penalized accordingly.
3. The boxer is expected to use press conferences to promote the bout, not as a platform to express any other concerns.
4. The boxer should ignore or avoid any media questions that are meant to rattle or provoke an inappropriate answer from him or her. It takes courage and leadership to know that the bout is in the ring and not with the media.

5. The boxer must not use derogatory language during any interview; the boxer is expected to show leadership and sportsmanship to promote the bout.
  6. Actions taken by any member of his or her support team will be considered as the boxer's own actions.
  7. The boxer must be on time to the weigh-in and make the weight limit of the division within the prescribed time limit.
  8. All boxers must be in compliance with the WBC 30-14-7 and day of the bout weigh-in programs.
  9. Boxers are expected to respect others including coaches, opponents, officials and spectators.
  10. It is prohibited to verbally and physically assault anyone.
  11. Boxers should always be in good physical condition even without a scheduled bout.
4. The boxer must have an appropriate mouthpiece and a replacement.
  5. The boxer must listen carefully to the referee in the ring and obey his or her commands at all times. The boxer must obey the referee without questioning the call.
  6. The boxer is expected to give a clean bout and to display sportsmanlike behavior at all times. The use of illegal punches may seriously harm his or her opponent. Fouls can result in point-deduction or disqualification. Fouls include, but are not limited to:
    - **Rabbit punching, or hitting in the back of the head durign clinches, when the opponent is turned of defenseless.**
    - **Low blows (blows below the beltline or navel)**
    - **Head butts**
    - **Using the elbows, forearms or shoulders to hit the opponent.**
    - **Kicking the opponent.**
    - **Punching during a break or after the bell.**
    - **Hitting the opponent if he or she is on the canvas.**
    - **Bitting the opponent or spitting on him or her.**
    - **Intentionally punching the opponent's back.**

## IV. Inside the Ring and after a knockout

1. The boxer must have the appropriate hand wrapping approved by the pertinent authorities. No boxer should show intent to tamper with the wraps. Trying to cheat can cause harm to the opposing boxer and the WBC will not tolerate that type of behavior which, if discovered, will be subject to severe penalties.
2. It is absoolutely prohibited to manipulate the gloves in any form.
3. To tamper with the gloves is considered a criminal act and will have severe
7. The boxer should not wear any type of jewelry in the ring, including earrings, into the ring.
8. The boxer must wear the proper and approved attire for the bout, including

wearing the WBC logo in a dignified manner.

9. The boxer must never spit out his or her mouthpiece in order to obtain resting time.
10. During the national anthems both boxers are expected to behave in a respectful manner.
11. Both boxers are expected to treat the opposing team with the respect they deserve regardless of the outcome.
12. No boxer should punch or attack anyone after the fight has ended, including after the gloves are removed.
13. Boxers are expected to perform in the bout to the best of their abilities. Any boxer caught cheating or fixing the outcome of a bout, is subject to disqualification and to severe sanctions and penalties from the WBC.
14. Boxers must shake hands before the commencement of the contest and at the beginning of the final round, and show respect for their opponents before and after the contest.
15. During the bout, the boxer and his or her respective support team must recognize the referee as the sole authority in the ring; always listening and observing any

and all signs or commands, including any warnings the referee proffers.

16. The boxer is a role model and good example of sportsmanship at every moment, so, his or her boxing should always be clean so he or she can avoid penalties and disqualifications.

Boxing is a serious sport. It is important to understand the dangers and train with the utmost respect and awareness of the risks. In case of being knocked out in a bout the boxer should consider a couple of guidelines to prevent serious harm.

17. If a boxer is knocked out during training, it must be reported to his or her manager, promoter and the licensing boxing commission.
18. If a boxer gets knocked out in a bout, the local commission will recommend 30, 45 or 60 days of absolute rest (including training) depending on the severity of the knock out. The boxer shall only return to boxing activities when the medical suspension has expired, not before.
19. A boxer who suffers a knockout must get a neurological assessment which should be repeated yearly in connection with his or her medical exams.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

