

Proposed Amendment to Section 17 — Medical and Safety Provisions (Elimination of the One-Minute Cut Rule)

Current Rule:

The one-minute cut rule, as currently set out in the Competition Rules, was originally intended to ensure consistency and fairness in the management of bouts where boxers sustain cuts.

Proposed Amendment:

The “one-minute cut rule” shall be **eliminated** from the World Boxing Competition Rules. Ringside medical personnel shall retain full authority to determine whether a boxer may continue following any cut, injury, or medical concern during a bout.

Medical stoppages shall be governed solely by the independent professional judgment of the Ringside Physician in consultation with the Referee, in accordance with Section 17 (Medical and Safety Provisions).

Rationale

Purpose of the Change:

To improve the continuity of competition while maintaining the highest standards of athlete safety and medical oversight.

Justifications:

- **Eliminates unnecessary interruptions:** The one-minute rule artificially disrupts the natural flow of competition and can unfairly affect athlete's rhythm and performance.
 - **Redundant under existing medical authority:** Ringside physicians already possess full authority to assess a boxer's medical fitness to continue. The rule is therefore unnecessary.
 - **Preserves athlete safety:** Doctors retain the right and obligation to stop contests immediately if an injury compromises a boxer's safety.
 - **Reduces inconsistency:** The application of the rule has led to confusion and variation among referees and officials.
 - **Aligns with best practices:** Removing the rule aligns World Boxing with international medical and officiating standards used by other leading combat sports.
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Conclusion

Adopting this amendment will:

1. Preserve boxer safety under the authority of qualified medical professionals.
2. Eliminate inconsistent applications of the rule.
3. Enhance the natural flow and integrity of competition.
4. Align World Boxing with modern international medical and officiating best practices.

For these reasons, Congress is urged to **approve the removal of the one-minute cut rule** from Section 17 of the World Boxing Competition Rules.