Commission Bulletin 2024-1

Instant Replay Policy for Boxing Competitions

The New York State Athletic Commission (the "Commission") is vested with the sole direction, management, control, and jurisdiction over all authorized combative sports within the State of New York (General Business Law § 1004). The Commission is enacted to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of all participants in combative sports and spectators thereto, to preserve the integrity of combative sports through means of licensing, oversight, enforcement, and the authorization of sanctioning entities, and to facilitate the development and responsible conduct of combative sports throughout the state (General Business Law § 1003(1)).

All professional boxing contests and exhibitions in New York State shall be contested according to the Unified Rules of Boxing as adopted and amended by the ABC, unless otherwise authorized or directed by the Commission. The authority to render final determinations based on the application and interpretation of the Unified Rules of Boxing rests with the Commission.

The authority to utilize video replay in boxing, has been affirmed by *Frank v. Stevens*, 52 A.D.3d 316 (2008), which upheld the Commission's power to reverse in-fight decisions when in boxing's best interest. This authority is further supported by regulatory provisions 19 NYCRR 211.32 and 211.54, which outline the responsibilities of referees and support the implementation of instant replay policies in boxing competitions, respectively.

Pursuant to the above-cited authority, the Commission has approved instant replay, as described below:

1. When adequate technology is available, instant replay may be used to determine the correct outcome of a bout, including but not limited to:
   - Causation of a cut or other injury;
   - Knockdown, trip or slip;
   - Accidental or Intentional fouls;
   - Fight ending sequence.
2. The Commission will assign an instant replay official for each bout. The instant replay official will be provided a monitor and a headset at ringside next to the Commission table.
3. Only the in-ring referee or instant replay official is authorized to initiate instant replay review.
4. The in-ring referee may consult with the instant replay official to determine the correct outcome.

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5. In order to modify the original call, the instant replay official and the in-ring referee must agree that the replay shows clear and conclusive evidence that the in-ring determination was an error.
6. Best efforts shall be made by the reviewing officials to complete the review during the one-minute rest period.
7. An additional 30 seconds may be added to the rest period by the reviewing officials upon notification of the Commission, timekeeper, and athletes of the need for such additional time, if needed, for completion of the review and announcement of the determination regarding whether a change of a call is warranted.
8. If a determination cannot be rendered based upon the review within the one-minute rest period and, where necessary, the additional 30 seconds, the in-ring call shall stand.
9. The Instant Replay Official and In-Ring Referee shall notify the Judges and Commission score table of the decision prior to the start of the next round.
10. If the incident occurs in the final round, the instant replay official and in-ring referee shall have up to 5 minutes from the conclusion of the round to make a determination.[i]

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[i] Nothing in this policy shall restrict the Commission's authority to review video evidence to determine the correct outcome after the final official outcome of a bout has been announced in the ring.[i]

Implemented by vote of the Commissioners on September 5, 2024.