

BOXING DEVELOPMENT FEDERATION OF INDIA

BDFI PROFESSIONAL BOXING COMMISSION

RULES & REGULATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL BOXING
2026 EDITION

Website Publication Version

Document purpose: This document sets out the proposed governance, licensing, safety, competition, officiating, championship, disciplinary and administrative framework for professional boxing activities sanctioned or administered by the BDFI Professional Boxing Commission.

Adoption status: This publication is suitable as the Commission's website rules document once formally adopted by the competent BDFI authority. Until formal adoption, it should be identified as a proposed regulatory framework.

Boxing Development Federation of India (BDFI)

BDFI Professional Boxing Commission

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1. PREAMBLE AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 ('1.1', "The BDFI Professional Boxing Commission is established within the BDFI framework to administer professional boxing programmes, subject to BDFI's governing documents and applicable law.")

1.2 ('1.2', "The Commission's objectives are athlete safety, fair competition, integrity of results, transparent administration, professional development and orderly conduct of sanctioned boxing.")

1.3 ('1.3', "The Commission may issue regulations, technical circulars, licence requirements, event conditions and championship rules consistent with these Regulations.")

1.4 ('1.4', "The Commission shall seek to protect the health, dignity and contractual interests of participating boxers.")

1.5 ('1.5', "Nothing in these Regulations overrides applicable Indian law, statutory requirements, court orders or binding requirements of a competent authority.")

2. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

2.1 ('2.1', "“Commission” means the BDFI Professional Boxing Commission.")

2.2 ('2.2', "“BDFI” means Boxing Development Federation of India.")

2.3 ('2.3', "“Boxer” means a person licensed or applying to participate as a professional boxer under the Commission.")

2.4 ('2.4', "“Promoter” means a person or entity authorised to promote a professional boxing event.")

2.5 ('2.5', "“Manager” means a person authorised to represent a boxer under a valid written management arrangement.")

2.6 ('2.6', "“Official” includes referee, judge, supervisor, timekeeper, doctor and other persons appointed to perform official duties.")

2.7 ('2.7', "“Sanction” means written authorisation issued by the Commission for an event, bout or title.")

2.8 ('2.8', "“Event” means a professional boxing programme or contest approved under these Regulations.")

3. COMMISSION GOVERNANCE AND JURISDICTION

3.1 ('3.1', 'The Commission shall operate through a documented governance structure approved by BDFI.')

3.2 ('3.2', 'The Commission may constitute Medical, Technical, Officials, Rankings, Championships, Disciplinary, Legal/Compliance and Athlete Welfare panels.')

3.3 ('3.3', 'Committee members shall declare conflicts of interest and shall not take part in decisions where their impartiality could reasonably be questioned.')

3.4 ('3.4', 'Material licensing, sanctioning, disciplinary and championship decisions should be documented.')

3.5 ('3.5', 'The Commission may appoint supervisors or authorised representatives for sanctioned events.')

3.6 ('3.6', 'Commission jurisdiction applies only to activities expressly licensed, sanctioned or administered by the Commission.')

4. LICENSING FRAMEWORK

4.1 ('4.1', 'The Commission may issue licences for boxers, promoters, managers, coaches, seconds, cutmen, referees, judges and other approved categories.')

4.2 ('4.2', 'Each licence category shall have published eligibility, documentation, validity, renewal and fee requirements.')

4.3 ('4.3', 'A licence is personal and non-transferable unless the Commission expressly provides otherwise.')

4.4 ('4.4', 'The Commission may suspend, condition, refuse or cancel a licence following the procedures in these Regulations.')

4.5 ('4.5', 'No licence shall be represented as an international qualification or affiliation unless supported by written documentation from the relevant organisation.')

5. PROFESSIONAL BOXER LICENCE

5.1 ('5.1', 'A boxer seeking to compete in a Commission-sanctioned professional bout must hold a valid professional boxer licence.')

5.2 ('5.2', 'The application shall normally include identity proof, photograph, contact information, emergency contact, boxing record and required medical documentation.')

5.3 ('5.3', 'The Commission may require proof of age and other eligibility documents.')

5.4 ('5.4', 'A boxer shall disclose relevant medical suspensions, injuries and other information required for safe competition.')

5.5 ('5.5', 'A licence does not guarantee selection, matchmaking, ranking, title opportunity or payment.')

5.6 ('5.6', 'False records, forged documents or material misrepresentation may result in disciplinary action.')

5.7 ('5.7', 'A boxer shall comply with referee instructions, medical directions, event rules and applicable anti-doping requirements.')

6. PROMOTER LICENCE

6.1 ('6.1', 'A professional event must be promoted by a Commission-authorised promoter or approved entity.')

6.2 ('6.2', 'The application should identify the responsible person, legal/entity details, event experience, venue and proposed programme.')

6.3 ('6.3', 'The promoter is responsible for venue readiness, event permissions, contracted officials, medical arrangements, security, boxer agreements and required reporting.')

6.4 ('6.4', 'An event shall not be advertised as Commission-sanctioned before written sanction is issued.')

6.5 ('6.5', 'The promoter shall ensure that participating boxers and officials meet applicable licensing requirements.')

6.6 ('6.6', 'The Commission may require evidence that the promoter can meet financial and safety obligations.')

7. MANAGER LICENCE

7.1 ('7.1', 'A professional manager shall hold the applicable Commission licence where licensing is required.')

7.2 ('7.2', 'A boxer-manager relationship should be documented by a written agreement stating responsibilities, duration, compensation and termination provisions.')

7.3 ('7.3', 'A manager shall act honestly and shall not materially misrepresent a boxer's record, ranking, title or contractual status.')

7.4 ('7.4', 'A manager shall not knowingly place a boxer in an unsafe or materially unsuitable bout.')

7.5 ('7.5', 'Manager conflicts of interest shall be disclosed.')

8. COACH, SECOND AND CUTMAN LICENCE

8.1 ('8.1', 'Persons working in official corners may be required to hold the relevant Commission licence or event accreditation.')

8.2 ('8.2', 'Corner personnel shall follow medical, equipment, venue and referee requirements.')

8.3 ('8.3', 'A corner shall not administer prohibited substances or unsafe interventions.')

8.4 ('8.4', 'The Commission may require evidence of relevant experience or training.')

8.5 ('8.5', 'Unsafe, abusive or dishonest corner conduct may lead to removal or disciplinary action.')

9. REFEREE, JUDGE AND OFFICIAL LICENCE

9.1 ('9.1', 'Officials shall be selected based on qualification, experience, integrity and suitability.')

9.2 ('9.2', 'The referee shall control the contest, enforce the rules and prioritise boxer safety.')

9.3 ('9.3', 'Judges shall score independently and accurately.')

9.4 ('9.4', 'Timekeepers shall maintain official timing.')

9.5 ('9.5', 'Supervisors shall monitor event compliance, documentation and results.')

9.6 ('9.6', 'Officials shall disclose relevant conflicts and shall not bet on bouts they officiate.')

9.7 ('9.7', 'The Commission may establish education, examination and grading procedures for officials.')

10. EVENT SANCTIONING

10.1 ('10.1', 'Every event seeking Commission sanction shall be submitted through the prescribed application.')

10.2 ('10.2', 'The application should include promoter, venue, date, fight card, weights, boxer records, officials, medical arrangements, safety plan and other required information.')

10.3 ('10.3', 'The Commission may approve, conditionally approve, defer, request changes to or decline an event.')

10.4 ('10.4', 'No championship belt or title may be advertised as Commission-approved before title sanction.')

10.5 ('10.5', 'A sanctioned event shall comply with all conditions stated in the sanction letter.')

10.6 ('10.6', 'Material changes to the event shall be reported to the Commission.')

11. MATCHMAKING AND BOUT APPROVAL

- 11.1** ('11.1', 'Matchmaking should consider weight, experience, record, activity, age, medical status and safety.')
- 11.2** ('11.2', 'A bout presenting an unreasonable safety concern may be rejected or referred for additional review.')
- 11.3** ('11.3', 'The Commission may request verified records or additional medical information.')
- 11.4** ('11.4', 'Replacement boxers must satisfy applicable licensing and medical requirements.')
- 11.5** ('11.5', 'A bout may be withdrawn if new information materially changes the safety assessment.')

12. WEIGHT CLASSES AND WEIGH-IN

- 12.1** ('12.1', 'The Commission shall publish the weight classes used for its professional programmes.')
- 12.2** ('12.2', 'Official weigh-ins shall be conducted at the approved time and location.')
- 12.3** ('12.3', 'Official weights shall be recorded.')
- 12.4** ('12.4', 'The Commission may prescribe weight tolerances and re-weigh procedures for specific events.')
- 12.5** ('12.5', 'Dangerous weight-cutting practices are prohibited.')
- 12.6** ('12.6', 'A boxer showing medical compromise may be withdrawn on medical advice.')

13. MEDICAL AND BOXER SAFETY

13.1 ('13.1', 'Boxer health and safety is a primary requirement for licensing and competition.')

13.2 ('13.2', 'The Commission Medical Panel shall prescribe minimum pre-licence and pre-bout examinations.')

13.3 ('13.3', 'An event doctor shall have independent authority to recommend that a boxer not compete.')

13.4 ('13.4', 'Appropriate ringside medical personnel, emergency arrangements and first-response equipment shall be available according to event risk.')

13.5 ('13.5', 'Post-bout assessment shall be conducted when required, especially after knockout, stoppage, suspected concussion or significant injury.')

13.6 ('13.6', 'Medical suspensions shall be recorded and respected before return to competition.')

13.7 ('13.7', 'Medical information shall be handled confidentially and only accessed for legitimate purposes.')

13.8 ('13.8', 'The Commission should periodically review medical standards with qualified sports-medicine professionals.')

14. ANTI-DOPING

14.1 ('14.1', 'Commission-sanctioned events may be subject to an applicable anti-doping framework and testing programme.')

14.2 ('14.2', 'The Commission may publish a separate anti-doping policy identifying the applicable rules and testing authority.')

14.3 ('14.3', 'Boxers shall comply with testing and disclosure requirements that apply to their event.')

14.4 ('14.4', 'Violations shall be handled under the applicable testing and disciplinary procedure.')

14.5 ('14.5', 'The Commission shall not declare a substance prohibited without reference to the applicable published rule or list.')

15. EQUIPMENT, RING AND VENUE STANDARDS

15.1 ('15.1', 'The venue must be suitable for professional boxing and athlete, official, medical and spectator safety.')

15.2 ('15.2', 'The ring, ropes, canvas, corners, lighting, bell, timing equipment and official tables shall meet Commission technical specifications.')

15.3 ('15.3', 'The event shall provide appropriate athlete changing areas, officials' areas and emergency access.')

15.4 ('15.4', 'Required protective and medical equipment shall be available before the event begins.')

15.5 ('15.5', 'The supervisor may delay or stop an event if essential safety requirements are not met.')

15.6 ('15.6', 'Promoters shall obtain applicable statutory permissions and insurance where required.')

16. OFFICIALS AND COMPETITION PROCEDURE

16.1 ('16.1', 'The referee shall inspect essential bout conditions before the contest.')

16.2 ('16.2', 'Boxers shall comply with glove, hand-wrap, attire and equipment requirements prescribed for the event.')

16.3 ('16.3', 'The referee may issue warnings, deductions or stoppages according to the applicable competition rules.')

16.4 ('16.4', 'Seconds shall remain in the designated corner area and follow referee instructions.')

16.5 ('16.5', 'Only authorised personnel may enter the ring during the contest except where permitted for safety or medical reasons.')

17. SCORING AND RESULTS

17.1 ('17.1', 'The Commission shall publish the scoring criteria applicable to its professional bouts.')

17.2 ('17.2', 'Judges shall score independently and submit official scorecards.')

17.3 ('17.3', 'Results may include decision, technical decision, knockout, technical knockout, draw, technical draw, disqualification or no contest as applicable.')

17.4 ('17.4', 'The authorised official shall announce the result.')

17.5 ('17.5', 'The official result shall be recorded and may be reviewed only through the prescribed process.')

17.6 ('17.6', 'A factual correction does not automatically change a sporting result.')

18. RECORDS AND DATABASE

18.1 ('18.1', 'The Commission may maintain a central registry of licensed boxers, officials, promoters, managers, clubs, bouts, results, titles and suspensions.')

18.2 ('18.2', 'Official records should be based on verified event reports and scorecards.')

18.3 ('18.3', 'Public records shall contain only information appropriate for publication.')

18.4 ('18.4', 'The Commission may share verified bout information with recognised databases where legally permitted.')

18.5 ('18.5', 'Boxers may request correction of factual errors through the designated process.')

19. RANKINGS

19.1 ('19.1', 'The Commission may publish rankings by weight class and category.')

19.2 ('19.2', 'Ranking methodology should be published before being used for championship eligibility.')

19.3 ('19.3', 'Factors may include official results, quality of opposition, activity, title results and other published criteria.')

19.4 ('19.4', 'Rankings shall not be determined solely by popularity or promotional influence.')

19.5 ('19.5', 'A Rankings Committee may document material ranking decisions.')

19.6 ('19.6', 'A boxer may request correction of an inaccurate record used in ranking calculation.')

20. CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TITLES

20.1 ('20.1', 'Commission championships shall be created by formal title sanction.')

20.2 ('20.2', 'The title sanction shall specify title, weight class, participants, date, venue and applicable rules.')

20.3 ('20.3', 'Eligibility may include ranking, record, activity, licence status and medical clearance.')

20.4 ('20.4', 'Regional, interim, national and international titles shall be clearly distinguished.')

20.5 ('20.5', 'Title belts and certificates shall identify the exact title category and sanctioning authority.')

20.6 ('20.6', 'No external organisation's title or recognition shall be represented as BDFI-approved without written evidence.')

21. TITLE DEFENCES AND VACANCIES

21.1 ('21.1', 'A champion shall meet published defence obligations where a title rule provides for mandatory defence.')

21.2 ('21.2', 'A title may be declared vacant where the champion fails to meet eligibility, licensing, medical or defence requirements.')

21.3 ('21.3', 'Interim title arrangements shall be published in advance.')

21.4 ('21.4', 'A vacant title may be contested through a bout approved under the Commission's championship rules.')

21.5 ('21.5', 'A title may be suspended pending disciplinary or medical review where necessary.')

22. CONTRACTS, PURSE AND FINANCIAL CONDUCT

22.1 ('22.1', 'Promoters should provide written bout agreements before an event.')

22.2 ('22.2', 'Agreements should state opponent, weight, rounds, purse, payment terms, permitted deductions and key conditions.')

22.3 ('22.3', 'Unauthorised purse deductions are prohibited.')

22.4 ('22.4', 'Payment disputes may be submitted through the Commission grievance process without limiting legal remedies.')

22.5 ('22.5', 'The Commission may require evidence of financial arrangements for an event.')

22.6 ('22.6', 'Managers and promoters shall disclose material conflicts involving financial interests.')

23. INTERNATIONAL BOUTS AND NOC

23.1 ('23.1', 'International bouts shall comply with the host jurisdiction's requirements and any applicable sanctioning rules.')

23.2 ('23.2', 'An NOC application should include event invitation, host details, boxer licence information and required medical documents.')

23.3 ('23.3', 'An NOC is administrative authorisation only and does not by itself establish affiliation, title recognition or endorsement of another organisation.')

23.4 ('23.4', 'Boxers remain responsible for passport, visa, immigration and host-commission requirements.')

23.5 ('23.5', 'International results and resulting medical suspensions shall be recorded.')

24. DISCIPLINE AND CODE OF CONDUCT

24.1 ('24.1', 'All participants shall act with integrity, respect and sportsmanship.')

24.2 ('24.2', 'Prohibited conduct may include falsification, bribery, match manipulation, betting on one's own bout, harassment, discrimination and deliberate safety violations.')

24.3 ('24.3', 'A person facing disciplinary action should receive notice of the allegation and a reasonable opportunity to respond.')

24.4 ('24.4', 'Possible sanctions include warning, fine where legally permissible, suspension, licence restriction, disqualification or removal from a Commission role.')

24.5 ('24.5', 'Disciplinary decisions should state the material reasons for the action.')

24.6 ('24.6', 'Criminal or statutory matters may be referred to the competent authority.')

25. SAFEGUARDING AND ATHLETE WELFARE

25.1 ('25.1', 'The Commission shall seek an environment free from harassment, exploitation, abuse and intimidation.')

25.2 ('25.2', 'Persons in positions of authority shall not pressure athletes into unsafe participation.')

25.3 ('25.3', 'Good-faith safeguarding complaints shall be handled through a documented process.')

25.4 ('25.4', 'Youth or minor participation in non-professional programmes shall be governed by separate safeguarding and eligibility rules.')

25.5 ('25.5', 'Professional competition under these Regulations shall require compliance with applicable age and legal requirements.')

26. COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

26.1 ('26.1', 'A formal channel shall be available for complaints about licensing, events, officials, safety, conduct or administration.')

26.2 ('26.2', 'Complaints should provide relevant facts, dates and supporting documents where available.')

26.3 ('26.3', 'The Commission may request clarification or additional evidence.')

26.4 ('26.4', 'Retaliation against a person making a good-faith complaint should not be permitted.')

26.5 ('26.5', 'The Commission should communicate a decision or status within a reasonable administrative period.')

27. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

27.1 ('27.1', 'A boxer or authorised representative may submit a result protest within the time limit published for the event.')

27.2 ('27.2', 'The protest shall identify the decision challenged, factual basis and evidence.')

27.3 ('27.3', 'The Commission may review scorecards, official reports and video where available and appropriate.')

27.4 ('27.4', 'A protest does not automatically change a result.')

27.5 ('27.5', 'Licensing and disciplinary appeals shall be considered by the designated appeal mechanism.')

27.6 ('27.6', 'Appeal decisions should be documented.')

28. CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND INTEGRITY

28.1 ('28.1', 'Commission officials and committee members shall disclose relevant personal, financial or professional interests.')

28.2 ('28.2', 'A person with a material conflict should recuse themselves from the relevant decision.')

28.3 ('28.3', 'Officials shall not place bets on bouts they officiate.')

28.4 ('28.4', 'Manipulation of records, rankings, results or matchmaking is prohibited.')

28.5 ('28.5', 'Gifts or benefits that could reasonably influence an official decision should not be accepted.')

29. DATA, PRIVACY AND RECORDS

29.1 ('29.1', 'Personal information shall be collected and used for legitimate licensing, safety, competition, administration and compliance purposes.')

29.2 ('29.2', 'Access to sensitive medical information shall be restricted to authorised persons.')

29.3 ('29.3', 'Public databases should minimise personal information not necessary for sports records.')

29.4 ('29.4', 'The Commission should maintain reasonable security and retention procedures.')

29.5 ('29.5', 'Data requests and corrections shall be handled according to applicable law and BDFI policy.')

30. BRANDING AND COMMUNICATIONS

30.1 ('30.1', 'Only authorised persons may issue official Commission statements.')

30.2 ('30.2', 'The BDFI/Commission name, logo, title names and marks shall be used only according to written brand rules.')

30.3 ('30.3', 'Promoters shall not claim Commission sanction before written approval.')

30.4 ('30.4', 'Public announcements shall distinguish proposed, scheduled, postponed, cancelled and completed events.')

30.5 ('30.5', 'External affiliations shall be stated only when supported by current written documentation.')

31. FEES AND FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

31.1 ('31.1', 'The Commission may publish a schedule of licence, registration, sanctioning and administrative fees.')

31.2 ('31.2', 'Fees should be communicated before applications are submitted and receipts should be issued.')

31.3 ('31.3', 'Any waiver or reduction should follow written criteria.')

31.4 ('31.4', 'Commission funds shall be administered through proper organisational accounts and records.')

31.5 ('31.5', 'Financial reporting and audit shall follow applicable organisational and legal requirements.')

32. EVENT REPORTING

32.1 ('32.1', 'The promoter shall submit an official event report within the period specified by the Commission.')

32.2 ('32.2', 'The report should include final bout card, official results, scorecards, attendance where required, incidents and medical suspensions.')

32.3 ('32.3', 'Any serious injury or safety incident shall be reported promptly.')

32.4 ('32.4', 'The Commission shall update official records after verification.')

32.5 ('32.5', 'Failure to submit required reports may affect future sanctioning or licensing decisions.')

33. SANCTIONS AND PENALTIES

33.1 ('33.1', 'A violation may result in warning, corrective direction, suspension, licence restriction, fine where legally permissible, disqualification or other proportionate action.')

33.2 ('33.2', 'The seriousness, intent, previous conduct, athlete safety and impact on competition may be considered.')

33.3 ('33.3', 'Emergency temporary measures may be taken where immediate safety or integrity concerns exist, subject to subsequent review.')

33.4 ('33.4', 'A disciplinary sanction should be recorded and communicated to the affected person.')

33.5 ('33.5', 'Sanctions shall not be represented as criminal findings unless established by a competent authority.')

34. REVIEW, AMENDMENT AND INTERPRETATION

34.1 ('34.1', 'These Regulations should be reviewed periodically for changes in law, medicine, athlete safety and professional boxing practice.')

34.2 ('34.2', 'Amendments require formal approval under BDFI's applicable governance process.')

34.3 ('34.3', 'Where these Regulations conflict with applicable law, the law prevails to the extent of the conflict.')

34.4 ('34.4', 'The Commission may issue technical circulars and event-specific rules consistent with these Regulations.')

34.5 ('34.5', 'The Commission may publish an official interpretation where wording is unclear, subject to the governing authority's approval.')

34.6 ('34.6', 'The latest officially published version shall be treated as the controlling version after formal adoption.')

35. APPENDICES AND STANDARD FORMS

APPENDIX A — PROFESSIONAL BOXER LICENCE CHECKLIST

- Completed application and declaration
- Accepted identity and age documentation
- Recent photograph
- Emergency contact
- Verified boxing record where available
- Required medical examination/clearance
- Licence fee/receipt where applicable
- Acknowledgement of rules, code of conduct and anti-doping requirements

APPENDIX B — PROMOTER LICENCE CHECKLIST

- Promoter/entity identification
- Responsible officer/contact details
- Event experience or relevant capability information
- Venue and proposed event information
- Compliance declarations
- Financial/event arrangements where required
- Acceptance of Commission rules

APPENDIX C — EVENT SANCTIONING CHECKLIST

Requirement	Minimum submission
Promoter	Valid licence / application status
Venue	Venue details and safety suitability
Fight card	Boxers, weights, records and bouts
Licences	Valid boxer and required official licences
Medical	Required clearances and ringside plan
Officials	Referee, judges, supervisor, timekeeper and medical team
Safety	Emergency, ambulance and security arrangements
Contracts	Bout agreements/purse terms where required
Permissions	Applicable venue/statutory permissions
Reporting	Post-event results, scorecards and incidents

APPENDIX D — BOUT RECORD TEMPLATE

Field	Entry
Event name	
Event date / venue	
Promoter	
Boxer A / corner	
Boxer B / corner	
Weight / division	
Scheduled rounds	
Referee	
Judges	
Result	
Method / round / time	
Scorecards	
Medical suspension, if any	
Supervisor	

APPENDIX E — MEDICAL & SAFETY FRAMEWORK

The detailed medical protocol should be issued separately by the BDFI Medical Commission and approved by appropriately qualified medical professionals. It should address pre-licence examination, pre-bout checks, ringside medical coverage, emergency referral, knockout/concussion management, medical suspensions and return-to-boxing criteria.

This document deliberately does not state that BDFI is affiliated with or recognised by WBC, WBA, WBO, IBF, IBA or any other external organisation unless supported by current written documentation. Any such relationship should be published separately after verification.

APPENDIX F — APPEAL / COMPLAINT FLOW

- Submission → acknowledgement → preliminary review → response/evidence → decision → written communication → appeal where applicable.

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Adoption statement: “These Regulations shall become effective upon formal approval and publication by the competent BDFI authority. Until that date, this document is a proposed regulatory framework and does not by itself create a licence, sanction, title, affiliation or legal authority.”

For formal adoption, BDFI should obtain legal, medical and governance review and maintain a version-controlled official copy.