



Ethical Guidelines for Ringside Medicine (Developed by the Association of Ringside Physicians)

The purpose of the ringside physician is to promote safety in boxing and help limit injuries to the boxer. These guidelines are set forth to help avoid conflicts of interest between the physician and other participants in boxing.

1. Any physician working at ringside must be currently licensed to practice medicine in the state in which the boxing event is taking place.
2. Physicians working at ringside may not use any illicit substances or take any drugs that may impair his or her ability to work. No use of alcohol is permitted while working at ringside.
3. Boxers may be treated in the physician's private office for conditions relating to injuries that occurred specifically from recent boxing. We discourage ringside physicians from acting as the primary care physicians for any of the boxers, trainers, corner men, or promoters. Doctors may perform the pre-participation physical examination or evaluate boxing-related injuries in his or her office. We encourage boxers to use ringside physicians for these examinations, as these doctors better understand the specific medical needs of these athletes.
4. Payment to physicians should be from the boxing commission and not directly from the promoter of the boxing match. The amount paid to a physician should be set in advance before the fight and we recommend that the state commissions have fees set annually based on the venue/size of the event. The fee schedule should be distributed by the state commission to the chief medical officer for the state commission and should be reviewed annually.
5. Physicians may request tickets for the boxing match directly from the boxing commission. Granting these tickets is at the sole discretion of the boxing commission. Tickets should not be requested or granted directly from a promoter.
6. No gifts may be accepted by a physician from a promoter or boxer. Autographs and photographs are permissible at the fighter's and commission's discretion.
7. As part of compensation, doctors are permitted to be reimbursed for travel and accommodations at Internal Revenue Service approved rates.
8. Ringside physicians are not permitted to place wagers on any of the fights they are working. The doctor is not allowed to divulge any information to anyone outside the normal patient-doctor confidentiality bounds set by the American Medical Association.

9. Physicians are permitted to discuss (with the media) medical issues at the end of the fight. Before or during the actual boxing match, physicians should not discuss medical conditions with non-medical personnel or nonessential boxing personnel. Physicians are discouraged from discussing non-medical issues, such as judges scoring or outcomes, with the media.
10. Physicians must reveal any financial/contractual relationships with any of the boxers, promoters, or any other entity that is participating in the boxing match to the state boxing commission.
11. Ringside physicians may act as advisors/consultants to boxing commissions, sanctioning bodies, and international bodies. They should be appropriately compensated for their work including travel and accommodations.
12. At least one physician should be at ringside during any boxing match. It is the state commission's responsibility to make certain the ringside physician has a seat in the corner with easy access to the stairs. Physicians should be present and not leave the arena until all fighters have been adequately evaluated and have left the competition/locker areas.
13. Ringside physicians are encouraged to attend boxing matches in other jurisdictions. It is our belief that increased exposure to different boxing matches and other doctors is an invaluable learning tool. Boxing commissions should consider providing free or discounted tickets to active ringside physicians in this context.
14. During ARP conventions or sponsored events, the ARP may purchase tickets from promoters at discounted rates. Promoters and other companies may sponsor ARP educational events with gifts or financial donations that are specifically for the event – donations should not be directly made to an individual physician.

It is recommended that all ringside physicians review these guidelines and are then asked to sign a document so that they recognize the importance of ethical behavior in the sport of boxing and agree to abide to these requirements to the best of their abilities, for example:

I will use my role as a ringside physician to help and care for the boxer to the best of my ability and judgment; I will abstain from harming or wrongdoing any man or woman by it. I will not violate my role as a caregiver in any fashion, will not show favoritism to any individual or organization and will maintain these ethical guidelines to support the boxer and the goal of preserving health and safety in boxing.

Signature: _____