



Referee Dressing Room Instructions Script

Prepared by Armando Garcia

Boxing Officials Training Channel

Contact: boxingreferee@aol.com

How to Use This Script

The purpose of this script is to provide a tool for study and practice so the referee can prepare to deliver these instructions clearly, confidently, and naturally while still covering the key points that should not be missed.

Dressing room instructions should be consistent, and given with purpose. Both boxers must receive the same instructions, and those instructions must be enforced equally. The referee should not sound rushed or robotic, but should speak naturally so that the boxers and their Corners clearly understand what is expected and how the bout will be managed. When done properly, these instructions do more than inform. They establish fairness, reinforce authority, reduce misunderstanding, and help the referee control the bout.

Referee note: Use the full script when the referee is personally giving the dressing room instructions. If general group instructions have already been given, use the shorter follow-up script, but still make direct contact with the specific boxers and Corners for the bout you will work and briefly reinforce the most important points.

Direct Dressing Room Script

Opening and Identification

Congratulations on the bout.

I am (name), and I will be your referee for this bout. Yesterday/today, our Supervisor, (name), reviewed the bout rules with you. I will now give you my instructions for this bout.

Chief Second, Corner Supplies, and Responsibility

Referee note: When practical, confirm the following items in a brief sidebar with the Chief Second before the full instructions begin.

First, who is the Chief Second? Good. You are responsible for everything in your corner.

Do you have an approved coagulant, Vaseline, any swelling-control tools such as a pressure plate, and your basic corner supplies, including tape if needed? Please show them to me so I know what is available in your corner before the bout begins.

Make sure a second serviceable mouthpiece is immediately available if needed. Manage any replacement quickly. Please, no delays.

Corner Conduct and Rest Period

A maximum of four Seconds are permitted: one in the ring, two on the apron, and one on the floor. Stay in your corner. Do not walk away from it, move to the side, or go toward the side of the ring.

Only the Chief Second may properly stop the bout, and that must be done by signaling me or by signaling the Inspector if one is present. Do not throw towels or any objects into the ring, and do not enter the ring to stop the bout.

Enter and exit the ring promptly at the bell. Coaching is permitted, but mind your language. No banging on the canvas. Manage water properly. Keep your corner clean and free of hazards.

I will respect your one-minute rest period to work with your boxer. In return, I expect you to work within the rules and without delay.

Boxer Conduct and Fouls

Always protect yourselves. Follow my commands immediately. Conduct yourselves with discipline and respect throughout the bout.

Please do not commit fouls. The three primary fouls I want to address are the use of the head, low blows, and holding. Repeated or deliberate fouls may result in point deductions or disqualification.

Waistline and Fair-Blow Line

The waistline is the top of the beltline and marks the legal target area for body blows. Anything below that line is low. That line remains the same even if your trunks shift or are adjusted improperly. Keep your trunks adjusted properly and do not adjust them in a way that makes it difficult to determine fair and foul blows.

Commands During Action and Self-Separation

If I give a verbal command during the action, but I do not stop or pause the bout, do not look at me in acknowledgment. Continue boxing while following the instruction. Do not stop or separate unless I specifically command "Time," "Stop," or "Break."

When I call for self-separation, I expect both of you to disengage immediately on your own, protect yourselves, and be ready to continue without waiting for me to pull you apart. Do not make me pull you apart. Do you both understand?

Infighting, Holding, and Separation

I understand the difference between infighting, clinching, tying up, holding, and resets. Active infighting is legal and will not be stopped simply because it is close. I will step in only for prolonged holding, stalling, or unsafe situations. Failure to comply with my separation command may be considered a foul. Do you both understand?

Mouthpiece Instructions

Make sure you come out for every round with your mouthpiece inside your mouth and properly set. Your mouthpiece must remain in your mouth and properly set during competition. If it comes out, I will stop the action and have it replaced. Intentionally allowing it to come out is a foul. Do not let it hang out of your mouth.

Knockdown Instructions

If there is a knockdown, the boxer scoring it will go immediately to the furthest neutral corner and remain there until told to continue. The downed boxer will listen carefully, follow my commands, and step forward when directed to show readiness. Failure to respond or show control may result in a Technical Knockout. If a boxer goes down again without a punch, I may continue the count unless safety requires that I stop the bout.

Temporary Stops and End-of-Round Conduct

Temporary stops may occur for equipment issues, injuries, or mouthpiece replacement. If I call "Time," I will separate you and resume the bout as soon as the issue is resolved.

The ten-second signal means the round is ending. Stay alert and disciplined through the bell. No punches after the bell.

Closing Questions

If there are any questions or anything else, let's discuss it now.

Thank you.

Follow-Up Script After Group Instructions

Referee note: Use this shorter script when general group instructions have already been given and you still need to make direct contact with the specific boxers and Corners for the bout you will work.

Use the full script when the referee is personally giving the dressing room instructions. If general group instructions have already been given, use the shorter follow-up script, but still make direct contact with the specific boxers and Corners for the bout you will work and briefly reinforce the most important points.

Hello, I am (name), and I will be your referee for this bout.

You have already received the general instructions. I just want to briefly confirm a few important points. My instructions will be enforced equally. Always protect yourselves, follow my commands immediately, and keep it clean. No fouls.

When I call for self-separation, I expect both of you to separate immediately on your own, protect yourselves, and be ready to continue without waiting for me to pull you apart. Do you both understand?

If I give a verbal command during the action without stopping the bout, continue boxing while following the instruction. Do not stop or separate unless I specifically command "Time," "Stop," or "Break."

Make sure your mouthpiece stays in your mouth and properly set at all times. Do not let it hang out or come out intentionally.

Who is the Chief Second? Good. You are responsible for everything in your corner. I will respect your one-minute rest period to work with your boxer. In return, I expect you to work within the rules and without delay. Make sure your second mouthpiece and approved corner supplies are ready. If needed, manage any replacement quickly and without delay.

Any questions? Good luck.