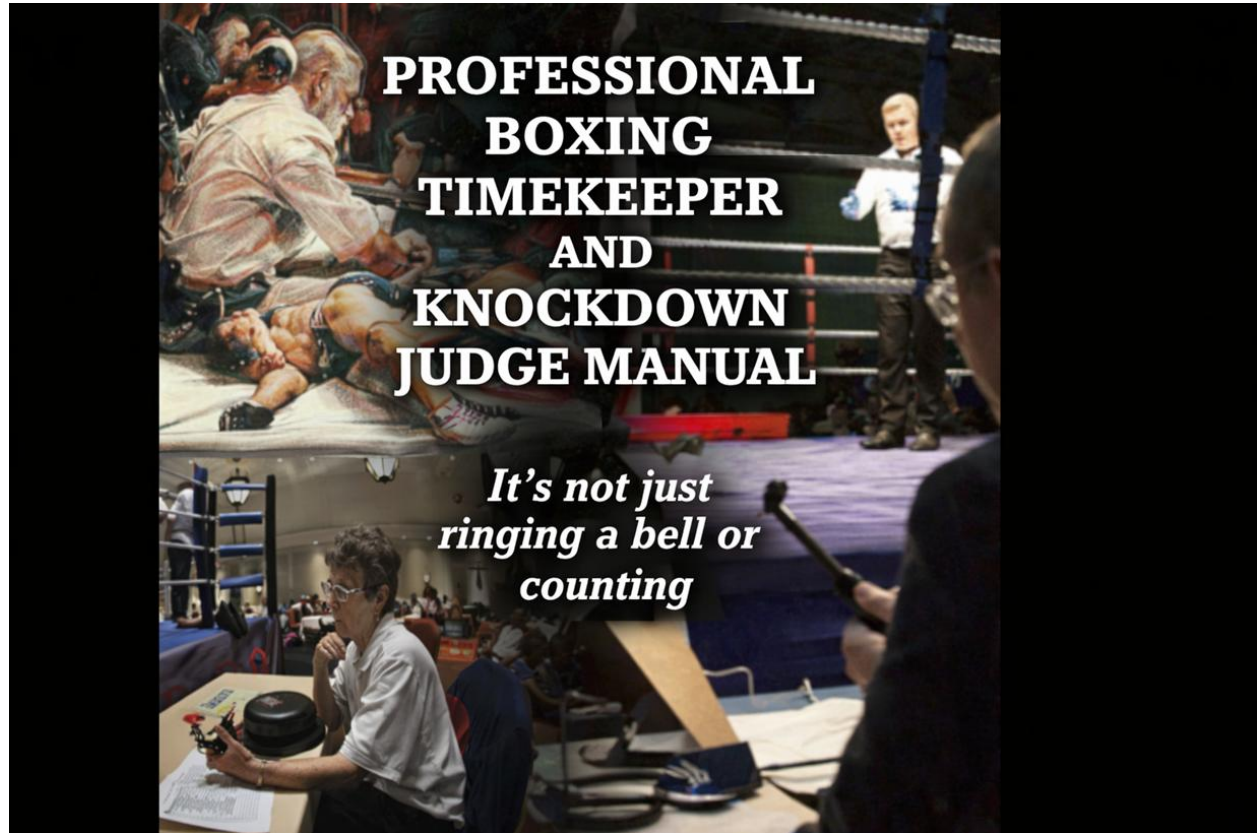




2026 Edition

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1. Introduction

Timekeepers and Knockdown Judges are key members of the boxing officiating team. Their duties are repetitive, but they require attention, rule knowledge, and consistency.

The Timekeeper is responsible for all official timing. Every sound of the bell signals when the bout begins or ends. Timing mistakes affect the official record of the bout.

The Knockdown Judge supports the referee during a legal knockdown. Their visible count must align with the referee's cadence, even if it begins slightly after the referee's audible count.

This manual describes the responsibilities of both roles at each stage of the bout. It explains how timing, knockdowns, and coordination with other officials are handled. Its main purpose is to help reduce errors and improve coordination.

2. Pre-Bout Duties

Before the first bell, the Timekeeper and Knockdown Judge must check that all timing equipment is working and that verbal commands and hand signals with the referee are understood.

Checklist:

Timing and Signal Devices - Confirm that all timers, bells or horns, and whistles function correctly. If available, ensure all backup devices are ready. Any warning signal used by the Timekeeper must be clearly distinct from the signal that starts or ends a round.

Visibility and Positioning - Make sure the Timekeeper's station is stable, unobstructed, and allows clear eye and voice contact with the referee and Knockdown Judge.

Power and Safety - Confirm that all powered devices are securely connected and protected against anything that could cause failure.

Report and resolve any malfunctions before the start of the bout.

2.1 Coordination with Officials

Before the bout begins, the Timekeeper and Knockdown Judge meet with the referee and boxing authority to confirm each person's role and that all are ready. This meeting takes place after the equipment checks are completed.

Confirm:

- Verbal commands and hand signals.
- Procedures for knockdowns, stoppages, low blows, and dislodged mouthpieces.
- The scheduled number of rounds, the length of each round, and the length of each rest period.
- Knockdown Judge positioning and visibility for the referee's count.

3. Round Timing

The Timekeeper is responsible for the official timing of all rounds, rest periods, and interruptions. Each round begins and ends on the Timekeeper's signal.

Start of the Round - Begin timing when the referee signals using the approved device.

End of the Round - Sound the bell exactly at the end of the round.

One-Minute Rest Period - Start timing immediately after the round ends.

Ten-Second Warning Before the Round Begins - At 0:50 of the rest period, give a clear, distinct warning signal. At one minute, promptly signal the start of the next round and begin timing.

3.1 Temporary Stops

The referee may stop the bout at any time by calling "Time!" The Timekeeper must immediately stop the clock and resume timing only when the referee signals "Box!"

Temporary stops may occur for:

- Equipment issues.
- Slip or accidental fall.
- Injury evaluation.
- Foul.
- Dislodged mouthpiece.
- Referee injury or other disruption.

3.2 Ten-Second Signal Before the End of the Round

At ten seconds before the end of the round, give one clear, brief signal. It must be loud enough to be heard, but clearly distinct from the bell.

3.3 Continuous Awareness

The Timekeeper and Knockdown Judge must remain alert throughout the bout.

Timekeeper - Keep one hand near the signal device and maintain eye contact with the referee.

Knockdown Judge - Remain seated with a clear view of the ring, ready to count if needed.

The Knockdown Judge must be able to substitute for the Timekeeper if necessary and, if no replacement is available, continue performing both timing and Knockdown Judge duties.

4. Knockdowns, Slips, and Falls

Coordination during knockdowns must be precise. The referee declares knockdowns, slips, or falls using verbal and visual signals.

For a legal knockdown:

- The referee commands “Down!” and starts the audible count.
- The Knockdown Judge begins a visible hand count in alignment with the referee’s cadence and remains in sync.
- Slips and accidental falls are handled as described in Section 4.3.

4.1 Knockdowns Near Round End

If a knockdown occurs near the end of a round:

- The Timekeeper must not sound the bell until the referee completes the count and releases the boxer.
- If the bout is stopped, record the official time.
- The Knockdown Judge continues the visible count until the referee resumes the bout or ends it.

4.2 Boxer Falling Out of the Ring

If a boxer falls from the ring due to a legal knockdown:

- The referee initiates a 20-count.
- If both boxers fall, a 20-count is applied to each.
- The Knockdown Judge mirrors the count visibly.

The boxer must re-enter the ring unassisted before the count ends. If assistance occurs and the referee orders a deduction, the referee calls “Time!” before announcing it.

4.3 Slip or Accidental Fall (No Legal Knockdown)

The referee signals a slip or accidental fall.

Time is stopped only if the referee calls “Time.”

No count is given.

Timing resumes when the referee restarts the bout.

5. Special Timing Scenarios

Some situations require different timing procedures.

5.1 Low Blows - Recovery Timing

On a low blow, the referee stops the action.

When the referee determines that the low blow is accidental, the Timekeeper starts a five-minute recovery clock.

Inform the referee at one minute, three minutes, and when thirty seconds remain.

If the bout resumes early, stop the recovery clock and resume round timing.

Record the total recovery time.

5.2 Dislodged Mouthpiece

The referee pauses the bout by commanding “Time.”

The Timekeeper stops the clock.

The Seconds clean and reinsert the mouthpiece.

Timing resumes when the referee signals “Box!”

5.3 Referee Injury or Substitution

If the referee is injured, they should stop the bout using standard commands.

If unable to do so, the Timekeeper must stop the clock immediately.

Timing resumes only when a referee is ready.

Record the stoppage time.

5.4 Loss of Consciousness

Record the stoppage time and the total duration of the delay.

Continue watching and recording the boxer's condition until medical personnel assume care.

Note the duration of unconsciousness. This helps the ringside physician with medical evaluation.

5.5 Unexpected Situations

In the event of power loss, equipment failure, or environmental disruption:

- The referee pauses the bout by commanding "Time."
- The Timekeeper stops the clock.
- Timing resumes only when the referee signals.
- Record the stoppage time and total delay.

6. The Four (4) Round Rule

This rule applies when a bout ends due to an accidental foul other than an accidental low blow, due to injury, or when a bout is stopped later because of an earlier intentional foul. When the rule is applied, the Timekeeper continues with normal timing procedures.

7. Post-Bout and Conduct Responsibilities

Record the exact time and round of the stoppage or final bell.

Do not discuss timing decisions, counts, or stoppages with media, team members, or spectators.

Refer all questions to the boxing authority.

Maintain discretion and a professional manner.