



***AMATEUR BOXING ASSOCIATION OF ENGLAND LIMITED***

***CROWD DISORDER - POLICY***



*The ABAE Equity Commission  
March 2010*



## CROWD DISORDER – POLICY

The 'over-riding' principle will be that ***'Clubs shall be at all times responsible for the behavior of all their spectators at all / any tournament'***

Whilst such incidents of non-authorized persons approaching the ringside during a tournament can be interpreted as disorder, this policy does not seek to legislate for this level of abuse which can correctly be dealt with by the referee or Official in Charge, but it will seek to address the more serious level of offending.

The offences of disorder covered by this policy are not specifically referred to within the ABAE Discipline & Appeals Procedures [DAP] albeit, this policy should be used in conjunction with the DAP.

The new offence categories shall be [in ascending order of seriousness]

1. Conduct unbecoming of a member of the ABAE;
2. To show dissent; [a]
3. Incitement to cause disorder. [b]

Whilst Officials in Charge and disciplinary panels will clearly provide their own interpretation of the offences the following provides a guide to the type of offences falling within each of the three categories – this is not an exhaustive schedule:

1. Conduct unbecoming of a member of the ABAE

This shall cover such offences whereby a Coach or Boxer leaves the boxing ring area clearly as a means of showing discord [c] e.g.: a coach leaves the ringside abandoning his athlete before a decision has been announced, a boxer or coach or other member in any way publically displays disagreement with the results or actions of an official.

## 2. Dissent

This shall cover offences whereby 'any' member of the ABAE openly and publically expresses disagreement regarding any decision made by an official acting in an appointed post. This shall include both verbal dissent and any action deemed to demonstrate dissent e.g.: addressing the audience or confronting the referee.

## 3. Incitement to cause disorder

This shall cover offences whereby the actions of a member of the ABAE either verbally or by his / her actions, causes or incites disorder whether that be his / her original intention or not. This shall include incidents where the person shouts words or gesticulates [d] in any way directly or indirectly towards the audience.

### Responsibility for the prevention of Disorder

It is the personal responsibility of 'all' members 'not to cause or permit disorder' it therefore follows that all who witness such behavior should support any disciplinary procedures.

With regard to disorder in a tournament it shall be the responsibility of the club whose members or supporters cause the disorder

In apportioning responsibility for disorder, the Oi/c or Appropriate Authority will exercise the principle of 'Reasonable Suspicion' and 'Balance of Probability'

### Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction for dealing with 'disorder' related discipline matters must be dealt with as laid down for other disciplinary matters i.e.: club, division, Regional Association and ABAE.

### Prevention

It is recommended that the following measures should be taken where appropriate:

- That requests for permits include details of steps taken regarding stewards, security and / or anti disorder procedures;
- That the rule regarding spectator encroachment of ringside be strictly enforced – the maintenance of a 'sterile area';

- That where appropriate, a steward is placed at the ringside at, at least two corners;
- That computer screens are not readily visible to spectators / non-officials;
- That scores are not announced publically;
- That bars selling / distributing alcoholic liquor are whenever possible not in the function room however, if they are they must have additional, appropriate numbers of stewards to prevent disorder;
- All receptacles holding drinks should be plastic or card;
- That a separate area for officials seating be provided where appropriate;
- Where possible, it is preferable that all spectators are provided with seating;
- That it be the responsibility of all Secretaries of Club, Division, Association [whomever is staging the tournament] to ensure that the Local / relevant A & E Department is informed of the event together with its timings, venue and general age range of athletes [Forms for this purpose are to be introduced];
- That it be the responsibility of all Secretaries of Club, Division, Association [whomever is staging the tournament] to ensure that the Local Police Station is informed at least 48 hours before a proposed tournament, of the event together with its timings, venue and general age range of athletes AND any relevant information if known of possible disorder [Forms for this purpose are to be introduced];

### Official in Charge responsibility

The duties of an Official in Charge in these matters may be delegated by him / her to another capable official where appropriate.

It is recognised that to date, many Officials in Charge have not demonstrated a robust stance or capability to deal with disorder. The person delegated to deal with such matters must take robust action.

Upon the outbreak of disorder the Official in Charge must carry out the following actions:

- ❖ Consider temporarily / permanently suspending the tournament in order to carry out any / all of the following;
- ❖ The identification and club of any offending persons including noting club colours etc;
- ❖ Secure material evidence video, literature, weapons etc;
- ❖ Secure details of any witnesses together with any immediate comments made by them;

- ❖ Compile a full and comprehensive report precisely outlining the details of the disorder;
- ❖ It is imperative that the Police are called if a criminal offence or serious disorder takes place;
- ❖ In accordance with our D & A Procedures, precedence is given at all times to the Police if they are involved and no Disciplinary Proceedings shall take place until all Police action is concluded. Some ABAE investigations may take place however, in such circumstances the National Equity Manager must be consulted.

## Sentencing

Current sentencing levels for offences outlined within this policy are adequately covered by the ABAE Discipline and Appeals Procedures excepting the following:

- Levels of compensation shall be unlimited with regard to damage and restitution;
- That clubs shall be fined robustly and the 'suspended sentence' provision be initiated where appropriate.

## Publication of Findings at Discipline Hearings

Consideration will be given whether the findings of Disciplinary Panels will be shown on the ABAE web site.

### Dictionary

#### [a] To Show Dissent

*to put on an exhibition or performance, or be presented for the public to see which shows dispute, disagreement or dissension*

#### [b] Incitement to Cause Disorder

*to stir up feelings in or provoke action by somebody in order to cause or encourage a public disturbance or breach of the peace*

#### [c] Discord

*Conflict, dispute, rebellion or dissension*

#### [d] To Gesticulate:

*to move the arms or hands when speaking, or express something with movements of the arms or hands*