

Basic information

Boxing (also known as "western boxing" or "pugilism") is a [combat sport](#) and a [martial art](#)^{[1][2][3][4]} in which two people, usually wearing [protective gloves](#) and other protective equipment such as hand wraps and mouthguards, throw punches at each other for a predetermined amount of time in a [boxing ring](#).

Although the term **boxing** is commonly attributed to Western boxing, in which only fists are involved, it has developed in different ways in different geographical areas and cultures of the World. In global terms, "boxing" today is also a set of combat sports focused on [striking](#), in which two opponents face each other in a fight using at least their fists, and possibly involving other actions such as [kicks](#), [elbow strikes](#), [knee strikes](#), and [headbutts](#), depending on the rules. Some of these variants are the [bare knuckle boxing](#), [kickboxing](#), [muay-thai](#), [lethwei](#), [savate](#), and [sanda](#).^{[5][6]} Boxing techniques have been incorporated into many [martial arts](#), [military systems](#), and other combat sports.

Though humans have fought in [hand-to-hand combat](#) since the dawn of human history and the origin of the sport of boxing is unknown,^[7] according to some sources boxing has prehistoric origins in present-day [Ethiopia](#) where it appeared in the sixth millennium BC and when the Egyptians invaded [Nubia](#) they learned the art of boxing from the local population and they took the sport to Egypt where it became popular and from Egypt boxing spread to other countries including [Greece](#), and eastward to Mesopotamia and northward to Rome.^[8]

The earliest visual evidence of [any type of boxing](#) is from Egypt and Sumer both from the third millennia^[9] and can be seen in Sumerian carvings from the third and second millennia BC.^{[10][11][12][13]} The earliest evidence of boxing rules dates back to [Ancient Greece](#), where boxing was established as an [Olympic game](#) in 688 BC.^[10] Boxing evolved from 16th- and 18th-century prizefights, largely in Great Britain, to the forerunner of modern boxing in the mid-19th century with the 1867 introduction of the [Marquess of Queensberry Rules](#).

[Amateur boxing](#) is both an [Olympic](#) and [Commonwealth Games](#) sport and is a standard fixture in most international games—it also has its world championships. Boxing is overseen by a [referee](#) over a series of one-to-three-minute intervals called "rounds".

A winner can be resolved before the completion of the rounds when a referee deems an opponent incapable of continuing, disqualifies an opponent, or the opponent [resigns](#). When the fight reaches the end of its final round with both opponents still standing, the [judges' scorecards](#) determine the victor. In case both fighters gain equal scores from the judges, a professional bout is considered a [draw](#). In Olympic boxing, because a winner must be declared, judges award the contest to one fighter on technical criteria.

RULES:-

The [Marquess of Queensberry rules](#) have been the general rules governing modern boxing since their publication in 1867.^[43]

A boxing match typically consists of a determined number of three-minute rounds, a total of up to 9 to 12 rounds with a minute spent between each round with the fighters resting in their assigned corners and receiving advice and attention from their coach and staff. The fight is controlled by a referee who works within the ring to judge and control the conduct of the fighters, rule on their ability to fight safely, count knocked-down fighters, and rule on fouls.

Up to three judges are typically present at ringside to score the bout and assign points to the boxers, based on punches and elbows that connect, defense, knockdowns, hugging and other, more

subjective, measures. Because of the open-ended style of boxing judging, many fights have controversial results, in which one or both fighters believe they have been "robbed" or unfairly denied a victory. Each fighter has an assigned corner of the ring, where their coach, as well as one or more "seconds" may administer to the fighter at the beginning of the fight and between rounds. Each boxer enters into the ring from their assigned corners at the beginning of each round and must cease fighting and return to their corner at the signalled end of each round.

A bout in which the predetermined number of rounds passes is decided by the judges, and is said to "go the distance". The fighter with the higher score at the end of the fight is ruled the winner. With three judges, unanimous and split decisions are possible, as are draws. A boxer may win the bout before a decision is reached through a knock-out; such bouts are said to have ended "inside the distance". If a fighter is knocked down during the fight, determined by whether the boxer touches the canvas floor of the ring with any part of their body other than the feet as a result of the opponent's punch and not a slip, as determined by the referee, the referee begins counting until the fighter returns to their feet and can continue. Some jurisdictions [require the referee to count to eight](#) regardless of if the fighter gets up before.

Should the referee count to ten, then the knocked-down boxer is ruled "knocked out" (whether unconscious or not) and the other boxer is ruled the winner by [knockout](#) (KO). A "technical knock-out" (TKO) is possible as well, and is ruled by the referee, fight doctor, or a fighter's corner if a fighter is unable to safely continue to fight, based upon injuries or being judged unable to effectively defend themselves. Many jurisdictions and sanctioning agencies also have a "three-knockdown rule", in which three knockdowns in a given round result in a TKO. A TKO is considered a knockout in a fighter's record. A "standing eight" count rule may also be in effect. This gives the referee the right to step in and administer a count of eight to a fighter that the referee feels may be in danger, even if no knockdown has taken place. After counting the referee will observe the fighter, and decide if the fighter is fit to continue. For scoring purposes, a standing eight count is treated as a knockdown.



[Ingemar Johansson](#) of Sweden KO's heavyweight champion [Floyd Patterson](#), 26 June 1959

In general, boxers are prohibited from hitting below the belt, holding, tripping, pushing, biting, or spitting. The boxer's shorts are raised so the opponent is not allowed to hit to the groin area with intent to cause pain or injury. Failure to abide by the former may result in a foul. They also are prohibited from kicking, head-butting, or hitting with any part of the arm other than the knuckles of a closed fist (including hitting with the elbow, shoulder or forearm, as well as with open gloves, the wrist, the inside, back or side of the hand). They are prohibited as well from hitting the back, back of the head or neck (called a "rabbit-punch") or the kidneys. They are prohibited from holding the ropes for support when punching, holding an opponent while punching, or ducking below the belt of their opponent (dropping below the waist of your opponent, no matter the distance between).

If a "clinch" – a defensive move in which a boxer wraps their opponent's arms and holds on to create a pause – is broken by the referee, each fighter must take a full step back before punching again (alternatively, the referee may direct the fighters to "punch out" of the clinch). When a boxer is

knocked down, the other boxer must immediately cease fighting and move to the furthest neutral corner of the ring until the referee has either ruled a knockout or called for the fight to continue.

Violations of these rules may be ruled "fouls" by the referee, who may issue warnings, deduct points, or disqualify an offending boxer, causing an automatic loss, depending on the seriousness and intentionality of the foul. An intentional foul that causes injury that prevents a fight from continuing usually causes the boxer who committed it to be disqualified. A fighter who suffers an accidental low-blow may be given up to five minutes to recover, after which they may be ruled knocked out if they are unable to continue. Accidental fouls that cause injury ending a bout may lead to a "no contest" result, or else cause the fight to go to a decision if enough rounds (typically four or more, or at least three in a four-round fight) have passed.

Unheard of in the modern era, but common during the early 20th Century in North America, a "newspaper decision (NWS)" might be made after a no decision bout had ended. A "no decision" bout occurred when, by law or by pre-arrangement of the fighters, if both boxers were still standing at the fight's conclusion and there was no knockout, no official decision was rendered and neither boxer was declared the winner. But this did not prevent the pool of ringside newspaper reporters from declaring a consensus result among themselves and printing a newspaper decision in their publications. Officially, however, a "no decision" bout resulted in neither boxer winning or losing. Boxing historians sometimes use these unofficial newspaper decisions in compiling fight records for illustrative purposes only. Often, media outlets covering a match will personally score the match, and post their scores as an independent sentence in their report.