



BOXING SOUTH AFRICA

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RETURN TO THE RING: BOXING SOUTH AFRICA'S (BSA) OPERATIONAL PLAN

PURPOSE

The purpose of this submission is to outline BSA's Operational Plan in order to receive approval for the resumption of contact training and events from the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Mr. Nathi Mthethwa. In this document we will provide information on the best practices that will be put in place for the prevention and control measures to minimize the associated risks of COVID-19.

Boxing South Africa is a regulator of professional boxing in the country and is guided by the Boxing Act No. 11 of 2001. For the purpose of attaining its objectives, Boxing SA may issue certificates of registration to any person who is not a member of Boxing SA as a Boxer, Official, Trainer, Manager or Promoter and, to take part in the capacity in which he/she has been so registered or in a case of a Promoter, to negotiate, subject to the provisions of the Act, with any Boxer with a view to procuring his or her services as a Boxer at a tournament.

The Promoter is the event organizer, known as a tournament, and is responsible for hosting a boxing tournament as defined, is in charge of, manages, oversees or holds and controls an event which he/she has a material interest in. As the accountable person, the Promoter takes the lead in ensuring that the protocols needed to minimize exposure are reasonably practicable and applicable to appropriate law. The Promoter and those he/she assign, delegate, appoint or contract have the role and responsibility in ensuring all the right people are appointed, in place and monitored correctly.

Although the Promoter is the most critical component in implementing, managing and overseeing the prevention and control measures needed to avoid the transmission of COVID-19 at the tournament, BSA will ensure that all protocols and plans are enforced without deviation and ensure adherence to applicable rules and laws in every aspect of the value chain.

The lifecycle of each tournament begins at tournament application, which should be submitted to BSA at least 30 days prior to date of the tournament, and ends after the last bout on the day of the tournament.

BACKGROUND:

In July 2020 the Minister of Sport, Arts & Culture gave approval for the resumption of training for professional training with restrictions in place, including non-contact training, as well as pre-requirements that had to be met before boxers, in the case of professional boxing, return to gym. To this effect BSA was required to put in place testing measures to ensure that all boxers are tested before resumption of training. The restrictions on training meant that boxers and trainers could not conduct specific training which is aimed at getting the boxer fight ready.

Nonetheless BSA continued with preparations to ensure that resources are available for licensees, specifically boxers, to test as well as to return to a Covid-19 ready environment, i.e. gymnasium. To this end BSA has collaborated with Ampath laboratories to ensure that there is a centralised and speedy testing process in place. Additionally, BSA has issued all the boxing gyms nationally, that underwent inspection, with sanitizers, thermometers as well as registers.



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With the above measures in place we are confident that sufficient measure are in place for the resumption of contact training for boxers. BSA is also confident that enough thought has gone through the planning of how each tournament will be safely delivered to ensure that we support the government's drives to flatten the curve.

In presenting a boxing case we will focus on the following two areas of approval:

1. Resumption of training, including sparring and one-on-one training with trainer.
2. Resumption of events without spectators

BSA's plans for resumption of training and sanctioning of tournaments will focus on ensuring that there is consideration of the following four cornerstones of the Disaster Management Act Regulations, to manage the potential exposure to COVID-19, namely:

- Social distancing;
- Protect and detect;
- Communication (including contact tracing);
- Cleaning and hygiene

1. RESUMPTION OF TRAINING:

Taking into consideration that gyms are now open under level 2; BSA herein will give an update on the measures in place and assistance extended to boxing gym owners who participated in gym inspections in June and July.

- a. All boxing gyms are expected to abide by the health and safety measures outlined in the Covid-19 level 2 lockdown regulations.
- b. BSA has supplied all the above-mentioned gyms with sanitizers, thermometers and register books and each gymnasium has been required to appoint a Compliance Officer who will be in charge of ensuring that all protocols are observed.
- c. BSA has registered a profile and an account with Ampath laboratories for the testing of Boxers before participation in a tournament and the results will be communicated to the Boxers via BSA's Medical Committee.
- a. In addition to the above, BSA has launched an online reporting system whereby the Compliance Officer will be required to register all boxers training at a particular gym and also report any positive cases that may accrue during training.

2. RESUMPTION OF EVENTS

- a. Request for resumption of events is hereby requested from 1 September 2020.
- b. Tournaments are held at different venues nationally. Requirements of Covid-19 readiness for event venues will however be applicable and enforced at all venues sanctioned for the hosting of a tournament. Promoters who are sponsored or are in partnership with specific venues will be required to submit venue Covid-19 plans in mitigating the spread of the virus.

In line with the Regulations, all tournaments will be held under the following guidelines:

- c. Without any spectators and will only include a predetermined number of persons who are directly involved in the tournament or its delivery; i.e. Boxers, Trainers, Seconds, Ring Officials, Journalists, emergency medical services, ringside physicians, security personnel, broadcasting and venue support staff.
- d. Will be sanctioned in consideration of curfew times in place at the time. For evening tournaments the Promoter will be required to arrange for overnight accommodation for tournament personnel, unless they are in possession of a special permit for travelling after the curfew times.

2.1. Delivery of tournaments:

Promoters are required to submit a tournament application to BSA at least 30 days prior to the date of the tournament for sanctioning by BSA. BSA will sanction each tournament in line with the approved Operational Plan as outlined in this document ensuring that each tournament is delivered with high safety standard in place therefore minimising the spread of the Coronavirus.

2.1.1. Pre-Tournament

Each Promoter must appoint a Compliance Officer who will ensure that all the requirements of this Operational Plan as well as national regulations are adhered to at all times.

Each tournament will be sanctioned in line with the prescripts of the Boxing Act No. 11 of 2001, the Boxing Regulation, 2004 as well as any other applicable policies and rules as well as the approved Operational Plan.

Testing and isolation: BSA has rolled-out a testing programme for all boxers before they resume with training and all boxers billed for a tournament will be required to undergo testing before contracting to a tournament. Additionally testing will be carried out under the supervision of the BSA's Medical Committee Chairperson, Dr. Robert Selepe.

Subsequent to a negative test and upon signing an agreement with the Promoter, both the fighter and his/her camp will be expected to

- Wear a mask at all times, whilst commuting to and from the gymnasium and during training.
- Self-isolate, as far as reasonably possible, only leaving their place of residence for training purposes.
- Submit to weekly screening or testing 30 days before the tournament until admission to the eco-isolation environment.
- Undergo testing 10 days before admission to a bio-safe environment and continue with daily screening.

Training: As sparring is essential for preparation for a fight, isolation in a bio-safe environment will only be practical 7 to 10 days prior to a tournament once sparring has been completed. In the bio-safe environment, fighters are expected to train either in their rooms, at a Covid-19 ready gymnasium at intervals without sharing space with other camps or guests, if at a hotel, or outdoors with only the trainer and second. No family members or other members of the public will be allowed to shadow or visit any fighter and his/her camp during the time at a bio-safe environment.

Pre-medical Medical Weigh-In: This will take place 7 days before the tournament and each camp will be examined and weighed-in at 30 minutes interval to ensure compliance to isolation requirements. The wearing of masks and face shield is mandatory for everyone during pre-medical weigh-in.

Weigh-in: Pre-tournament weigh-in will take place 24 hours before the tournament and each camp will be examined and weighed-in at 30 minutes interval to ensure compliance to isolation requirements. The wearing of masks and face shields is mandatory for everyone during pre-medical weigh-in.

2.1.2. Tournament Day

Venue: Each tournament venue must have been decontaminated before at least 24 hours before the tournament and seating arranged in such a way that social distancing is maintained. This can be done by ensuring that an empty chair is maintained between any two seated people.

Everyone, without exception, entering the venue will be required to,

- i. Produce official accreditation or authorisation to enter the venue,
- ii. Wear a face mask and a face shield in the case of ring side personnel,
- iii. Undergo screening, preventative and tracking measures before entering venue. This includes, temperature taking, sanitizing of hands and recording of personal details which will be kept for a period of no less than 6 months.

Additional measures in place at the venue are as follows.

- i. Each camp will be allocated separate change rooms.
- ii. Each change room will be manned by an official to prevent unauthorised entry .
- iii. Each camp is restricted to three persons, i.e. the Boxer, Trainer and Second.
- iv.

2.1.3. During tournament:

- i. Each fighter will wear a mask until commencement of the fight and the Trainer and Second will be required to wear a face shield in addition to the mask.
- ii. The Referee shall, during the fight, wear a mask and rubber gloves.
- iii. Judges for each bout shall be required to wear a mask and a face shield in addition to the mask. This will also be applicable to ringside personnel and support crew, such as ring side physicians and photographers.
- iv. Where reasonably possible, Ring Officials shall be encouraged to avoid contact with the Boxers, expect when performing fight duties such as separating Boxers, in the case of a Referee, to which rubber gloves shall be worn at all times.
- v. Social distancing will be required for all personnel sitting at the ringside and no persons either than those directly involved in the tournament shall be allowed to sit by the ringside.
- vi. Boxers shall, with no exception, not share water bottles, towels or mouthguards.
- vii. The ring, ropes, corner pads and canvas will be sanitised after each bout.
- viii. After each bout, the Boxer's gloves, tapes, bandages and well as the camp's gloves will be disposed-off in a disposable bag and disposed-off in a safe manner and where possible incinerated.
- ix. No ring girls for any tournament. In case of broadcast tournaments, use of visual is encouraged to display round information and voice announcement of each round shall be used.
- x. Broadcasting is encouraged to be undertaken off-site to reduce the number of people at the tournament venue.

2.1.4. Post-Tournament:

The Compliance Officer for each tournament must, after each tournament, ensure that:

- i. The venue is decontaminated and/or disinfected in line with the set Covid-19 guidelines.
- ii. All persons involved in the delivery of the tournament report of any flu like symptoms or illness to BSA, the appointed ringside physicians or their employer.
- iii. Records of persons attending the tournament are kept for a period of no less than six (6) months post the event.

PROPOSED SCHEDULED TOURNAMENTS:



Date: 10 October 2020
Venue: Theatre of Marcellus
Emperor's Palace, Johannesburg
Time: 19h00

Bout 1: WBA Pan African Welterweight Title – 10 Rounds

Jabulani Makhense (Champion) vs. Erik Kapia

**Bout 2: 4 @ WAR Junior Middleweight Tournament Final
WBA Pan African Junior Middleweight Title – 10 Rounds**

Boyd Allen (Champion) vs. Brandon Thyse

Bout 3: Junior Middleweight Tournament Third Place – 8 Rounds

Tristan Truter vs. Rourke Knapp

Bout 4: Preliminary Bout – 8 Rounds

Date: 12 December 2020
Venue: Theatre of Marcellus
Emperor's Palace, Johannesburg
Time: 19h00

Bout 1: Vacant WBA Pan Africa Junior Bantamweight Title – 10 Rounds

Ricardo Malajika vs. Sikho Nqothole

Bout 2: IBO and Pan Africa Super Middleweight Title – 10 Rounds

Rowan Campbell vs. Ryno Liebenberg

Bout 3: Preliminary Bout – (TBA)

Bout 4: Preliminary Bout – (TBA)

TOURNAMENT PERSONNEL:

1. 4x Golden Gloves representative
2. 1x BSA Tournament Supervisor
3. 6x BSA Ring Officials
4. 2x WBA Ring Officials
5. 1x Pan African Tournament Supervisor
6. 1x Ring Announcer
7. 4x Paramedics
8. 2x Supersport personnel
9. 2x Ringside Physicians
10. 1x Glove Steward
11. 2x Photographer
12. 2x Ring Erecting personnel
13. 1x Journalist
14. 4x Venue Personnel

For any enquiries please feel free to contact the Director of Operations, Ms. Cindy Nkomo on directorops@boxingsa.co.za or on 066 471 4521