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## **Multi Club Sparring Tournaments**

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Dear Secretaries,

The government have announced a roadmap which will see sport return to some kind of normality in the very near future. This will include amateur boxing.

Whilst we are all keen to return to our sport we must do so in a safe and controlled manner.

You will be aware of the Ed Gilbey inquest and the shocking findings of the Coroner - who determined that there were considerable compliance and control failings within England Boxing - not least with regards to child protection practices. The Coroner referred the matter to the Children's Commissioner and there will most likely be an inquiry into child welfare practices and procedures in boxing in the future.

With this in mind the Alliance ABA has been working with the Alliance Compliance Sub-Committee and SABA to review and update its practices and procedures, in particular those relating to child welfare and child protection.

It is important that clubs observe their regional ABA Rules, Regulations and Guidelines to ensure the safety of our boxers, participants, members, officials, club and organisation.

As part of our review we have identified a number of high-risk activities and made amendments to existing guidance to ensure there is no confusion and that everyone is clear as to what is required and expected.

Please note that breach of Alliance ABA Rules may impact on club insurance and result in disciplinary proceedings being taken against your club.

We are currently updating the Alliance ABA rulebook to include the following changes.

1. Your club must be affiliated to your regional association ABA and compliant with its Rules, Regulations and Guidance: Including having a child welfare policy in place and an appointed child welfare officer.
2. All club participants including recreational boxers must be registered with your regional ABA.

We have also been asked to clarify the rules in relation to multi-club sparring tournaments.

1. The Organising Club and all Clubs taking part must be Fully Registered with their Association.
2. All Boxers and Coaches taking part must be fully registered with their Association.
3. The Organising Club must be in receipt of a Tournament Permit obtained from its Association.
4. All Boxers taking part must hold a Medical Card. Recreational Boxers cards are available from your regional A.B.A. Office.
5. All boxers / recreational boxers taking part must have a medical at the event and be deemed medically fit to participate.
6. Sparring sessions are "no decision" events.



7. All sparring bouts will be guided by the normal bout Rules. For example, the minimum age for participants will be 10 years old and In the case of juniors, participants will adhere to the Rules that cover age, weight and experience.
8. The amount of weight that may be conceded is again as guided under normal Boxing Rules.
9. A Doctor must be present throughout the event.
10. The event must be supervised by on O.I.C., Referee and Time Keeper.
11. The Organising Club must provide a Recorder.

In light of the recent inquest and findings, Alliance ABA will be taking the welfare of its boxers, in particular its junior boxers, extremely seriously and will not tolerate any breach of its rules or guidance.

Finally, please note that we are an amateur sport and clubs should not be charging our Boxers / Coaches to take part in sparring events.

Regards

Keith Walters OBE (Alliance Director)