



WKO OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Referee Stoppage, Count & Medical Suspension Rules

1. Referee Authority & Open Championship Consideration

- The referee has full authority to stop a contest at any time in the interest of safety.
 - In Open Championship formats, referees must:
 - Prioritise competitor safety above all
 - Recognise that competitors may have multiple bouts within the same event
 - Where appropriate, err on the side of early intervention to prevent unnecessary injury
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2. Count System

2.1 Standing Count (Mandatory 8 Count)

A referee may issue a standing 8 count when a competitor:

- Receives significant strikes
- Is unable to defend effectively
- Shows signs of being overwhelmed

During the count:

- The opponent must move to a neutral corner
 - The referee will assess the competitor's condition
 - The count will reach 8 before action may resume
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2.2 Knockdown Rule

A competitor is considered knocked down if:

- Any part of the body other than the feet touches the canvas due to strikes
- The competitor is supported by the ropes to remain standing

A mandatory 8 count will be administered.

2.3 Multiple Counts / Stoppage

A contest may be stopped if:

- A competitor receives multiple counts
- A competitor is taking excessive punishment
- The referee determines it is unsafe to continue

👉 Referee discretion applies at all times

3. Technical Knockout (TKO)

A bout will be stopped as a TKO if a competitor:

- Cannot intelligently defend themselves
- Is receiving excessive unanswered strikes
- Is visibly compromised or at risk

Post-TKO Outcome:

- The competitor is immediately withdrawn from the remainder of the event
 - The competitor is placed on a mandatory minimum 30-45 day medical suspension
 - No further competition or contact training is permitted during this period
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4. Knockout (KO)

A KO is defined as:

- A competitor being rendered unconscious due to strikes

Post-KO Outcome:

- The competitor is immediately withdrawn from the remainder of the event
 - The competitor is placed on a mandatory minimum 30-45 day medical suspension
 - No further competition or contact training is permitted during this period
 - Return to competition is subject to medical clearance
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5. Corner Stoppage (Towel / Retirement)

Where a contest is stopped by the competitor's corner:

- This is treated as a **safety-based withdrawal**, not a KO or TKO

Requirements:

- The coach must immediately present the competitor to the event medical team
- The competitor must undergo a **medical assessment**

Outcome:

- The competitor may only continue in other divisions if:
 - They are medically assessed and declared fit to continue
 - Approval is given by the event medic and/or referee
- No automatic 30-45 day suspension is applied, unless:
 - The medical team determines it is necessary

6. Medical Authority

- The event medical team has final and overriding authority on:
 - Fitness to continue
 - Withdrawal from competition
 - Medical suspensions

All decisions are final and must be respected.

7. Officials Discretion

Referees and judges reserve the right to:

- Decline to officiate a competitor
- Recommend removal from further participation

Where they reasonably believe the competitor's safety may be at risk.

8. Safety Statement

WKO places the highest priority on the safety and long-term wellbeing of all competitors.

- Early intervention is encouraged

- Medical oversight is essential
 - All decisions must reflect fighter safety first
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Key Rule Summary

- KO or TKO → Immediate removal from event + 30-45 days at discretion of WKO approved medical team suspension (mandatory)
 - Corner stoppage → Medical assessment required → May continue if cleared
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