



📍 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 **fighter safety above all**
 - Be mindful that competitors may have **multiple bouts in a single event**
 - Where appropriate, **err on the side of early stoppage** to prevent unnecessary damage and allow continued participation
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2. Count System

2.1 Standing Count (8 Count)

- A referee may issue a **mandatory 8 count** when a competitor:
 - Receives significant strikes
 - Appears 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 fighter's condition
 - The count will reach **8 before continuation is allowed**
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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 hanging on the ropes to remain standing
 - The referee will administer a **mandatory 8 count**
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2.3 Multiple Counts / Stoppage

- A contest may be stopped if:
 - A competitor receives **multiple counts in a round**
 - A competitor accumulates **excessive punishment**
 - The referee deems the competitor **unable to continue safely**

👉 Referee discretion applies at all times

3. Technical Knockout (TKO)

A bout may 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 Procedure:

- All TKO decisions must be **assessed by the event medical team**
- The competitor must be **medically signed off as fit to continue**
- Only with medical clearance may the competitor:
 - Continue in the tournament
 - Participate in further bouts on the same day

! Without medical clearance, the competitor is **withdrawn from competition**

4. Knockout (KO)

A KO is defined as:

- A competitor being **rendered unconscious** due to strikes

Mandatory Suspension:

- Automatic **28–45 day suspension**
- No competition or contact training permitted during this period
- Return is subject to:
 - Medical clearance (if required)
 - Compliance with WKO safeguarding policies

5. Medical Authority

- The **event medical team has final and overriding authority on:**
 - Fitness to continue
 - Post-bout clearance
 - Suspension enforcement

6. Safety Statement

WKO prioritises the long-term health and safety of all competitors.

Early intervention and appropriate medical oversight are essential to fair and responsible competition.

7. Officials Discretion

Referees and Judges reserve the right to opt out of officiating a fighter they reasonably believe has been subject to a TKO during the course of the championships, in the interest of safety.