

British Boxing Board of Control operational document for behind closed doors tournaments. 6th edition. January 2021.



The procedures outlined in this operational document are reviewed on a regular basis by the BBBoC Medical panel. Changes to current operational procedure can be implemented at any point to reflect the pandemic status in the United Kingdom.

Summary of changes and points of emphasis in the 6th edition

- *Those in the highest and medium risk categories should not attend the tournament*
- *The requirement for COVID-19 PCR testing will not change*
- *Any individual who has received a COVID-19 vaccine will still be required to undertake COVID-19 testing*
- *There must be strict adherence to PPE, social distancing and hand hygiene*
- *Any medical exemption from wearing PPE must be forwarded to BBBoC Head Office 5 working days before the tournament. Exemptions may affect zone entry*
- *The weigh in area will now be zoned. A 4 metre area surrounding the scales will be a designated red zone. All individuals in this zone must wear face coverings. Only individuals with prior authorisation will be permitted to enter.*
- *Total numbers of individuals at shows must remain as low as possible.*

Currently there is no mechanism to ensure Professional Boxing in the United Kingdom is 100% free from COVID-19 infection. However, the guidance outlined in this document should significantly reduce the chance of COVID-19 infection at tournaments licensed by the British Boxing Board of Control.

Behind closed doors:

BBBofC licensed tournaments will operate under 'closed doors' format until further notice.

Venues:

All potential venues to be discussed and reviewed by senior BBBofC Officials and BBBofC Area Chief Medical Officer / senior doctor. No promotion will be permitted to run unless the venue has been approved by the BBBofC.

All venues will be required to be cleaned to a medical standard in advance of the tournament.

Outdoor venues are preferential for improved ventilation.

Total number of attendees for behind closed-door tournaments:

Emphasis on only essential Officials to be appointed to allow the promotion to run safely.

The same will apply for Promoter and Broadcasters, only essential members.

7 working days prior to any tournament, BBBofC Head Office should be made aware of names and exact numbers of attendees. The list will include all Licence Holders, Board Officials, Medical Officers, Paramedic Ambulance crew, Promoter's team (to include venue staff and any security), Television Personnel.

It is understood that names and numbers of attendees may change to ensure the safe running of the tournament. If changes take place the BBBofC and Promoter must be informed.

All individuals must make available identification upon entry to the venue.

Who should NOT attend the tournament:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/whos-at-higher-risk-from-coronavirus/>

Those who are in the highest risk category of development of a complication from COVID-19 infection should not attend.

- *have had an organ transplant*
- *are having chemotherapy or antibody treatment for cancer, including immunotherapy*
- *are having an intense course of radiotherapy (radical radiotherapy) for lung cancer*
- *are having targeted cancer treatments that can affect the immune system (such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors)*
- *have blood or bone marrow cancer (such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma)*
- *have had a bone marrow or stem cell transplant in the past 6 months, or are still taking immunosuppressant medicine*
- *have been told by a doctor they have a severe lung condition (such as cystic fibrosis, severe asthma or severe COPD)*
- *have a condition that means they have a very high risk of getting infections (such as SCID or sickle cell)*
- *are taking medicine that makes them much more likely to get infections (such as high doses of steroids or immunosuppressant medicine)*
- *have a serious heart condition and are pregnant*

Those in the medium risk category

- *70 or older*
- *have a lung condition that's not severe (such as asthma, COPD, emphysema or bronchitis)*
- *have heart disease (such as heart failure)*
- *have diabetes*
- *have chronic kidney disease*
- *have liver disease (such as hepatitis)*
- *have a condition affecting the brain or nerves (such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis or cerebral palsy)*
- *have a condition that means they have a high risk of getting infections*
- *are taking medicine that can affect the immune system (such as low doses of steroids)*
- *are very obese (a BMI of 40 or above)*
- *are pregnant*

Hospitals:

BBBofC Head Office to directly contact hospitals identified as destinations for Emergency Department or Neurosurgical care.

Number of contests:

Maximum 9 contests.

Pre contest medicals will be conducted on the afternoon of the tournament and not the day before.

Pre-tournament medical questionnaire for all attending.

- To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure to all who attend BBBofC tournaments a screening questionnaire will be used. *Please see attachment.*
- Completion of the questionnaire is mandatory for all Licence Holders.
- The BBBofC recommends that the Promoter utilises the screening questionnaire for all other individuals attending the tournament.
- If a Licence Holder does not complete the questionnaire then that individual will not be permitted to attend the tournament.

COVID-19 testing and pre-tournament quarantine:

- The following individuals require COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing :
Boxers, corner team, Referees / Judges, Doctors, 2 BBBofC Inspectors allocated to each corner and BBBofC runner.
- It is the responsibility of the Promoter to facilitate COVID-19 testing.
- The Promoter must agree with the BBBofC details of the COVID-19 testers that are being used.
- The Boxers, Referees and Trainer/seconds will be required to undertake their COVID-19 testing within 72 hours of the tournament. Once the test has been undertaken all Boxers, Referees and Trainer/seconds will be required to self- isolate in a hotel and await the test result.
- BBBofC Officials / Medical Officers who are COVID-19 tested may be permitted to go home and self-isolate until the tournament begins. Each case must be discussed with BBBofC Head Office.
- It is essential that once an individual has undertaken their COVID-19 test that they go directly to their hotel room. They should remain there, alone, until they receive notification of their COVID-19 test result.
- The hotel provision is the responsibility of the Promoter
- The BBBofC must be informed of all test results before the tournament
- Any person that produces a positive test for active COVID-19 infection will not be permitted to take any further part in the tournament.
- Any person testing positive for COVID-19 will be advised on the safest passage out of the hotel, to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This passage will involve wearing PPE.

- On the day of the tournament, the Boxers, Referees and Trainer/seconds will be transported to the venue wearing personal protective masks (fluid-resistant type IIR surgical mask) and eye protection.
- PPE (FFP3, eye protection and regular sanitizing of hands) for Trainer/seconds must remain in place at all times during the tournament.
- The Referee must wear PPE (FFP3 mask and regular sanitizing of hands) throughout at all times during the tournament.
- The Judges must wear PPE (FFP3 mask, eye protection and regular sanitizing of hands) throughout at all times during the tournament.
- The Timekeeper must wear PPE (fluid resistant surgical mask, eye protection and regular sanitizing of hands) throughout at all times during the tournament.

You should not travel to the tournament if you have symptoms of COVID-19

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- High temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you’ve noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Attending a BBBofC tournament if you have previously tested positive for COVID-19:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Individuals can attend a BBBofC tournament if they have previously tested polymerase chain reaction (PCR) positive for COVID-19 and fulfil the following criteria:

- *The individual is 10 days post positive PCR test and has been asymptomatic (no symptoms) throughout that 10 day period.*
- *If the individual has been symptomatic following the positive PCR test, then the 10 day isolation period must begin from the day that symptoms started. To attend the tournament the individual must be afebrile (no temperature) for 48 hours without medication. If loss of smell / taste and or a cough persist the individual can attend the tournament providing they are medically fit to return to work.*

- *Any individual who has been hospitalised with COVID-19 should inform the BBBofC.*

Does the individual require retesting when they attend a tournament?

- *PCR COVID-19 testing is not required for 90 days unless the individual has become symptomatic (showing symptoms) during this period. If PCR testing is undertaken within 90 days in an asymptomatic individual there is a chance a positive results will be returned due to shedding inactive virus.*
- *If an individual was COVID-19 tested as part of NHS Track and Trace then local Health Protection Team guidance should be followed*
- *In all cases of positive COVID-19 test results the BBBofC should be informed.*

Should COVID-19 antibody positive individuals be tested at each BBBofC tournament?

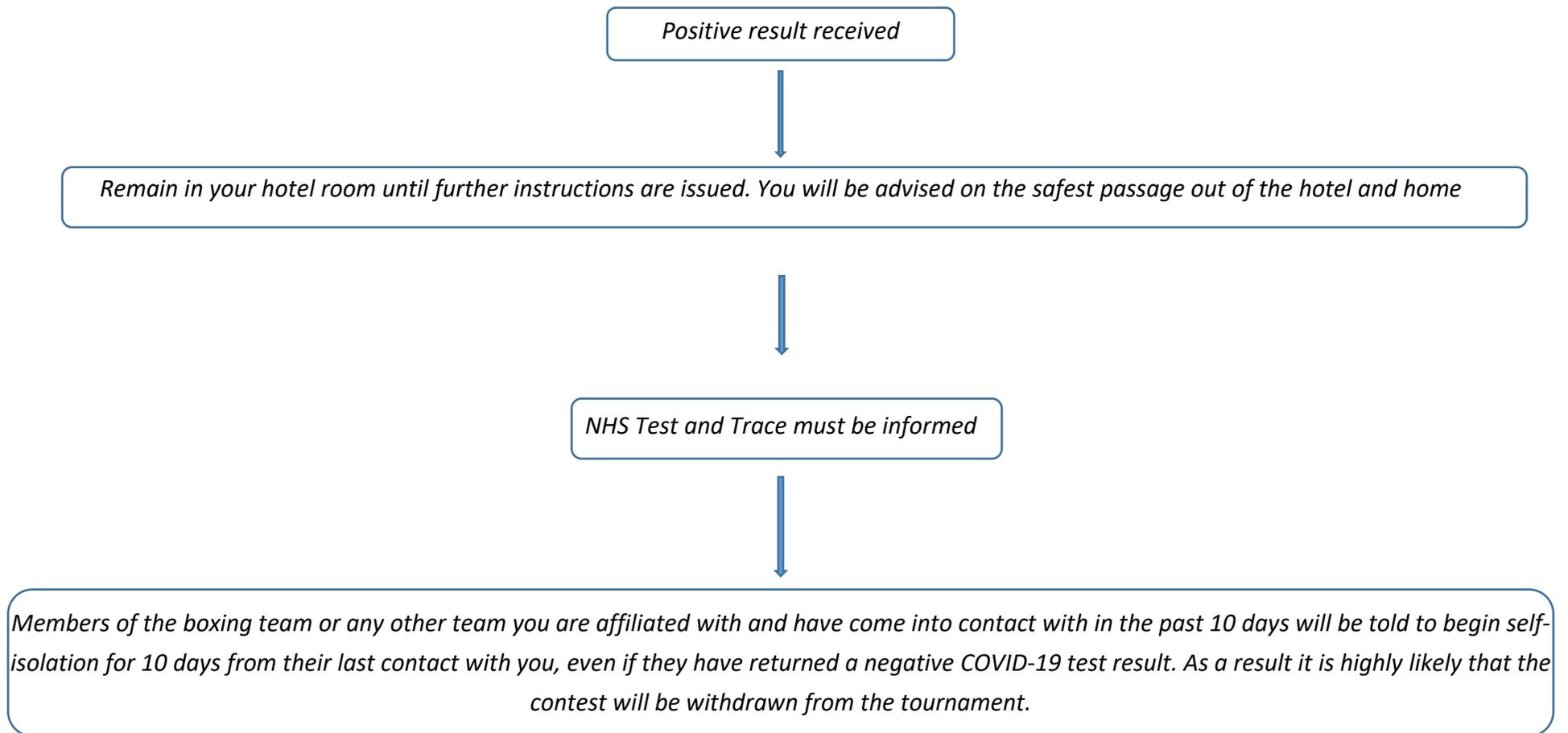
- *Yes.*
- *If an individual has a positive antibody result this represents previous exposure, but it is currently unknown whether this means immunity, including protection against future infections.*

Pathway to be followed when an asymptomatic COVID-19 positive test is returned before entering the bubble

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

Arrive at tournament hotel bubble, undergo COVID-19 test and isolate in hotel room





COVID-19 screening on arrival at venue:

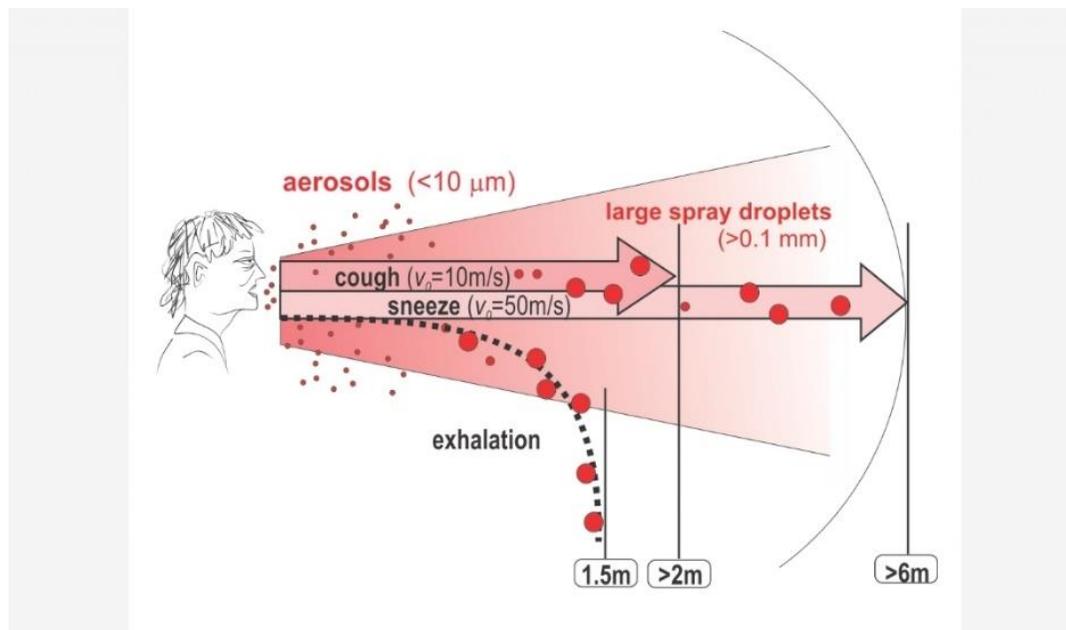
- Upon arrival at the venue and prior to entering the arena all attendees will have their temperature taken and will be asked COVID-19 screening questions.
- Temperature checks will be undertaken with non-contact forehead thermometer.
- If any irregularities are identified, the individual will not be permitted to enter the arena.

- The individual conducting the screening process on arrival, must be wearing a Fluid Resistant Surgical Face Mask - Type IIR Certified, eye protection (eye shield, goggles or visor and regular sanitizing of hands).
- In accordance with Government guidance the BBBoFC has appointed a COVID-19 officer. The BBBoFC recommend that each Promoter appoints a named COVID-19 medical officer (physician) to ensure that risk assessment takes place for non BBBoFC Licence Holders attending the tournament. This individual will take no part in the BBBoFC medical procedures during the tournament.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation/elite-sport-return-to-training-guidance-step-one--2>

How to maintain social distancing:

- Social distancing is essential.



<https://medium.com/@Cancerwarrior/covid-19-why-we-should-all-wear-masks-there-is-new-scientific-rationale-280e08ceee71>

- Dressing rooms must have enough space to maintain social distancing (or individual rooms for each Boxer).
- TV commentary area must have enough space for social distancing.
- The only persons allowed into the ring prior to and after the contest are the Boxers, one Trainer, Referee and Medical Officers.
- No ring girls allowed into the ring / red zone
- Master of Ceremony not permitted into the ring / red zone
- No camera people in corners or ring.
- TV interviews to take place in agreed designated areas.

Zoning at the venue: please refer to zoning schematic at the end of this document.

- **Red zone:** divided into inner and outer red zone. The ring and surrounding 2m are the inner red zone. The outer red zone is from 2 - 6m. The inner red zone should be occupied as little as possible. Those with access to the red zone are: Boxer's, Referee, Judges, Corner teams, 2 BBBofC Inspectors, BBBofC Doctors, BBBofC Runner and Paramedic team. There will be security at the entrance and exit to inner and outer red zones. Everyone with access to the red zone should be COVID-19 antigen negative and wearing PPE (FFP3, eye protection). Precise guidance on PPE can be found in the PPE section of this document.
- **Amber zone:** from the outer red zone to start of green zone this area occupies 6 - 8 metres. The outer limit is movable. Those with access to amber zone are: Paramedic team, BBBofC doctors, Timekeeper, Master of Ceremony, BBBofC Supervisor, BBBofC Inspector, BBBofC Runner, Commentary team and Promoters press team. The Paramedic team will be stationed in the amber zone but will have access to the red zone. Appropriate PPE as guided by the PPE section of this document.

The red and amber zones will require safe exits to the donning and doffing areas.

- **Green zone:** surrounding area of arena. Everyone in this area must adhere to strict social distancing, hand hygiene including regular use of hand sanitiser and wear type 2R surgical masks. Individuals in the green zone do not require COVID-19 antigen testing.

Access to each zone will be via one entrance that has security. Exit from each zone will be at a separate point from the entrance and will have security. Access will require a colour coded wrist band corresponding to the zonal colour.

Infection control & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- **Supply of PPE for all attendees is the responsibility of the Promoter in conjunction with BBBofC.**
- Dress code for all BBBofC Officials: trousers, short sleeve polo shirt to ensure bare below elbows.
- There must be 2 separate designated safe areas for donning and doffing of PPE. One area will be for donning and a separate area for doffing. These areas will require handwashing facilities, touch free paper towel dispensers (not hot air hand dryers), hand sanitizer, disposable latex free gloves, *Clinell Universal Wipes* and foot pedal operated clinical waste bins. Standard waste bins will not be appropriate for clinical waste.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879103/PHE_COVID-19_Donning_quick_guide_gown_version.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879105/PHE_COVID-19_Doffing_gown_version.pdf

- It is recommended that all in attendance at the tournament are bare below the elbow.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Uniforms-and-Workwear-Guidance-2-April-2020.pdf>

- Hand sanitiser facilities must be available and clearly identifiable at ringside. They should also be clearly identified on entry to dressing rooms.
- Guidance on best practice must be visible:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877529/Best_Practice_hand_rub.pdf

- Hand washing facilities must be visible and provided throughout the venue Guidance on best practice must be visible:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877530/Best_Practice_hand_wash.pdf

- Licence Holders in the corners must not share the Boxers water bottle or towel.
- Boxers are restricted to two Corner personnel and one House Second supplied by the Promoter.
- Shower facilities with soap and towels must be available at the venue for all Boxers, Licence Holders, Referee's, Judges and Medical Officers to use.

PPE for the Medical Team:

PPE will be required for all Medical Officers and Ambulance crew.

Guidance on PPE has been taken from NHS England:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>

All Medical Officers at ringside will be in full PPE (FFP3 mask, fluid repellent coverall suits, latex free disposable gloves x 2 pairs, and full-face visor) in the event of a collapsed Boxer. The nominated Paramedic to assist the airway will require the same level of PPE as the 2 airway Medical Officers in PPE.

The Promoter must hire an Ambulance with Paramedic support that is undertaking regular COVID-19 transfers and recognised by the CQC for this.

PPE for Boxers, Referees, Judges and Trainer/seconds for transfer from quarantine area to venue

Fluid Resistant Surgical Face Masks - Type IIR Certified and eye protection (eye shield, goggles or visor) and regular sanitizing of hands.

PPE for Referees, Judges and Trainer/seconds during the contest (inner red zone):

FFP3 mask, eye protection (eye shield, goggles or visor) and regular sanitizing of hands.

PPE for BBBofC Inspectors, BBBofC Runner and security team in the outer red zone:

FFP3 mask, eye protection (eye shield, goggles or visor) and regular sanitizing of hands.

PPE for the designated airway Medical Officers at ringside and paramedic support:

FFP3 mask, fluid repellent coverall suits, latex free disposable gloves x 2 pairs, and full-face visor.

PPE for Timekeeper (amber zone):

Fluid Resistant Surgical Face Masks - Type IIR Certified, eye protection (eye shield, goggles or visor) and regular sanitizing of hands.

PPE for commentary team, security team, Master of Ceremony, BBBofC Supervisor and Inspector within the amber zone:

Fluid Resistant Surgical Face Masks - Type IIR Certified, eye protection (eye shield, goggles or visor) and regular sanitizing of hands.

PPE for Medical Officer's in the amber zone, conducting post contest medicals or carrying out suturing:

FFP3 mask, fluid repellent coverall suits, latex free disposable gloves x 2 pairs, and full-face visor.

PPE for all other attendees in the green zone:

Fluid Resistant Surgical Face Masks and regular sanitizing of hands.

Cleaning of ring in between contests:

- Ring canvas, steps to ring, ropes and corners to be cleaned to medical standards in between each contest.
- There must be sufficient time (minimum of 20 minutes) between contests to allow cleaning of the ring area and for any person to change their PPE in a safe and unrushed manner.

Referees:

- To ensure good infection control practices, following each contest the Referee must go to the doffing area and remove their PPE. They must then wash and change into a fresh uniform. New PPE must then be donned before the next contest.

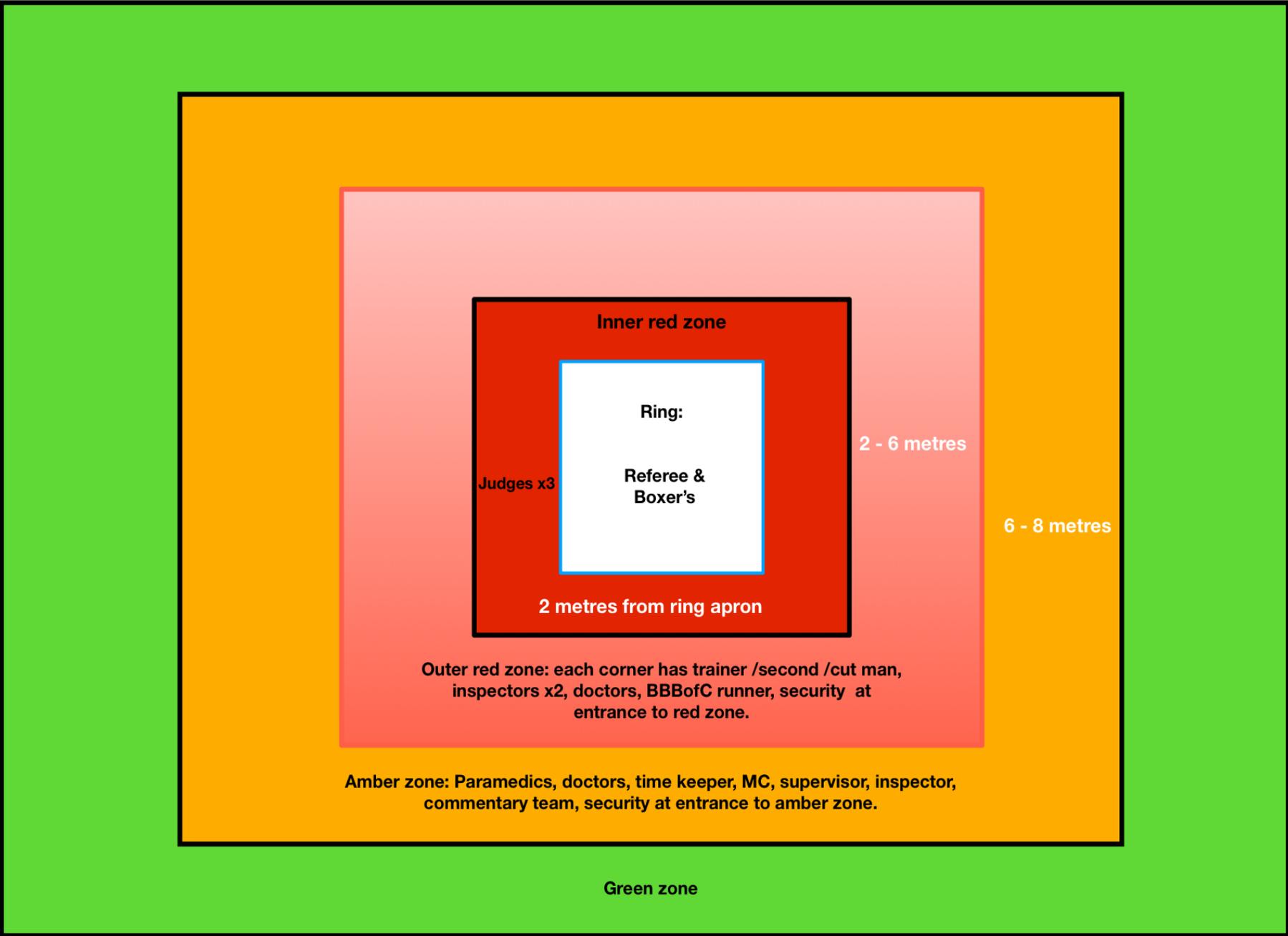
Boxers spitting

Spittoon buckets must be used. One spittoon bucket per Boxer. The spittoon bucket must be covered with a lid during each round. During the round the external aspect of the spittoon bucket must be cleaned with *Clinell Universal Wipes*. The spittoon buckets must be changed after each contest. Before being used again, spittoon buckets will have to be cleaned with bleach. The individual who is cleaning the spittoon buckets must wear Fluid Resistant

Surgical Face Masks - Type IIR Certified, eye protection (eye shield, goggles or visor), a long sleeve disposable fluid repellent gown and latex free disposable gloves.

Disposal of PPE, Boxer's gloves and hand wraps:

- All PPE used at the event is regarded as clinical waste and must be disposed of in accordance with clinical waste guidance.
- After each contest, all Boxer's gloves and hand wraps must be disposed of in accordance with clinical waste guidance.



British Boxing Board of Control COVID-19 Pre-tournament questionnaire

The safety of all who attend British Boxing Board of Control licensed tournaments is our priority.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure to all who attend BBBofC tournaments we are conducting a screening questionnaire.

Your participation is mandatory to help us take precautionary measures to protect you and everyone at the tournament.

Thank you for your time.