

# Protocol for Ringside Emergency Personnel

## Upon arrival:

- Check in with the Illinois Athletic Unit representatives and obtain the vital sign record sheets (one for each EMT/Paramedic). Fill in your names and license numbers.
- Check in with and review the following with the ringside physician:
  - Establish a clear route of exit from the ring to the ambulance.
  - Location of your ringside seating.
  - If possible, have the defibrillator, backboard and neck collar at ringside.
  - Discuss which hospitals are nearby.
  - Discuss protocol for a getting a second ambulance if/when needed. Ambulances should be ACLS equipped.

## During the event:

- At least one ringside physician and one EMT/Paramedic must be ringside at all times.
- Do not try to stop a bout. In Illinois the referee is the sole arbiter of the bout. The physician can stop the event only between rounds or if called upon by the referee during a time-out.
- Do not root, cheer or boo for any contestant.
- Do not get involved with spectators or venue personnel – for any problems or questions immediately contact the ringside physician or security.
- Do not discuss any medical aspects of the athletes with the media or other personnel, even if it sounds as simple as “he’s okay”. If asked, respond only with “you will have to talk to the ringside physician”.

## After each separate bout:

- If there is only one physician the post-bout exams will take place either ringside or in the locker areas, depending on the physician’s assessment of the venue.
- If there are two physicians working the event, one EMT/Paramedic will escort the athlete from the RED corner to the locker area. (One of the ringside physicians will usually escort the athlete from the blue corner.) Please note: getting an athlete who is overexcited at the outcome may be a challenge. Remain professional and remember that you are in charge. If there’s a problem getting them back to the area, they usually respond to the phrase “we have to do the medical now”.
- Do vital signs (BP, HR, RR) on the athlete and record them on the vital sign sheet. Then find the athlete from the blue corner (names usually on the locker room doors) and record their vital signs. Give these numbers to the ringside physician doing the post-bout exams.
- It is usually better to do vital signs in the locker area – it’s a more controlled environment than the rest of the venue. More importantly, the ringside physician will know where to find you and the athlete in case of a problem.
- If an athlete is refusing medical advice let the ringside physician know immediately.

## At the end of the event:

- Turn in the vital sign sheets to the Athletic Unit or one of the ringside physicians.
- Check in with the ringside physicians to let them know you are leaving.
- At least two EMT’s/Paramedics, one ringside physician, and a representative of the Athletic Unit are not allowed to leave until all athletes are medically cleared and have left the locker and competition areas.