A Statement from USA Boxing

USA Boxing is committed to supporting a return to event sanctions, as the country gradually proceeds to lift stay-at-home orders. Navigating the next phase of this pandemic is critical and requires effective systems in place to transition away from mitigation in a controlled manner. Leaders at all levels, including USA Boxing, Local Boxing Committee (LBC) leaders, and coaches, will need to prepare their communities by dynamically evaluating, analyzing, and implementing appropriate measures to reduce contagion while maximizing safety.

The document below contains an outline for LBCs to follow to ensure a safe return to competition. As this is strictly a guide, please tailor these guidelines to the needs of your event. We kindly ask to be mindful of all current local, state, and federal regulations when planning events in your area. Let us be good ambassadors of our sport and prove we can safely return to competition.

Moving forward, our guiding principles will remain the safety of our members, staff, and communities.

Government & Public Health Adherence

Please adhere to state and local guidelines during all phases of development for your event. Contact your state health department for more information.

- Appoint a Health & Safety Task Force within your LBC
  - This committee should be comprised of a ringside physician, Chief of Official (COO), Local Organizing Committee (LOC) representative, host, sanction holder and/or other LBC Leaders
- Deputize event coordinators responsible for addressing COVID-19 issues.
  - Determine who will have decision making authority to modify, restrict, postpone, or cancel the event
- Appoint one or more people to uphold the sanitization procedures outlined in this document
- Receive approval from local health department on the proposed size of the event
- Work closely with public health officials in receiving the most current COVID-19 information available by:
  - Facilitating the sharing of information between the event planners and public health authorities
  - Coordinating with public health services, locally and nationally
  - Ensuring event planners develop proper public health policies and procedures
• Identify and collaborate with local healthcare resources (e.g., urgent cares, emergency rooms, ambulance services) in the development of a medical plan. Medical plans need to include all prevalent event and contact information for nearby healthcare providers and a resource document with the provider information, made available to participants.

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**USA Boxing Adherence**

USA Boxing has three tiers of returning to competition:

- **Tier 1: Return to the Gym**
  - Preparation: Preparing your gym and coaching staff
  - Phase 1: Limited Participation
  - Phase 2: Moderate Participation
  - Phase 3: Responsible Participation
- **Tier 2: Return to Single Day Events (Local Shows)**
- **Tier 3: Return to Multi-Day Events (Regional Tournaments)**

USA Boxing recommends the *Return to Competition* model, as it is comprised of recommendations from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), USA Boxing, the USA Boxing Physicians & Coaches Commission, federal, state and local guidelines. Please refer to the #BACKTOBOXING Timeline to determine which phase or tier your LBC is in.

Beginning on July 31st, LBCs that have completed a minimum of 28 days in Tier 1: Phase 3 (Sparring) may enter Tier 2 and resume holding local event sanctions under guidance of this document and following all regulations that are in place in the state where the event is being held. This completes a full eight-week cycle from Return to the Gym to Return to Events.

Participation in event sanctions will be limited to members who reside in states that are in the same phase as the area hosting the event. Boxers will not be allowed to participate until their home area has entered Tier 2.

Beginning July 10th, LBCs may host a test event, which is required before an LBC may enter Tier 2. Execution of a successful test event is required before entering Tier 2 and execution of a successful Tier 2 event is a requirement before entering Tier 3.

**Test Events**

Once an LBC enters *Tier 1: Phase 3*, but before an entering *Tier 2: Return to Events*, at least one test event must be held. Sanction fees for all test events are waived. LBC directors will manage test events to ensure the effectiveness of newly adopted protocols, in addition gauging/maintaining comfort levels for participating officials and physicians. Test events are limited and will serve to
prepare LBCs for the return of larger events. Upon conclusion, LBCs should conduct an After-Action Report (AAR) to evaluate what worked well and what needs improvement, prior to entering Tier 2. Officials-In-Charge (OIC) for the LBC should be required to attend, while all active officials and ringside physicians should be encouraged to attend to provide feedback.

- Limited to registered clubs and members within the host LBC ONLY
- Maximum of 10 bouts, pre-matched
- No or limited audience
- No or limited concessions
- AAR Required

Venue Procedures
To comply with WHO and CDC recommendations while ensuring safe operation of USA Boxing sanctions, the following protocols need to be strictly enforced:

- The collection and distribution of PPE and other essential provisions such as, but not limited to:
  - Hand Sanitizer Gels and Dispensers
  - Disinfectant / cleaning wipes
  - Non-Medical Respiratory Masks (cloth masks are acceptable)
  - Disposable Gloves (Latex or Nitrile)
  - Temporal Thermometers
  - Signage Regarding Precautionary Measures (Hand Washing, Social Distancing, etc.)

Click [here](#) to access a list of downloadable signage to print for events

Risk Assessment
Consider creating a map of your event venue. Simulate entering the building through designated paths, noting various “hot spots” of low, medium, and high risk for contamination and transfer. Also note the location of all instruction and sanitizer/cleaning stations. Reevaluate the execution of standard operating procedures to mitigate risk. For example, set up a station with hand sanitizer (the CDC recommends hand sanitizer contains a minimum 60% isopropyl, ethyl, or N-Propanol (rubbing alcohol) alcohol) and disinfectant / cleaning wipes in areas where there is a high to medium risk locations, converting them to a medium to low risk area.

- High Risk – areas where multiple people will likely transfer germs, sweat and other contaminants (ex. doorknobs, sink taps, boxing ring, changing rooms, etc.)
- Medium Risk – areas where multiple people could transfer germs, sweat and other contaminants (ex. check-in area, weigh-in area, glove table, warm-up area, etc.)
- Low Risk – areas of minimal transfer of germs, sweat and other contaminants (ex. Bleachers or spectator area, hallways, walkways, etc.)

Identify Essential vs. Non-Essential Personnel
Determine who will be allowed at the event by grouping people into essential and non-essential categories and decide which groups will be allowed at the event
• **Essential**: boxers, coaches, officials, volunteers, event staff, medical staff and security, parents, or guardians of minors from the same household
• **Non-essential**: media, spectators, and vendors

Criteria for parties attending or participating in the event:

• No signs or symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
  o [Refer to the CDC Symptom Tracker](https://www.cdc.gov.coronavirus-symptoms.html)
  o Anyone with documented contraction of COVID-19, must be cleared by their physician via a written declaration
  o No close, sustained contact with anyone who is sick, presents symptoms, or has been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the event
  o Has not traveled abroad in the past 14 days

• Encourage individuals who exhibit the following characteristics not to attend
  o 65 years of age or older
  o Moderate to severe asthma
  o Chronic lung disease
  o Serious heart conditions
  o Immunocompromised
  o Severe obesity
  o Diabetes
  o Liver disease
  o Resides in assisted living or long-term care facilities

**Health Screening & Measures**

Everyone entering the venue must wear a mask which covers their mouth and nose and are subject to a temperature check. Attendees with a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, will not be admitted. If an individual has a fever at 100.4 degrees and above, this individual can step aside, wait five minutes, then have their temperature rechecked. The event organizer should provide a list of local healthcare facilities where people can be seen by a certified healthcare professional.

**Essential Personnel**

Essential personnel entering the venue will be required to a complete a COVID-19 Health Screening Questionnaire. ***Different from a COVID-19 test***

• If participants disclose or physically present symptoms of COVID-19 or were exposed to people confirmed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, they are required to undergo a secondary screening with a ringside physician
  o Participant should wait in secluded area of venue, away from other participants and spectators, while waiting for secondary screening
• Secondary screenings will either, clear the subject to participate or will provide further instruction, at the discretion of the ringside physician. Medical officials may recommend a member be denied access to enter the competition venue due to medical concern
• Event organizer must submit the completed COVID-19 Health Screening Questionnaires to their LBC. LBCs must retain questionnaires for one year

All essential personnel will be required to fill out the Hold Harmless waiver to compete. Event organizer must submit completed waivers to their LBC o have them retained for minimum of one year.

**Non-Essential Personnel**

All non-essential personnel, including spectators, will be required to sign-in with their name and contact information.

- **Sign-in sheet** includes verbiage from Hold Harmless waiver, and acts as a liability waiver for spectators and other non-essential personnel
- Event organizer must submit sign-in sheets to their LBC. LBCs are required to maintain sign-in sheets for one year

USA Boxing strongly recommends modifying the check-in procedure to help identify essential and non-essential personnel who have successfully passed their health screening

Examples of check-in modification include, but are not limited to:

- Wristbands
- Stickers
- Stamps or markings on hand
- Markings on slips of paper or their credentials (passbooks)

Failure to create an effective system of identification for people entering and exiting the building, will create redundancies in screening participants, creating bottlenecks at the point of entry.

**Preventing the Spread of Infection**

- **Education**
  - Ensure all medical personnel are informed of current COVID-19 information
  - Prior to the event, USAB will provide multi-modal communications (e.g., e-mail, social media, website, etc.) with infection mitigation procedures (i.e.: hand washing, avoid touching face, social distancing, etc.) on USA Boxing’s Back to Boxing website
  - During the event, provide multi-modal communications with way to people can protect themselves and others (e.g., handouts, posters, overhead announcements, and texts describing infection prevention measures
- Screen everyone who enters the venue for infection and prevent those with suspected infection from entering the venue (see Identification of individuals with possible infection section)
- Avoid large gatherings during all stages of the event. Six-foot distancing floor markers are highly encouraged.
- Use different entrances for essential vs non-essential personnel, when available.
- Utilize separate entrances for entering and exiting the building, when possible
• Require everyone in attendance to wear a mask covering their mouth and nose (fabric masks are acceptable)
• Consider sourcing and providing plastic face shields for personnel such as, ringside physicians and referees, who will be in close proximity of unprotected boxers
• Provide appropriate face coverings and gloves to all employees and volunteers, whenever possible. They can provide their own face coverings. Employees or volunteers, without face coverings, shall not perform any task that compromises public and attendant safety
• Encourage frequent breaks to allow employees and volunteers to wash or sanitize their hands
• Open available windows and doors to maximize airflow
• Develop a social distancing protocol at venue entrances, exits, aisles, spectating locations (e.g., every third seat, every third row, designated/marked standing locations for spectators with six feet between each standing location, etc.), and between essential individuals (e.g., have athletes enter Field of Play (FOP) one at a time, decreased number of competitors per ring, etc.)
• Restrict non-essential personnel within the FOP, weigh-in area, and gloving area
  o Observe social distancing while in the above-mentioned areas
• Monitor attendees for signs or symptoms of infection
• Provide hand sanitizer in strategically targeted locations throughout the venue (i.e., near areas/items frequently touched by multiple people such as doorways, drinking fountains, etc.)
• Provide facial tissue and adjacent trash receptacles throughout the venue
• Establish frequent cleaning schedule for high touch areas using disinfectant before, during, and after the event
• Custodial staff overseeing the event should wear appropriate PPE (e.g., gloves, face masks) to minimize contact with potentially contaminated surfaces/items, and protect from toxicity associated with certain cleaning products
• Bathrooms should remain accessible with locker rooms and showers closed. Frequently touched surfaces, shaded objects, and bathrooms should be cleaned and disinfected every hour.
• Consider breaks/intermissions in the competition to help clear the venue of first wave of spectators and allow for cleaning
• Encourage boxers and coaches to bring their own food and hydration
• Boxer should use their own towel and hygiene products (e.g., deodorant, etc.)
• Use contactless payment methods (Apple Pay, Samsung Pay, Android Wallet, NFC, etc.), no touch trash cans etc., whenever possible

Matching Guidelines
Based on which tier of competition your LBC falls in, USA Boxing recommends the following measures of precaution:

• event organizer should pre-match to avoid an open weigh in - (this means no walk-on bouts)
  o This is mandatory during the LBC test event phase
• To avoid contamination of your city or community, matches should be made with boxers/teams from the LBC’s/states/counties subject to the same participation guidelines as the host event’s local area
Please refer to "Where your State Stands" and use the color-coded system to identify which states you match with

- Event organizers are encouraged to submit a list of boxers to their COO the day before the event
- Limit the number of bouts, per event, to adhere to state/local restrictions, and USA Boxing’s return to competition timeline
- Event organizer is encouraged to use Webpoint to better track event participation

**Travel**

CDC guidance recommends practicing social distancing and staying at home, when possible. Prior to USAB events, participants should review these guidelines and attempt to self-isolate before and between events to reduce exposure to potential infection.

- Avoid traveling across state lines or LBCs who do not share identical restrictions as the state you are participating in
- When traveling, consider the following recommendations:
  - Minimize contact with others and limit carpooling
  - Anticipate needs before departing to minimize unnecessary stops
  - Pack adequate amounts of non-perishable food and water for the trip
  - Have alcohol-based hand sanitizer readily available in your vehicle
  - Have disinfectant wipes readily available in your vehicle and wipe down fuel station pumps
  - Travel directly to and from the event. Minimize unnecessary stops

**Check-In / Weigh-In / Spectator Entry**

- An analysis of all venue areas should be conducted for the purpose of minimizing exposure and potential cross-contamination between participants
- Upon arrival, USAB recommends separate entry points for Essential vs Non-Essential personnel (page 4-5), when possible
  - Provision larger venues to have a separate entry point for officials and staff, when available
- Ensure all points-of-entry are properly labelled (e.g. “Athlete Check-in”, “Coach Check-in”, “Spectator Entry”, etc.)
- Utilize social distancing floor markers, spaced 6 feet apart, in addition to signage promoting identical social distancing guidelines, anywhere lines may form
- Every boxer must report to the athlete check-in area prior to weigh-ins, making it one of the earliest points of exposure between boxers and staff
  - After the boxer has checked his weight at the trial scale, they can proceed to the weigh-in
  - Only one boxer will be allowed in the weigh-in area
  - Sanitized scales, per CDC guidelines, every 30 minutes
- It is strongly encouraged for registration be completed online prior to the event
  - This includes all USA Boxing boxers, coaches, and officials, and members
- Contingent on event and venue size, divisions can have staggered check-in times to control the flow of traffic, if needed
• Take precautions to reduce the risk of exposure for staff and officials at check-ins and weigh-ins through field of play adjustments (e.g. layout design)
  o All staff working check-in and weigh-in stations will be required to wear masks and latex or nitrile gloves
  o Three officials total in Weigh-in Area
    ▪ One (1) official checking the books
    ▪ Two (2) officials at the scale/gender specific
  o Hand sanitizer pumps or stations will be made available at all tables where staff and/or officials are stationed
  o Disinfectant / cleaning wipes should be used to wipe down all countertops and surfaces every 30 minutes
    ▪ To the extent possible, this will be timed during lower volume periods to minimize disruption to the flow of the event
  o Entrances and tables should be separated to the best extent possible by service type
    ▪ For example: Athlete Check-In, Coaches/Credentials, Ticketing, etc.

Field of Play (FOP) Recommendations & Guidelines
• USA Boxing highly recommends a mandatory coach meeting before competition to review the procedures and guidelines in this document, in addition to personal expectations, for a clean and safe event
  o Conduct meeting in large, open areas
  o Implement social distancing guidelines at all meetings
  o Encourage coaches to give feedback about test event and procedures. Identify who will receive feedback
• Only allow essential personnel in FOP
• Designate separate entry points into the FOP for blue & red corners. Consider the flow through the FOP to limit crossing paths with others
• In reduced capacity events, limit the number of essential personnel within the FOP (e.g. limiting the number of officials at the glove table, as needed)
  o Consider using one official for signing hand-wraps and monitoring glove table, and a separate official for handling returned gloves and the sanitization of these gloves
  o Limit coaches in corner to only two (2) per boxer
  o Consider sessions, or different start times throughout the day, to limit number of people in the venue at any given time, but avoid limiting participation
  o Consider placing the ring announcer outside of the FOP
  o Designate media placement using social distancing guidelines
• All staff, officials, coaches, boxers, volunteers, and medical personnel working the field of play, will be required to wear masks and latex/nitrile gloves
• Administration table must be set to ensure proper distancing guidelines from tournament staff members
• Chairs will be six feet apart to encourage social distancing, when possible
• Disinfectant / cleaning wipes will be used to wipe down all head table equipment and supplies every 30 minutes
**Competition Ring Recommendations**

- Provide 12 feet of clearance from ring apron to the FOP barrier on all sides, if possible
- Consider limiting the number of officials
  - 3 judges - take out 2 & 5
  - 1 referee
  - 1 supervisor
  - 1 timekeeper
  - 1 ESS operator (optional)
  - 1 doctor
  - Seating area for EMTs in field of play

**Warm Up Area**

- Observe proper distancing
- Cap the number of participants allowed, per social distancing guidelines
- Encourage coaches to wrap hands outside of warm up area
- Encourage event organizer to consider scheduling times for coaches and boxers to enter warmup area to avoid congestion

**On-deck Procedure**

- Observe proper distancing
- Each boxer is allowed two (2) coaches in the on-deck area
- When possible, create separate entry and exit points
  - Once the boxer is in the on-deck area, they are not required to wear a mask prior to entering the ring
  - Once boxers exit the field of play, they should resume wearing their face masks

**Bout Procedure**

**Referees**

- Prior to the first round, referee will remind boxers of four “commands” when checking for equipment tags, in hopes to mitigate the need of breaking boxers apart
- Referees are required to wear face masks at all times and strongly encouraged to wear face shields, especially during the bout
- If a mouthpiece should land on the floor, the referee:
  1. Should call “time!”
  2. Will have the boxers step back
  3. While wearing gloves, pick up the mouthpiece and give it to the coach,
  4. Have the coach rinse or clean it with sanitizer, at their discretion, before placing it back into the boxer’s mouth
  5. Have the referee change their gloves
  6. Continue bout

- Will signal winners by calling both boxers to the center of the ring and raising the winner’s hand when the decision is announced.
  - Referee will change gloves in between each bout

**Coaches**

Edition 1 | Updated June 19, 2020
Will be required to wear a face mask at all times, especially during the bout
Should consider bringing an extra mouthpiece in event the original is contaminated

Boxers
Will be required to wear their face mask until they enter the ring, then proceed with applying headgear after entering the ring
Boxer should reapply face mask upon completion of post bout physical

Post Bout Procedure
Once the decision is announced, the red corner will exit the ring first
They will proceed to the doctor’s neutral corner for a post bout physical
On completion of the red corner’s post bout physical, the boxer from the blue corner can exit the ring and proceed to their post bout physical
Note: in the event of a KO or injury, this process could change with the injured boxer exiting first
While boxers are being examined by the ringside physician, coaches should use disinfectant / cleaning wipes (provided to each corner by the event organizer) to sanitize chairs, corner stools, and spit buckets
It is strongly recommended for boxers to wear their face mask upon the conclusion of their post bout physical
Facilitate a waste basket for boxers to properly dispose of hand wraps upon exiting the field of play
The next bout will commence when the ring is properly disinfected

Disinfecting the Competition Ring
• Personnel responsible for sanitizing ring should wear appropriate PPE (protective eye wear, gloves, face mask, etc).
• Have event organizers supply gloves, paper towels, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies (disinfectant / cleaning wipes), and a trash bin a safe distance away from participants
• Establish a consistent cleaning schedule
  o Ropes and corner pads should be properly sanitized between each bout
  o Sanitize ring cover/canvas every 1-2 hours. This may extend the duration of the event, as time may be needed to allow surfaces to dry
  o Spit Buckets:
    ▪ Encourage coaches to bring their own spit bucket
    ▪ Event host should amass additional spit buckets, so they are not shared between bouts or teams, without proper sanitization
    ▪ Consider setting up a cleaning station for coaches to clean their spit buckets
    ▪ Have host provide trash bags, to act a spit bucket liner, to mitigate risk and minimize event disruption
• Glove running should be carried out by the sanitization coordinator or team, while wearing proper PPE
• Hand sanitizer and disinfectant / cleaning wipes should be available at all tables where officials and other event administrators are stationed. Sanitizing wipes will be used to sanitize judges’ tabletops, ESS computers (if applicable), timers, stop watches, gong, and other competition supplies and surfaces regularly. Recommendations are to have this is done every 30 minutes or when a change in position occurs
• This may require a brief stop in services, to ensure proper sanitary procedures
• We recommend documenting your cleaning schedule and products used for all competition surfaces.
• Event organizer should submit said documents to their LBC. LBCs must retain these documents for one year.

General Policies/Recommendations
For the segments listed below, safe distancing must be observed, and proper PPE (protective personal equipment) must be worn. Face masks & gloves are mandatory for all coaches, officials, and volunteers. Protective eyewear and other forms of PPE are optional.

Boxer Safety
• All parties will be advised to bring their own personal protective equipment (non-medical masks and disposable latex or nitrile gloves), towels and gym/alcohol wipes
• Each boxer should have their own water bottle and coaches should take appropriate precautions (ex. gloves, sanitizer) with each use of the bottle. Clean the outside of the bottle with disinfectant before removing it from the sparring area. Thoroughly clean the bottle, inside and out, with soap and water after each training session
• Showers should take place away from the venue
• Designate an area, compliant of all social distancing guidelines, for the boxers to wait for other team members to compete

Audience/spectators
• Refer to state, local, and USA Boxing guidelines for guidance regarding the admittance of spectators at events
  o Minors may be accompanied by family members of the same household
• Frequently used items such as handrails, doorknobs, pens, and table surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the event.

Concessions
• Stock concession stands with pre-packaged items, as much possible.
• Offer canned or bottled beverages in lieu of self-service beverage machines.
• Appropriately staff the number of employees to meet social distancing guidelines.
• Install clear plastic partitions, or other suitable barriers, around registers and employee/patron interaction points
• Place distance markers six feet apart at all concession aisles
• Provide sanitizing stations in and around concession stand areas.
• Encourage concession personnel to sell prepackaged food and canned/bottled drinks
• Consult with the local health department for additional concession areas
• Dedicate one employee per point-of-sale terminal. That employee should not serve food or beverages to patrons, to mitigate cross-contamination
• To reduce contact, encourage patrons to pay with a credit or debit card. When accepting cash, have employees wear protective gloves and switch gloves upon completion of the sale
• Tables and chairs should be placed six feet apart and sanitized after each use
• Offer pre-wrapped utensils
• Grant employees exclusive access to open condiments or offer single use packets. Avoid self-service condiment stations
• Have a single point of entry and exit for all concession stands
• Regular sanitation of the following items:
  o Bottle/can openers and pour spouts
  o Cutting boards
  o Grill utensils
  o Ice buckets/scoops
  o Measuring cups/spoons
  o Pots and Pans
  o Serving utensils
  o Squeeze bottles

**Post Event**
Each LBC will conduct an After-Action Report. The data collected will determine if the event was successful and help evaluate if the LBC is adequately prepared to host future events. All COVID-19 related documents will be submitted to your LBC for record keeping purposes. LBCs will retain these documents for minimum of one year.

• Records to keep should include:
  o Pre-event checklists
  o Events sign-in sheets
  o COVID-19 health screening questionnaires
  o Hold harmless waivers
  o Cleaning logs

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**Conclusion**

Boxing is more than a sport. It redeems, forgives, and offers purpose. As stewards of this great sport, USA Boxing strives to operate by our guiding principles - keeping members, coaches, officials, staff, and patrons safe. We developed this operations guide as a framework for our LBC communities to mitigate, comfort, and transition their constituents back to a familiar sense of normalcy. As an organization, we acknowledge the potential hardships that come with transitioning towards a post-COVID society. Just know, you are not alone. Together, we will weather this storm. For many of us, boxing is a way of life. It is not something that will just go away. Thank you for your cooperation in preserving the sport we love for generations to come.
Acknowledgements

Ensuring a safe environment for all to participate is not an individual effort. We would like to take a moment to acknowledge the parties that helped develop this guide. A big THANK YOU goes out to our fellow National Governing Bodies across the Olympic spectrum, the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee, Pure and Clean Sports, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the USA Boxing Referee & Judges Commission, the USA Boxing Physicians Commission, and our LBCs leaders for their facilitation of this manual. We could not have done any of this without you.

Lastly, we cannot overemphasize the importance of adhering to federal, state, and local guidelines when implementing the procedures outlined in this guide. If you have additional questions on these guidelines, please contact your state health department for more information.

The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. All content, including text, graphics, images and information, are provided for general informational purposes only. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, USA Boxing makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this information. Further, you should seek advice from medical professionals and/or public health officials if you have specific questions about your return to training and competition.
Sources:


