



**INQUEST TOUCHING UPON THE
DEATH OF EDWARD LEWIS BILBEY**

Date: 14 – 20 December 2020

Interested Party: England Boxing

**RESPONSE TO REGULATION 28 REPORT
TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS**

Coroner: Dr Robert Hunter, Senior Coroner
Area: Derby/Derbyshire
Reg 28 Report Date: 10 March 2021
Response Date: 5 May 2021

Coroner's Concerns

The Regulation 28 Report identified the following concerns:

1. England Boxing did not have in place adequate and enforceable child protection and safeguarding measures;
2. England Boxing did not have in place any policy or procedure for checking and enforcing compliance with its safeguarding or child protection procedures.

The following points were noted during the Inquest as relevant evidence in support of the concerns raised above:

1. The club's registered Welfare Officer had left the club three years prior, but his name remained registered on "The Vault" system held and maintained by England Boxing;

2. There was nothing to demonstrate that the name or contact details of the registered Welfare Officer were displayed prominently at the club;
3. There was a level 2 coach registered on The Vault but the witness's testimony stated that he was not involved in training activities at the club.

England Boxing's Response

HM Coroner will be aware that the tragic event which gave rise to the Inquest and the Coroner's subsequent concerns occurred on 24 March 2017. Between that date and the Inquest, England Boxing, as organising body for amateur/Olympic boxing in England, identified and implemented remedial action which it was believed would increase safety and awareness in sport carried out within EB's remit. Work required in order to carry out other actions identified was dependent upon information revealed during the Inquest itself and, as such, have been completed since.

ACTIONS COMPLETED PRIOR TO INQUEST

Rule Book – At the time of this incident, the rules and regulations governing amateur/Olympic boxing in England were located in various publications available from different sources, which made identifying and applying specific rules unnecessarily cumbersome. They were also, to some extent, based upon regulations imposed by other international bodies, meaning that clubs had to sift through information which did not apply on a local/regional level in order to find information relevant to them. Since 2018 we have collated all the information on rules and regulations regarding competitive boxing and codified them into one publication. The resultant England Boxing Rule Book can be found on our website and is available for open-access viewing.

Website – Since 2018, the England Boxing website has been overhauled in order to provide greater clarity on regulation and policy. The structure is now much easier to follow and relevant publications are easily accessible. All guidance available on the website has been scrutinised and updated where appropriate.

Policies – We have drafted the following policy documents, which were missing at the time of this incident:

- Emergency Action Plan For a medical Emergency involving boxer.
- Emergency Action plan for a medical emergency involving an official or spectator that requires the ring side doctor.

The policies codify who has responsibility for each aspect of the emergency procedure to ensure that specialist medical attention is available as quickly as possible. They also link to the new Rule Book, which provides greater clarification on the roles and responsibilities at a bout or competition.

Permit Regulations: Bouts have never been allowed to go ahead without a permit issued by the relevant England Boxing region. However, the regulations regarding the issuing of permits were comprehensively updated in 2019. The new regulations set out in detail the accountability of bout organisers, ensures the suitability of the venue (with reference to the new Emergency Plans) and requires that appropriate safety, security and medical provisions are in place. Permits will not be issued unless all of those requirements have been met.

Coach / Official Training: Since 2017 we have comprehensively restructured our coaching courses. We have now introduced a refresher course for level one coaches which must be undertaken every three years to ensure that coaches stay up to date. Coaches who do not attend refresher training are decertified.

Coaches may only progress to a level 2 status by holding a level 1 certification for a minimum of 12 months and registering up to date safeguarding, first aid and DBS certifications on The Vault, so that we can ensure policies have been adhered to.

Training for those officiating at bouts has also been expanded and developed, including training courses for Supervisors, which sets out their responsibilities for implementing the Emergency Plans in the event of an emergency event.

Campaigns: Following this incident, we initially raised awareness within our Member community of the benefits of ensuring that Automatic Emergency Defibrillators are available within Member clubs, along with how funding can be secured in order to do so. That allowed a transitional period for clubs to put in place any initiatives they may have required. Following that initial period, England Boxing took the step of making the installation of AEDs a mandatory requirement by June 2021. This date may be delayed slightly due to the pandemic, but a deadline will remain in place.

Safeguarding: Whilst required before this, since May 2018 all prospective coaches have to attend an approved safeguarding course prior to issue of their coaching licence. Without it the licence will not be issued. This is in addition to enhanced DBS checks. More recently, we have engaged the services of a prominent QC to review our safeguarding procedures and policies and amend them where necessary. As a result, Regional and Club Welfare Officers are also now required to attend

regular safeguarding update courses and training. Regional Welfare officers also need to undertake the enhanced "Time to Listen Course".

Club membership requires the presence of a registered level 1 and level 2 Coach, a committee, and a designated Welfare Officer. Clubs must also adopt England Boxing's Safeguarding Policy. Details of the above information must be registered on "The Vault". New applications are supplied to England Boxing centrally, with the relevant Region dealing with renewals. A Regional representative will then conduct a visit to the club in order to carry out physical checks on the facilities, whilst the Registrar will check the relevant paperwork and membership requirements before approving the club for the season.

Vault: At the time of this incident "The Vault" system was in its infancy and its benefits and capabilities were not utilised to the full. Since then, the system has expanded in use and registrations are actively tracked, ensuring accountability. Prior to the introduction of The Vault club membership was administered regionally and, upon centralisation of the process, training and instruction was provided to Registrars in each region. They were responsible for confirming the necessary qualifications were in place for the coaches and club before approving the application, but it has become apparent that there was some variation in some of the club facility requirements between regions (but not coaching qualifications).

In November 2106, the Coach education system was also centralised. Any new Coach registering with England Boxing is input into The Vault database by staff based in Sheffield, who check and cross-reference the training, safeguarding, first-aid, and DBS certification to ensure validity. We also introduced a new policy for dealing with any concerns regarding any items on the database. When the Coach renews membership, the England Boxing region in which they are based checks the updated certifications.

The new club and individual membership criteria are displayed on the England Boxing website to provide access to clear advice regarding membership, which is now consistent nationwide and unaffected by regional variances.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

Independent Inquiry: Immediately following this incident, England Boxing identified a number of issues which required analysis and action. As set out above, many of those were implemented prior to the Inquest. However, although the Court will note that post-incident meeting minutes

identified the need for an independent organisational inquiry, the decision was made to postpone that process until the Inquest had taken place. That would ensure that there was no risk of interference with investigations being conducted by the Police in the course of the Coroner's Inquest and would allow the independent inquiry's remit to be dictated or molded by the Inquest findings.

Following completion of the Inquest, England Boxing is now in the process of setting up an independent inquiry, the chair of which will be appointed by "Sports Resolutions", a body separate distinct to England Boxing. The terms of reference are still being finalised, but the overarching aim will be to investigate the points raised in the Inquest, in particular the two points of concern which appear in the Regulation 28 Report. The inquiry will identify the respective responsibilities of the Regions and England Boxing centrally to oversee adherence to regulations and policies both at the time of this incident and subsequent to it and will determine whether those responsibilities were and are being met. Some of the regulations and policies which will be investigated relate to the process used in the registration of clubs to "The Vault", along with how that information is cross-referenced and checked regionally. The inquiry's findings will then inform what changes will be required to ensure that policies and procedures are not only in place, but actively adhered to by member clubs.

It is anticipated that the report will be completed by the end of 2021 with any learning notes or recommendations being implemented throughout 2022.

I would like to thank the Coroner on behalf of England Boxing for conducting a thorough investigation into this important matter, which has allowed us to make wholesale improvements to our organisation of Olympic Boxing in England. That will, in turn, ensure safety measures are implemented and observed throughout each Region, keeping boxers and those who attend bouts as safe as possible.

Signed:



Full Name:



Capacity: CEO, England Boxing

Dated: 4 May 2021