

Biographies of Boxing Officials
Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission



Brian Stutts, Head Referee

Brian Stutts began his involvement with boxing as an amateur boxer in Charleston, SC, in the 1950s. He worked with boxers while in the United State Marine Corps from 1964 to 1968, when he was honorably discharged as a sergeant after serving for 18 months in Vietnam. After college he reentered the boxing community with United States Olympic Boxing, advancing to being the ring captain for boxing at the 1996 Olympics, held in Atlanta. Mr. Stutts began officiating professional boxing in 1988 and has officiated future and past champions such as Vernon Forrest, Paul Williams, Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield, Mark Breland, Mike Dixon, Bert Cooper, Christy Martin, Layla Ali, Roy Jones Jr., Ray Mercer, Ray Whitfield, Ebo Elder, Hector Comacho Sr., and Hector Camacho Jr. Mr. Stutts has refereed on USA, Showtime, ESPN, and Sports South. He was inducted into the Georgia Boxing Hall of Fame in 2001.

Irwin Deutsch, Head Judge

Irwin Deutsch has been judging professional boxing for 31 years and is the senior judge in Georgia. He has judged major championship fights, featuring boxers like Lennox Lewis, Tim Weatherspoon, Tony Tubbs, Buster Douglas, Trevor Berbick, Greg Page, Michael Moorer, Leila Ali, Vernon Forest, and Roy Jones Jr. Mr. Deutsch was a member of the World Boxing Union, which chose him to judge championship fights in Atlantic City and Gulfport, MS. He has judged fights on HBO, Showtime, Showbox, and ESPN. While his experience is mostly professional, he also has judged amateur boxing bouts.

Edward Kanner, Judge

As a professional boxing judge for more than 20 years, Edward Kanner has judged world title fights and has appeared on ESPN, HBO, and Showtime boxing events numerous times. He also has been a high school and college wrestling official for over 36 years after competing at the high school and college level. In 2011 Mr. Kanner was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame for lifetime service to wrestling.

Richard Sells, Judge

Richard Sells began studying judo and wrestling at the University of Georgia in 1965, and he has been viewing boxing for 50 years. In the 1990s he studied Chung Do Kwon Taekwondo under Fred Moon and earned a blue belt. Mr. Sells became a boxing inspector in 2006 and continued through 2008, until he

became certified in Uncasville, CT, to be a boxing judge. Mr. Sells has completed mixed martial arts seminars for judging and refereeing under Marc Fennell in 2010, Mario Yamasaki in 2011, and John McCarthy in 2012. He has completed three seminars for boxing judges since 2008. Mr. Sells is a retired educator and GBI Agent, and he spent four years in the United States Air Force, including ten months in Southeast Asia in 1973. Mr. Sells has been married to his wife, Rosemarie, since 1969, and they attend First Baptist Church of Monroe.

Vincent Accoo Sr., Judge and Referee

Vincent Accoo Sr. joined the ranks of amateur boxing officials as a judge and referee in 1992, when he was named Referee of the Year and moved to the national level. During his experience with amateurs, he worked with and remains close friends with World Title Official Eddie Cotton. Mr. Accoo moved to Georgia in 1994, and he owns and runs AAA Construction. He was a lead construction foreman at Habitat for Humanity in 1997, when he attended a seminar for boxing professionals led by Joe Cortez and Dr. Barry Levin. Mr. Accoo has been trained and certified as a boxing referee and professional boxing judge.

Nola Oliver, Judge

Nola Oliver is an Indiana native and moved to Atlanta in 1990. She began her training as a professional boxing judge in 1997, attending a boxing seminar led by Joe Cortez and Dr. Barry Levin of the Nevada Boxing Commission. Ms. Oliver also is trained and certified as a boxing referee.

John Matlock, Timekeeper

John Matlock serves as a timekeeper for boxing and has served as the official timekeeper of mixed martial arts since the sport's inception in Georgia in 1997. Perhaps the most experienced mixed martial arts timekeeper in the world, Mr. Matlock has held the stopwatches and rang the bells for over 1400 mixed martial arts bouts.