

REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNOUNCER AT TWIF EVENTS.

- An announcer operating during TWIF events must have a good knowledge of our sport.
- Most importantly he/she must be totally unbiased – whilst endeavouring to get spectators to support and engage with their home teams.
- Keep spectators up to date with current action; explain the rules and hand signals rope numbers, colour of sport kit and identify team name and or country.
- Explain infringements – importantly whilst explaining infringements the announcer should be careful not to influence, even unintentionally, the commands of the judge.
- Inform and “entertain” participants and spectators on the history of the sport, trivia and important anecdotes, statistics etc.

For the uninitiated, TWIF Championships (or any other major event) can be very confusing. It is hard to grasp what exactly is going on with so much movement of teams coming on and off the rope, also in and out of the Arena.

- The competition structure needs to be outlined to spectators.
- What Championship or Open Club Competition weight-class is taking place?
- How many teams are competing in the weight-class, and how many groups this has been broken down into.
- The scoring system, and how teams progress through the rounds.
- Stages for each of the Groups.

(It is appreciated that some of these tasks will be very difficult to fulfil, during a large entry competition in the Open Clubs for example).

When the quarter and semi-final stages have been reached, there may be a slight delay. Here again some people will be confused by the ‘lack of action’. It is during these times that the situation needs to be explained, where possible notifying spectators of the ‘battles’ ahead for the teams. It is at this time that music should be provided, which will help the atmosphere too.

In order to understand exactly where the competition is at all times; the announcer must be provided with good up-to-date information (made more clear by quick updating on the video wall). He/she will need to have information on the groups; how far along in the competition the teams are, what their points tally is etc. And as soon as possible announce the group winners and which ropes will be used for the next stage of the competition.

The Announcer must have a clear voice which can be easily understood by both spectators and participants. The official language of TWIF is English; therefore he/she will have to have a good command of English. Organisers would help greatly by having someone able to translate where necessary.

Tony Martin
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