

Title:

Another Controversial Decision for

Word Count:

537

Summary:

Boxing is undoubtedly a very popular yet controversial sport that has a worldwide following. This article talks about other issues encountered by boxers such as prohibited drugs for pain relief. The latest controversy involves the just recent fight between Mayweather and Hatton.

Keywords:

pain relief

Article Body:

Gnarled knuckles. Mangled fingers. Lame handshakes. Sore and swollen wrists. They are the signatures of battle commonly found on the hands of boxers and Floyd Mayweather knows the pain all too well. Mayweather, a fast and explosive boxer dances and pounces at the boxing ring better than most top caliber fighters in the ring. As the owner of the Junior Welterweight title, Mayweather has most pundits calling him, pound for pound, 2005's best boxer. Born on February 24, 1977, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Floyd Jr. has

boxing in his blood. His father, Floyd Sr., fought Sugar Ray Leonard in the late '70s, while his uncle Roger was a Junior Lightweight and Super Lightweight champion. It was no surprise then, that Floyd Jr. showed an aptitude for boxing from a very young age.

When he had received enough training from his dad and uncle, Floyd entered the world of amateur boxing as an adolescent. Fighting at 126 pounds, Mayweather put together an amazing 84-6 record as an amateur, winning Golden Gloves championships in 1993, 1994, and 1996. Mayweather made the Olympic team in 1996 and at the Atlanta Olympics, he beat boxers from Kazakhstan, Armenia and Cuba before falling to a Bulgarian in a highly controversial semi-final bout.

Mayweather had to settle for the bronze medal.

Last December 9, Mayweather Jr. defeated Great Britain's Ricky Hatton in the 10th round of their World Boxing Council welterweight title fight in Las Vegas.

During pre-bout interviews, Mayweather has repeatedly denied that

his hands might cause him a problem.

Hatton himself is concerned that Mayweather may use his hands as an excuse if he loses his title.

However, his camp agreed that the priority was to prevent the American from any illegal advantage using the controversial pain relief medication. The Hattons maintained their focus on this issue at another prebout meeting when they wanted to ensure that Mayweather would not be able to protect his hands with an unfair use of tape and lidocaine.

However, the Mayweathers are unhappy that lidocaine has been specifically identified as a drug that cannot be used. Lidocaine is a local anesthetic (numbing medication). It produces pain relief by blocking the signals at the nerve endings in the skin. Lidocaine topical systems are used for pain relief and for managing discomfort associated with herpes zoster virus infection of the skin (shingles).

Mayweather's hand problems have been long documented but they resurfaced in an edition of a television documentary that showed the boxer

having a wax paraffin treatment and quietly acknowledging the issue. However, with all the controversy and trash talks that surrounded their title bout, Mayweather still managed to beat his opponent.

Fight veterans such as Mayweather and Hatton, have struggled over the years to keep their hands healthy, a problem that is shared by many boxers. Some of those fighters are resorting to expensive pain relief drugs and, if necessary, undergo an intricate surgical procedure to restore the strength of their hands. While the boxers try to explore all options to remove pain from their bread-winning hands and knuckles, boxing officials are still in hot debate about whether existing rules should be changed regarding the use of anesthetics in a sport that has been hounded by drug and steroid scandals for many years.