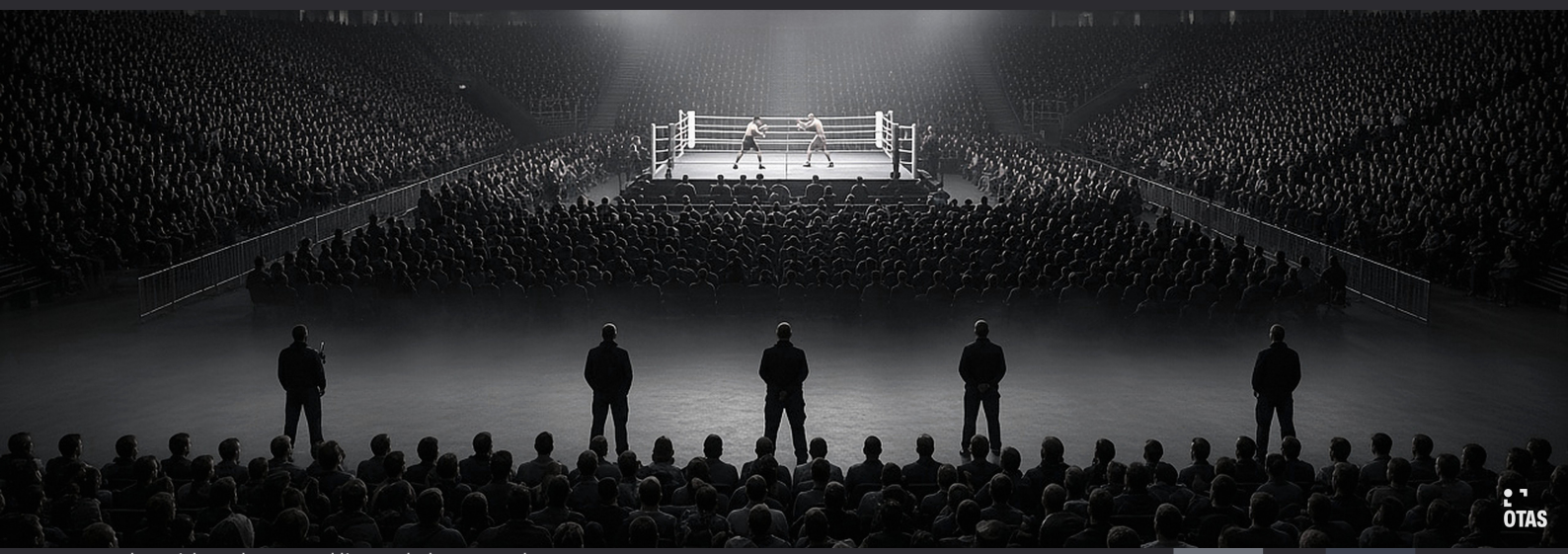
OTAS LIVE

Supporting Events and Professionals at Every Stage

OTAS Insight, event operations. Article

Two Fight Nights. Two Issues.

Disorder outside an indoor combat sports event in Glasgow and a boxing event in Kilkenny abandoned on the same night, and how to plan the ring, the clinical route and the street



A clear aisle and a steward line, so help can reach any seat.
OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

Operational **Tactical** **Strategic**

OTAS Insight v2.0 · 9 November 2026 · Correct as of 9 November 2026

OTAS Live Ltd.

SUMMARY

A fight night does not end at the ring or at the door. Plan the ring, the clinical route and the street as one operation.

3

police officers hurt during disorder outside an indoor combat sports event in Glasgow [1]

2

arrests reported after disorder at a boxing event in Kilkenny on the same night [19]

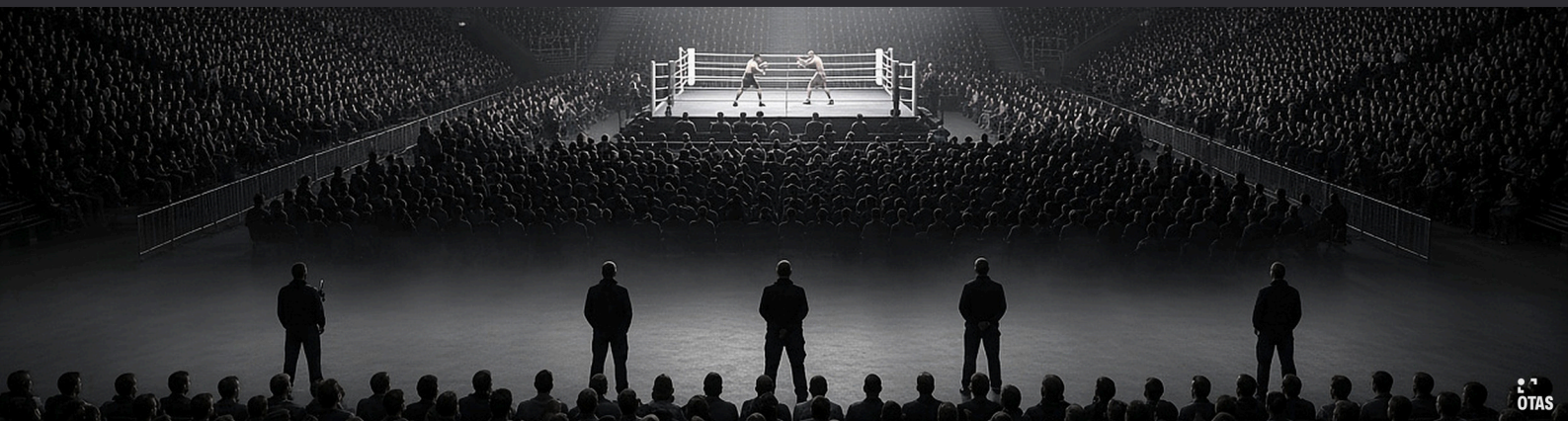
1

man taken to hospital by ambulance from the Kilkenny event [18][19]

ACTION

Before your next fight night, name who can hold the show, who can restart it, who keeps the clinical route clear and who owns the street once the room empties.

By OTAS Insights. Edited by Kris Dailly. Correct as of 9 November 2026.



Five stewards stand in a line before a lit boxing ring. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

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01
Read this first

Sources: 24 public sources, opened or checked again on 9 November 2026. They are news reports from BBC News, STV News, RTÉ News and The Irish Times, the British Boxing Board of Control rules, Boxing Scotland and England Boxing, Scottish licensing law and Glasgow City Council, HSE crowd guidance, the SIA, the Private Security Authority in Ireland, a medical consensus statement and an injury study. We describe the events rather than naming the venues, the promoters or anyone involved. Arrests and charges are not findings of guilt. Some source links carry names. Facts carry a source number. Everything without a source number is OTAS guidance for event professionals. It is not a finding about either event.

On Saturday 7 November two fight nights ended with the police in attendance. In Glasgow, police received reports of a large disturbance outside an indoor combat sports event at about 23:10. Three officers were hurt, two of them needing medical treatment, and two men were charged [1][17]. In Kilkenny, gardaí arrived at a boxing event at about 21:00. Violence broke out at ringside, in the ring and then among the spectators. A man in his 30s was assaulted and taken to hospital, two arrests were reported, and the event was abandoned before the headline bout [18][19]. The two nights raise different questions. Glasgow is about the street after the show. Kilkenny is about the ring, the audience and the authority to stop. This Insight is for organisers, promoters and safety leads who run combat sports events. It covers what the rules and guidance say, how to plan the ring, the clinical route and the street, and the tools to test it.

> **In short:** **plan the ring, the room and the route out as one operation. Name who can hold the show and who can restart it, keep a clinical route clear when the audience moves, plan spectator care apart from boxer care, and give the street after the show an owner.**

Five things to take away

01	Name who can hold the show, and who alone can authorise a restart.
02	Keep a clinical route to the ring clear, even when the audience moves.
03	Plan spectator care apart from the medical cover for the boxers.
04	Give dispersal an owner beyond the exit, with an agreed handover to the police.
05	Check the local permission, the sport's rules and the security licence for the actual format.

ACTION

Read the case, then share the actions with your team.



02

What was reported

Two reports from the same night, 7 November 2026 [1][17][18][19]. We describe the events rather than naming the venues, the promoters or the people involved. Arrests and charges are not findings of guilt. Reports from Kilkenny differ in some details, and we say where.

A crowd walks away along a barriered street outside an arena at night. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

Glasgow, 7 November

Where	Outside an indoor arena in Glasgow, after a bare knuckle fighting event on a Saturday evening [1][17].
What police said	At about 23:10, police received reports of a large disturbance in the street outside the venue [1]. Footage shared online shows a group of men fighting in the street [1].
The response	More than 20 police vehicles and a police helicopter went to the area [1]. Three officers were hurt, two of them needing medical treatment [1][17].
Afterwards	Two men, aged 32 and 27, were arrested and charged, and will be reported to prosecutors. Three other men were arrested and given recorded police warnings. Police said inquiries were continuing [1][17].

Kilkenny, 7 November

Where	A celebrity boxing event at an indoor venue in Kilkenny city, on the same Saturday night [18][19].
What was reported	Videos show security staff trying to step in during an altercation in the ring. Violence escalated, with reports of chairs and glass thrown across the room [18]. It broke out at ringside, in the ring and then through the spectators [19].
The response	Gardaí arrived at about 21:00 [18][19]. A man in his 30s was assaulted. He was treated at the scene by paramedics and taken to hospital by ambulance [18][19].
Afterwards	The event was abandoned before the headline bout and people were escorted out [18][19]. Two arrests were reported [19]. RTÉ also reported that a teenager was arrested and charged [18]. Reports differ in the detail of who was arrested.

	Glasgow	Kilkenny
When	7 November, reports at about 23:10 [1]	7 November, gardaí at about 21:00 [18][19]
Where it happened	The street outside, after the event [1][17]	At ringside, in the ring and in the crowd [19]
Reported outcomes	Three officers hurt, two men charged [1][17]	Two arrests, one man to hospital [18][19]
The show	Disorder after the event [1]	Abandoned before the headline bout [19]
The question for organisers	Dispersal, the street and responder access	The ring, clinical access and the stop

Table 1. Two fight nights, as reported. BBC News [1], STV News [17], RTÉ News [18], The Irish Times [19]. The question for organisers is OTAS guidance.

ACTION

Ask your team: on your last fight night, where did your responsibility end, and who knew that?

03

What these reports do and do not show

Facts and judgement are kept apart here. The facts carry source numbers. The rest is OTAS guidance.

	What is reported	What is not known
Glasgow	Disorder in the street outside after the event, three officers hurt, two men charged [1][17]	The steward plan outside, where the event's responsibility ended, the handover to police
Kilkenny	Violence at ringside, in the ring and in the crowd, one man to hospital, the event abandoned [18][19]	The security and medical plan, who called the stop, what cover remained
Both	Police or gardaí attended, arrests were made [1][19]	The outcome of any charges. Arrests are not findings of guilt

Table 3. Facts and open questions on the two nights. Facts from [1][17][18][19].

The lesson for organisers does not depend on who was to blame. On both nights the event plan met something it had to manage at speed: a crowd in the street, or a fight that left the ring. Planning the ring, the room and the route out together is the same job on any fight night.

ACTION

Read these two cases with your security lead and your medical lead, and ask what your plan would have done.

04

Permission is local, not a label

Calling an event a fight night, a boxing show or a celebrity bout does not answer what permission it needs. Sources shown.

Question	Where to find the answer
Who sanctions the event?	The sanctioning body, if any. The Board oversees gloved professional boxing [2][4]
Which medical rules apply?	The sanctioning body's rules. If there are none, your clinical lead sets them [4][12]
What licence does the venue or event need?	The council. In Glasgow, a public entertainment licence for boxing or wrestling entertainment [8][9]
How far ahead must we apply?	In Glasgow, at least 12 weeks, or six months over 5,000 spectators [9]
Who can work as security?	The regulator. The SIA in the UK [13]. The Private Security Authority in Ireland [23]
Does anyone work with children?	In Scotland, check if the role needs PVG membership [14]

Table 4. Questions to answer for the actual format and place. Sources shown. Not legal advice.

Do not carry Scottish licensing assumptions into an Irish event, or the other way round. Ask the council, the sanctioning body and the security provider, and keep their answers in writing. Martyn's Law is expected to come into force in spring 2027 and will apply to events where 800 or more people are expected at once, with checks on entry [16].

ACTION

Get written answers to these six questions for your next event, before tickets go on sale.



05

Why fight nights stretch the plan

In Glasgow, the disorder was in the street after the show [1].
In Kilkenny, it moved from the ring into the crowd [19]. The rest of this section is OTAS guidance.

Two crew wheel a stretcher to an ambulance as people leave in a line. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

From trouble at ringside to a decision



The step most often missed is checking the cover before the next bout starts. OTAS guidance, drawing on Board rule 8.6.5 [4] and the concussion consensus [12].

The ring and the room are one space

When trouble starts at ringside, the people who protect the ring and the people who care for the crowd need the same space at the same time.

Boxer care is not crowd care

Under Board rules the ringside ambulance is for injured boxers only (rule 8.6.4) [4]. A spectator who is hurt needs separate first aid and transport.

The show clock pushes for a restart

A late running card and a full house create pressure to start the next bout before cover, access and calm have been checked.

The crowd leaves together, late

A fight night often ends late, with a large crowd leaving at once into a city centre. Groups who were in the room meet again outside, beyond the event's own staff [1][22].

New formats, new audiences

Bare knuckle, white collar and celebrity events can sit outside the usual governance of the sport [2] [3][5]. The audience may not know the conventions of a fight night.

ACTION

At your next event, time how long it takes a hold call to reach the referee, production, security and the medical team.

06

Tool: hold and restart triggers

When to hold the next bout, and who acts. A hold is a pause, not the end of the show. Agree these with the show lead, the referee and the clinical lead before doors open.

Trigger	Who calls the hold	What has to happen next
Fighting at ringside or in the crowd	Security lead or show lead	Hold, clear the route, restore order
Something thrown towards the ring	Security lead	Hold, clear the area, check the injured
Ambulance leaves with a casualty	Clinical lead	Hold until cover is confirmed
Medical help cannot reach the ring	Clinical lead or ring supervisor	Hold, open the route [4]
Signs of concussion in a bout	Referee, on medical advice	Stop the bout [12]
A crowd building at the exits	Dispersal lead	Hold, open the exits, tell control

Table 6. Hold and restart triggers. Drawn from Board rules 8.6.3 to 8.6.5 [4] and the consensus [12]. Who acts is OTAS guidance.

Only the show lead restarts, and only after the clinical lead confirms the cover, the security lead confirms the room, and the ring supervisor confirms the route.

ACTION

Agree the hold call word with the referee, production and security, and test it at the walk round.

07
Tool: dispersal brief

For the team who work the routes outside after the show. OTAS guidance, drawing on HSE crowd guidance [20][21][22].

Before the last bout

- Staff to their posts outside before the main event ends.
- The dispersal lead confirms the routes to transport and the taxi rank [20].
- The police liaison tells the police when the crowd will leave.

As the crowd leaves

- Keep people walking and away from the traffic [22].
- Watch for groups meeting again outside, and call it in.
- Keep a route clear for police and ambulance.
- Do not follow anyone or go into a fight. Report it and stay with your team.

The handover

- Stay on your post until the dispersal lead says the handover is done.
- The dispersal lead records the time and who took over.

An empty room is not the end of the job. The dispersal task ends at the agreed handover point, not when the doors close.

ACTION

Mark the routes outside, the posts and the handover point on your site plan, and share it with the police.

08
What to do at each level

Operational

Pass on the hold

Keep the route clear

Stay to the handover

Know the hold call and pass it on at once. Keep the clinical route clear, even if the crowd pushes towards the ring. Stay on your post outside until you are told the handover is done.

Tactical

One brief for all

Staff for two jobs

One police liaison

Brief every team together on the hold, the clinical route and the restart. Keep enough staff to handle an incident and the exit at the same time. Run one liaison to the police.

Strategic

Rules and licences

Name the restart

Separate the care

Confirm who sanctions the event, the council licence and the security licence. Name the person who alone can restart the show. Plan spectator care apart from boxer care.

ACTION

Pick one action at your level and do it before your next fight night.

09

What we do not know yet

- What the event plans, steward numbers and medical cover were at either event.
- Where each event team's responsibility ended, and how the handover to the police worked.
- What the police and gardaí inquiries will find, and the outcome of any charges.
- Whether the councils, the regulators or the sport's bodies will review either event.

ACTION

We will update this Insight if the police, the councils or the regulators publish more. We will not speculate about the cause of either incident or anyone's guilt.

10

Coming up: winter fight nights

Fight nights in winter often finish late, into city centres busy with Christmas parties and a long wait for taxis. Agree the street plan, the handover and the police liaison before the tickets go on sale, not on the night [20][22].

ACTION

If you need support with combat event operations, reach out to us to see how we can support you.

Questions

What is different about these two nights?

Glasgow reporting concerns the street after the event [1][17]. Kilkenny reporting concerns disorder at ringside, in the ring and in the crowd, and an event abandoned before the headline bout [18][19].

Do the reports show the organisers were at fault?

No. We draw no conclusion about either event. Arrests and charges are not findings of guilt, and the event plans were not published.

Is the ringside ambulance enough for the crowd?

Not under Board rules. The ambulance on site is for the sole use of injured boxers (rule 8.6.4) [4]. Plan first aid and transport for spectators as well.

Who should be able to stop the show?

Name one person in the plan who can hold the show and who alone can restart it, and agree how the call reaches the referee, production and security. This is OTAS guidance, not a statutory rule.

Do we need a licence for a boxing event in Glasgow?

Glasgow City Council lists boxing or wrestling entertainment as a sporting event that needs a public entertainment licence, unless another licence covers it [8]. Apply at least 12 weeks ahead [9].

Does our security team need to be licensed in Ireland?

Yes. Since 1 November 2022 everyone providing security at an event in Ireland needs a Private Security Authority licence, and engaging an unlicensed provider is an offence [23][24].

If a fight broke out at ringside during your next bout, who would hold the show, and who would decide it can restart?

ACTION

Send us your question and we will add the answer to the next update.

Sources

Web sources opened, or checked again, on 9 November 2026 and labelled with their publisher.

1. **BBC News, street disturbance outside a Glasgow event, 8 November 2026** bbc.com
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5. **Boxing Scotland, frequently asked questions, PDF** boxingscotland.org
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7. **Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, section 41A** legislation.gov.uk
8. **Glasgow City Council, resolution on public entertainment** glasgow.gov.uk
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13. **SIA, do you need a licence to work as an event steward** gov.uk
14. **mygov.scot, check if a role needs PVG scheme membership** mygov.scot
15. **UK Anti-Doping, testing** ukad.org.uk
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18. **RTÉ News, arrests after a Kilkenny boxing event, 8 November 2026** rte.ie
19. **The Irish Times, two arrests in Kilkenny, 8 November 2026** irishtimes.com
20. **HSE, event safety, put crowd controls in place** hse.gov.uk
21. **HSE, event safety, set clear crowd roles** hse.gov.uk
22. **HSE, event safety, assess the crowd risks** hse.gov.uk

23. **PSA 93:2023, note for event promoters and organisers, PDF** psa-gov.ie

24. **PSA 88, note on licensing event security employees, PDF** psa-gov.ie

Related OTAS Insights

These are links to other OTAS Insights pieces, not to any OTAS Live product or service.

Stopping the show: who calls it at the front of stage
Bonfire week: trouble outside your display

Guidance: this Insight summarises Board rules, HSE crowd guidance, Scottish licensing law, Glasgow City Council guidance and the UK and Irish security regulators. It is not legal advice. Ask your council, your sanctioning body and your security provider what applies.

Interest: OTAS Live Ltd, which publishes OTAS Insights, sells event operations services, handbooks and training related to this topic.

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Images are OTAS style images, generated from real photography.
None is a record of a specific event.

ACTION

Check the sources before you quote them, and tell us if any link has changed.

OVER TO YOU

If a fight broke out at ringside during your next bout, who would hold the show, and who would decide it can restart?

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