

# 241204 ARP Knock Out Rounds Minutes

## Overview

The ARP Review Rounds held on December 4th focused on critical issues in combat sports, featuring panelists Kevin MacDonald, Andrea Hill, Don Muse, and Kevin deWeber. The discussion began with an overview of the upcoming BKFC event and transitioned to an in-depth analysis of the Taylor vs. Serrano fight, particularly addressing the treatment and severity of a cut sustained by Serrano, which the panel concluded did not warrant stopping the fight despite some controversy. Attention then turned to the implications of age in boxing, particularly during the Jake Paul vs. Mike Tyson matchup, with emphasis on medical clearance protocols for older fighters and the importance of ensuring their safety against mismatches. The panel reiterated that while doctors can approve fighters' physical fitness, they should not clear them for specific opponents. Discussions also covered medical procedures in pre-fight exams, the differences between boxing and MMA protocols, and plans for future ARP Review Round sessions, including a call for case submissions from attendees. Action items included inviting additional panel members and reviewing an amateur MMA death investigation in Canada once complete.

## Notes

### Meeting Introduction and Panel Setup (00:02 - 10:22)

- Kevin MacDonald introduces panelists: Andrea Hill, Don Muse, Kevin deWeber
- Panel discusses upcoming BKFC event in Georgia
- Andrea Hill introduced as 'fight doctor' with extensive combat sports background
- Don Muse introduced as past president of Association of Ringside Physicians
- Kevin deWeber introduced as family practice sports medicine doctor

### Taylor vs Serrano Fight Analysis (10:24 - 20:51)

- Panel reviews cut on Serrano's face from clash of heads in 5th round
- Discussion on when to stop a fight due to cuts
- Mike Bazzel (cut man) joins call, explains treatment of Serrano's cut
- Panel agrees cut was not severe enough to stop the fight
- Controversy over fight outcome discussed

### Jake Paul vs Mike Tyson Fight Discussion (21:22 - 35:41)

- Panel reviews Mike Tyson vs Jake Paul fight
- Discussion on older fighter recommendations and medical clearance
- ARP position statement on older fighters (over 35) outlined
- Concerns raised about mismatches and fighter safety

### Medical Considerations in Combat Sports (35:46 - 49:10)

- Discussion on pre-fight medical screenings and clearance process
- Debate on whether doctors should clear fighters for specific opponents

- Panel agrees doctors clear fighters for physical fitness, not specific matchups
- Importance of considering cardiovascular and neurological risks in older fighters
- Medical Procedures and Future Plans (49:16 - 57:34)
- Discussion on differences in pre-fight exams for boxing vs MMA
- Announcement of upcoming ARP Review Rounds in February 2025
- Free CME credits offered for doctors attending future sessions
- Call for submission of cases for future discussions

#### **Action items**

##### **Mandy**

- Send another panelist invite to Mike Bazzel (02:56)

##### **ARP**

- Review and discuss the amateur MMA death in Canada once the investigation is complete (56:50)

##### **Attendees**

- Send in cases for future discussions through the ARP website (57:30)