

Joe Cortez
Boxing Referee

1. Where did Joe Cortez grow up, and how did it influence his career in boxing?

- A) Brooklyn, where he joined a basketball team
- B) Spanish Harlem, where he joined the Boys Club to avoid gangs and drugs
- C) Queens, where he became a street performer
- D) Manhattan, where he trained at a private boxing gym

Answer: _____

2. How many world championship fights did Joe Cortez referee during his career?

- A) 50
- B) 100
- C) 176
- D) 200

Answer: _____

3. What does Joe Cortez's famous slogan, "Fair but Firm," signify?

- A) Being lenient with fighters
- B) Enforcing rules while being impartial
- C) Allowing fighters to dictate terms
- D) Maintaining a passive role during fights

Answer: _____

4. Which legendary boxer did Joe Cortez referee eight times?

- A) Manny Pacquiao
- B) Mike Tyson
- C) Roberto Duran
- D) Oscar De La Hoya

Answer: _____

5. What was one of the hardest decisions Joe Cortez had to make as a referee?

- A) Stopping a fight due to a fighter's poor sportsmanship
- B) Halting a fight between Julio César Chávez and Oscar De La Hoya due to Chávez's injury
- C) Disqualifying a fighter before the first round
- D) Declaring a tie in a championship match

Answer: _____

6. How did Joe Cortez handle high-pressure moments as a referee?

- A) By ignoring distractions
- B) Through mental and physical preparation and reviewing fighters' habits
- C) By relying solely on instincts during fights
- D) By allowing the fighters' teams to dictate the rules

Answer: _____

7. What advice does Joe Cortez give to students about life and success?

- A) Focus only on sports
- B) Stay away from drugs and gangs, pursue education, and live a clean life
- C) Avoid teamwork and focus on individual achievements
- D) Take risks without preparation

Answer: _____

****Written Response Questions****

8. Joe Cortez's slogan "Fair but Firm" is central to his identity as a referee. Explain how this principle applied to his approach to refereeing and why it was important for maintaining fairness in the ring.

9. Discuss one significant fight or moment in Joe Cortez's career that highlights his role as a referee under high pressure. What does this teach about decision-making in challenging situations?

10. Joe Cortez emphasizes the importance of education and staying away from negative influences like gangs and drugs. How can students apply this advice to their own lives and future goals?
