



For example do you know why a boxing ring is square?

Let's start with the Ancient Olympics. Boxing was a very popular event. There were legendary fighters like Melankomas of Karia who floated like a butterfly, but did not sting like a bee. He exhausted his opponents by defending, but he never threw a punch. Never.

He died undefeated. Boxing resurfaced in England around the early 16th century. It was very rough and often called prizefighting. In that time spectators formed a ring around the fighters... a boxing ring! Heavyweight champion Jack Broughton introduced the first set of rules in 1743, mainly to prevent people from dying in the ring. The people around the boxers betted on the winner, so they often got involved in the fighting to protect their investment. Sometimes they even tried to obstruct the opponent.

So, to prevent this, it was decided to use some rope to fence off the fighters. And because people that like to bet on fighting are usually not the same people that like to figure out how to make a perfect ring with sticks and some rope, they choose the easy way out and opted for a square. Easy to make out of 4 sticks and some rope... Simple, right?

In 1838 the ideas of Jack Broughton were refined in the London Prize Ring Rules and in rule One the square was made official. During the years the sport evolved. The boxers started using gloves and head-protection. There were legendary champions, and even more legendary bloopers. The sponge was replaced by a towel and the expression: throw in the sponge, was replaced by a towel.

But people kept calling the boxing square a ring! I like to think it is because a ring girl is very much a more attractive concept than a square girl...But the real reason is probably tradition. The same reason that an athletic sport is called hammerthrow, although even if you look close there is no hammer involved.

Really !