

**BOXING, MARTIAL ARTS and PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING ADVISORY  
Board Meeting  
AGENDA  
January 19, 2023  
10:00 a.m. – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Training Room  
Department of Professional & Occupational Regulation  
9960 Mayland Drive  
Richmond, Virginia 23233**

1. Call to Order
2. Emergency Evacuation Procedures
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Public Comment Period\*
5. Smokers
6. Regulatory Review
  - Boxing
    - Boxing Acts
    - Unified Boxing Rules
  - Mixed Martial Arts
    - Unified Rules of Mixed Martial Arts
    - Unified Rules and Guidelines for Muay Thai
    - Unified Rules of Amateur Kickboxing
    - Unified Rules of Professional Kickboxing
  - Wrestling
7. Other Business
8. Conflict of Interest Forms / Travel Vouchers
9. Adjourn

**NEXT MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR: February 15, 2023**

\*Five minute public comment, per person, with the exception of any open disciplinary or application files.

Persons desiring to participate in the meeting and requiring special accommodations or interpretative services should contact the Department at (804) 367-8519 at least ten days prior to the meeting so that suitable arrangements can be made for an appropriate accommodation. The Department fully complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- **Call to Order**
- **Emergency Evacuation**
- **Public Comment**
- **Smokers**

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Materials contained in this agenda are proposed topics for discussion  
And are not to be construed as regulation or official board position  
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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA BOXING, MARTIAL ARTS AND  
PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING  
ADVISORY BOARD



**PROFESSIONAL BOXING**

Last Updated - DRAFT

STATUTES

Title 54.1, Chapter 8.1



Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 400  
Richmond, Virginia 23233  
(804) 367-8500  
[www.dpor.virginia.gov](http://www.dpor.virginia.gov)

**NOTICE  
SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES**

These regulations are effective?????, and replaced all previous versions of the regulations. As a regulant of the Board, you are responsible for following all regulations and therefore you should read and become familiar with all regulations printed in this booklet. These regulations should be thoroughly reviewed. Following is a brief summary of the regulations to assist you in your review.

- The regulations were separated by profession for clarity.

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## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This booklet contains the information you will need to obtain your license. The law that governs your profession is found in the *Code of Virginia*, 1950, as amended, in Title 54.1, Chapter 8.1. That law permits the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation to issue regulations that tell you more about what is expected of you in your profession. This booklet contains a copy of the law and regulations that you will need to know and obey to obtain and keep your license. **BE SURE YOU READ AND UNDERSTAND THE STANDARDS OF PRACTICE AND CONDUCT. YOUR FAILURE TO OBEY THESE STANDARDS COULD RESULT IN A MONETARY PENALTY OR THE LOSS OF YOUR LICENSE.**

It is the goal of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation to provide you with the information you need to comply with the law and regulations. If you have a question and cannot find the answer to it in this booklet, please write to:

Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation  
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 400  
Richmond, Virginia 23233

or call the Agency at (804) 367-8500.

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## **PART I.**

### **SCOPE.**

#### **18VAC120-41-10. Scope.**

This chapter contains procedures and requirements for the licensure of individuals and businesses to engage in the conduct of professional boxing events as provided for in Chapter 8.1 (§54.1-828 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia.

The director of the department is empowered to (i) promulgate this chapter, (ii) issue licenses, (iii) investigate to determine compliance with this chapter, and (iv) take disciplinary action, in accordance with the Virginia Administrative Process Act, against those who fail to comply with this chapter. Furthermore, to the extent applicable, this chapter shall be construed in accordance with and governed by Virginia's Administrative Process Act. The director is also empowered to contract with a vendor to perform certain tasks on the director's behalf. These tasks include examining and recommending licensure, investigating and ensuring that events are conducted in compliance with statutes and regulations, performing clerical duties, collecting fees, maintaining records, developing proposed regulations, and recommending enforcement actions.

#### *Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007; Volume 31, Issue 26, eff. October 1, 2015, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

#### **18VAC120-41-15. Applicability.**

Event licensing and conduct standards for boxing are set forth in 18VAC120-41-110, and 18VAC120-41-180 through 18VAC120-41-290.

#### *Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007; Volume 25, Issue 15, eff. May 14, 2009, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*



## PART II.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS.

#### 18VAC120-41-20. Definitions.

A. Section 54.1-828 of the Code of Virginia provides definitions of the following terms:

Boxer  
Boxing  
Cable television system to include Pay-per view, Satellite and live streaming  
Contractor  
Department  
Director  
Event  
Manager  
Matchmaker  
Person  
Promote  
Promoter  
Regulant  
Trainer, second, or cut man

B. The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Assistant event inspector" means the individual assigned to assist the event inspector.

"Boxer registry" means any entity certified by the Association of Boxing Commissions for the purposes of maintaining records and identification of boxers.

"Business" means any sole proprietorship, general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, association, corporation, or other business entity.

"Charity event" means an event where all or a portion of the proceeds are donated to a charitable organization that is tax-exempt under §501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

"Contest," "bout," or "match" means the portion of an event wherein specific individuals (two contestants engage in boxing which ends when a decision is reached.

"Event inspector" means the event official assigned to be in overall charge of the conduct of an event to assure compliance with this chapter.

"Event license" means a method of regulation whereby any promoter arranging or conducting a boxing event is required to obtain a prior authorization from the department.

"Event officials" means those individuals assigned to carry out the duties of an event inspector, assistant event inspector, inspector, referee, timekeeper, judge, or ringside physician as established by this chapter.

"Inspector" means the event official assigned to assist the event inspector as provided for in this chapter.

"Judge" means the event official assigned to score a boxing bout as provided for in this chapter.

"Licensed event" means an event that has been issued a license from the department in accordance with this chapter.

"Rabbit punch" means a blow delivered by a contestant against his opponent that strikes the back of the opponent's neck or head with a chopping motion or punch.

"Referee" means the event official assigned to a boxing bout to assure the proper conduct of the bout and the safety of the contestants to assure the safety of the spectators as provided for in this chapter.

"Responsible management" means the following individuals:

1. The sole proprietor of a sole proprietorship;
2. The partners of a general partnership;
3. The general partners of a limited partnership;
4. The officers of a corporation;
5. The managers of a limited liability company; or
6. The officers and directors of an association.

"Ringside physician" means the event official assigned to assure the medical health and safety of each contestant as provided for in this chapter, and (i) must be licensed by the Virginia Board of Medicine to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine, and (ii) hold a current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

"Ten point must system" means the scoring system approved by the Association of Boxing Commissions used in professional boxing.

"Timekeeper" means the event official assigned to time each round and the interval between rounds, and to count knockdowns as provided for in this chapter.

#### *Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

**18VAC120-41-30. License expiration.**

- A. Except as set out in subsection B of this section, each license, other than an event license or a limited contestant shall expire on December 31 of the year in which the license was issued, except that licenses issued during the last 45 days of any calendar year shall expire on December 31 of the following calendar year.
- B. Each license to conduct a boxing event issued to a licensed promoter shall be valid only for the duration of the event described in the application for licensure. Each limited license issued to a contestant shall be valid only for the duration of one specifically identified event or two specifically identified events held on consecutive days at the same location.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 22, Issue 11, eff. April 23, 2006, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

**18VAC120-41-40. Fees.**

- A. Each applicant shall submit the following fee along with the application for licensure:

Boxer	\$40
Boxer--limited	\$30
Manager	\$50
Matchmaker	\$50
Promoter	\$500
Trainer, second, and cut man	\$40
Additional administrative fee for applications received after noon the day before weigh-ins	\$35

- B. Each application for a boxing event license shall be accompanied by the following fee:

1. Scheduled events of 42 rounds or fewer, with no more than one nontitle 10-round or 12-round bout— \$1,500.
2. Scheduled events exceeding 42 rounds, with more than one nontitle 10-round or 12-round bout or any event with a title bout— \$2,000.

- C. All fees are nonrefundable.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 21, Issue 20, eff. August 1, 2005;*

**PART III.**

**LICENSING STANDARDS.**

**18VAC120-41-50. General application requirements.**

- A. Applicants shall apply on forms supplied by the department or its contractor.
- B. Applicants shall be at least 18 years of age.
- C. The individual applicant or business, and every member of the responsible management of the business, shall disclose the following information:
  - 1. Any guilty finding by the department, or by a court of any competent jurisdiction, of any material misrepresentation while engaged in boxing or other athletic activities, or any conviction, guilty plea, or finding of guilty, regardless of adjudication or deferred adjudication, of any felony or misdemeanor;
  - 2. Any disciplinary action taken by the department or another jurisdiction in connection with the applicant's participation in or promotion of professional athletic bouts or activities including, but not limited to, monetary penalty, fine, suspension, revocation, or surrender of a license in connection with a disciplinary action; and
  - 3. Any current or previously held licenses issued by this Commonwealth or any other jurisdiction.

Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for the purposes of this subsection. A certified copy of a final order, decree, or case decision by a court or regulatory agency with the lawful authority to issue such order, decree, or case decision shall be admissible as prima facie evidence of such conviction or discipline. Subject to the provisions of §54.1-204 of the Code of Virginia, the department may deny an application for a license if, in its judgment, the actions disclosed in subdivisions 1 and 2 of this subsection would render the applicant unfit or unsuited to engage in boxing, wrestling, or other athletic activities.
- D. Each individual applicant, business, and responsible management of the business, shall disclose a physical address. A post office box shall not be accepted in lieu of a physical address.
- E. The fees established by 18VAC120-41-40.A. shall accompany the application and shall not be refunded.
- F. The receipt of an application and the deposit of fees does not indicate approval of licensure by the department.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

**18VAC120-41-60. Additional requirements for a contestant.**

Each applicant for a license as a contestant shall submit a completed application as described in 18VAC120-41-50 and shall:

- A. Have a satisfactory record of professional boxing or, in the case of applicants who have participated in fewer than five professional boxing, evidence of competency in the elements of offense and defense. Such evidence may take the form of signed statements from individuals who have provided training to the applicant or records of the applicant's conduct in amateur as well as professional boxing competitions and shall be sufficient to satisfy the department that the applicant has the ability to compete.
- B. Submit the following certification:

“I understand as a professional contestant I should be aware that this sport includes many health and safety risks, in particular the risk of brain injury. As such I will take the necessary medical exams that detect brain injury. If I need further information about these exams I will ask my doctor or staff of the department.”
- C. Submit a complete professional record or, if amateur just turning professional, an amateur record, an amateur passbook recognized by USA Boxing for contestants, or a letter from the applicant’s trainer certifying the applicant’s boxing experience, skill level, physical condition, and current training program.
- D. Submit a certification from a physician licensed by a medical board in the United States or its territories to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine within the past six months certifying that the applicant is in good physical health and that the physician has not observed any abnormalities or deficiencies that would prevent the applicant from participation in a boxing event or endanger the applicant, the public, officials, or other licensees participating in the event.
- E. Dilated ophthalmological exam not to be more than one year old.
- F. Submit negative lab work results within 180 days preceding an event for the following:
  - 1. antibodies to the human immunodeficiency virus;
  - 2. Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg); and
  - 3. antibodies to virus hepatitis C.

A contestant who fails to provide the department with the required negative lab work results shall

not be permitted to compete in the event.

The department may require additional medical tests to determine the fitness of a contestant upon receipt of information of a preexisting condition that may present a danger to the contestant.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 25, Issue 15, eff. May 14, 2009, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

**18VAC120-41-70. Additional requirements for manager.**

Each applicant for a license as a manager shall submit a completed application as described in 18VAC120-41-50 and a statement that the applicant possesses knowledge of this chapter. The department shall approve and issue all licenses in accordance with the standards established by the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC §6301 et seq.), as amended.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-41-80. Additional requirements for matchmaker.**

Each applicant shall submit a completed application as described in 18VAC120-41-50 which includes a statement that the applicant does not employ and does not otherwise have a financial interest in or commercial connection with any contestant, manager, trainer, or second, except that which may be necessary to arrange a contestant's participation in a specific event. The department shall approve and issue all licenses in accordance with the standards established by the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC §6301 et seq.), as amended.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

**18VAC120-41-90. Additional requirements for promoter.**

Each applicant for a license as a promoter shall submit a completed application as described in 18VAC120-41-50, which includes a statement that the applicant possesses knowledge of this chapter, and the following certification:

"I understand that I am not entitled to compensation in connection with a boxing match, including gate fees, until I provide the department with a copy of any agreement in writing to which I and any contestant participating in the match are parties; a statement made under penalty of perjury that there are no other agreements; a statement of fees, charges, and expenses that will be assessed by or through me on the contestant, including any portion of the contestant's purse that I receive and training expenses; all payments, gifts, or benefits I am

providing to any sanctioning organization affiliated with the event; and any reduction in the contestant's purse contract to a previous agreement between myself and the contestant.

Further, I understand that I am not entitled to compensation in connection with a boxing match until I provide the contestant I promote with the amounts of any compensation or consideration that I have contracted to receive from such match; all fees, charges, and expenses that will be assessed by or through me on the contestant pertaining to the event, including any portion of the contestant's purse that I will receive and training expenses; and any reduction in a contestant's purse contract to a previous agreement between myself and the contestant.”

The department shall approve and issue all licenses in accordance with the standards established by the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC §6301 et seq.), as amended.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

**18VAC120-41-100. Additional requirements for trainer, second, or cut man.**

Each applicant shall submit a completed application as described in 18VAC120-41-50 and evidence of knowledge of:

1. This chapter;
2. The treatment of injuries;
3. Physical conditioning, health care, nutrition, training, first aid, and the effects of alcohol as it relates to boxing; and
4. The bandaging of a contestant's hand.

The required evidence may take the form of the applicant's official record from a state regulatory agency, signed statements from current or former contestants who have worked directly with the applicant, or other documentary evidence that establishes that the applicant is competent. The department shall approve and issue all licenses in accordance with the standards established by the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC §6301 et seq.), as amended.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

## PART IV.

### LICENSING STANDARDS FOR BOXING.

#### 18VAC120-110. Licensing requirements for a boxing event.

- A. At least 30 days before the date of any boxing event in the Commonwealth, the licensed promoter shall submit an application for a license to conduct a boxing event to the department or its contractor. The application shall be on forms provided by the department and shall include:
1. The date, location, and time of the event for which a license is sought. The department will consider the size and configuration of the location and may deny approval of the event license for safety reasons;
  2. Evidence of a surety bond filed with the department or its contractor conditioned on the payment of gate fees and penalties imposed by Chapter 8.1 (§54.1-828 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia and on the fulfillment of contracts made with contestants. The bond shall be in form and substance satisfactory to the department and in an amount equal to the sum of (i) the total gate fee required by this chapter and §54.1-833 A of the Code of Virginia if all seats were to be sold and (ii) the total amount due to all contestants for their appearance in the event. The bond shall not exceed \$100,000 and shall be executed by a surety authorized to do business in the Commonwealth;
  3. Acknowledgment that the licensed promoter will provide a copy of the contract between the promoter and each licensed contestant;
  4. A statement that the licensed promoter has read and understands this chapter and will conduct the event in full compliance with same; and
  5. Verification of status as a charity event as defined in this chapter.
- B. At least 14 days prior to the event, the additional documentation shall be submitted to the department by the licensed promoter:
1. The card of boxing bouts to be exhibited, including the name of each contestant, the contestant's federal identification number, and the number of rounds each is scheduled to compete. The card may be modified until close of business two business days prior to the event weigh-ins by providing the required documents for the additions to and notice of the deletions from the card which accompanied the application;
  2. Verification of all scheduled contestants' bout records from the Association of Boxing Commissions approved database;
  3. Evidence that all contestants scheduled to compete are covered by a health insurance policy that covers medical expenses for injuries incurred during the boxing event, has a minimum



of coverage of \$50,000 and an accidental death insurance benefit coverage in a minimum amount of \$50,000, and meets all requirements specified in 15 USC § 6304;

C. No later than noon the day before weigh-ins, the licensed promoter shall provide:

1. A copy of the signed contract between the promoter and each licensed contestant;
2. A copy of each contract for the sale of rights to distribute in any manner such event by any video, telephonic, or other communication method involving the control of electrons or other charge carriers;

D. In no case shall the licensed promoter for an event license announce or advertise, either directly or indirectly, the event to the public until the department has approved the event application and issued the event license.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-41-120. Equipment to be provided by promoters.**

The promoter shall assure that each event shall have the following:

1. A ring, which shall be in the shape of a square not to be less than 18 feet inside the ropes and shall not exceed 20 feet inside the ropes.

The ring floor shall be padded with ensolite one inch thick or another similar closed-cell foam. The padded ring floor must extend at least 18 inches beyond the ring ropes and over the edge of the platform with a top covering of canvas or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges or material with a slick covering shall not be used.

The ring platform shall not be more than five feet above the floor of the building and shall have suitable steps for each contestant in his corner and the ringside physician in a neutral corner.

Ring posts shall be of metal, not more than three inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a height of 58 inches above the ring floor. The ring posts must be at least 18 inches away from the ropes.

There shall be four ring ropes not less than one inch in diameter, evenly spaced, with the bottom ring rope not less than 18 inches above the ring floor and the top ring rope not more than 52 inches above the ring floor. The ring ropes must be padded with a padding of closed cell padding of not less than 1/2 inch. Ropes are to be connected with soft rope ties six feet apart. All ring ropes are to be tight and approved by the department or its contractor.

All corners must be padded with standard approved pads. All turnbuckles are to be covered with a standard protective padding.

A ring stool and bucket shall be provided for each contestant's corner.

The ring shall be under sufficient lighting that covers the entire ring equally. No lights shall shine into the face of the contestants or ringside judges; lights may only shine downward and not shine at any angle directly into the bout area that may blind the contestants or judges.

The promoter shall provide a ringside restrictive barrier between the first row of ringside seats and the event officials' area that will restrict the crowd from confronting either the contestants or event officials and will ensure that the contestants remain free from obstructions or distractions. The ringside barrier must be a minimum of eight feet from the outside edge of the ring.

2. Locker rooms adequate in number and equipment to reasonably facilitate the contestants' activities before and after the bout. Separate locker rooms shall be provided when both male and female contestants are scheduled to compete. Locker rooms shall have restroom facilities available.
3. A fully equipped ambulance with appropriately trained emergency personnel at the site of any boxing event for the entire duration of the event and any additional personnel or equipment required by 15 USC §6304.
4. Boxing gloves of the proper weight that are set by weight classification by 18VAC120-41-190. Boxing gloves must have laces to secure proper fit. Gloves must have an attached thumb to the body of the glove. Gloves must be clean, free of cuts, with no displacement or lumping of the padding material. Gloves used in world title bouts shall be new and taken from the package just prior to issuing to the contestants. Gloves shall be inspected by the event inspector or his contractor before each bout and those found defective shall be replaced before the bout begins. A solution of 10% household bleach and water shall be used for cleansing of all gloves prior to and after each bout.
5. A sealed over the counter pregnancy test kit, approved by the Food and Drug Administration, for each female contestant that will be given to the event inspector or his contractor.
6. A clear plastic water bottle, a bucket containing ice, surgeon's adhesive tape and surgical gauze for each contestant.
7. Drug Testing, or any other testing as required by the department at the promoter's expense.
8. A solution, of one part bleach and nine parts water for disinfecting blood on the ring canvas or ropes, shall be available ringside for use by promoter's staff stationed ringside to clean the ring canvas and ropes as needed.
9. The promoter shall provide each corner with biohazardous material bags and after the event

shall discard all regulated medical waste in the proper manner in accordance with the *Regulated Medical Waste Management Regulations* (9VAC20-120) issued by the Virginia Waste Management Board and available from the Department of Environmental Quality.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007; Volume 25, Issue 15, eff. May 14, 2009.*

**18VAC120-41-130. Promoter to provide copy of contract with contestant at weigh-in; penalty for noncompliance; contents of contract.**

- A. The promoter shall provide a copy of his contract with each contestant scheduled to compete in the event to the event inspector at the time of the weigh-in as required in 18VAC120-41-110.
- B. Failure to provide a copy of the contract for a contestant at weigh-in shall result in the contestant's disqualification to compete in the event.
- C. Each contract shall contain the name of the promoter, the name of the contestant, the amount of compensation to be paid to the contestant by the promoter, the date, time and location of the event, weigh-in and pre-bout physical and shall comply with the minimum provisions contained in the most current model contract developed by the Association of Boxing Commissions and contained in the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC §6301 et seq.), as amended.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-41-140. Equipment to be provided by seconds.**

Each second shall provide the following equipment for use at the event:

1. A solution approved by the Association of Boxing Commissions to stop hemorrhaging;
2. Scissors; and
3. One extra mouthpiece.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-41-150. Equipment to be provided by each contestant.**

Each contestant shall provide the following equipment:

1. Trunks for male contestants, and trunks and tight upper body covering for female contestants;
2. Approved groin protector for male contestants and abdominal guard for female contestants;
3. A mouth piece properly fitted to each contestant's mouth; and
4. Boxing shoes.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-41-160. Prohibited Ring Attire.**

1. Wearing jewelry during all bouts.
2. Wearing of facial or body cosmetics.
3. Loose hair. Hair must be secured with soft and non-abrasive materials.

**18VAC120-41-170. Bout approval; request for reconsideration.**

- A. The department or its contractor shall obtain information from the promoter on each contestant from a contestant registry and examine that information for records, experience, and consecutive losses. Contestants with 10 or more consecutive losses must obtain a special exception before being placed on the bout card. The results of the pre-bout physical and any other pertinent information available, including the boxing severity index, will be used to determine, to the extent possible, that both contestants are substantially equal in skill and ability and are medically fit to compete. No bout shall take place without the approval of the department or its contractor and the ringside physician assigned to the event by the department or its contractor.
- B. Each contestant must possess a current federal identification number as required by 15 USC §6305.
- C. No contestant shall participate in a boxing bout who has:
  1. Been knocked out in the 60 days immediately preceding the date of the bout;
  2. Been technically knocked out in the 30 days preceding the date of the bout;
  3. Been a contestant in a boxing bout of more than six rounds during the 15 days preceding

the date of the bout or six or fewer rounds during the seven days preceding the date of the bout;

4. Suffered a cerebral hemorrhage;
  5. Suffered a serious head injury or other serious physical injury. The department or its contractor may require an additional, specific medical examination to determine the contestant's suitability;
  6. Blindness in one eye or whose vision in one eye is so poor that a physician recommends the contestant not participate in the bout. A contestant who is totally unsighted (uncorrected vision worse than 20/400) in one or both eyes shall be prohibited from competing; or
  7. Been denied a license or approval to bout by another jurisdiction for medical reasons.
- D. No contestant shall participate in a boxing bout while under a medical or administrative suspension from the boxing commission of another jurisdiction of the United States due to:
1. A recent knockout or series of consecutive losses;
  2. An injury, requirement for a medical procedure, or physician denial of eligibility to compete;
  3. Failure of a test for drugs or controlled substances; or
  4. The use of false aliases or falsifying, or attempting to falsify, official identification cards or documents.
- E. Any promoter or contestant may request a reconsideration by the department of the director's decision by immediately providing in writing additional information or contradictory evidence concerning the contestant's skill, ability, or medical fitness.
- F. A contestant who is suspended by a boxing commission of another jurisdiction of the United States may be allowed to compete if:
1. The contestant was suspended for a knockout, technical knockout, series of consecutive losses, an injury, a requirement of a medical procedure, or physician denial of certification and the time interval for knockouts and technical knockouts in subsection C of this section has been met and further proof of sufficiently improved medical or physical condition has been furnished;
  2. The contestant was suspended for the failure of a drug test or the use of false aliases or falsifying, or attempting to falsify, official identification cards or documents and that a suspension was not, or is no longer, merited by the facts;
  3. The contestant was suspended for any reason other than those mentioned in subdivisions

1 and 2 of this subsection and the department or the department's contractor notifies the suspending commission in writing and consults with the designated official of the suspending commission prior to the grant of approval for such contestant to participate in a boxing bout; or

4. The contestant was suspended for any reason other than those mentioned in subdivisions 1 and 2 of this subsection and the contestant's appeal to the Association of Boxing Commissions results in a determination that the suspension was without sufficient grounds, was for an improper purpose, or was not related to the health and safety of the contestant or the purposes of the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC §6301 et seq.).

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-41-180. Boxing event conduct standards.**

A. Wrapping of each contestant's hands shall not exceed more than one continuous winding of surgeon's adhesive tape around the wrist:

1. Not over 1-1/2 inches wide, placed directly on the hand to protect the part of the hand near the wrist.
2. The tape may cover the hand but may not extend within 3/4 inch of the knuckles when the hand is clenched to make a fist.
3. Soft surgical gauze, not over 2 inches wide, held in place by not more than six feet of surgeon's adhesive tape for each hand shall be used.
4. Up to one 10-yard roll of surgical gauze may be used to complete the wrappings for each hand.
5. Strips of tape may be used between the fingers to hold down the gauze, not to cover the knuckles.
6. Gauze shall be adjusted in the locker room in the presence of the event inspector or his contractor.
7. Before putting on gloves the contestant shall present his wrapped hands for inspection by the event inspector or his contractor.

B. Any contestant who has signed a contract to compete on a promoter's program shall be subject to be called by the department to appear at any time to be weighed or to be examined by a physician designated by the department when the department has reason to believe the

contestant may not be qualified or may not be medically sound to participate in the bout.

- C. Each contestant who signs a contract to compete in a promoter's event shall appear at a time and place designated by the department or its contractor to be weighed on department-approved scales in the presence of each other and a representative designated by the department. Contestants shall have all weights removed from their bodies before the weigh-in but may wear shorts in the case of males, and shorts and shirts in the case of females.
- D. In accordance with 15 USC §6304, each contestant shall be examined immediately before the bout by a ringside physician assigned to the event who certifies in writing on a form provided by the department whether the contestant is physically fit to safely compete.

The original health certificate will be submitted to the event inspector or his contractor. In addition, each female contestant shall take a pregnancy test in the presence of a female inspector, using the pregnancy kit required by subdivision 5 of 18VAC120-41-120. The inspector will give the results to the physician and the results will be noted on the physical form. If the physician's certification fails to certify that the contestant is physically fit to safely compete, the contestant shall not participate in the bout, and shall immediately be placed on suspension on the federal boxer registry. All contestants shall submit to a post-bout physical by the ringside physician or the department or its contractor.

- E. All boxing events may be conducted in accordance with the rules set forth by the Association of Boxing Commissions. The department may use the Championship Rules adopted by the Association of Boxing Commissions in any championship bout.
- F. Discretionary use of petroleum jelly is permitted on the face, arms or any other part of the contestant's body. In the case of a cut, the following topical solutions approved by the Association of Boxing Commissions are permitted:
  - 1. A solution of adrenaline 1/1000.
  - 2. Avenline
  - 3. Thrombin
  - 4. All other solutions are prohibited.
- G. Headgear is not permitted.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-41-190. Weight classes and weigh-ins and pre-bout meeting.**

A. Male and female weight classes are as follows:

<b>Weight Class</b>	<b>Weight in lbs.</b>	<b>Max Weight Spread</b>	<b>Glove sizes</b>
Mini Flyweight	105 & below	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Light Flyweight	Over 105 - 108	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Flyweight	Over 108 - 112	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Super Flyweight	Over 112 - 115	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Bantamweight	Over 115 - 118	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Super Bantamweight	Over 118 - 122	4 lbs.	8 oz.
Featherweight	Over 122 - 126	4 lbs.	8 oz.
Super Featherweight	Over 126 - 130	4 lbs.	8 oz.
Lightweight	Over 130 - 135	5 lbs.	8 oz.
Super Lightweight	Over 135 - 140	5 lbs.	8 oz.
Welterweight	Over 140 - 147	7 lbs.	8 oz.
Super Welterweight	Over 147 - 154	7 lbs.	10 oz.
Middleweight	Over 154 - 160	7 lbs.	10 oz.

<b>Weight Class</b>	<b>Weight in lbs.</b>	<b>Max Weight Spread</b>	<b>Glove sizes</b>
Super Middleweight	Over 160 - 168	7 lbs.	10 oz.
Light Heavyweight	Over 168 - 175	7 lbs.	10 oz.
Cruiserweight	Over 175 - 200	12 lbs.	10 oz.
Heavyweight	Over 200 - 225	No limit	10 oz.
Super-Heavyweight	Over 225 and up	No limit	10 oz.

B. No contestant may engage in a bout without the approval of the department or its contractor if the difference in weight between the contestants exceeds the allowance shown in subsection A of this section.

C. If one of the two contestants in a bout is above or below the weights shown in subsection A of this section, both contestants shall wear the gloves of the higher weight.

D. Contestants shall be weighed within 24 hours prior to the scheduled event. Each contestant and second shall appear at a time and place designated by the promoter and approved by the department or its contractor to be weighed on scales approved by the department or its contractor in the presence of each other, the promoter or his representative and a designee of the department or its contractor. Contestants shall have all weight removed from their bodies



before the weigh-in but may wear shorts in the case of males, and shorts and shirts in the case of females. Once weigh-ins commence, the scales shall not be moved until weigh-ins are complete.

- E. When weigh-ins occur within 24 hours, but not less than 12 hours prior to the event's scheduled start time, the contestant shall not exceed the weight specified in his contract with the promoter. If a contestant exceeds the weight specified in the contract he shall not compete unless he:
1. Loses the weight exceeded in the contract at least 12 hours prior to the event's scheduled start time;
  2. Loses all but two pounds of the weight exceeded in the contract at least 12 hours prior to the event's scheduled start time and loses the final two pounds at least six hours prior to the event's scheduled start time; or
  3. Renegotiates the contract and provides a copy to the department or its contractor.

Contestants who weigh-in 24 hours prior to the scheduled event shall be required to re-weigh two hours prior to the event's scheduled start time and will not be permitted to exceed the weight specified in the contract by more than 10 pounds.

- F. When weigh-ins occur less than 12 hours prior to an event's scheduled start time, the contestant shall not exceed the weight specified in the contract. No contestant shall be permitted to lose more than two pounds within 12 hours of a bout. If a contestant weighs more than two pounds over the weight specified in the contract, he shall not compete unless he:
1. Loses up to two pounds at least six hours prior to the event's scheduled start time; or
  2. Renegotiates his contract and provides a copy to the department or its contractor.
- G. The promoter is responsible for ensuring that all contestants and seconds are present at the pre-bout meeting. Any second who does not attend the pre-bout meeting will not be permitted in the corner of their contestant. All contestants will report to the event location and their locker rooms at the specified time on the night of the event.

Once the contestant reports to the event facility and to the locker room he will be disqualified if he leaves the locker room before time for the bout or leaves the facility before the end of the bout.

#### *Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

#### **18VAC120-41-200. Access to contestant's locker rooms.**

On the day of a bout, only the following individuals are allowed in the locker room of a contestant:

1. The contestant's licensed manager;
2. The contestant's licensed trainers, seconds, or cut men;
3. The promoter or the promoter's representatives;
4. Any representative of the department or its contractor in the conduct of his official duties; and,
5. Any representative of a law-enforcement agency while discharging his official duties.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-41-210. Pre-bout instructions.**

The contestants and his chief second shall meet in the locker room with the referee at which time the referee shall:

1. Ascertain the name of each contestant and his chief second, and shall hold the chief second responsible for the conduct of the assistant seconds during the progress of the bout.
2. Explain violations of second's rules; further violations shall result in disqualifications and/or disciplinary action.
3. Identify the belt/hip line and clarify that the equipment shall not extend above this imaginary line.
4. Explain what will occur when the warning sounds indicating that the end of the round is near, and when the bell sounds the end of the round.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-41-220. Number and conduct of seconds or cornermen.**

- A. Before a bout begins, the chief second and other seconds shall be identified for the officials. The chief second shall present the contestant, ready to compete, when the event inspector calls the contestants to the ring and shall present the contestant, ready to box, when the referee calls the contestants to the center of the ring for final instructions.

- B. No contestant may have more than three seconds or cornermen, except in a world title bout, the department or its designee may authorize up to five seconds. The chief second must appear at the official weigh-in and pre-bout meeting at the time and place designated by the department or its contractor.
- C. All seconds must keep their shoulders below the ring floor level during the bout. Seconds are prohibited from standing up or leaning on the edge of the ring, mat or floor or slapping the ring, mat or floor while the bout is in progress, or touching the ring ropes until the bell sounds to end the round. Seconds must keep coaching volume down while the bout is in progress and are prohibited from interfering with the officials in any physical or verbal way.
- D. Only one of the seconds may be inside the ring ropes between rounds and shall not enter the ring until the bell signals the end of the round. During the rest period, the second may coach his contestant; treat cuts, abrasions or swelling; and provide water, ice, approved sport drinks, or other cooling-down techniques.
- E. Any excessive or undue spraying or throwing of water on any contestant by a second between rounds is prohibited. Seconds are responsible for wiping up any fluids in their corners between rounds.
- F. Seconds shall not enter the ring to assist or move a contestant who has been knocked down or injured until instructed to do so by the ringside physician. Seconds shall leave the ring at the sound of the timekeeper's warning that 10 seconds remain before the start of the next round, removing all buckets, stools and other equipment promptly.
- G. Seconds are not permitted to use any electronic recording equipment during the bout.
- H. Seconds shall not use alcoholic beverages, stimulants, or other substances not approved by the department or its contractor during any contest.
- I. Throwing in the towel is not permitted by any second. If a second enters the ring during the round, the contestant shall be disqualified by the referee. Only the referee can stop the bout.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-41-230. Length of bout and duration of round.**

No boxing bout shall be scheduled for less than four rounds or more than 10 rounds. Each round shall be three minutes in duration with a one-minute rest period between rounds, except bouts between female contestants shall consist of two-minute rounds with a one-minute rest period between rounds. The department may permit 12 rounds in male bouts involving a state, regional, national or world title championship, or elimination box off.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-41-240. Determination of a knockdown, counting by referee during knockdowns and knockouts.**

- A. It shall be ruled a knockdown when, as a result of a legal blow or series of legal blows, a contestant touches the floor with any part of the body other than his feet, or is being held up by the ropes, or is hanging on, through, or over the ropes without the ability to protect himself and cannot fall to the floor. A contestant who is knocked down shall receive a minimum count of eight seconds and a maximum count of 10 seconds. The referee shall begin his count when the contestant is down or is helpless on the ropes and after the opponent is in a neutral corner. The referee may stop the counting if the opponent fails to go to the neutral corner, and resume the count where he left off when the opponent returns to the neutral corner. If the contestant rises before the count of 10 is reached and goes back down immediately without being struck by his opponent, the referee shall resume the count where he left off.
- B. A contestant who leaves the ring during a round for any reason shall have a count of 20 seconds to reenter the ring unassisted and cannot be touched while out of the ring by his second or others.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-41-250. Bout termination, knockout, technical knockout, medical suspensions.**

- A. A referee may terminate the count and the bout at any point when he determines that the safety of a contestant is at risk. The ringside physician may terminate the bout when, after examination of the contestant and consultation with the referee, he determines that the safety of the contestant is at risk.
- B. When a contestant loses by way of knockout, is unable to rise by the count of 10 or, in the case of a contestant who has left the ring for any reason, before the count of 20, the department or its contractor shall record in the records the letters KO (loss by knockout). A contestant losing by way of a knockout shall be placed on medical suspension by the department on the boxer registry and shall not participate in any boxing activity for a minimum period of 60 days.
- C. If the bout is stopped due to a cut produced by a legal punch, or interruptions of the flow of the bout because a contestant is unable to control his bodily functions during the bout, the contestant shall lose by technical knockout (TKO).
- D. Any contestant losing by way of TKO shall be placed on medical suspension federal boxer registry for a minimum of 30 days. Longer medical suspension periods may be issued upon the advice of the ringside physician.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-41-260. Boxing fouls and deduction of points.**

A. Any of the following acts committed by a boxer during a bout shall constitute a foul:

1. Hitting below the navel (low blow) or behind the ear.
2. Hitting an opponent who is down or is getting up after being down.
3. Holding an opponent with one hand and hitting with the other.
4. Holding or deliberately maintaining a clinch.
5. Wrestling or kicking.
6. Striking an opponent who is helpless as a result of previous blows and so supported by the ropes that he does not fall after being instructed by the referee to a neutral corner.
7. Butting with the head or shoulder or using the knee.
8. Hitting with the open glove, the butt of the hand, the wrist or the elbow, and all backhand blows.
9. Purposely falling down onto the canvas of the ring without being hit or for the purpose of avoiding a blow.
10. Striking deliberately at that part of the body over the kidneys.
11. Using the pivot blow (pivoting while throwing a punch to the back of the head, neck areas or kidneys).
12. Using rabbit punch (punch thrown to the back of the head and neck areas).
13. Jabbing the opponent's eyes with the thumb of the glove.
14. Using abusive language in the ring.
15. Engaging in any unsportsmanlike conduct including, but not limited to, a trick or other action which causes injury to an opponent.
16. Hitting on the break.
17. Hitting after the bell has sounded signaling the end of the round.

18. Hitting an opponent whose head is between or outside of the ropes.
19. Holding the ropes and hitting.
20. Pushing an opponent about the ring or into the ropes.
21. Intentionally spitting out the mouthpiece.
22. Biting or spitting.
23. Not following referee's instructions.
24. Stepping on opponent.
25. Crouching below opponent's belt.
26. Leaving neutral corner.
27. Corner second shouting.

B. A contestant who commits any foul during a bout shall be warned by the referee. The referee is responsible for enforcing the rules of the bout and shall not permit fouls or other unfair practices which may cause an injury to a contestant.

C. A contestant who commits a foul after being warned by the referee may have points deducted or may lose the bout by disqualification by the referee. The number of points to be deducted shall be determined by the referee based on his determination of the severity of the foul and its adverse effect on the opponent and shall be reported to the judges and both contestants as soon as practical. The points shall be deducted from the score of the round in which the fouls were committed.

D. If the referee determines a fouled contestant's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized, the referee may order the bout suspended for a reasonable period of time, not to exceed five minutes, to allow the fouled contestant to recover. If a fouled contestant is unable to continue, the referee shall stop the bout.

E. Rounds are complete when the bell rings signifying the end of a round.

1. If accidental foul causes an injury severe enough for the referee to stop the bout immediately, the bout will result in a NO DECISION if stopped before three completed rounds in bouts scheduled for four rounds.

2. If a bout is scheduled for more than four rounds and an accidental foul occurs causing an injury severe enough for the referee to stop the bout immediately, the bout will result in a NO DECISION if stopped before four completed rounds

3. If an accidental foul causes an injury severe enough for the referee to stop the bout immediately, after three rounds have occurred in bouts scheduled for four rounds, the bout will result in a TECHNICAL DECISION, awarded to the contestant who is ahead on the score cards at the time the bout is stopped.
  4. If the bout is scheduled for more than four rounds and an accidental foul causing an injury severe for the referee to stop the bout immediately, after four have occurred, the bout will result in TECHNICAL DECISION, awarded to the contestant who is ahead on the score cards at the time the bout is stopped.
- F. The referee shall stop a bout when he determines that an injury resulting from an accidental foul has been aggravated by fair blows. The outcome of the bout shall be determined by scoring the completed rounds.

#### G. Intentional Fouls

1. If an intentional foul causes an injury that is severe enough to terminate the bout immediately, the contestant causing the injury shall lose by disqualification.
2. If an intentional foul causes an injury and the bout is allowed to continue, the referee will notify the event inspector and deduct two points from the contestant who caused the foul. Point deductions for intentional fouls are mandatory.
3. If an intentional foul causes an injury that results in the bout being stopped in a later round, the injured contestant will win by technical decision if he is ahead on the score cards, or the bout will result in a technical draw if the injured contestant is behind or even on the score cards. Partial or incomplete rounds will be scored. If no action has occurred, the round should be scored as an even round.
4. If the contestant injures himself while attempting to intentionally foul his opponent, the referee will not take any action in his favor, and the injury will be the same as one produced by a fair blow.

The referee shall inform the event inspector or his contractor of his determination that the foul was accidental.

- H. If the contestant conducts himself in an unsportsmanlike manner, the referee may stop the bout and disqualify the contestant.
- I. If a contestant is hit with an accidental low blow, he must continue after a reasonable amount of time not to exceed five minutes or he will lose the bout.

#### J. Penalty fouls

1. Disqualification for fouls to the body shall:

- a. Occur if the referee determines that these fouls are flagrant and/or continual.
- b. The referee may:
  - 1) Order a deduction of points for any illegal blow to the body;
  - 2) Give a rest period of up to five minutes for the injured contestant to recover;
  - 3) Ask the ringside physician to examine the contestant before granting the rest period;
  - 4) Rule the foul accidental and the injured contestant is unable to continue after the five minute rest period, the rules governing accidental fouls shall apply.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-41-270. Scoring of boxing bout, decisions, and announcement of decisions.**

- A. Each bout shall be scored by the judges approved and assigned by the department or its contractor. The referee will not score the bout. The scoring will be done on the 10 point must system. Judges will score each round based on clean punches (power versus quantity), effective aggressiveness, ring generalship, and defense.

In a bout that is stopped in the middle of the round, the judges shall score all incomplete or partial rounds as if they were a complete round. Judges may deduct points for knockdowns only when they are called as such by the referee and for fouls when they are instructed to do so by the referee. Judges should avoid scoring a round even. At the end of each round, the score cards shall be presented to the event inspector or his contractor who shall examine the score cards. The winner shall be the contestant who receives the highest score from the majority of the judges at the end of the bout. The bout is a draw if neither contestant scores so as to obtain a majority.

- B. When the event inspector has examined the score cards and checked them for accuracy, he shall inform the ring announcer of the decision.
- C. The department shall not change a decision rendered at the end of any boxing bout unless:
  1. It is determined that there has been wrongful or illegal collusion affecting the result of the bout;
  2. An error is found in the compilation of the scorecards resulting in the decision favoring the wrong contestant; or



3. The department determines through investigation that there was a violation of this chapter which adversely impacted on the fairness of the bout or the decision.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-41-280. Reporting the results of boxing bouts.**

Not later than two business days after the conclusion of a boxing match, the department or its contractor shall report the results of such boxing match and any related ineligibility to compete in boxing bouts to each boxer registry as required by the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC §6301 et seq.), as amended.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-41-290. Promoter to allow access to event and event facilities.**

- A. The department may assign one or more representatives to each event to evaluate the contractor's performance or to assure compliance with Chapter 8.1 (§54.1-828 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia and this chapter.
- B. All event officials and representatives of the department assigned to an event, whether to monitor the contractor's performance or for any other authorized purpose, shall be granted immediate access by the promoter and the promoter's representatives to the licensed event and to any area or portion of the event facilities.
- C. The promoter is responsible for security of the locker room area and shall not permit access except as specified in 18VAC120-41-200.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**PART V.**

**STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND PERFORMANCE.**

**18VAC120-40-300. Grounds for disciplinary action by the department.**

- A. The department shall have the authority to discipline a licensee through a fine, license suspension, or license revocation for the same reason it may deny licensure or renewal, and for the following reasons, as may be appropriate:
1. Violating or inducing another person to violate any provisions of the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC §6301 et seq.), Chapters 1, 2, 3 or 8.1 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia or of this chapter.
  2. Using misrepresentation or fraud to obtain or attempt to obtain a license or event license.
  3. Having a medical condition which makes participation in events a health hazard.
  4. Altering a license issued by the department.
  5. Having been convicted in any jurisdiction of any felony or of any misdemeanor involving lying, cheating or stealing, or of any misdemeanor for acts carried out while engaged in boxing, wrestling, or other athletic activities. Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for the purposes of this subsection. A certified copy of a final order, decree or case decision by a court or regulatory agency with the lawful authority to issue such order, decree or case decision shall be admissible as prima facie evidence of such conviction or discipline.
  6. Having been the subject of disciplinary action taken by Virginia or another jurisdiction in connection with the participation in or promotion of professional athletic contests or activities, including but not limited to, monetary penalties, fines, suspension, revocation, or surrender of a license in connection with a disciplinary action.
  7. Failing or refusing to appear when directed by the department or its contractor for the purposes of weighing or conducting a medical examination.
  8. Failing to furnish a valid reason or a doctor's certificate to explain any failure to appear at an event in which an applicant or licensee agreed to participate by signing a contract.
  9. Using unsportsmanlike conduct or other inappropriate behavior inconsistent with generally accepted methods of competition.
  10. Failure to meet financial obligations that results in collection proceedings against the bond required by this chapter and §54.1-833 A of the Code of Virginia.

11. Use of profane or abusive language, during the event, including at the weigh-in and pre-bout meeting.
  12. Threatening or inflicting bodily harm upon an official or members of the audience during an event.
  13. Making allegations of illegal or improper conduct against officials that the licensee knows or should have known to be false.
  14. Use of any alcohol, controlled substances, or stimulants in any part of the body prior to or during an event or being found to be under the influence of alcohol, controlled substances or stimulants during an event.
  15. Failure to submit to a urinalysis or chemical test before or after an event upon request of the department or its contractor.
  16. Failure to fulfill contracts for participation in an event.
  17. Wearing facial cosmetics or jewelry of any kind, including any type of body piercing by any participants during a contest, except that wrestlers may wear cosmetics or jewelry unless the event official determines there is a safety risk.
  18. Failure by any participant to secure hair with soft, nonabrasive materials during a contest, when deemed appropriate by the department or its contractor.
  19. Allowing a license, certificate or registration to be used by another.
- B. The department shall conduct disciplinary procedures in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§2.2-4000 et seq. of the Code of Virginia).

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

## PART VI.

### GATE FEES.

#### 18VAC120-41-310. Reporting, verification, and payment of gate fees.

- A. No person, except for members of a local police department or rescue squad on duty covering the event, promoters, his representatives, contestants, and the department or designee may be admitted to the event without a ticket.
- B. Each ticket, except those for the working press and official photographers, shall have the price, name of the promoter, date, and place of the event printed plainly on it.
- C. No promoter shall sell a ticket at a price other than the price that appears on the ticket.
- D. No promoter shall change a ticket price or the place or date of the event without the approval of the department.
- E. Tickets of different prices shall be printed in different colors.
- F. Each ticket issued to the press shall be marked "press."
- G. A maximum of 2.0% of the tickets to an event may be complimentary.
- H. Each complimentary ticket shall be marked complimentary.
- I. Each ticket shall be separated from the stub when entering through the gate. No person shall occupy a seat without a stub.
- J. Each promoter shall furnish to the department, within 3 business days after the completion of each event, a written and verified report on the form provided by the department showing the number of tickets sold, unsold, and given away, the amount of the proceeds donated to a charitable organization that is tax exempt under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and the amount of gross proceeds thereof for such events originating in the Commonwealth. The report shall also include the total gross proceeds from the sale of rights to distribute in any manner such event by any video, telephonic, or other communication method involving the control of electrons or other charge carriers for such live events originating in the Commonwealth.
- K. The promoter shall pay the department, within the 3 business days following the event, a fee of (i) 5.0% of the first \$100,000 of its total gross receipts and (ii) 2.5% of the remainder of its total gross proceeds.

These fees shall not be reduced for portions of an event containing amateur matches as set forth in 18VAC120-41-10.

- L. The department or its contractor may examine or cause to be audited the records and accounts of the promoter.

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**Included in this booklet are relevant excerpts from the *Code of Virginia*. Please note that the Virginia General Assembly is responsible for creating and amending the *Code*, not the Director, Department, or the Advisory Board. The version contained herein contains all changes, if any, that have been made by the General Assembly through the 2016 session. It is your responsibility to stay informed of revisions to the regulations and the statutes governing your profession or occupation. Please consult the General Assembly or your local library for annual changes.**

§ 54.1-828. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Amateur" means an individual who has never participated in a boxing, martial arts, or professional wrestling event for money, compensation, or reward other than a suitably inscribed memento.

"Boxer" means a person competing in the sport of boxing.

"Boxing" means the contact sport of attack or defense using fists.

"Cable television system" means any facility consisting of a set of closed transmission paths and associated equipment designed to provide video programming to multiple subscribers when subscriber interaction is required to select a specific video program for an access fee established by the cable television system for that specific video program.

"Contractor" means any person who has been recognized by the Director, through a contract pursuant to § 54.1-832, as an appropriate responsible party to provide services to assist the Commonwealth in complying with the provisions of this chapter.

"Department" means the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation or its successor.

"Director" means the Director of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

"Event" means any boxing, martial arts, or professional wrestling show that includes one or more bouts, contests, or matches.

"Exhibition" means any occurrence in which boxers or martial artists show or display skills without striving to win.

"Manager" means any person who serves as a representative or agent of a boxer, martial artist, or professional wrestler to arrange for his participation in an event.

"Martial artist" means a person competing in the sport of martial arts.

"Martial arts" or "mixed martial arts" means any of several Asian arts of combat or self-defense, alone or in combination, including but not limited to aikido, karate, judo, muay thai, or taekwondo, usually practiced as sport and which may involve the use of striking weapons.

"Matchmaker" means any person who proposes, selects, arranges for, or in any manner procures specific individuals to be contestants in an event.

"Person" means a natural person, corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association or any other entity.

"Professional" means a person who participates or has ever participated for money, compensation, or reward other than a suitably inscribed memento in any boxing, martial arts, or professional wrestling event.

"Professional wrestler" means any professional participating in professional wrestling.

"Professional wrestling" means an event in which contestants incorporate the sport of wrestling into choreographed performances.

"Promote" or "promotion" means to organize, arrange, publicize, or conduct an event or exhibition in the Commonwealth.

"Promoter" means any person who undertakes to promote an event or exhibition.

"Regulant" means any person required by this chapter to obtain a prior authorization from the Department.

"Sanctioning organization" means an entity approved by the Director pursuant to § [54.1-829.1](#).

"Trainer, " "second" or "cut man" means an individual who undertakes to assure the well-being of a boxer or martial artist by providing instruction or advice concerning techniques or strategies of boxing or martial arts, and who may work in the corner with a boxer or martial artist between the rounds of a match to assure his well-being and provide necessary equipment and advice concerning match participation.

"Wrestler" means any person competing or participating as an opponent in wrestling.

"Wrestling" means any of several styles of physical competition in which individuals attempt to subdue or unbalance an opponent, including Greco-Roman, freestyle, grappling, or submission, usually practiced as a sport.

1998, c. 895; 2005, c. 287; 2015, cc. 216, 264; 2016, c. 756.

**§ 54.1-829. Authorization from Director required; bond; physical examination; emergency medical services vehicles; physician; and health insurance.**

A. No person shall act as a promoter, matchmaker, trainer, boxer, martial artist, or professional wrestler in the Commonwealth without first having obtained authorization for such activity from the Department or sanctioning organization approved by the Director pursuant to § 54.1-829.1 and such authorization remains in full force and effect.

B. No authorization to act as a promoter shall be granted unless the applicant executes and files with the Department a bond, in such penalty as the Department shall determine through regulation, conditioned on the payment of the fees and penalties imposed by this chapter and for the fulfillment of contracts made with professional contestants in accordance with Department regulations. This subsection shall not apply to a promoter applying to conduct an amateur-only event under the authority of a sanctioning organization approved by the Director pursuant to § 54.1-829.1.

C. Each boxer and martial artist shall, and each professional wrestler may, be examined prior to entering the ring by a physician who has been licensed to practice medicine in the Commonwealth for at least five years. The physician shall be appointed by the Department or sanctioning organization and shall certify in writing that the contestant's physical condition is such that he is physically able to engage in the contest.

D. No event in which boxers or martial artists are contestants shall be conducted without the continuous presence at ringside of a physician who has been licensed to practice medicine in the Commonwealth for at least five years, and unless an emergency medical services vehicle is at the site of the event.

E. No boxer or martial artist shall participate in any event unless covered by a health insurance policy with minimum coverage in an amount determined by Department regulation.

1998, c. 895; 2007, c. 853; 2015, cc. 216, 264, 502, 503; 2016, c. 756.



**§ 54.1-829.1. Sanctioning organization; amateur martial arts events.**

A. No event in which amateur participants compete in martial arts shall be authorized in the Commonwealth unless the amateur event is conducted by a sanctioning organization approved by the Director. Only the results of amateur events conducted by a sanctioning organization in good standing and in compliance with this section shall be recognized for purposes of reporting bout results to a national database or official registry. Every sanctioning organization, insofar as practicable, shall observe and apply the unified rules adopted by the Association of Boxing Commissions. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, for purposes of amateur martial arts events, weight classes and bout rules governing round length, judging, and scoring shall conform with the Association of Boxing Commissions unified rules.

B. No amateur martial artist shall compete in an event who has:

1. Not attained the age of 18 years;
2. Been knocked out in the 60 days immediately preceding the date of the event;
3. Been technically knocked out in the 30 days preceding the date of the event;
4. Been a contestant in an event consisting of (i) more than six rounds during the 15 days preceding the date of the event or (ii) six or fewer rounds during the seven days preceding the event;
5. Suffered a cerebral hemorrhage or other serious physical injury;
6. Been found to be blind or vision impaired in one or both eyes;
7. Been denied a license or approval to compete by another jurisdiction for medical reasons;
8. Failed to provide negative test results, dated within 180 days preceding the date of the event, for the following: (i) antibodies to the human immunodeficiency virus; (ii) hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg); and (iii) antibodies to the hepatitis C virus; or
9. Failed to provide written certification from a licensed physician, dated within 180 days preceding the date of the event, attesting to the contestant's good physical health and absence of any preexisting conditions or observed abnormalities that would prevent participation in the event. The examination performed by the ringside physician at the event pursuant to clause (ii) of subdivision C 3 shall not satisfy this requirement.

C. For each amateur martial arts event, the sanctioning organization shall:

1. Review the records, experience, and consecutive losses for each amateur martial artist prior to each event to determine, to the extent possible, that contestants scheduled to compete are substantially equal in skills and ability;

2. Verify that each amateur martial artist scheduled to compete is covered by health insurance;

3. Appoint a physician licensed to practice medicine in the Commonwealth for at least five years to remain at ringside on a continuous basis. Duties of the ringside physician shall include (i) conducting a physical examination of each referee immediately prior to the event to assure his fitness to act in such capacity, (ii) conducting a physical examination and taking a medical history of each amateur martial artist prior to the contestant's entering the ring and certifying the contestant's physical condition, (iii) signaling the referee immediately in the event that an injury is observed, (iv) rendering immediate medical aid to any amateur martial artist injured during an event, and (v) ensuring that all substances in the possession of seconds, trainers, or cut men are appropriate for use on amateur martial artists during the course of the event.

4. Assign a sufficient number of qualified officials, including locker room inspectors, judges, timekeepers, and referees, to protect the health and safety of amateur martial artists and the public. Duties of the referee shall include (i) providing prefight instructions to the contestants; (ii) ensuring that each amateur martial artist is wearing gloves supplied by the sanctioning organization or event promoter that are in new or good condition, weighing between four and six ounces; (iii) exercising supervision over the conduct of the bout and taking immediate corrective action when necessary; (iv) immediately stopping any bout when, in his judgment, one contestant is outclassed by the other, injured, or otherwise unable to continue safely; (v) striving to perform his duties in a manner that does not impede the fair participation of either contestant; (vi) consulting, when he deems appropriate, with the ringside physician on the advisability of stopping the bout if either contestant appears injured or unable to continue; (vii) counting for knockdowns and knockouts, determining fouls and stopping contests, and immediately stopping any bout if one or both contestants are not putting forth their best effort; and (viii) ensuring the health and well-being of the amateur martial artists to the greatest extent possible; and

5. Require a fully equipped emergency medical services vehicle with a currently trained ambulance crew at the site of every amateur event for its entire duration.

D. Any sanctioning organization seeking approval under this section shall make a written application on a form prescribed by the Director. The application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$500. The Director shall annually approve sanctioning organizations whose applications

satisfactorily demonstrate evidence of standards and operations in place that are at least as rigorous as and limited to those required by this section. Following an informal fact-finding proceeding conducted pursuant to § 2.2-4019, the Director may withdraw his approval of any sanctioning organization that has failed to comply with this section based on (i) the review of the annual report submitted by the sanctioning organization or (ii) review of a complaint received pursuant to subdivision A 8 of § 54.1-201 or § 54.1-307.1.

E. A sanctioning organization seeking approval from the Director shall provide documented evidence (i) of operation as a business for at least the immediately preceding three years; (ii) of at least five years of experience as a sanctioning organization representing at least two different promotions during such five-year period or that the principal officers have at least eight years of experience working as a referee or head official for an established sanctioning organization without adverse financial or disciplinary action in any jurisdiction; (iii) indicating that none of its officers, employees, or agents, directly or indirectly, has any pecuniary interest in, or holds any position with, any business associated with a promoter or otherwise operates for the sole benefit of a single promoter; and (iv) of assurance that events will be conducted in a fair and impartial manner with avoidance of any impropriety or appearance of impropriety.

F. Each approved sanctioning organization shall submit an annual report to the Director on or before February 1, with a summary of the events conducted for the preceding calendar year. The Director may address any operational or compliance issues with the sanctioning organization consistent with and in furtherance of the objectives of this section. The Director shall not intervene in the internal activities of a sanctioning organization except to the extent necessary to prevent or cure violations of this section or any statute governing the persons or activities regulated pursuant to this chapter.

G. The Commonwealth, the Director, the Department, and any employee or representative shall be indemnified and held harmless from any liability resulting from or caused by a sanctioning organization or persons conducting activities on behalf of such regulant.

2015, cc. 216, 264; 2016, c. 756.

**§ 54.1-830. Exemptions.**

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

1. Amateur wrestling bouts;
2. Amateur exhibitions and the amateur participants therein;
3. Engagements involving amateur martial arts that are conducted by or held under the sponsorship of (i) any elementary or secondary school or public or private institution of higher education located

in the Commonwealth, (ii) the Department of Corrections involving inmates of any state correctional institution, or (iii) the United States Olympic Committee; or

4. Amateur boxing.

1998, c. 895; 2015, cc. 216, 264; 2016, c. 756.

**§ 54.1-831. Powers and duties of the Department.**

The Department shall administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter. In addition to the powers and duties otherwise conferred by law, the Director shall have the powers and duties of a regulatory board as contained in §§ 54.1-201 and 54.1-202, and shall have the power and duty to:

1. Promulgate regulations in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) which implement the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.) and protect the public against incompetent, unqualified, unscrupulous or unfit persons engaging in the activities regulated by this chapter.

The regulations shall include requirements for (i) initial authorization and renewal of the authorization; (ii) authorization and conduct of events; (iii) standards of practice for persons arranging, promoting, conducting, supervising, and participating in events; (iv) grounds for disciplinary actions against regulants; (v) records to be kept and maintained by regulants; (vi) the manner in which fees are to be accounted for and submitted to the Department, provided, however, that no gate fee shall be required for amateur-only events conducted by a sanctioning organization approved by the Director pursuant to § 54.1-829.1; and (vii) minimum health coverage for injuries sustained in a boxing or martial arts match. The Department shall have direct oversight of professional events to assure the safety and well-being of boxers, martial artists, and professional wrestlers, except that those portions of an event containing amateur bouts shall be conducted under the oversight of a sanctioning organization. Sanctioning organizations shall have sole responsibility for direct oversight of amateur-only events in which martial artists compete.

2. Charge each applicant for authorization and for renewals of authorization a nonrefundable fee subject to the provisions of § 54.1-113 and subdivision A 4 of § 54.1-201. A sanctioning organization shall be subject to the application fee provisions of subsection C of § 54.1-829.1.

3. Conduct investigations to determine the suitability of applicants for authorization and to determine the regulant's compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

4. Conduct investigations as to whether monopolies, combinations, or other circumstances exist to restrain matches or exhibitions of boxing, martial arts, or professional wrestling anywhere in the Commonwealth. The Attorney General may assist in investigations at the request of the Department.

5. Exercise jurisdiction over all boxing, martial arts, and professional wrestling conducted within the Commonwealth by any person, except where otherwise exempted.

1998, c. 895; 2010, c. 764; 2012, c. 769; 2015, cc. 216, 264; 2016, c. 756.

**§ 54.1-834. Prohibited activities; penalties.**

A. No betting or wagering shall be permitted at an event or exhibition before, during, or after the event in the building where the event is held.

B. No person shall participate in a sham or fake boxing or martial arts contest. The Department shall have the authority to order, without a hearing, the person controlling the purse to hold the distribution to contestants, promoters, and trainers pending a public hearing by the Department. The Department shall, simultaneously with the issuance of such order to retain the share or purse, institute proceedings for a hearing to determine whether a sham or fake boxing or martial arts contest has occurred.

C. It shall be a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to violate this section or any statute or regulation governing the persons or activities regulated pursuant to this chapter.

D. The third or any subsequent conviction for violating any provision of this section during a 36-month period shall constitute a Class 6 felony.

1998, c. 895; 2015, cc. 216, 264; 2016, c. 756.

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Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

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**NOTICE**

**PLEASE REFER TO FIRST PAGE OF BOOKLET FOR NOTES ON IMPORTANT CHANGES.**





## Boxing Acts

### ASSOCIATION OF BOXING COMMISSIONS

“PROFESSIONAL BOXING SAFETY ACT OF 1996” / “MUHAMMAD ALI BOXING REFORM ACT”

[TITLE 15, CHAPTER 89, UNITED STATES CODE]

§ 6301. Definitions

For purposes of this chapter:

#### (1) Boxer

The term “boxer” means an individual who fights in a professional boxing match.

#### (2) Boxing commission

(A) [1] The term “boxing commission” means an entity authorized under State law to regulate professional boxing matches.

#### (3) Boxer registry

The term “boxer registry” means any entity certified by the Association of Boxing Commissions for the purposes of maintaining records and identification of boxers.

#### (4) Licensee

The term “licensee” means an individual who serves as a trainer, second, or cut man for a boxer.

of a boxer.

**(6) Matchmaker**

The term “matchmaker” means a person that proposes, selects, and arranges the boxers to participate in a professional boxing match.

**(7) Physician**

The term “physician” means a doctor of medicine legally authorized to practice medicine by the State in which the physician performs such function or action.

**(8) Professional boxing match**

The term “professional boxing match” means a boxing contest held in the United States between individuals for financial compensation. Such term does not include a boxing contest that is regulated by an amateur sports organization.

**(9) Promoter**

The term “promoter” means the person primarily responsible for organizing, promoting, and producing a professional boxing match. The term “promoter” does not include a hotel, casino, resort, or other commercial establishment hosting or sponsoring a professional boxing match unless—

**(A)** the hotel, casino, resort, or other commercial establishment is primarily responsible for organizing, promoting, and producing the match; and

**(B)** there is no other person primarily responsible for organizing, promoting, and producing the match.

**(10) State**

The term “State” means each of the 50 States, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and any territory or possession of the United States, including the Virgin Islands.

**(11) Effective date of the contract**



### **(12) Boxing service provider**

The term “boxing service provider” means a promoter, manager, sanctioning body, licensee, or matchmaker.

### **(13) Contract provision**

The term “contract provision” means any legal obligation between a boxer and a boxing service provider.

### **(14) Sanctioning organization**

The term “sanctioning organization” means an organization that sanctions professional boxing matches in the United States—

**(A)** between boxers who are residents of different States; or

**(B)** that are advertised, otherwise promoted, or broadcast (including closed circuit television) in interstate commerce.

### **(15) Suspension**

The term “suspension” includes within its meaning the revocation of a boxing license.

[1] So in original. No super. (B) has been enacted.

### § 6302. Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are—

**(1)** to improve and expand the system of safety precautions that protects the welfare of professional boxers; and

**(2)** to assist State boxing commissions to provide proper oversight for the professional boxing industry in the United States.





State that does not have a boxing commission unless the match is supervised by a boxing commission from another State and subject to the most recent version of the recommended regulatory guidelines certified and published by the Association of Boxing Commissions as well as any additional relevant professional boxing regulations and requirements of such other State.

**(b)** For the purpose of this chapter, if no State commission is available to supervise a boxing match according to subsection (a) of this section, then—

**(1)** the match may not be held unless it is supervised by an association of boxing commissions to which at least a majority of the States belong; and

**(2)** any reporting or other requirement relating to a supervising commission allowed under this section shall be deemed to refer to the entity described in paragraph (1).

#### § 6304. Safety standards

No person may arrange, promote, organize, produce, or fight in a professional boxing match without meeting each of the following requirements or an alternative requirement in effect under regulations of a boxing commission that provides equivalent protection of the health and safety of boxers:

**(1)** A physical examination of each boxer by a physician certifying whether or not the boxer is physically fit to safely compete, copies of which must be provided to the boxing commission.

**(2)** Except as otherwise expressly provided under regulation of a boxing commission promulgated subsequent to October 9, 1996, an ambulance or medical personnel with appropriate resuscitation equipment continuously present on site.

**(3)** A physician continuously present at ringside.

**(4)** Health insurance for each boxer to provide medical coverage for any injuries sustained in the match.

#### § 6305. Registration



(1) the boxing commission of the State in which such boxer resides; or

(2) in the case of a boxer who is a resident of a foreign country, or a State in which there is no boxing commission, the boxing commission of any State that has such a commission.

**(b) Identification card**

**(1) Issuance**

A boxing commission shall issue to each professional boxer who registers in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, an identification card that contains each of the following:

(A) A recent photograph of the boxer.

(B) The social security number of the boxer (or, in the case of a foreign boxer, any similar citizen identification number or professional boxer number from the country of residence of the boxer).

(C) A personal identification number assigned to the boxer by a boxing registry.

**(2) Renewal**

Each professional boxer shall renew his or her identification card at least once every 4 years.

**(3) Presentation**

Each professional boxer shall present his or her identification card to the appropriate boxing commission not later than the time of the weigh-in for a professional boxing match.

**(c) Health and safety disclosures**

It is the sense of the Congress that a boxing commission should, upon issuing an identification card to a boxer under subsection (b)(1) of this section, make a health and safety disclosure to that boxer as that commission considers appropriate. The health and safety disclosure should include the health and safety risks associated with boxing, and, in particular, the risk and frequency of brain injury and the advisability that a boxer periodically undergo medical procedures designed to detect brain injury.



### (a) Procedures

Each boxing commission shall establish each of the following procedures:

- (1) Procedures to evaluate the professional records and physician's certification of each boxer participating in a professional boxing match in the State, and to deny authorization for a boxer to fight where appropriate.
- (2) Procedures to ensure that, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, no boxer is permitted to box while under suspension from any boxing commission due to—
  - (A) a recent knockout or series of consecutive losses;
  - (B) an injury, requirement for a medical procedure, or physician denial of certification;
  - (C) failure of a drug test;
  - (D) the use of false aliases, or falsifying, or attempting to falsify, official identification cards or documents; or
  - (E) unsportsmanlike conduct or other inappropriate behavior inconsistent with generally accepted methods of competition in a professional boxing match.
- (3) Procedures to review a suspension where appealed by a boxer, licensee, manager, matchmaker, promoter, or other boxing service provider, including an opportunity for a boxer to present contradictory evidence.
- (4) Procedures to revoke a suspension where a boxer—
  - (A) was suspended under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) of this subsection, and has furnished further proof of a sufficiently improved medical or physical condition; or
  - (B) furnishes proof under subparagraph (C) or (D) of paragraph (2) that a suspension was not, or is no longer, merited by the facts.

### (b) Suspension in another State



(1) for any reason other than those listed in subsection (a) of this section if such commission notifies in writing and consults with the designated official of the suspending State's boxing commission prior to the grant of approval for such individual to participate in that professional boxing match; or

(2) if the boxer appeals to the Association of Boxing Commissions, and the Association of Boxing Commissions determines that the suspension of such boxer was without sufficient grounds, for an improper purpose, or not related to the health and safety of the boxer or the purposes of this chapter.

#### § 6307. Reporting

Not later than 48 business hours after the conclusion of a professional boxing match, the supervising boxing commission shall report the results of such boxing match and any related suspensions to each boxer registry.

#### § 6307a. Contract requirements

Within 2 years after May 26, 2000, the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) shall develop and shall approve by a vote of no less than a majority of its member State boxing commissioners, guidelines for minimum contractual provisions that should be included in bout agreements and boxing contracts. It is the sense of the Congress that State boxing commissions should follow these ABC guidelines.

#### § 6307b. Protection from coercive contracts

##### (a) General rule

##### (1)

(A) A contract provision shall be considered to be in restraint of trade, contrary to public policy, and unenforceable against any boxer to the extent that it—

(i) is a coercive provision described in subparagraph (B) and is for a period greater than 12 months; or



(B) A coercive provision described in this subparagraph is a contract provision that grants any rights between a boxer and a promoter, or between promoters with respect to a boxer, if the boxer is required to grant such rights, or a boxer's promoter is required to grant such rights with respect to a boxer to another promoter, as a condition precedent to the boxer's participation in a professional boxing match against another boxer who is under contract to the promoter.

(2) This subsection shall only apply to contracts entered into after May 26, 2000.

(3) No subsequent contract provision extending any rights or compensation covered in paragraph (1) shall be enforceable against a boxer if the effective date of the contract containing such provision is earlier than 3 months before the expiration of the relevant time period set forth in paragraph (1).

**(b) Promotional rights under mandatory bout contracts**

No boxing service provider may require a boxer to grant any future promotional rights as a requirement of competing in a professional boxing match that is a mandatory bout under the rules of a sanctioning organization.

**(c) Protection from coercive contracts with broadcasters**

Subsection (a) of this section applies to any contract between a commercial broadcaster and a boxer, or granting any rights with respect to that boxer, involving a broadcast in or affecting interstate commerce, regardless of the broadcast medium. For the purpose of this subsection, any reference in subsection (a)(1) (B) of this section to "promoter" shall be considered a reference to "commercial broadcaster".

§ 6307c., Sanctioning organizations

**(a) Objective criteria**

Within 2 years after May 26, 2000, the Association of Boxing Commissions shall develop and shall approve by a vote of no less than a majority of its member State boxing commissioners, guidelines for objective and consistent written criteria for the ratings of professional boxers. It is the sense of the Congress that sanctioning bodies and State boxing commissions should follow these ABC guidelines.

**(b) Appeals process**





boxer—

(1) provide to the boxer a written explanation of the organization's criteria, its rating of the boxer, and the rationale or basis for its rating (including a response to any specific questions submitted by the boxer); and

(2) submit a copy of its explanation to the Association of Boxing Commissions.

**(c) Notification of change in rating**

A sanctioning organization shall not be entitled to receive any compensation, directly or indirectly, in connection with a boxing match, until, with respect to a change in the rating of a boxer previously rated by such organization in the top 10 boxers, the organization—

(1) posts a copy, within 7 days of such change, on its Internet website or home page, if any, including an explanation of such change, for a period of not less than 30 days; and

(2) provides a copy of the rating change and explanation to an association to which at least a majority of the State boxing commissions belong.

**(d) Public disclosure**

**(1) Federal Trade Commission filing**

A sanctioning organization shall not be entitled to receive any compensation directly or indirectly in connection with a boxing match unless, not later than January 31 of each year, it submits to the Federal Trade Commission and to the ABC—

(A) a complete description of the organization's ratings criteria, policies, and general sanctioning fee schedule;

(B) the bylaws of the organization;

(C) the appeals procedure of the organization for a boxer's rating; and

(D) a list and business address of the organization's officials who vote on the ratings of boxers.





(A) provide the information required under paragraph (1) in writing, and, for any document greater than 2 pages in length, also in electronic form; and

(B) promptly notify the Federal Trade Commission of any material change in the information submitted.

**(3) Federal Trade Commission to make information available to public**

The Federal Trade Commission shall make information received under this subsection available to the public. The Commission may assess sanctioning organizations a fee to offset the costs it incurs in processing the information and making it available to the public.

**(4) Internet alternative**

In lieu of submitting the information required by paragraph (1) to the Federal Trade Commission, a sanctioning organization may provide the information to the public by maintaining a website on the Internet that—

(A) is readily accessible by the general public using generally available search engines and does not require a password or payment of a fee for full access to all the information;

(B) contains all the information required to be submitted to the Federal Trade Commission by paragraph (1) in an easy to search and use format; and

(C) is updated whenever there is a material change in the information.

§ 6307d. Required disclosures to State boxing commissions by sanctioning organizations

A sanctioning organization shall not be entitled to receive any compensation directly or indirectly in connection with a boxing match until it provides to the boxing commission responsible for regulating the match in a State a statement of—



with the event, from the promoter, host of the event, and all other sources; and

(3) such additional information as the commission may require.

§ 6307e. Required disclosures for promoters

**(a) Disclosures to the boxing commissions**

A promoter shall not be entitled to receive any compensation directly or indirectly in connection with a boxing match until it provides to the boxing commission responsible for regulating the match in a State a statement of—

(1) a copy of any agreement in writing to which the promoter is a party with any boxer participating in the match;

(2) a statement made under penalty of perjury that there are no other agreements, written or oral, between the promoter and the boxer with respect to that match; and

(3)

(A) all fees, charges, and expenses that will be assessed by or through the promoter on the boxer pertaining to the event, including any portion of the boxer's purse that the promoter will receive, and training expenses;

(B) all payments, gifts, or benefits the promoter is providing to any sanctioning organization affiliated with the event; and

(C) any reduction in a boxer's purse contrary to a previous agreement between the promoter and the boxer or a purse bid held for the event.

**(b) Disclosures to the boxer**

A promoter shall not be entitled to receive any compensation directly or indirectly in connection with a boxing match until it provides to the boxer it promotes—



(2) all fees, charges, and expenses that will be assessed by or through the promoter on the boxer pertaining to the event, including any portion of the boxer's purse that the promoter will receive, and training expenses; and

(3) any reduction in a boxer's purse contrary to a previous agreement between the promoter and the boxer or a purse bid held for the event.

**(c) Information to be available to State Attorney General**

A promoter shall make information required to be disclosed under this section available to the chief law enforcement officer of the State in which the match is to be held upon request of such officer.

§ 6307f. Required disclosures for judges and referees

A judge or referee shall not be entitled to receive any compensation, directly or indirectly, in connection with a boxing match until it provides to the boxing commission responsible for regulating the match in a State a statement of all consideration, including reimbursement for expenses, that will be received from any source for participation in the match.

§ 6307g. Confidentiality

**(a) In general**

Neither a boxing commission or [1] an Attorney General may disclose to the public any matter furnished by a promoter under section 6307e of this title except to the extent required in a legal, administrative, or judicial proceeding.

**(b) Effect of contrary State law**

If a State law governing a boxing commission requires that information that would be furnished by a promoter under section 6307e of this title shall be made public, then a promoter is not required to file such



[1] So in original. Probably should be “nor”.

§ 6307h. Judges and referees

No person may arrange, promote, organize, produce, or fight in a professional boxing match unless all referees and judges participating in the match have been certified and approved by the boxing commission responsible for regulating the match in the State where the match is held.

§ 6308. Conflicts of interest

**(a) Regulatory personnel**

No member or employee of a boxing commission, no person who administers or enforces State boxing laws, and no member of the Association of Boxing Commissions may belong to, contract with, or receive any compensation from, any person who sanctions, arranges, or promotes professional boxing matches or who otherwise has a financial interest in an active boxer currently registered with a boxer registry. For purposes of this section, the term “compensation” does not include funds held in escrow for payment to another person in connection with a professional boxing match. The prohibition set forth in this section shall not apply to any contract entered into, or any reasonable compensation received, by a boxing commission to supervise a professional boxing match in another State as described in section 6303 of this title.

**(b) Firewall between promoters and managers**

**(1) In general**

It is unlawful for—

**(A)** a promoter to have a direct or indirect financial interest in the management of a boxer; or

**(B)** a manager—

**(i)** to have a direct or indirect financial interest in the promotion of a boxer; or





## (2) Exceptions

Paragraph (1)—

(A) does not prohibit a boxer from acting as his own promoter or manager; and

(B) only applies to boxers participating in a boxing match of 10 rounds or more.

## (c) Sanctioning organizations

### (1) Prohibition on receipts

Except as provided in paragraph (2), no officer or employee of a sanctioning organization may receive any compensation, gift, or benefit, directly or indirectly, from a promoter, boxer, or manager.

### (2) Exceptions

Paragraph (1) does not apply to—

(A) the receipt of payment by a promoter, boxer, or manager of a sanctioning organization's published fee for sanctioning a professional boxing match or reasonable expenses in connection therewith if the payment is reported to the responsible boxing commission; or

(B) the receipt of a gift or benefit of de minimis value.

§ 6309. Enforcement

### (a) Injunctions

Whenever the Attorney General of the United States has reasonable cause to believe that a person is engaged in a violation of this chapter, the Attorney General may bring a civil action in the appropriate district court of the United States requesting such relief, including a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order, against the person, as the Attorney General determines to be necessary to restrain the person from continuing to engage in, sanction, promote, or otherwise participate in a professional boxing match in violation of this chapter. ^



Any manager, promoter, matchmaker, and licensee who knowingly violates, or coerces or causes any other person to violate, any provision of this chapter, other than section 6307a (b), [1] 6307b, 6307c, 6307d, 6307e, 6307f, or 6307h of this title, shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned for not more than 1 year or fined not more than \$20,000, or both.

**(2) Violation of antiexploitation, sanctioning organization, or disclosure provisions**

Any person who knowingly violates any provision of section 6307a (b), [1] 6307b, 6307c, 6307d, 6307e, 6307f, or 6307h of this title shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned for not more than 1 year or fined not more than—

**(A)** \$100,000; and

**(B)** if a violation occurs in connection with a professional boxing match the gross revenues for which exceed \$2,000,000, an additional amount which bears the same ratio to \$100,000 as the amount of such revenues compared to \$2,000,000, or both.

**(3) Conflict of interest**

Any member or employee of a boxing commission, any person who administers or enforces State boxing laws, and any member of the Association of Boxing Commissions who knowingly violates section 6308 (a) of this title shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned for not more than 1 year or fined not more than \$20,000, or both.

**(4) Boxers**

Any boxer who knowingly violates any provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than \$1,000.

**(c) Actions by States**

Whenever the chief law enforcement officer of any State has reason to believe that a person or organization is engaging in practices which violate any requirement of this chapter, the State, as *parens patriae*, may bring a civil action on behalf of its residents in an appropriate district court of the United States—

**(1)** to enjoin the holding of any professional boxing match which the practice involves;



(4) to obtain such other relief as the court may deem appropriate.

**(d) Private right of action**

Any boxer who suffers economic injury as a result of a violation of any provision of this chapter may bring an action in the appropriate Federal or State court and recover the damages suffered, court costs, and reasonable attorneys fees and expenses.

**(e) Enforcement against Federal Trade Commission, State Attorneys General, etc.**

Nothing in this chapter authorizes the enforcement of—

(1) any provision of this chapter against the Federal Trade Commission, the United States Attorney General, or the chief legal officer of any State for acting or failing to act in an official capacity;

(2) subsection (d) of this section against a State or political subdivision of a State, or any agency or instrumentality thereof; or

(3) section 6307b of this title against a boxer acting in his capacity as a boxer.

[1] So in original. Section 6307a does not contain a subsec. (b).

§ 6310. Notification of supervising boxing commission

Each promoter who intends to hold a professional boxing match in a State that does not have a boxing commission shall, not later than 14 days before the intended date of that match, provide written notification to the supervising boxing commission designated under section 6303 of this title. Such notification shall contain each of the following:

(1) Assurances that, with respect to that professional boxing match, all applicable requirements of this chapter will be met.





(B) will be involved in organizing or participating in the event.

(3) For any individual listed under paragraph (2), the identity of the boxing commission that issued the suspension described in paragraph (2)(A).

§ 6311. Studies

**(a) Pension**

The Secretary of Labor shall conduct a study on the feasibility and cost of a national pension system for boxers, including potential funding sources.

**(b) Health, safety, and equipment**

The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall conduct a study to develop recommendations for health, safety, and equipment standards for boxers and for professional boxing matches.

**(c) Reports**

Not later than one year after October 9, 1996, the Secretary of Labor shall submit a report to the Congress on the findings of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Not later than 180 days after October 9, 1996, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit a report to the Congress on the findings of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

§ 6312. Professional boxing matches conducted on Indian reservations

**(a) Definitions**

For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:





## (2) Reservation

The term “reservation” means the geographically defined area over which a tribal organization exercises governmental jurisdiction.

## (3) Tribal organization

The term “tribal organization” has the same meaning as in section 450b (l) of title 25.

### (b) Requirements

#### (1) In general

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a tribal organization of an Indian tribe may, upon the initiative of the tribal organization—

- (A) regulate professional boxing matches held within the reservation under the jurisdiction of that tribal organization; and
- (B) carry out that regulation or enter into a contract with a boxing commission to carry out that regulation.

#### (2) Standards and licensing

If a tribal organization regulates professional boxing matches pursuant to paragraph (1), the tribal organization shall, by tribal ordinance or resolution, establish and provide for the implementation of health and safety standards, licensing requirements, and other requirements relating to the conduct of professional boxing matches that are at least as restrictive as—

- (A) the otherwise applicable standards and requirements of a State in which the reservation is located; or
- (B) the most recently published version of the recommended regulatory guidelines certified and published by the Association of Boxing Commissions.



## Unified Boxing Rules

### **ASSOCIATION OF BOXING COMMISSIONS UNIFIED RULES OF BOXING**

*As Approved August 25, 2001. Amended August 2, 2002, Amended July 3, 2008.  
Amended July 24, 2012, Amended July 29, 2014, Amended August 3, 2016*

1. Each round shall consist of a three (3) minute duration, with a one (1) minute rest period between rounds.
2. The referee is the sole arbiter of a bout and is the only individual authorized to stop a contest. This rule shall not preclude a video or other review of a decision under the procedures of the applicable regulatory authority if a protest is filed claiming a clear rule violation.
3. All bouts will be evaluated and scored by three (3) judges.
4. The 10 Point Must System will be the standard system of scoring a bout.
5. The Mandatory Eight (8) Count after knockdowns will be standard procedure in all bouts.
6. All professional boxers are required to wear a mouthpiece during competition. The round cannot begin without the mouthpiece. If the mouthpiece is dislodged during competition, the referee will call time and have the mouthpiece replaced at the first opportune moment, without interfering with the immediate action. Points may be deducted by the referee if he feels the mouthpiece is being purposely spit out.
7. There is NO Standing Eight (8) Count.
8. There is NO Three (3) Knockdown Rule.

9. A boxer shall receive a twenty (20) second count if the boxer is knocked out of the ring. The boxer is to be unassisted by spectators or his/her seconds. If assisted by anyone, the boxer may lose points or be disqualified with such a decision being within the sole discretion of the referee.

10. A boxer who has been knocked down cannot be saved by the bell in any round.

11. If a boxer sustains an injury from a fair blow and the injury is severe enough to terminate the bout, the injured boxer shall lose by TKO.

12. Injuries sustained by Fouls:

#### **A. Intentional Fouls**

1. If an intentional foul causes an injury, and the injury is severe enough to terminate the bout immediately, the boxer causing the injury shall lose by disqualification.
2. If an intentional foul causes an injury and the bout is allowed to continue, the referee shall notify the authorities and deduct two (2) points from the boxer who caused the foul. Point deductions for intentional fouls will be mandatory.
3. If an intentional foul causes an injury and the bout is allowed to continue, and the injury results in the bout being stopped in any round after the fourth (4th) round, the injured boxer will win by TECHNICAL DECISION if he is ahead on the score cards; and the bout will result in a TECHNICAL DRAW if the injured boxer is behind or even on the score cards.
4. If the boxer injures himself while attempting to intentionally foul his opponent, the referee will not take any action in his favor, and this injury shall be the same as one produced by a fair blow.
5. If the referee feels that a boxer has conducted himself in an unsportsmanlike manner, he may stop the bout and disqualify the boxer.

#### **B. Accidental Fouls**

1. If an accidental foul causes an injury severe enough for the referee to stop the bout, the bout will result in a NO DECISION if stopped before four (4) completed rounds. Four (4) rounds are complete when the bell rings signifying the end of the fourth round.
2. If an accidental foul causes an injury severe enough for the referee to stop the bout after four (4) rounds have occurred, the bout will result in a TECHNICAL DECISION awarded to the boxer who is ahead on the score cards at the time the bout is stopped.

a. Partial or incomplete rounds will be scored. If no action has occurred, the round should be scored as an even round. This is at the discretion of the judges.

13. A fighter who is hit with an accidental low blow must continue after a reasonable amount of time but no more than five (5) minutes, or he/she will lose the fight.

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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA BOXING, MARTIAL ARTS AND PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING ADVISORY BOARD



## MIXED MARTIAL ARTS AND SIMILAR CONTESTS

Last Updated - DRAFT

### STATUTES

Title 54.1, Chapter 8.1



Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 400  
Richmond, Virginia 23233  
(804) 367-8500  
[www.dpor.virginia.gov](http://www.dpor.virginia.gov)

**NOTICE  
SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES**

These regulations are effective?????, and replaced all previous versions of the regulations. As a regulant of the Board, you are responsible for following all regulations and therefore you should read and become familiar with all regulations printed in this booklet. These regulations should be thoroughly reviewed. Following is a brief summary of the regulations to assist you in your review.

- To conform to Chapter 756 of the 2016 Acts of Assembly, the amendments exempt amateur boxing from requirements of the chapter and revise the requirements for sanctioning organizations to receive authorization from the director of the agency to oversee amateur martial arts events.

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## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This booklet contains the information you will need to obtain your license. The law that governs your profession is found in the *Code of Virginia*, 1950, as amended, in Title 54.1, Chapter 8.1. That law permits the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation to issue regulations that tell you more about what is expected of you in your profession. This booklet contains a copy of the law and regulations that you will need to know and obey to obtain and keep your license. **BE SURE YOU READ AND UNDERSTAND THE STANDARDS OF PRACTICE AND CONDUCT. YOUR FAILURE TO OBEY THESE STANDARDS COULD RESULT IN A MONETARY PENALTY OR THE LOSS OF YOUR LICENSE.**

It is the goal of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation to provide you with the information you need to comply with the law and regulations. If you have a question and cannot find the answer to it in this booklet, please write to:

Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation  
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 400  
Richmond, Virginia 23233

or call the Agency at (804) 367-8500.

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## **PART I.**

### **SCOPE.**

#### **18VAC120-42-10. Scope.**

This chapter contains procedures and requirements for the licensure of individuals and businesses to engage in the conduct of professional martial arts events as provided for in Chapter 8.1 (§54.1-828 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia.

The director of the department is empowered to (i) promulgate this chapter, (ii) issue licenses, (iii) investigate to determine compliance with this chapter, and (iv) take disciplinary action, in accordance with the Virginia Administrative Process Act, against those who fail to comply with this chapter. Furthermore, to the extent applicable, this chapter shall be construed in accordance with and governed by Virginia's Administrative Process Act. The director is also empowered to contract with a vendor to perform certain tasks on the director's behalf. These tasks include examining and recommending licensure, investigating and ensuring that events are conducted in compliance with statutes and regulations, performing clerical duties, collecting fees, maintaining records, developing proposed regulations, and recommending enforcement actions.

#### *Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007; Volume 31, Issue 26, eff. October 1, 2015, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

#### **18VAC120-42-15. Applicability.**

Event licensing and conduct standards for martial arts are set forth in 18VAC120-42-50, and 18VAC120-42-110 through 18VAC120-42-130.

#### *Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007; Volume 25, Issue 15, eff. May 14, 2009, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

## PART II.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS.

#### 18VAC120-42-20. Definitions.

A. Section 54.1-828 of the Code of Virginia provides definitions of the following terms:

Cable television system

Contractor

Department

Director

Event

Manager

Martial artist

Martial arts or mixed martial arts

Matchmaker

Person

Promote

Promoter

Regulant

Trainer, second, or cut man

B. The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Assistant event inspector" means the individual assigned to assist the event inspector.

"Martial artist registry" means any entity certified for the purposes of maintaining records and identification of martial artists.

"Business" means any sole proprietorship, general partnership, limited partnership, Limited Liability Company, association, corporation, or other business entity.

"Charity event" means an event where all or a portion of the proceeds are donated to a charitable organization that is tax-exempt under §501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

"Contest," "bout," or "match" means the portion of an event wherein specific individuals (two contestants engage in which ends when a decision is reached.

"Event," as defined in §54.1-828 of the Code of Virginia, begins when a promoter takes possession or control of a facility or area as specified in the contract between the promoter and the facility and lasts until the promoter releases control of the facility or area. One event shall not exceed one 24-hour period.

"Event inspector" means the event official assigned to be in overall charge of the conduct of an event to assure compliance with this chapter.

"Event license" means a method of regulation whereby any promoter arranging or conducting a martial arts event is required to obtain a prior authorization from the department.

"Event officials" means those individuals assigned to carry out the duties of an event inspector, assistant event inspector, inspector, referee, timekeeper, judge, or ringside physician as established by this chapter.

"Inspector" means the event official assigned to assist the event inspector as provided for in this chapter.

"Judge" means the event official assigned to score a martial arts bout as provided for in this chapter.

"Licensed event" means an event that has been issued a license from the department in accordance with this chapter.

"Rabbit punch" means a blow delivered by a contestant against his opponent that strikes the back of the opponent's neck or head with a chopping motion or punch.

"Referee" means the event official assigned to a bout to assure the proper conduct of the bout and the safety of the contestants to assure the safety of the spectators as provided for in this chapter.

"Responsible management" means the following individuals:

1. The sole proprietor of a sole proprietorship;
2. The partners of a general partnership;
3. The general partners of a limited partnership;
4. The officers of a corporation;
5. The managers of a limited liability company; or
6. The officers and directors of an association.

"Ringside physician" means the event official assigned to assure the medical health and safety of each contestant as provided for in this chapter, and (i) must be licensed by the Virginia Board of Medicine to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine, and (ii) hold a current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

"Timekeeper" means the event official assigned to time each round and the interval between rounds, and to count knockdowns as provided for in this chapter.

#### *Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

**18VAC120-41-30. License expiration.**

- A. Except as set out in subsection B of this section, each license, other than an event license or a limited contestant shall expire on December 31 of the year in which the license was issued, except that licenses issued during the last 45 days of any calendar year shall expire on December 31 of the following calendar year.
- B. Each license to conduct a martial arts event issued to a licensed promoter shall be valid only for the duration of the event described in the application for licensure. Each limited license issued to a contestant shall be valid only for the duration of one specifically identified event or two specifically identified events held on consecutive days at the same location.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 22, Issue 11, eff. April 23, 2006, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

**18VAC120-42-40. Fees.**

- A. Each applicant shall submit the following fee along with the application for licensure:

Martial artist	\$40
Martial artist-limited	\$30
Manager	\$50
Promoter	\$500
Trainer, second, and cut man	\$40
Matchmaker	\$50
Additional administrative fee for applications received after noon the day before weigh-ins	\$35

- B. Each application for a mixed martial arts event license shall be accompanied by the following fee:
  - 1. Scheduled events of 42 rounds or fewer, with no more than one nontitle 10-round or 12-round bout \$1,500.
  - 2. Scheduled events exceeding 42 rounds, with more than one nontitle 10-round or 12-round bout or any event with a title bout \$2,000.
- C. All fees are nonrefundable.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia*

*Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 21, Issue 20, eff. August 1, 2005; Volume 22, Issue 11, eff. April 23, 2006, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; repealed, Virginia Register Volume 24, Issue 3, eff. December 29, 2007.*

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**PART III.**

**LICENSING STANDARDS.**

**18VAC120-42-50. General application requirements.**

- A. Applicants shall apply on forms supplied by the department or its contractor.
- B. Applicants shall be at least 18 years of age.
- C. The individual applicant or business, and every member of the responsible management of the business, shall disclose the following information:
  - 1. Any guilty finding by the department, or by a court of any competent jurisdiction, of any material misrepresentation while engaged in martial arts or other athletic activities, or any conviction, guilty plea, or finding of guilty, regardless of adjudication or deferred adjudication, of any felony or misdemeanor;
  - 2. Any disciplinary action taken by the department or another jurisdiction in connection with the applicant's participation in or promotion of professional athletic bouts or activities including, but not limited to, monetary penalty, fine, suspension, revocation, or surrender of a license in connection with a disciplinary action; and
  - 3. Any current or previously held licenses issued by this Commonwealth or any other jurisdiction.

Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for the purposes of this subsection. A certified copy of a final order, decree, or case decision by a court or regulatory agency with the lawful authority to issue such order, decree, or case decision shall be admissible as prima facie evidence of such conviction or discipline. Subject to the provisions of §54.1-204 of the Code of Virginia, the department may deny an application for a license if, in its judgment, the actions disclosed in subdivisions 1 and 2 of this subsection would render the applicant unfit or unsuited to engage in athletic activities.

- D. Each individual applicant, business, and responsible management of the business, shall disclose a physical address. A post office box shall not be accepted in lieu of a physical address.
- E. The fees established by 18VAC120-42-40. A. shall accompany the application and shall not be refunded.
- F. The receipt of an application and the deposit of fees does not indicate approval of licensure by the department.

*Historical Notes*



*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

**18VAC120-42-60. Additional requirements for a contestant.**

Each applicant for a license as a contestant shall submit a completed application as described in 18VAC120-42-50 and shall:

- A. Have a satisfactory record of professional martial arts, or, in the case of applicants who have participated in fewer than five professional martial arts bouts, evidence of competency in the elements of offense and defense. Such evidence may take the form of signed statements from individuals who have provided training to the applicant or records of the applicant's conduct in amateur as well as professional martial arts competitions and shall be sufficient to satisfy the department that the applicant has the ability to compete.
- B. Submit the following certification:

“I understand as a professional contestant I should be aware that this sport includes many health and safety risks, in particular the risk of brain injury. As such I will take the necessary medical exams that detect brain injury. If I need further information about these exams I will ask my doctor or staff of the department.”
- C. Submit a complete professional record or, if amateur just turning professional, an amateur record, an amateur passbook, or a letter from the applicant's trainer certifying the applicant's martial arts experience, skill level, physical condition, and current training program.
- D. Submit a certification from a physician licensed by a medical board in the United States or its territories to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine within the past six months certifying that the applicant is in good physical health and that the physician has not observed any abnormalities or deficiencies that would prevent the applicant from participation in a martial arts event or endanger the applicant, the public, officials, or other licensees participating in the event.
- E. Dilated ophthalmological exam not to be more than one year old.
- F. Submit negative lab work results within 180 days preceding an event for the following:
  1. Antibodies to the human immunodeficiency virus;
  2. Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg); and
  3. Antibodies to virus hepatitis C.

A contestant who fails to provide the department with the required negative lab work results shall not be permitted to compete in the event.

The department may require additional medical tests to determine the fitness of a contestant upon receipt of reliable information of a preexisting condition that may present a danger to the contestant.

**18VAC120-42-70. Additional requirements for manager.**

Each applicant for a license as a manager shall submit a completed application as described 18VAC120-42-50 and a statement that the applicant possesses knowledge of this chapter. The department shall approve and issue all licenses in accordance with the standards established by the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC §6301 et seq.), as amended.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-42-80. Additional requirements for matchmaker.**

Each applicant shall submit a completed application as described in 18VAC120-42-50 which includes a statement that the applicant does not employ and does not otherwise have a financial interest in or commercial connection with any contestant, manager, trainer, or second, except that which may be necessary to arrange a contestant's participation in a specific event. The department shall approve and issue all licenses in accordance with the standards established by the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC §6301 et seq.), as amended.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

**18VAC120-42-90. Additional requirements for promoter.**

Each applicant for a license as a promoter shall submit a completed application as described in 18VAC120-42-50, which includes a statement that the applicant possesses knowledge of this chapter, and the following certification:

“I understand that I am not entitled to compensation in connection with a martial arts match, including gate fees, until I provide the department with a copy of any agreement in writing to which I and any contestant participating in the match are parties; a statement made under penalty of perjury that there are no other agreements; a statement of fees, charges, and expenses that will be assessed by or through me on the contestant, including any portion of the contestant's purse that I receive and training expenses; all payments, gifts, or benefits I am providing to any sanctioning organization affiliated with the event; and any reduction in the contestant's purse contract to a previous agreement between myself and the contestant.”

Further, I understand that I am not entitled to compensation in connection with a martial artist

match until I provide the contestant I promote with the amounts of any compensation or consideration that I have contracted to receive from such match; all fees, charges, and expenses that will be assessed by or through me on the contestant pertaining to the event, including any portion of the contestant's purse that I will receive and training expenses; and any reduction in a contestant's purse contract to a previous agreement between myself and the contestant.”

The department shall approve and issue all licenses in accordance with the standards established by the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC §6301 et seq.), as amended.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

**18VAC120-42-100. Additional requirements for trainer, second, or cut man.**

Each applicant shall submit a completed application as described in 18VAC120-42-50 and evidence of knowledge of:

1. This chapter;
2. The treatment of injuries;
3. Physical conditioning, health care, nutrition, training, first aid, and the effects of alcohol as it relates to martial arts; and
4. The bandaging of a contestant's hand.

The required evidence may take the form of the applicant's official record from a state regulatory agency, signed statements from current or former contestants who have worked directly with the applicant, or other documentary evidence that establishes that the applicant is competent. The department shall approve and issue all licenses in accordance with the standards established by the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC §6301 et seq.), as amended.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

**PART IV.**

**LICENSING STANDARDS FOR MARTIAL ARTS AND  
ANY SIMILAR CONTESTS.**

**18VAC120-42-110. Application for an event license to conduct a martial arts event or similar contest.**

- A. At least 30 days before the date of any event in the Commonwealth, the licensed promoter shall submit an application for a license to conduct an event to the department or its contractor. The application shall be on forms provided by the department and shall include:
1. The date, location, and time of the event for which a license is sought. The department will consider the size and configuration of the location and may deny approval of the event license for safety reasons;
  2. Evidence of a surety bond filed with the department or its contractor conditioned on the payment of gate fees and penalties imposed by Chapter 8.1 (§54.1-828 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia and on the fulfillment of contracts made with contestants. The bond shall be in form and substance satisfactory to the department and in an amount equal to the sum of (i) the total gate fee required by this chapter and §54.1-833 A of the Code of Virginia if all seats were to be sold and (ii) the total amount due to all contestants for their appearance in the event. The bond shall not exceed \$100,000 and shall be executed by a surety authorized to do business in the Commonwealth;
  3. Acknowledgment that the licensed promoter will provide a copy of the contract between the promoter and each licensed contestant;
  4. A statement that the licensed promoter has read and understands this chapter and will conduct the event in full compliance with same; and
  5. Verification of status as a charity event as defined in this chapter.
- B. At least 14 days prior to the event, the additional documentation shall be submitted to the department by the licensed promoter:
1. The card of bouts to be exhibited, including the name of each contestant, the contestant's federal identification number, and the number of rounds each is scheduled to compete. The card may be modified until close of business two business days prior to the event weighs in by providing the required documents for the additions to and notice of the deletions from the card which accompanied the application;
  2. Verification of all scheduled contestant's bout records from the Association of Boxing Commissions approved database;
  3. Evidence that all contestants scheduled to compete are covered by a health insurance policy

that covers medical expenses for injuries incurred during the event, has a minimum of coverage of \$50,000 and an accidental death insurance benefit coverage in a minimum amount of \$50,000, and meets all requirements specified in 15 USC § 6304;

C. No later than noon the day before weigh-ins, the licensed promoter shall provide:

1. A copy of the signed contract between the promoter and each licensed contestant;
2. A copy of each contract for the sale of rights to distribute in any manner such event by any video, telephonic, or other communication method involving the control of electrons or other charge carriers;

D. In no case shall the licensed promoter for an event license announce or advertise, either directly or indirectly, the event to the public until the department has approved the event application and issued the event license.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18 VAC 120-42-120. Equipment to be provided by promoters.**

The promoter shall assure that each event shall have the following:

- A. A fight ring that will be in the shape of a square, a hexagon, or an octagon. A square ring shall not be less than 18 feet square inside the ropes and shall not exceed 20 feet square inside the ropes. A hexagon or octagon ring shall not be less than 18 feet (from any side to the opposite side) inside the ropes and shall not exceed 32 feet (from any side to the opposite side) inside the ropes.

The ring floor shall be padded with ensolite one inch thick or another similar closed-cell foam. The padded ring floor must extend at least 18 inches beyond the ring ropes and over the edge of the platform with a top covering of canvas or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges or material with a slick covering shall not be used.

The ring platform shall not be more than five feet above the floor of the building and shall have suitable steps for both contestants to use in their corners and the ringside physician to use in a neutral corner.

Ring posts shall be of metal, not more than three inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a height of 58 inches above the ring floor. The ring posts shall be at least 18 inches away from the ring ropes.

There shall be four ring ropes, no more than one inch in diameter, evenly spaced, with the bottom ring rope not less than 18 inches above the ring floor and the top ring rope not more than 52 inches above the ring floor. The bottom ring rope must be padded with a padding of

closed cell padding of not less than 1/2 inch (it is recommended that all ring roped be padded of the same thickness and material). Ropes are to be connected with soft rope ties six feet apart. All ring ropes are to be tight and approved.

All corners must be padded with standard approved pads. All turnbuckles are to be covered with a standard protective padding.

A ring stool and bucket shall be provided for each contestant's corner.

The ring shall be under sufficient light that covers the entire ring equally. No lights shall shine into the face of the contestants or ringside judges, lights may only shine downward and not shine at any angle directly into the fighting area that may blind the contestants or judges.

The promoter shall provide a ringside restrictive barrier between the first row of ringside seats and the event official's area that will prevent the crowd from confronting either the contestants or event officials, and will ensure that the contestants remain free from obstructions or distractions. The ringside barrier must be a minimum of eight feet from the outside edge of the ring.

- B. Locker rooms adequate in number and equipment to reasonably facilitate the contestant's activities before and after the bout. Separate locker rooms shall be provided when both male and female contestants are scheduled to compete. Locker rooms shall have restroom facilities easily available.
- C. A fully equipped ambulance with appropriately trained emergency personnel at the site of any event for the entire duration of the event and any additional personnel or equipment required by 15 USC §6304.
- D. Gloves of the proper weight that are set by weight classification by rule 18VAC10-120-42-118. Gloves must have laces to secure proper fit. Gloves must have an attached thumb to the body of the glove. Gloves must be clean, free of cuts, with no displacement or lumping of padding material. Gloves used in world title bouts shall be new and taken from the package just prior to issuing to the contestants. Gloves shall be inspected by the event inspector or his contractor before each bout and those found defective shall be replaced before the bout. A solution of 10% household bleach and water shall be used for cleansing of all gloves prior to and after each bout.
- E. A sealed over-the-counter pregnancy test kit, approved by the Food and Drug Administration, for each female contestant that will be given to the event inspector or his contractor.
- F. A clear plastic water bottle, a bucket containing ice, surgeon's adhesive tape, and surgical gauze for each contestant.
- G. Drug testing, or any other testing, as required by the department at the promoter's expense.

- H. A solution, of one part bleach and nine parts water for disinfecting blood on the ring canvas or ropes, shall be available ringside for use by promoter's staff stationed ringside to clean the ring canvas and ropes as needed.
- I. The promoter shall provide each corner with biohazardous material bags and after the event shall discard all regulated medical waste in the proper manner in accordance with the *Regulated Medical Waste Management Regulations* (9VAC20-120) issued by the Virginia Waste Management Board and available from the Department of Environmental Quality.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007; Volume 25, Issue 15, eff. May 14, 2009, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

**18VAC120-42-130. Equipment to be provided by each contestant.**

Each contestant shall provide the following equipment:

- A. Trunks for contestants or two pair of shorts, one being tight fitting or long pants if required and tight upper body covering for female contestants;
- B. Approved groin protector for male contestants and an abdominal guard (recommended) and a padded sports bra for female contestants;
- C. A mouth piece properly fitted to each contestant's mouth;

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-42-140. Equipment to be provided by seconds.**

Each second shall provide the following equipment for use at the event:

- A. A solution approved by the Association of Boxing Commissions to stop hemorrhaging as required in 18VAC-42-117.-E
- B. Scissors; and
- C. One extra mouthpiece.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-42-150. Prohibited Ring Attire.**

- A. Wearing jewelry during all bouts.
- B. Wearing of facial or body cosmetics.
- C. Loose hair. Hair must be secured with soft and non-abrasive materials.

**18VAC120-42-160. Bout approval; request for reconsideration.**

- A. The department or its contractor shall obtain information from the promoter on each contestant from the official martial arts registry and examine that information, for records, experience, and consecutive losses. Contestants with 10 or more consecutive losses must obtain a special exception before being placed on the bout card. The results of the pre-bout physical, and any other pertinent information available including the severity index, will be used to determine, to the extent possible, that both contestants are substantially equal in skills and ability and are medically fit to compete. No bout shall take place without approval of the event inspector and the ringside physician assigned to the event by the department or its contractor.
- B. Each contestant must possess a current federal identification number as required in 15USC §6305.
- C. No contestant shall participate in a bout who has:
  - 1. Been knocked out in the 60 days immediately preceding the date of the bout;
  - 2. Been technically knocked out in the 30 days preceding the date of the bout;
  - 3. Been a contestant in a kick boxing, or martial arts event of more than six rounds during the 15 days preceding the date of the bout or six or fewer rounds during the seven days preceding the date of the bout;
  - 4. Suffered a cerebral hemorrhage;
  - 5. Suffered a serious head injury or other serious physical injury. The department or its contractor may require an additional, specific medical examination to determine the contestant's suitability.
  - 6. Blindness in one eye or whose vision in one eye is so poor that a physician recommends the contestant not participate in the bout. A contestant who is totally unsighted (uncorrected vision worse than 20/400) in one or both eyes shall be prohibited from competing; or
  - 7. Been denied a license or approval to bout by another jurisdiction for medical reasons.
- D. No contestant shall participate in a bout while under medical or administrative suspension



from a commission of another jurisdiction of the United States due to:

1. A recent knockout or series of consecutive losses;
  2. An injury, requirement for a medical procedure, or physician denial of eligibility to compete;
  3. Failure of a test for drugs or controlled substances; or
  4. The use of false aliases or falsifying, or attempting to falsify, official identification cards or documents.
- E. A contestant who is suspended by a commission of another jurisdiction of the United States may be allowed to compete if:
1. The contestant was suspended for a knockout, technical knockout, series of consecutive losses, an injury, a requirement of a medical procedure, or physician denial of certification and the time interval for knockouts and technical knockouts in subsection C of this section has been met and further proof of sufficiently improved medical or physical condition has been furnished;
  2. The contestant was suspended for the failure of a drug test or the use of false aliases or falsifying, or attempting to falsify, official identification cards or documents and that a suspension was not, or is no longer, merited by the facts;
  3. The contestant was suspended for any reason other than those mentioned in subdivisions 1 and 2 of this subsection and the department or the department's contractor notifies the suspending commission in writing and consults with the designated official of the suspending commission prior to the grant of approval for such contestant to participate in a boxing bout; or
  4. The contestant was suspended for any reason other than those mentioned in subdivisions 1 and 2 of this subsection and the contestant's appeal to the Association of Boxing Commissions results in a determination that the suspension was without sufficient grounds, was for an improper purpose, or was not related to the health and safety of the contestant or the purposes of the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC §6301 et seq.).
- F. Any promoter or contestant may request reconsideration by the department of the executive director's decision by immediately providing in writing additional information or contradictory evidence concerning the contestant's skill, ability, or medical fitness.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

**18VAC120-42-170. Promoter to provide copy of contract with contestants at weigh-in; penalty for noncompliance; contents of contract.**

- A. The promoter shall provide a copy of his contract with each contestant scheduled to compete in the event to the event inspector at the time of the weigh-in as required in 18VAC120-42-110
- B. Failure to provide a copy of the contract for a contestant at the weigh-in shall result in the contestant's disqualification to compete in the event.
- C. Each contract shall contain the name of the promoter, the name of the contestant, the amount of compensation to be paid to the contestant by the promoter, the date, time and location of the event, weigh-in, and pre-bout physical and shall comply with the minimum provisions contained in the most current model contract developed by the Association of Boxing Commissions and contained in the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC§6301 et seq.).

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-42-180. Event conduct standards for kick boxing and other similar contests.**

- A. Wrapping of each contestant's hands shall not exceed more than one winding of surgeon's adhesive tape around the wrist.
  - 1. Not over 1-1/2 inches wide, placed directly on the hand to protect the part of the hand near the wrist:
    - a. The tape may cover the hand but not extend within 3/4 inch of the knuckles when the hand is clenched to make a fist.
    - b. Soft surgical gauze, not over 2 inches wide, held in place by not more than six feet of surgeon's adhesive tape for each hand shall be used.
    - c. Up to one 10-yard roll of gauze may be used to complete the wrappings for each hand.
    - d. Strips of tape may be used between the fingers to hold down the graze, not to cover the knuckles.
    - e. Gauze shall be adjusted in the locker room in the presence of the event inspector or his contractor.
    - f. Before putting on gloves, the contestant shall present his wrapped hands for inspection by the event inspector or his designee.

- B. Any contestant who has signed a contract to compete on a promoter's program shall be subject to be called by the department to appear at any time to be weighed or to be examined by a physician designated by the department when the department has reason to believe the contestant may not be qualified or may not be medically sound to participate in the bout.
- C. Each contestant who signs a contract to compete in a promoter's event shall appear at a time and place designated by the department or its contractor to be weighed on department-approved scales in the presence of each other and a representative designated by the department. Contestants shall have all weights removed from their bodies before the weigh-in but may wear shorts in the case of males, and shorts and shirts in the case of females.
- D. In accordance with 15 USC §6304, each contestant shall be examined immediately before the bout by a ringside physician assigned to the event who certifies in writing on a form provided by the department whether the contestant is physically fit to safely compete. The original health certificate will be submitted to the event inspector or his designee. In addition, each female contestant shall take a pregnancy test in the presence of a female inspector, using the pregnancy test required by 18VAC120-42-110. The inspector will give the results to the physician and the results will be noted on the physical form. If the physician's certification fails to certify that the contestant is physically fit to safely compete, the contestant shall not participate in the bout, and shall immediately be placed on suspension on the registry approved by the Association of Boxing Commissions. All contestants shall submit to a post-bout physical by the ringside physician or the department or its contractor.
- E. Discretionary use of petroleum jelly is permitted on the face, arms or any other part of the body. In the case of a cut, the following topical solutions approved by the Association of Boxing Commissions is permitted:
1. A solution of adrenaline 1/1000
  2. Avetine
  3. Thrombin
- All other solutions are prohibited.
- F. Headgear is not permitted.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-42-190. Weight classes, weigh-ins and pre-bout meeting.**

- A. Male and Female Weight classes are as follows:

<b>Weight Class</b>	<b>Weight in Lbs.</b>	<b>Weight in KG</b>	<b>Max Weight Spread</b>	<b>Glove sizes</b>
Atom weight	112 & below	50.9 & below	3 lbs. - 1.36kg	8 oz.
Flyweight	112.1 - 117	50.95 - 53.18	3 lbs. - 1.36 kg	8 oz.
Bantamweight	117.1 - 122	53.22 - 55.45	4 lbs. - 1.8 kg	8 oz.
Featherweight	122.1 - 127	55.50 - 57.72	4 lbs. - 1.8 kg	8 oz.
Lightweight	127.1 - 132	57.77 - 60	4 lbs. - 1.8 kg	8 oz.
Super Lightweight	132.1 - 137	60.04 - 62.27	5 lbs. - 2.3 kg	8 oz.
Light Welterweight	137.1 - 142	62.31 - 64.51	5 lbs. - 2.3 kg	10 oz.
Welterweight	142.1 - 147	64.59 - 66.8	7 lbs. - 3.2 kg	10 oz.
Super Welterweight	147.1 - 153	66.9 - 69.5	7 lbs. - 3.2 kg	10 oz.
Light Middleweight	153.1 - 159	69.6 - 72.3	7 lbs. - 3.2 kg	10 oz.
Middleweight	159.1 - 165	72.4 - 75	7 lbs. - 3.2 kg	10 oz.
Super Middleweight	165.1 - 172	75.1 - 78.2	7 lbs. - 3.2 kg	10 oz.
Light Heavyweight	172.1 - 179	78.3 - 81.4	7 lbs. - 3.2 kg	10 oz.
Light Cruiserweight	179.1 - 186	81.5 - 84.5	7 lbs. - 3.2 kg	10 oz.
Cruiserweight	186.1 - 195	84.6 - 88.6	10 lbs. - ?? kg	10 oz.
Heavyweight	195.1 - 215	88.7 - 97.7	20 lbs. - 9.1 kg	10 oz.
Super Heavyweight	215.1 and up	97.8 and up	No limit	10 oz.

- B. No contestant may engage in a bout without the approval of the department or its contractor if the difference in weight between the contestants exceeds the allowance in subsection A of this section.
- C. If one of the two contestants in a bout is above or below the weights shown in subsection A of this section, both contestants shall wear the gloves of the higher weight.
- D. When weigh-ins occur within 24 hours, but not less than 12 hours prior to the event's scheduled start time, the contestant shall not exceed the weight specified in his contract with the promoter. If a contestant exceeds the weight specified in the contract he shall not compete unless he:
1. Loses the weight exceeded in the contract at least 12 hours prior to the event's scheduled start time;
  2. Loses all but two pounds of the weight exceeded in the contract at least 12 hours prior to the event's scheduled start time and loses the final two pounds at least six hours prior to the event's scheduled start: or
  3. Renegotiates the contract and provides a copy to the department or its contractor.
- E. Contestants who weigh-in 24 hours prior to the scheduled event shall be required to re-weigh two hours prior to the event's scheduled start time and will not be permitted to exceed the weight specified in the contract by more than 10 pounds.

- F. When weigh-ins occur less than 12 hours prior to an event's scheduled start time, the contestant shall not exceed the weight specified in the contract. If a contestant weighs more than two pounds over the weight specified in the contract, he shall not compete unless he:
  - 1. Loses up to two pounds at least six hours prior to the event's scheduled start time; or
  - 2. Renegotiates his contract and provides a copy to the department or its contractor.
- G. All contestants and their second must be present at the official weigh-in. The time, date, and location of the weigh-in will be approved by the department. Contestants will be allowed to witness their opponent's weigh-in. All contestants and their seconds must be present at the pre-bout meeting. Any second who does not attend the pre-bout meeting will not be permitted in the corner of their contestant.
- H. The promoter is responsible for ensuring that all contestants and all seconds are present at the pre-bout meeting. All contestants and chief seconds will report to the event location and their locker rooms at the specified time on the night of the event. Once the contestant reports to the event facility and to the locker room he will be disqualified if he leaves the locker room before time for the bout or leaves the facility before the end of the bout.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007, Volume 32, Issue 25, eff. September 7, 2016.*

**18VAC120-42-200. Access to contestant's locker rooms.**

- A. On the day of the bout, only the following individuals are allowed in the locker room of a contestant:
  - 1. The contestant's licensed manager;
  - 2. The contestant's licensed trainers, seconds, or cut men;
  - 3. The promoter or the promoter's representatives.
  - 4. Any representative of the department or its contractor in the conduct of his official duties; and
  - 5. Any representative of a law-enforcement agency while discharging his official duties.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-42-210. Pre-bout instructions**

- A. The contestant and all of his seconds shall meet in the locker room with the referee at which time the referee shall:

1. Ascertain the name of each contestant and his chief second, and shall hold the chief second responsible for the conduct of the other seconds during the progress of the bout.
2. Explain violations of second rules; further violation shall result in disqualifications and/or disciplinary action.
3. Identify the belt/hip line and clarify that the equipment shall not extend above this imaginary line.
4. Explain what will occur when the warning sounds indicating that the end of the round is near, and when the horn sounds the end of the round.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-42-220. Number and conduct of seconds or cornermen.**

- A. Before a bout begins, the chief second and other seconds shall be identified for the officials. The chief second shall present the contestant, ready to compete, when the event inspector calls the contestants to the ring and shall present the contestant, ready to box, when the referee calls the contestants to the center of the ring for final instructions.
- B. No contestant may have more than three seconds or cornermen, except in a world title bout, the department or its designee may authorize up to five seconds. The chief second must appear at the official weigh-in and pre-bout meeting at the time and place designated by the department or its contractor.
- C. All seconds must keep their shoulders below the ring floor level during the bout. Seconds are prohibited from standing up or leaning on the edge of the ring, mat or floor or slapping the ring, mat or floor while the bout is in progress, or touching the ring ropes until the bell sounds to end the round. Seconds must keep coaching volume down while the bout is in progress and are prohibited from negatively interfering with the officials in any physical or verbal way.
- D. Only one second may be inside of the ring ropes between rounds and shall not enter the ring until the horn signals the end of the round. During the rest period, the second may coach his contestant; treat cuts, abrasions or swelling; and provide water, ice, approved sport drinks, or other cooling-down techniques. Seconds shall not enter the ring to assist or move a contestant who has been knocked down or injured until instructed to do so by the ringside physician.
- E. Any excessive or undue spraying or throwing of water on any contestant by a second between rounds is prohibited. Seconds are responsible for wiping up any fluids in their corners between rounds.
- F. Seconds shall not enter the ring until the horn signals the end of the round. Seconds shall leave the ring at the sound of the timekeeper's warning that 10 seconds remain before the

start of the next round, removing all buckets, stools and other equipment promptly.

- G. Seconds shall not use alcoholic beverages, stimulants, or other substances not approved by the department or its contractor during any contest.
- H. Throwing in the towel is not permitted by any second. If a second enters the ring during the round, the contestant shall be disqualified by the referee. The referee is the only person who can stop the bout.
- I. Seconds are not permitted to use any electronic recording equipment during the bout.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-42-230. Scoring of contest, decisions and announcements of decisions.**

- A. Each contest shall be scored by the judges assigned by the department or its contractor. At the end of each round, the score and the score cards shall be presented to the event inspector or his designee who shall examine the score cards. At the end of the bout, the winner shall be the contestant who receives the highest score of the majority of the judges. The bout is a draw if neither contestant scores so as to obtain a majority.
- B. When the event inspector or his designee has examined the score cards and checked them for accuracy, he will inform the ring announcer of the decision.
- C. The department shall not change a decision rendered at the end of any bout unless:
  - 1. It is determined that there has been wrongful or illegal collusion affecting the results of the bout;
  - 2. An error is found in the compilation of the score cards that shows that the decision favored the wrong contestant; or
  - 3. The department determines through investigation there was a violation of this chapter that adversely impacted on the fairness of the bout or decision.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-42-240. Promoter to allow access to event and facilities.**

- A. The department may assign one or more representatives to each event to evaluate the contractor's performance or to assure compliance with Chapter 8.1 (§54.1-828 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia and this chapter.
- B. All event officials and representatives of the department assigned to an event, whether to

monitor the contractor's performance or for any other authorized purpose, shall be granted immediate access by the promoter and the promoter's representatives to the licensed event and to any area or portion of the event facilities.

- C. The promoter is responsible for security of the locker room area and shall not permit access except as specified in 18VAC120-42-119.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-42-250. Full Contact Kick Boxing rules.**

- A. All legal kicks and punches must be above the waist of each contestant.
  - 1. Close fist or back fists are legal;
- B. Leg sweeps, boot to boot, to the inside and outside of the opponent's foot (not above the ankle) are permitted.
- C. Foot pads are required and are to be supplied by each contestant. Foot pads must be secured to the foot with elastic strap and medical athletic tape and must cover both toes and heel. Laces must not be exposed.
- D. Shin pads must be made of a soft material (dipped foam or cotton) and secured to the shin with elastic straps and medical athletic tape.
- E. It is only permitted to kick (roundhouse or using the top of your foot) a martial artist's legs out (shin, instep).
- F. Non-Title bouts shall consist of three two minutes rounds, with one (1) minute rest in between rounds. Title bouts shall consist of five two minute rounds, with one (1) minute rest in between rounds.
- G. Fouls;
  - 1. Kicks to the legs;
  - 2. Knee strikes;
  - 3. Elbow strikes;
  - 4. Clinch and neck wrestling;
  - 5. Stepping on a fallen opponent. Twisting and pulling an opponent over the side of your body (and then landing on top);



6. Illegal trip; it is not permitted to position your foot next to the opponent and twist them over your stationary foot. You must clear the leg of the opponent or it is an illegal trip. A contestant can spin or pull another over the inside or outside of the leg and dump him on the floor, however the leg being used to manipulate the dump to the ground cannot stay in that position as the opponent goes to the floor. If the opponent arises immediately it is not counted as a knockdown.
7. It is not permitted to grab a contestant in the clinch and then sweep the opponents legs out using the back of one's own leg or calf;
8. Lifting: It is not permitted to lift a contestant off of the ground in any way to throw them;
9. Plowing;
- 10 Intentionally falling on top of a contestant to either strike with their knee or to intentionally hurt their opponent;

H. Counting by referee during knockdowns and knockouts;

1. If an accidental foul occurs the contestant has up to five minutes to recoup from the accidental foul.
2. If the fighter is not able to continue after the foul and the accidental foul happens before the half point of the contest it will be a technical draw.
3. If the foul occurs after the half way point of an accidental foul the judges will score the bout as a finished bout and the person with the highest score win by technical decision.
4. If the referee calls an intentional foul against a contestant, that contestant cannot win.
  - a. If the foul is called before the half way point of the bout and the fouled contestant is unable to continue, the bout ends in a technical draw.
  - b. If the bout has reached the half way of the fight the judges will score the unfinished rounds and if the fouled contestant is ahead on the score cards the fouled contestant will win by a technical decision.
  - c. If the contestant who committed the foul is ahead on the score cards it will scored as a technical draw.
5. Scoring of contest, decisions and announcements of decisions; the 10 point must system shall be used for all contests. Point deductions are to taken off by the Event Inspector or their designee after taking the judges scores from their cards.

Weight classes for men and women;

Weight Class	Weight	Weight difference	Size gloves
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Atom weight	112 and below	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Flyweight	112.1 – 117	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Bantamweight	117.1 - 122	4 lbs.	8 oz.
Featherweight	122.1 - 127	4 lbs.	8 oz.
Lightweight	127.1 - 132	4 lbs.	8 oz.
Super Lightweight	132.1 - 137	5 lbs.	8 oz.
Light Welterweight	137.1 - 142	5 lbs.	10 oz.
Welterweight	142.1 - 147	7 lbs.	10 oz.
Super Welterweight	147.1 - 153	7 lbs.	10 oz.
Light Middleweight	153.1 - 159	7 lbs.	10 oz.
Middleweight	159.1 - 165	7 lbs.	10 oz.
Super Middleweight	165.1 - 172	7 lbs.	10 oz.
Light Heavyweight	172.1 - 179	7 lbs.	10 oz.
Light Cruiserweight	179.1 - 186	7 lbs.	10 oz.
Cruiserweight	186.1 - 195	10 lbs.	10 oz.
Heavyweight	195.1 - 215	20 lbs.	10 oz.
Super Heavyweight	215 and up	No Limit	10 oz.

I. Clothing and equipment for full contact events;

1. Male contestants - trucks (no pockets), or kicking pants, or gee;
2. Female contestants shall wear a pair of shorts without pockets, or kicking pants or gee; with shorts or kicking pants. Female contestants must wear a tight fitting shirt and/or a sports bra;
3. Both contestants are required to wear the same thing;
4. Male contestants must wear a groin cup;
5. Protective mouthpiece;
6. Foot pads; secured by an elastic strap and medical athletic tape covering toes and heel (laces cannot be exposed)
7. Shin, instep, elbow and knee supports are permitted; shin pads must be made of a soft material secured by elastic strips and/or medical athletic tape;
8. Oil on face;

J. Bandaging of each contestant's hands shall not exceed one roll of surgeon's adhesive tape, not over 1-1/2 inches wide, placed directly on the hand to protect the part of the hand near the wrist.

1. The tape may cover the hand but not extend within 3/4 inch of the knuckles when the hand is clenched to make a fist.
2. Soft surgical bandage, not over two inches wide, held in place by not more than six feet of

surgeon's adhesive tape for each hand shall be used.

3. Up to one 10-yard roll of bandage may be used to complete the wrappings for each hand.
4. Strips of tape may be used between the fingers to hold down the bandages, not to cover the knuckles.
5. Bandages shall be adjusted in the locker room in the presence of the event inspector or his designee.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-42-260. Muay Thai (Thai boxing) rules.**

A. Pre-bout rituals

1. The referee will order the bout to start only after the contestants have completed their pre-bout rituals, in accordance with Thai traditions. The Referee should instruct the seconds/corner men to remove any ceremonial garb when their contestant returns to his corner after he/she has performed the pre-bout ritual.
2. Commissions may wish to notify the contestants of a time limit on their pre-bout rituals. (for example, three minutes maximum)

B. Groin protection

1. Commissions should mandate and require that Muay Thai contestants, at any level, wear a groin protector.

C. Weight classes: male and female weight classes are as follows:

<b>Weight Class</b>	<b>Weight in Lbs.</b>	<b>Max Weight Spread</b>	<b>Glove sizes</b>
Mini Flyweight	Over 100- 105	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Light Flyweight	Over 105 - 108	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Flyweight	Over 108 - 112	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Super Flyweight	Over 112 - 115	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Bantamweight	Over 115 - 118	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Super Bantamweight	Over 118 - 122	4 lbs.	8 oz.
Featherweight	Over 122 - 126	4 lbs.	8 oz.
Super Featherweight	Over 126 - 130	4 lbs.	8 oz.
Lightweight	Over 130 - 135	5 lbs.	8 oz.
Super Lightweight	Over 135 - 140	5 lbs.	8 oz.

Welterweight	Over 140 - 147	7 lbs.	8 oz.
Super Welterweight	Over 147 - 154	7 lbs.	10 oz.
Middleweight	Over 154 - 160	7 lbs.	10 oz.
Super Middleweight	Over 160 - 168	7 lbs.	10 oz.
Light Heavyweight	Over 168 - 175	7 lbs.	10 oz.
Cruiserweight	Over 175 - 200	12 lbs.	10 oz.
Heavyweight	Over 200 - 225	No limit	10 oz.
Super-Heavyweight	Over 225 and up	No limit	10 oz.

#### D. Hand wraps

1. All contestants shall be required to gauze and tape their hands prior to all contests. In all weight classes, the bandages on each contestant's hand shall be restricted to soft gauze cloth not more than 20 yards in length not more than two inches in width, held in place by not more than 10 feet of surgeon's tape, not more than two inches in width, for each hand.
2. The tape may cross the back of the hand twice, but may not extend within three-fourths of an inch of the knuckles when the hand is clenched to make a fist.
3. Strips of tape may be used between the fingers to hold down the bandages.
4. The bandages shall be evenly distributed across the hand. It is absolutely prohibited to "top – up" on the knuckles.
5. Bandages and tape shall be placed on the contestant's hands in the dressing room in the presence of the inspector and, if warranted, in the presence of the manager or chief second of his or her opponent.
6. Substances other than surgeon's tape and gauze shall not be utilized.
7. Pre wraps should not be used.

#### E. Length of round and number of rounds.

1. Rounds shall be 5 minutes in length and there can be up to 5 rounds.
2. Men and Women can compete in the same number of rounds.

#### F. Gloves

1. Shall be supplied by the promoter and approved by the commission.
2. No contestant shall supply their own gloves for participation.

3. Gloves must weigh a minimum of eight ounces or above weight class of 160 lbs. and above must wear 10 ounce gloves. With commission approval, six ounce gloves may be permitted for weight classes up to, and including featherweight.
4. Gloves must not be squeezed, kneaded or crushed to change the original shape.
5. The gloves used in the competitions must have the leather portion not heavier than one-half of the glove's total weight and the glove's inner pads must weigh at least one-half of the glove's total weight.
6. Gloves must only be placed on the contestant in the presence of an Inspector.
7. New replacement gloves must be kept at ringside.
8. All gloves must have the distal portion of the thumb attached to the body of the glove so as to minimize the possibility of injury to an opponent's eye.
9. Gloves should be wiped off by referee after knockdown, slip or fall before the fallen contestant may resume competing, the referee shall wipe the gloves with a damp towel or the referee's shirt.

#### G. Downward pointed elbow strikes

1. Ceiling to floor or 12 to 6 elbow strikes should be prohibited.

#### H. Double knockout situations

1. The referee shall stop a contest or exhibition of unarmed combat at any stage if the referee determines that both unarmed contestants are in such a condition that to continue might subject the unarmed contestant to serious injury. If a contest or exhibition is stopped pursuant to this subsection, the decision shall be deemed to be a technical draw.

#### 2. Scoring

- a. Muay Thai suggests that techniques should be strong and delivered with power to score.
  - b. Judges should not only make an assessment of the actions of the contestant delivering the blow.
  - c. They must also assess the effect of the technique on the opponent.
3. These assessments include stopping an opponent's advance, unbalancing the opponent, slowing the opponent's own offense, and causing the opponent to show pain.
  4. The winner in Muay Thai is the stronger contestant over the entire contest length. This means that the contestant needs to maintain physical and mental equilibrium as well as demonstrating

their superiority in technique. Landing a strike, in and of itself, does not always mean that it is a scoring strike.

5. The 10 point must system, as utilized in boxing, is the preferred scoring method at this time.
6. The 10 point must system is defined as follows:
  - a. All bouts will be evaluated and scored by three judges.
  - b. The 10-Point Must System will be the standard system of scoring a bout.
  - c. Under the 10-Point Must Scoring System, 10 points must be awarded to the winner of the round and nine points or less must be awarded to the loser, except for an even round, which is scored (10-10).
  - d. Effective striking is judged by determining the number of legal strikes landed by a contestant and the significance of such legal strikes.
  - e. Fight area control is judged by determining who is dictating the pace, location and position of the bout.
  - f. Effective aggressiveness means moving forward and landing a legal strike.
  - g. Effective defense means avoiding being struck while countering with offensive attacks.
7. The following objective scoring criteria shall be utilized by the judges when scoring a round;
  - a. A round is to be scored as a 10-10 Round when both contestants appear to be fighting evenly and neither contestant shows dominance in a round;
  - b. A round is to be scored as a 10-9 Round when a contestant wins by a close but clear margin, landing the greater number of effective legal strikes and other maneuvers;
  - c. A round is to be scored as a 10-8 Round when a contestant wins a round by a wide margin and damages his opponent
  - d. A round is to be scored as a 10-7 Round when a contestant totally and completely dominates in a round and damages his contestant.
8. Techniques which have a visible impact on the contestant should be weighed most heavily.
  - a. Consider the effectiveness of the strike, its strength, and target and how much it causes technique and not a kick or strike from another form of martial art.
  - b. The technique should have a visible effect on an opponent. If a technique strikes the opponent's arms or shin, then generally the technique doesn't score. However, there are

exceptions. For example, if a kick makes contact with a contestant's arm and physically moves the person being kicked or causes them to lose balance, solely due to the kick's power, that kick would score; although not as highly as a kick that had the same effect but cleanly made contact with the body.

- c. The most scored techniques are those that have the greatest effect on the contestant. It is not the number or variety of techniques delivered but their effectiveness that is important in determining the winner of a bout. For example, it is possible for one competitor to use one type of technique exclusively and win if the use of that technique results in that competitor delivering more, effective techniques than their contestant (one competitor may win by only kneeling their contestant.)

#### M. Scoring of incomplete rounds

1. There should be scoring of an incomplete round.
2. If the referee penalizes either contestant, then the appropriate points shall be deducted when the scorekeeper calculates the final score for the partial round.

#### N. Bout results

##### 1. Knockout:

- a. When a contestant is unable to regain his/her feet prior to the count of ten.
- b. When any contestant falls out of the ring, the referee shall count immediately.
  - i. If the count reaches 20, the fallen contestant cannot come up on the ring he/she will lose by K.O.
  - ii. If the fallen contestant can come up on the ring before counting up to 20, he/she can continue the bout.

##### 2. Technical knockout

- a. When the referee orders the bout stopped because it is determined that one contestant is not fit to continue.
- b. When a contestant cannot answer the bell for the upcoming round or is so badly cut that it is too dangerous to continue.

##### 3. Submission:

When one contestant notifies the referee that he/she no longer wishes to continue.

4. Unanimous decision:

All three judges score in favor of one contestant.

5. Majority decision:

Two judges score in favor of one contestant and one Judge has is a draw.

6. Split decision:

Two judges score in favor of one contestant, while one judge scores in favor of the other.

7. Disqualification:

Due to an intentional fouls or fouls, a referee may disqualify a contestant.

8. Technical draw:

In case of an intentional violation which causes injury and the bout is continued but is later stopped because of the initial foul, the referee should stop the Bout and give a TKO draw

- a. If the scores are equal or,
- b. If the fouled contestant is behind on the cards.

9. Technical decision:

- a. In case of an intentional violation which causes injury and the bout is continued but is later stopped because of the initial foul, the referee should declare a victory for the fouled contestant if he/she is ahead on the cards.

10. If a bout cannot continue due to an unintentional foul but enough rounds have been completed, the referee shall declare a victory for the contestant ahead on the score cards.

11. No contest:

In case of an unintentional violation which causes injury so serious that the bout cannot be continued but less than enough rounds have been completed.

12. Draw:

When the score cards result in a three way tie.

13. Majority draw:

When two judges score the bout a draw and one judge has declared the winner



O. Fouls-The following are fouls and will result in penalties if committed:

1. Head butting
2. Strikes to the groin- hits to the groin area/lower abdomen just below the navel called ‘neb’ is permitted and is classic technique.
3. Direct attacks to the knee- it is considered unsporting in Muay Thai to side kick a contestant to the front of the knee
4. Strikes to the back of the head
5. Strikes to the spine
6. Strikes to the throat
7. Striking a contestant while he/she is down
8. Striking a contestant while he/she is under the referee’s care
9. Shoving, throwing or wrestling an opponent except when pushing in a legal clinch
10. Striking when the referee has called a break
11. Striking after the bell has sounded
12. Holding the ropes or using the ropes as a weapon, for example pushing a contestant's face across the ropes in an attempt to cut them.
13. Timidity or intentionally avoiding contact
14. The use of abusive language or abusive gesture
15. Causing intentional delays in the action, such as repeatedly spitting out the mouth piece
16. Eye gouging
17. Hair pulling
18. Biting or spitting
19. Holding the contestant’s shorts
20. Interference from a contestant’s seconds

21. Tripping or sweeping an contestant-

Using trips and sweeps; it is legal to kick a contestant off their feet. A kick is considered to be an action that uses the top of the foot and/or front of the shin. It is possible to hook the foot and kick as long as the top of the foot and/or shin, and not the side of the foot, make contact with the contestant's leg.

22. Hip throws, shoulder or leg throws

23. Grasping the contestant's lower back while also forcing a contestant's spine to hyperextend.

24. Intentionally falling on a down contestant, pressing elbow or knee upon him/her

25. Wrestling, back or arm locks or any similar judo or wrestling hold

26. Attempting to 'pile-drive' an contestant's head into the canvas

27. Catching a contestant's kick and pushing a contestant for more than three steps without attempting to deliver an attacking technique. (i.e. permissible to catch your contestant's kick, hold your contestant's leg, and take up to three steps)

28. After kicking with his kicking leg being caught, the contestant pretends to throw himself down on ring floor. It is considered taking advantage over his opponent

29. Fouls are subject to the discretion of the referee. Fouls may result in a warning, a point deduction of one to two points or disqualification. The referee will base his decision on the severity of the foul and the intent of the fouling contestant.

P. The referee may consider:

1. A contestant who violates the rules intentionally but does not put the contestant at a disadvantage or injure him/her shall be given one warning or be assessed a one point deduction.

2. A contestant who violates the rules intentionally and puts the contestant at a disadvantage or makes him/her unable to continue the bout shall be disqualified and lose the bout.

3. In case of an unintentional violation, the referee shall give no more than two warnings before assessing a point deduction.

Q. Fouls further explained:

1. Direct (side style kicks) kicks to the front of a contestant's legs are illegal.

2. Hip throws:

- a. Over the hip throws such as in Japanese arts like Judo, Jujitsu, Karate, Sambo, or San Shou are illegal.
  - b. A contestant is not allowed to use the hip or shoulder to throw a contestant in any kind of Judo throw or reap.
  - c. A contestant is not allowed to step across or in front of an contestant's leg with his/her own leg and bring the contestant over his/her hip.
  - d. Taking a contestant around the waist with both arms and twisting him/her off balance so the contestant will fall is legal.
    - i. contestant is not allowed to twist and pull a contestant over the side of his/her body and then land on top.
3. It is an intentional foul when a contestant plans, with the sole intention of falling on top of his/her opponent, to either strike with the knee or to intentionally hurt the opponent while down, by contriving to make it look like an accident.
4. Stepping on a fallen opponent is illegal.
5. Illegal trips:
- a. If a contestant positions a foot next to the opponent and twists him/her over the leg, it is an illegal trip unless the leg is cleared as the opponent falls.
  - b. If a contestant spins or pulls the contestant over the inside or outside of the leg and dumps him/her on the ground, it is an illegal trip when the leg being used to manipulate and dump the contestant stays in that position as he/she goes down.
  - c. If the leg is set and stays in that position, it is an illegal throw or trip.
  - d. The leg must clear immediately after the opponent is pulled or tripped over the knee. Clear means that the leg must be moved out of the way before the contestant hits the canvas by skipping the leg or slightly jumping to the side, as long as it is moved from the original position. Taking out an opponent footing is legal only if the tripping leg is withdrawn from contact as he/she falls to the ground.
6. Neck wrestling:
- a. If in a clinch with arms around each other's shoulder, such as to deliver or defend from an elbow strike, twisting the opponent using the upper body in such a way that he/she will fall to the ground is allowed.
  - b. By using neck and shoulder manipulation, it is legal for a contestant to spin and

throw/dump an opponent to the canvas without using any part of his/her body as a barrier.

7. Sweeping:

- a. A contestant is allowed to roundhouse kick the opponent's supporting leg with the top of his/her own foot or shin, taking out the opponent's footing, but karate style sweeps with the foot's instep is illegal.
- b. It is illegal to take out the opponent's footing in the clinch by sweeping the back of his/her supporting leg with the back of contestant's own leg or calf.

8. Lifting:

- a. It is illegal in any way to lift an opponent's off the ground and throw him/her on the canvas.
- b. If a contestant clinches the opponent's around the waist and lifts the opponent's off the ground, twisting and throwing the opponent's around to the side and onto the canvas in a suplex.

R. Scoring the foul to be performed by the scorekeeper.

1. Fouls may result in a point being deducted by the official scorekeeper from the offending mixed martial artist's score. The scorekeeper, not the judges, will be responsible for calculating the true score after factoring in the point deduction.
2. Only a referee can assess a foul. If the referee does not call the foul, judges shall not make that assessment on their own and cannot factor such into their scoring calculations.
3. Foul procedures
  - a. The referee shall:
    - i. call time;
    - ii. Check the fouled contestant's condition and safety; and
    - iii. Assess the foul to the offending contestant, deduct points, and notify each corner's seconds, judges and the official scorekeeper.
    - iv. When the round is over, the referee shall assess the foul and notify both corners' seconds, the judges and the official scorekeeper.
    - v. The referee may terminate a bout based on the severity of a foul. For such a flagrant foul, a contestant shall lose by disqualification.

4. Time considerations for fouls.

a. Contestant who is not fouled by a low blow:

- i. If a contest is stopped because of an accidental foul, the referee shall determine whether the unarmed contestant who has been fouled can continue or not.
- ii. If the unarmed contestant chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of the foul and if the foul did not involve a concussive impact to the head of the unarmed contestant who has been fouled, the referee may order the contest or exhibition continued after a recuperative interval of not more than 5 minutes.
- iii. Immediately after separating the unarmed contestants, the referee shall inform the Commission's representative of his determination that the foul was accidental.

b. If a contestant is fouled by blow that the referee deems illegal.

- i. The referee should stop the action and call for time.
- ii. The referee may take the injured contestant to the ringside doctor and have the ringside doctor examine the contestant as to their ability to continue on in the contest.
- iii. The ringside doctor has up to 5 minutes to make their determination. If the ringside doctor determines that the contestant can continue in the contest, the referee shall as soon as practical restart the bout.

c. However, unlike the low blow foul rule, the contestant does not have up to 5 minutes of time to use at their discretion.

d. If deemed not fit to continue by the referee or ringside physician, the referee must immediately call a halt to the bout.

- i. If the contestant is deemed not fit to continue by the referee or ringside physician but
- ii. Some of the five minute foul time is still remaining, the contestant cannot avail himself of the remaining time.

e. If the referee stops the contest and employs the use of the ringside doctor, the ringside physician's examinations shall not exceed five minutes. If five minutes is exceeded, the bout cannot be re-started and the contest must end.

5. Fouls: intentional.

- a. If the referee determines that a contest or exhibition may not continue because of an injury caused by an intentional foul, the unarmed contestant who

committed the intentional foul loses by disqualification.

- b. If the referee determines that a contest or exhibition may continue despite an injury caused by an intentional foul, the referee shall immediately inform the Commission's representative and the judges and shall deduct two points from the score of the unarmed contestant who committed the intentional foul.
- c. If an injury caused by an intentional foul results in the contest being stopped in a later round:
  - i. The injured unarmed contestant wins by technical decision, if he is ahead on the scorecards; or
  - ii. The contest or exhibition must be declared a technical draw, if the injured unarmed contestant is behind or even on the scorecards.
- d. If an unarmed contestant injures himself while attempting to foul his opponent, the referee shall not take any action in his favor and the injury must be treated the same as an injury produced by a fair blow.

6. Fouls: Accidental.

- a. If a contest or exhibition is stopped because of an accidental foul, the referee shall determine whether the unarmed contestant who has been fouled can continue or not.
- b. If the unarmed contestant's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of a foul and if the foul did not involve a concussive impact to the head of the unarmed contestant who was fouled, the referee may order the contest or exhibition continued after a reasonable interval.
- c. Before the contest or exhibition begins again, the referee shall inform the Commission's representative of his determination that the foul was accidental.

7. If the referee determines that the contest or exhibition may not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an accidental foul.

- a. The contest or exhibition must be declared a no decision if the foul occurs during the first three rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for six rounds or less or the first four rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for more than six rounds.

8. If an injury inflicted by an accidental foul later becomes aggravated by fair blows and the referee orders the contest or exhibition stopped because of the injury, the outcome must be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops the contest.

S. Protective equipment:

1. All male contestants must wear groin protection.
2. Women must wear breast protection and rash guards for shirts.
3. All contestants must wear an approved mouth guard.

T. Appearance:

1. Shirts and rash guards are not permitted. (Males only)
2. Shoes are not permitted.
3. No head bands during the contest.
4. No jewelry or body piercing.
5. Hair must be trimmed or tied back. No hair lotions, creams or sprays.
6. Beards are subject to trimming.
7. Thai shorts are to be worn by the contestants, as opposed to other types of shorts or long pants.
8. Knee or ankle braces are not permitted.

U. Seconds:

1. Only one of the seconds may be inside the ring ropes during a period of rest. Any excessive or undue spraying or throwing of water on an unarmed contestant by a second during a period of rest is prohibited.

V. One-sided contest or exhibition; risk of serious injury.

1. The referee may stop a contest or exhibition at any stage if the referee determines that the contest or exhibition is too one-sided or if either unarmed contestant is in such a condition that to continue might subject the unarmed combatant to serious injury.
2. The referee shall stop a contest or exhibition of unarmed combat at any stage if the referee determines that both unarmed contestants are in such a condition that to continue might subject the unarmed contestant to serious injury.
3. If a contest or exhibition is stopped pursuant to this subsection, the decision shall be deemed to be a technical draw.

W. Procedure for counting; knockdown; knockout; technical draw.

1. When an unarmed contestant is knocked down, the referee shall order the opponent to retire to the farthest neutral corner of the ring, by pointing to the corner, and shall immediately begin the count over the unarmed contestant who is down.
  - a. The referee shall audibly announce the passing of the seconds, accompanying count with motions of his arm, with the downward motion indicating the end of each second.
2. The timekeeper, by effective signaling, shall give the referee the correct 1-second interval for his count.
  - a. The referee's count is the official count. Once the referee picks up the count from the timekeeper, the timekeeper shall cease counting.
  - b. No unarmed contestant who is knocked down may be allowed to resume competing until the referee has finished counting to eight.
  - c. The unarmed contestant may take the count either on the floor or standing.
3. If the contestant fails to stay in the farthest corner, the referee shall cease counting until he has returned to his corner and shall then go on with the count from the point at which it was interrupted.
  - a. If the unarmed contestant who is down arises before the count of 10, the referee may step between the unarmed contestants long enough to assure himself that the unarmed contestant who has just arisen is in condition to continue.
  - b. If so assured, he shall, without loss of time, order both unarmed contestant to go on with the contest or exhibition.
  - c. During the intervention by the referee, the striking of a blow by either unarmed contestant may be ruled a foul.
  - d. When an unarmed contestant is knocked out, the referee shall perform a full 10-second count unless, in the judgment of the referee, the safety of the unarmed contestant would be jeopardized by such a count. If the unarmed contestant who is knocked down is still down when the referee calls the count of 10, the referee shall wave both arms to indicate that he has been knocked out.
4. If both unarmed contestant go down at the same time, the count must be continued as long as one is still down. If both unarmed contestants remain down until the count of 10, the contest or exhibition must be stopped and the decision is a technical draw.
5. If an unarmed contestant is down and the referee is in the course of counting at the end of a period of unarmed combat, the bell indicating the end of the period of unarmed combat must



not be sounded, but the bell must be sounded as soon as the downed unarmed contestant regains his feet.

6. When an unarmed contestant has been knocked down before the normal termination of a period of unarmed combat and the period of unarmed combat terminates before he has arisen from the floor of the ring, the referee's count must be continued. If the unarmed contestant who is down fails to arise before the count of 10, he is considered to have lost the contest or exhibition by a knockout in the round containing the period of unarmed combat that was just concluded.
7. If a legal blow struck in the final seconds of a period of unarmed combat causes an unarmed contestant to go down after the bell has sounded, that knockdown must be regarded as having occurred during the period of unarmed combat just ended and the appropriate count must continue.

X. Procedure when unarmed contestant has fallen through or been knocked through ropes.

1. An unarmed contestant who has been knocked or has fallen through the ropes and over the edge of the ring platform during a contest:
  - a. May be helped back by anyone except his seconds or manager; and
  - b. Will be given 20 seconds to return to the ring.
2. An unarmed contestant who has been knocked or has fallen on the ring platform outside the ropes, but not over the edge of the ring platform:
  - a. May not be helped back by anyone, including, without limitation, his seconds or manager; and
  - b. Will be given 10 seconds to regain his feet and get back into the ring.
3. If the seconds or manager of the unarmed contestant who has been knocked or has fallen pursuant to subsections 1 and 2 helps the unarmed combatant back into the ring, such help may be cause for disqualification.
4. When one unarmed contestant has fallen through the ropes, the other unarmed contestant shall retire to the farthest corner and stay there until ordered to continue the contest or exhibition by the referee.
5. An unarmed contestant who deliberately wrestles or throws an opponent from the ring, or who hits him when he is partly out of the ring and is prevented by the ropes from assuming a position of defense, may be penalized.

Y. An unarmed contestant shall be deemed to be down when:

1. Any part of his body other than his feet is on the floor; or He is hanging over the ropes without the ability to protect himself and he cannot fall to the floor.
2. A referee may count an unarmed contestant out if the unarmed contestant is on the floor or is being held up by the ropes.

**18VAC120-42-270. Mixed martial arts rules.**

1. Each round shall consist of five (5) minute duration with a one (1) minute rest period between rounds.
  - a. No contests shall exceed five (5) rounds and/or twenty-five (25) minutes.
  - b. Bouts may consist of one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4), or five (5) rounds, with a five (5) minute duration.
  - c. No contestant shall exceed competing more than five (5) rounds and/or twenty-five (25) minutes of fighting in a twenty-four (24) hour period.
2. The referee is the sole arbiter of a bout and is the only individual authorized to stop a contest. This shall not preclude a video or other review of a decision under the procedure of the applicable regulatory authority if a protest is filed claiming a clear rule violation.
  - a. The authority of a referee begins when the inspector(s) exit the cage/ring and does not end until the inspector(s) re-enter the cage/ring, upon conclusion of the bout.
3. Instant replay may be used to review a "Bout Ending Sequence" and shall only be used after a bout has been officially stopped. Once instant replay has been used to review a bout ending sequence, the bout shall not be resumed.
4. All contestants are required to wear a mouthpiece during competition. The round cannot begin without the mouthpiece. If the mouthpiece is dislodged during competition, the referee will call time and have the mouthpiece replaced at the first opportune moment, without interfering with the immediate action. Points may be deducted by the referee if he/she feels the mouthpiece is being purposefully spit out.
5. If an Mixed Martial Arts bout is being conducted in a ring and a contestant is knocked out of the ring, the contestant must return to the ring unassisted by spectators or his/her seconds. If assisted by anyone, the contestant may lose points or be disqualified with such a decision being within the sole discretion of the referee. Once knocked from the ring, the competitor will have five (5) minutes to return to fighting surface, similar to an accidental foul, but shall be examined by the ringside physician before returning to action.
6. The reapplication of petroleum jelly or another similar substance, to the face, may be allowed between rounds and shall only be applied by a licensed cutman or licensed cornerman.

7. In instances where the bout has to be concluded due to unforeseen, non-combat related issues, the bout may go to the scorecards if one-half the scheduled rounds, plus one second (1/2 +1) have been completed.
  - a. If the non-combat stoppage occurs prior to the 1/2 +1 mark, the bout is to be scored a “No Contest”
8. Hand Wraps.
  - a. A maximum of one roll (no more than 2” wide by 15 yards in length) of white, soft, cloth gauze is permitted per hand. The gauze may not exceed the wrist of the contestant glove. The exposed thumb is an option to be protected.
  - b. A maximum of one roll (no more than 1.25” wide by 10’ in length) of white athletic tape is permitted per hand. The tape may not exceed the wrist of the competitor’s gloves. Tape may be placed through the fingers but may not cover the knuckles. The exposed thumb is an option to be protected.
  - c. A single layer of elastic or flex-type tape is allowed to be applied over the completed wrap.
  - d. Approved tape/gauze of all brands may be allowed.
9. Joint/Body Coverings.
  - a. Other than the contestant’s hands, there will be no taping, covering, or protective gear, of any kind, on the upper body. This includes, but is not limited to: joint sleeves, padding, or any form of brace/body tape.
  - b. A contestant may use a soft neoprene type sleeve to cover only the knee and/or ankle joints. Approved sleeves may not have: padding, Velcro, plastic, metal, ties, or any other material considered to be unsafe or that may create an unfair advantage. Tape, gauze, or any materials other than the approved sleeves are not permitted.
10. Cage/Ring Attire:
  - a. All mixed martial artists will be required to wear such protective gear as deemed necessary by the Commission.
  - b. Male contestants shall not wear any form of clothing on their upper body.
  - c. Male and female mixed martial artists shall wear the appropriate trunks, mouthpiece, and gloves. Male mixed martial artists shall also wear the appropriate groin protection.
  - d. Female mixed martial artists shall wear a short sleeved (above the elbow) or sleeveless form fitting rash guard and/or sports bra(s). No loose-fitting tops and/or breast protectors

shall be allowed. Female competitors will follow the same requirements for bottom covering as the male competitors, minus the requirement for groin protection.

- e. The hem of the trunks may not extend below the knee.
- f. Fighting shorts/trunks shall not have exposed Velcro, pockets, or zippers.
- g. Mixed martial artists in the same match, contest, or exhibition may wear different color trunks or be designated by glove taping and/or glove coloring to the corner they are assigned.
- h. Mixed martial artists shall not wear shoes in the cage or ring.
- i. When deemed necessary by the referee all mixed martial artists shall have their hair secured in a manner that does not interfere with the vision and safety of either contestant.
- j. No object can be worn to secure the contestant's hair which may cause injury.
- k. The wearing of jewelry will be strictly prohibited during all contests.
- l. Wearing body cosmetics shall be prohibited during all contests. Wearing facial cosmetics shall be at the discretion of the commission and/or referee.

#### 11. Video Monitors.

- a. The ABC supports the use of video monitors by judges in order to facilitate a proper evaluation of all the action in each round. The ABC also supports providing the ringside physician(s) with a monitor in order to improve their understanding of any medical issues that may occur during a bout towards the goal of being better prepared to address them in the most prompt and efficient manner. This would not be mandated and used only as technology and budget allows depending on the promotion/venue.

#### 12. Fouls:

- 1. Butting with the head;
  - a. The head may not be used as a striking instrument in any fashion. Any use of the head as a striking instrument whether head to head, head to body or otherwise is illegal.
- 2. Eye gouging of any kind;
  - a. Eye gouging by means of fingers, chin, or elbow is illegal. Legal strikes or punches that contact the contestant's eye socket are not eye gouging and shall be considered legal attacks.
- 3. Biting or spitting at an opponent;

- a. Biting in any form is illegal. A contestant must recognize that a referee may not be able to physically observe some actions, and must make the referee aware if they are being bit during an exhibition of unarmed combat.
4. Fish hooking;
    - a. Any attempt by a contestant to use their fingers in a manner that attacks their opponent's mouth, nose or ears, stretching the skin to that area will be considered "Fish hooking". Fish hooking generally is the placing of fingers into the mouth or your opponent and pulling your hands in opposing directions while holding onto the skin of your opponent.
  5. Hair pulling;
    - a. Pulling of the hair in any fashion is an illegal action. A contestant may not grab a hold of his opponent's hair to control their opponent in any way. If a contestant has long hair, they may not use their hair as a tool for holding or choking in any fashion.
  6. Spiking the opponent to the canvas onto the head or neck (pile-driving);
    - a. Any throw with an arc to its motion is to be considered a legal throw. It does not matter if the opponents head hits the canvas. A pile driver is considered to be any throw where you control your opponent's body placing their feet up in the air with their head straight down and then forcibly drives the opponents head into the canvas or flooring material. It should be noted when a contestant is placed into a submission hold by their opponent, if that contestant is capable of elevating their opponent they may bring that opponent down in any fashion they desire because they are not in control of their opponent's body. The contestant who is attempting the submission can either adjust their position, or let go of their hold before being slammed to the canvas.
  7. Strikes to the spine or the back of the head;
    - a. The back of the head starts at the crown of the head with a one (1) inch variance to either side, running down the centerline of the head to the occipital junction.
    - b. This area stretches out at the occipital junction (nape of the neck) to cover the entire width of the neck. It then travels down the spine with a one (1) inch variance from the spine's centerline, including the tailbone.
  8. Throat strikes of any kind and/or grabbing the trachea;
    - a. No directed throat strikes are allowed. A directed attack would include a contestant pulling his opponents head in a way to open the neck area for a striking attack. A contestant may not gouge their fingers or thumb into their opponent's neck or trachea in an attempt to submit their opponent. If during stand-up action of a bout a strike is thrown

and the strike lands in the throat area of the contestant, this shall be viewed as a clean and legal blow.

9. Fingers outstretched toward an opponent's face/eyes;

- a. In the standing position, a contestant that moves their arm(s) toward their opponent with an open hand, fingers pointing at the opponent's face/eyes, will be a foul. Referees are to prevent this dangerous behavior by communicating clearly to contestants. Contestants are directed to close their fists or point their fingers straight up in the air when reaching toward their opponent.

10. Downward pointing elbow strike (12 to 6);

- a. The use of a linear "straight up straight down" elbow strike is prohibited. Any variation of this straight up and down linear elbow strike makes the strike legal. Any arc, or any angle change from straight up to straight down makes the strike legal. Any variation of position does not alter the legality of the strike.

11. Groin attacks of any kind;

- a. Any attack to the groin area including, striking, grabbing, pinching or twisting is illegal. It should be clear that groin attacks are the same for men and women.

12. Kneeing and/or kicking the head of a grounded opponent;

- a. A grounded contestant is defined as: Any part of the body, other than a single hand and soles of the feet touching the fighting area. To be grounded requires one hand **OR BOTH? – ASK BRIAN** palm/fist down, and/or any other body part must be touching the fighting area floor. A single knee, arm, makes the contestant grounded without having to have any other body part in touch with the ring floor. At this time, kicks or knees to the head will not be allowed.

13. Stomping of a grounded contestant;

- a. Stomping is considered any type of striking action with the feet where the contestant lifts their leg up bending their leg at the knee and initiating a striking action with the bottom of their foot or heel
- b. Axe kicks are not stomping. Standing foot stops are not a foul. As such, this foul does not include stomping the feet of a standing contestant.

14. Holding opponent's gloves or shorts;

- a. contestant may not control their opponent's movement by holding onto their opponent's shorts or gloves. A contestant may hold onto or grab their opponent's hand as long as they

are not controlling the hand only by using the material of the glove, but by actually gripping the hand of the opponent. It is legal to hold onto your own gloves or shorts.

15. Holding or grabbing the fence or ropes with fingers or toes;

- a. A contestant may put their hands on the fence and push off of it at any time. A contestant may place their **HANDS OR (ASK BRIAN)** feet onto the cage and have their **FINGERS OR (ASK BRIAN)** toes go through the fencing material at any time. When a contestant's fingers or toes go through the cage and grab hold of the fence and start to control either their body position or their opponent's body position it now becomes an illegal action. A contestant may not grab the ropes or wrap their arms over or under the ring ropes at any time. The contestant may not purposely step through the ropes. If a contestant is caught holding the fence, cage or ring rope material the referee may issue a one-point deduction from the offending contestant's scorecard if the foul caused a substantial effect in the bout. If a point deduction for holding the fence occurs, and because of the infraction, the fouling contestant ends up in a superior position due to the foul, the contestants should be re-started by the referee, standing in a neutral position.

16. Small joint manipulation:

- a. Fingers and toes are small joints. Wrists, ankles, knees, shoulders and elbows are all large joints. Grabbing the majority of fingers/toes at once is allowed.

17. Throwing an opponent out of the ring or caged area;

- a. A contestant shall not throw their opponent out of the ring or cage.

18. Intentionally placing a finger into any orifice, or into any cut or laceration of your opponent;

- a. A contestant may not place their fingers into an open laceration in an attempt to enlarge the cut. A contestant may not place their fingers into an opponent's, nose, ears, mouth, or any body cavity.

19. Clawing, pinching, and twisting the flesh;

- a. Any attack that targets the contestant's skin by clawing at the skin or attempting to pull or twist the skin to apply pain is illegal.

20. Timidity (avoiding contact, or consistently dropping the mouthpiece, or faking an injury);

- a. Timidity is defined as any contestant who purposely avoids contact with his opponent, or runs away from the action of the bout. Timidity can also be called by the referee for any attempt by a contestant to receive time by falsely claiming a foul, injury, or purposely dropping or spitting out their mouthpiece or other action designed to stall or delay the action of the bout

21. Use of abusive language in the fighting area;
- a. The use of abusive language is not allowed during MMA competition. It is the sole responsibility of the referee to determine when language crosses over the line to abusive. It should be clear that contestants can talk during a match. The mere use of auditory language is not a violation of this rule. Examples of abusive language would be (racially motivated or derogatory language).
22. Flagrant disregard of the referee's instructions;
- a. A contestant must follow the instructions of the referee at all times. Any deviation or non-compliance may result in the contestant's **ASK BRIAN – POINTS BEING DEDUCTED FROM THEIR SCORE CARD OR** disqualification.
23. Unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to opponent;
- a. Every athlete competing in the sport of MMA is expected to represent the sport in a positive light emphasizing sportsmanship and humility. Any athlete that disrespects the rules of the sport or attempts to inflict unnecessary harm on a competitor who has been either taken out of the competition by the referee or has tapped out of the competition shall be viewed as being unsportsmanlike.
24. Attacking an opponent after the bell has sounded the end of the period of unarmed combat;
- a. The end of a round is signified by the sound of the bell and the call of time by the referee. Once the referee has made the call of time, any offensive actions initiated by the contestant shall be considered after the bell and illegal.
25. Attacking an opponent on or during the break;
- a. A contestant shall not engage their opponent in any fashion during a time-out or break of action in competition.
26. Attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee;
- a. Once the referee has called for a stop of the action to protect a contestant who has been incapacitated or is unable to continue to compete in the bout, contestants shall cease all offensive actions against their opponent.
27. Interference from a mixed martial artist's corner or seconds;
- a. Interference is defined as any action or activity aimed at disrupting the bout or causing an unfair advantage to be given to a corner's contestant. Corners are not allowed to distract the referee or influence the actions of the referee in any fashion.



### 13. Intentional Fouls

- a. If an intentional foul causes an injury, and the injury is severe enough to terminate the bout immediately, the contestant causing the injury shall lose by disqualification.
- b. If an intentional foul causes an injury and the bout is allowed to continue, the referee shall notify the authorities and deduct two (2) points from the contestant who caused the foul. Point deductions for intentional fouls will be mandatory.
- c. If an intentional foul causes a laceration and/or swelling and the bout is allowed to continue, and the injury results in the bout being stopped in any round after  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the scheduled rounds, plus one (1) second of the bout has been completed, by either another legal or illegal strike, the injured contestant will win by Technical decision if they are ahead on the score cards; and the bout will result in a technical draw if the injured contestant is behind or even on the score cards.
- d. If the contestant injures himself/herself while attempting to intentionally foul their opponent, the referee will not act in their favor, and this injury shall be the same as one produced by a fair blow.
- e. If the referee feels that a contestant has conducted themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner, they may stop the action of the bout to deduct points or stop the bout to disqualify the contestant.

### 14. Accidental fouls:

- a. If an accidental foul causes an injury severe enough for the referee to stop the bout, the bout will result in either a no contest or disqualification if stopped before  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the scheduled rounds, plus one (1) second of the bout has been completed.
- b. If an accidental foul causes an injury severe enough for the referee to stop the bout after  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the scheduled rounds, plus one (1) second of the bout has been completed, the bout will result in a technical decision awarded to the contestant who is ahead on the score cards at the time the bout is stopped.
  - i. Partial or incomplete rounds will be scored. If no action has occurred, the round should be scored as an even round. This is at the discretion of the judges.
- c. If a contestant, during the course of a round, visibly loses control of bodily function (vomit, urine, feces), the bout shall be stopped by the referee and the contestant shall lose the contest by a technical knockout (TKO) due to medical stoppage.
  - i. In the event a loss of bodily function occurs in the rest period between rounds, the ringside physician shall be called in to evaluate if the combatant can continue. If the combatant is not cleared by the ringside physician to continue, that combatant shall lose by a technical knockout (TKO) due to medical stoppage.

- ii. If fecal matter becomes apparent at any time, the contest shall be halted by the referee, and the offending combatant shall lose by a technical knockout (TKO) due to medical stoppage.

15. Foul procedures: If a foul is committed, the referee shall:

- a. Call Time;
- b. Check the fouled mixed martial artist's condition and safety; and
- c. Assess the foul for potential point(s) deductions and/or time considerations.
- d. During all time out procedures, there shall be no coaching of a contestant permitted.

16. Time consideration:

- a. If a foul to the groin occurs and the competitor is able to continue, the fouled contestant may have up to five (5) minutes to recover.
- b. Contestants injured severely enough by a foul to require medical consultation may be given up to five (5) minutes, at the referee's discretion, for evaluation by the ringside physician before a decision to continue is rendered.
- c. At no time may a referee call a timeout to evaluate the impact of a legal strike, other than when a laceration is present.

17. Cuts Generated by Foul:

- a. If the Referee adjudicating the bout identifies a laceration that has been caused by a foul, the referee, at their sole discretion, may stop time to allow the cutman to treat the bleeding. The cutman's treatment will occur at the cage door for a period not to exceed 30 seconds (marked from the opening of the cage door, monitored by the timekeeper). If there are no official cutmen, the contestant's licensed corner may treat the cut. No instruction or coaching of the contestant is allowed. This protocol may be used only once per incident, and only in the round during which the foul occurred.

18. Judging Criteria

- a. All bouts will be evaluated and scored by a minimum of three (3) judges.
- b. The 10 Point Must System will be the standard of scoring a bout.

- i. Under the 10-Point Must Scoring System, 10 points must be awarded to the winner of the round and nine points or less must be awarded to the loser, except for a rare even round, which is scored (10-10).
  - c. Judges shall evaluate Mixed Martial Arts techniques, such as effective striking/grappling (Plan A), effective aggressiveness (Plan B), and control of the fighting area (Plan C). Plans B and C are not taken into consideration unless Plan A is weighed as being even.
  - d. Evaluations shall be made in the specific order in which the techniques appear in (c) above, giving the most weight in scoring to effective striking/grappling, and effective aggressiveness, and control of the fighting area.
  - e. Effective striking is judged by determining the impact/effect of legal strikes landed by a contestant solely based on the results of such legal strikes. Effective grappling is assessed by the successful executions and impactful/effective result(s) coming from: takedown(s), submission attempt(s), achieving an advantageous position(s) and reversal(s).
  - f. Effective aggressiveness means aggressively making attempts to finish the bout.
  - g. Fighting area control is assessed by determining who is dictating the pace, place and position of the bout.
19. The following objective scoring criteria shall be utilized by the judges when scoring a round:
- a. A round is to be scored as a 10-10 Round when both contestants have competed for whatever duration of time in the round and there is no difference or advantage between either contestant;
  - b. A round is to be scored as a 10-9 Round when a contestant wins by a close margin where the winning contestant lands the better strikes or utilizes effective grappling during the round;
  - c. A round is to be scored as a 10-8 Round when a contestant wins the round by a large margin by impact, dominance, and duration of striking or grappling in a round.
    - i. A 10-8 round in MMA is where one contestant wins the round by a large margin. This is demonstrated by clearly meeting two of the three required criteria (Impact/Damage, Domination, and Duration). It is important to clarify, in the absence of Impact/Damage, static positional control alone is not considered Dominance.
    - ii. In the absence of Impact/Damage to be considered Dominant, there must be, singularly or in combination, the threat of some types of submissions, strikes, or an overwhelming pace which is measured by improved or aggressive positional changes that cause the losing contestant to consistently be in a defensive or reactive mode.

iii. Dominance, can be the outclassing of an opponent, demonstrated by the winning contestant offensively executing verifiable offensive movements, with little effective defense preventing them. Often the dominated contestant has limited ability to mount any notable offence in that round.

iv. A round is to be scored as a 10-7 Round when a contestant is completely dominated by impact, dominance, and duration of striking or grappling in a round.

20. Impact:

A judge shall assess if a contestant impacts their opponent significantly in the round, even though they may not have dominated the action. Impact includes visible evidence such as swelling and lacerations. Impact shall also be assessed when a contestant's actions, using striking and/or grappling, lead to a diminishing of their opponent's energy, confidence, abilities and spirit. All of these come as a direct result of impact. When a contestant is impacted by strikes, by lack of control and/or ability, this can create defining moments in the round and shall be assessed with great value.

21. Dominance:

As MMA is an offensive based sport, dominance of a round can be seen in striking when the losing contestant is forced to continually defend, with no counters or reaction taken when openings present themselves. Dominance in the grappling phase can be seen by contestants taking dominant positions in the bout and utilizing those positions to attempt bout ending submissions or attacks. Merely holding a dominant position(s) shall not be a primary factor in assessing dominance. What the contestant does with those positions is what must be assessed.

22. Duration:

Duration is defined by the time spent by one contestant effectively attacking, controlling, and impacting their opponent; while the opponent offers little to no offensive output. A judge shall assess duration by recognizing the relative time in a round when one contestant takes and maintains full control of the effective offense. This can be assessed both standing and grounded.

23. Scoring of Incomplete Rounds:

There should be scoring of incomplete rounds. If the referee penalizes either contestant, then the appropriate points shall be deducted when the scorekeeper calculates the final score for the partial round

24. Types of Decisions:

a. Submission by:

- i. Tap Out: When a contestant physically uses of their body to indicate that he or she no longer wishes to continue; or
  - ii. Verbal Tap Out: When a contestant verbally announces or voluntarily/involuntarily screams in pain or distress to the referee that they do not wish to continue;
  - iii. Technical Submission: When a legal submission act results in unconsciousness or broken/dislocated bone(s)/joint(s)
- b. Technical Knockout (TKO) by:
- i. Referee Stoppage: the referee stops the contest because the combatant is not intelligently defending himself/ herself
  - ii. Strikes
  - iii. Laceration
  - iv. Corner Stoppage
  - iv. Did Not Answer the Bell
- b. TKO due to Medical Stoppage;
- i. Laceration
  - ii. Doctor Stoppage
  - iii. Loss of control of bodily function.
- d. Knockout (KO) by:
- Referee Stoppage: the referee stops the contest because the combatant cannot intelligently defend their self
- a. Due to Strikes
  - b. Disqualification:
    - i. When an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul is severe enough to terminate the contest, multiple fouls have been assessed, and/or there is flagrant disregard for the rules and/or referee's commands.
- c. No Contest:

- i. When a contestant is prematurely stopped due to accidental injury and a sufficient amount of time has not been completed to render a decision via the score cards.

d. Decisions:

- i. Unanimous Decision: When all three judges score the bout for the same contestant;
- ii. Split Decision: When two judges score the bout for one contestant and one judge scores for the opponent; or
- iii. Majority Decision: When two judges score the bout for the same contestant and one judge scores a draw;
- iv. Technical Decision: When a bout is prematurely stopped due to injury from an accidental foul and a contestant is leading on the score cards;

e. Draws:

- i. Unanimous Draw – When all three judges score the bout a draw;
- ii. Majority Draw – When two judges score the bout a draw; or
- iii. Split Draw – When all three judges score differently and the score total results in a draw;
- iv. Technical Draw - When an injury is sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul and the bout is allowed to continue, then later the injury requires stoppage from either a legal or illegal strike to the affected area after ½ of the scheduled rounds, plus one (1) second has been completed, if the injured contestant is even or behind on the score cards at the time of stoppage, the decision is a Technical Draw.

25. Weight Classes:

Weight Class	Weight
Atomweight	up to and including 105 lbs.
Strawweight	over 105 to 115 lbs.
Flyweight	over 115 to 125 lbs.
Bantamweight	over 125 to 135 lbs.
Featherweight	over 135 to 145 lbs.
Lightweight	over 145 to 155 lbs.
Super Lightweight	over 155 to 165 lbs.
Welterweight	over 165 to 170 lbs.
Super welterweight	over 170 to 175 lbs.
Middle weight	over 175 to 185 lbs.
Super Middleweight	over 185 to 195 lbs.
Light Heavyweight	over 195 to 205 lbs.

Cruiserweight	over 205 to 225 lbs.
Heavyweight	over 225 to 265 lbs.
Super Heavyweight	over 265 lbs.

- a. Allowances within Division: there are no allowance restrictions if both combatants weigh-in within the same contracted division.
- b. Weight Miss or Catch Weight: If a person misses the contracted weight and the two competitors are in different weight classes, the heavier opponent shall not exceed five (5) lbs. of the lower weighing contestant.
- c. Contracted Catch Weight(s): there is no weight spread allowance between contracted catch weight contestants, so long as both competitors are below the contracted weight. Commissions may deny Catch Weight bouts if they see the weight differential as a large enough disparity to the safety of either of the contestants.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-42-280 Glory Kickboxing Rules – ask Brian**

A. Legal Strikes/Techniques:

1. Closed fist or back fists.
2. Knees to head and body;
3. Clinching in order to immediately attack with a legal knee strike. If the knee attack or counter attack is continuous and productive the referee may allow it to continue for his estimation up to five seconds. Otherwise contestants should disengage the clinch and continue to bout;
4. Contestants are allowed to catch their opponent's leg and take one (1) step forward. After one (1) step, the contestant holding the leg must strike before taking a second step or let go. It is not permitted to hold an opponent's leg and charge him to the ropes. You can "dump" a person if you catch their leg and throw it back towards them causing them to fall backwards but must do so within 2 steps. You can also catch under their knee while they are doing a swing knee and topple them over backwards but must do so within 2 steps.

B. Required: Clothing and Equipment;

1. Protective groin cup
2. Protective mouthpiece properly fitted
3. Chest protection/sports bra (females only)

4. Rash guard or fitted top (females only)
  5. Shin, instep, elbow, and/or knee supports
  6. Oil on face
  7. Thai oil may be applied to legs only
5. Hand Wraps.
- a. A maximum of one roll (no more than 2” wide by 15 yards in length) of white, soft, cloth gauze is permitted per hand. The gauze may not exceed the wrist of the contestant glove. The exposed thumb is an option to be protected.
  - b. A maximum of one roll (no more than 1.25” wide by 10’ in length) of white athletic tape is permitted per hand. The tape may not exceed the wrist of the competitor’s gloves. Tape may be placed through the fingers but may not cover the knuckles. The exposed thumb is an option to be protected.
  - c. A single layer of elastic or flex-type tape is allowed to be applied over the completed wrap.
  - d. Approved tape/gauze of all brands may be allowed.

C. Forbidden:

1. Tape over knuckles
2. Oil or grease on any part of the competitor’s body (other than face & Thai oil on legs)
3. Apparel or equipment which includes metallic and/or hard plastic and/or edge or surface

D. Corner-men and Trainer: Please refer to 18VAC120-42-121. Number and conduct of seconds.

E. Weight Classes:

Weight Class	Weight	Weight Difference	Glove weight
Mini Flyweight	105 and down	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Light Flyweight	105.1 - 108	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Flyweight	108.1- 112	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Super Flyweight	112.1 - 115	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Bantamweight	115.1 - 118	3 lbs.	8 oz.
Super Bantamweight	118.1 - 122	5 lbs.	8 oz.
Featherweight	122.1 - 126	5 lbs.	8 oz.



Super Featherweight	126.1 - 130	7 lbs.	8 oz.
Lightweight	130.1 - 135	7 lbs.	8 oz.
Super Lightweight	135.1 - 140	7 lbs.	8 oz.
Welterweight	140.1 - 147	7 lbs.	8 oz.
Super Welterweight	147.1 - 154	7 lbs.	8 oz.
Middleweight	154.1 - 160	7 lbs.	8 oz.
Super Middleweight	160.1 - 168	7 lbs.	10 oz.
Light Heavyweight	168.1 - 175	9 lbs.	10 oz.
Cruiserweight	175.1 - 190	12 lbs.	10 oz.
Super Heavyweight	190.1 - 210	No limit	10 oz.
Heavyweight	210.1 - 230	No limit	10 oz.
Super Heavy Weight	230.1 and up	No. limit	10 oz.

G. Length and number of rounds:

1. Non-Title bouts shall consist of three, three minute rounds, with one (1) minute rest in between rounds. Title bouts shall consist of five three minute rounds, with one (1) minute rest in between rounds.

**18VAC120-42-290. Professional Kickboxing rules.**

1. Bouts may consist of a maximum of ten (10) rounds of three (3) minutes each in duration, with a minimum of one (1) minute rest period between each round.
2. The referee and/or the ringside physician are the only individuals authorized to stop the contest, as determined by the presiding commission. This rule shall not preclude a video or other review of a decision under the procedures of the applicable regulatory authority if a protest is filed claiming a clear rule violation.
3. All bouts are evaluated and scored by three (3) judges.
4. Scoring:
  - a. The 10 Point Must System will be the standard system of scoring a bout. Under the 10 Point Must Scoring System, 10 points must be awarded to the winner of the round.
  - b. The contestant who has lost the round may be awarded 9, 8, or 7 points.
  - c. If the round is determined to be an even round, a score of 10/10 may be awarded.
  - d. Partial or incomplete rounds will be scored. If no significant action has occurred, the round shall be scored as an even round. This is at the discretion of the judges.
5. Scoring Criteria: Bouts will be evaluated using the following prioritized criteria;

- a. Number of Knockdowns.
  - b. Cumulative effective Impact on the Opponent.
  - c. Number of Clean Scoring Strikes
  - d. Ring Generalship or Aggressiveness
6. In the event of a knockdown the referee shall send the standing contestant to a neutral corner and administer a Mandatory Eight (8) Count to the downed contestant.

A knockdown is defined as when a contestant touches the mat with anything other than the soles of their feet as the result of a legal, damaging strike, or is in a defenseless position grabbing the opponent, or hanging on or over the ropes. The referee will have sole discretion in determining a knock down versus a slip.

If a contestant goes down from what the referee indicates is a "slip" but fails to rise after the referee's repeated commands, the referee will initiate a count, and follow the procedures of a knockdown. If the contestant does not rise at the count of 10, it will be considered a TKO.

If a contestant injures him/herself and then fails to intelligently defend him/herself by turning their back on the opponent, the referee may, in the proper exercise of their discretion either treat the injury the same as one produced by a fair blow from the opponent and follow the procedures for a knockdown, or terminate the bout and declare the opponent winner by TKO.

7. The Three (3) Knockdown Rule is in effect only where a contestant has been knocked down 3 times in the same round by strikes/kicks to the head. In this event, this contestant shall be determined to have lost the bout by Technical knockout.
8. There is no Standing Eight (8) Count.
9. A contestant who has been knocked down cannot be saved by the bell in any round, including the final round.
10. All contestants are required to wear a mouthpiece during any contest. No round can begin without the mouthpieces in place. If any mouthpiece becomes dislodged during the contest, the referee shall call time and have the mouthpiece rinsed and put back in the contestant's mouth at the first opportune moment, without interfering with the action. The referee may deduct points if he/she feels the mouthpiece is being intentionally dislodged.
11. A contestant shall receive a 20 second count if the contestant is knocked out of the ring and onto the floor. The contestant shall NOT be assisted by anyone, including spectators

or his seconds. If the contestant is assisted, he may be deducted points, or disqualified, at the sole discretion of the referee. If the contestant falls or is thrown from the ring the referee shall "stop time", allow the contestant to return, seek the council of the ringside physician and/or penalize the other contestant if there was a fouling action, where appropriate.

12. Fouls:

- a. Head butts.
- b. Groin strikes.
- c. Thrusting or Linear kicks directed at the knee joint
- d. Striking the back of the head or the spine -defined as striking any of the area beginning at the back of the head starting at the crown of the head and running directly down the center of the head, spreading from ear to ear in the back of the head, running down the entire rear portion of the neck, and beginning again at the occipital junction and stopping at the top of the trapezius, and again from the trapezius muscle down the spine to the tailbone.
- e. Attacks to the throat.
- f. Striking a downed contestant (a contestant is considered "down" whenever they have any part of their body other than the soles of their feet touching the canvas).
- g. Failure to obey the referee's commands.
- h. Striking on a break.
- i. Striking after a bell.
- j. Holding or using the ropes while striking or clinching.
- k. Timidity: Repeatedly, intentionally avoiding engagement or contact with the opponent.
- l. Use of abusive language and/or gestures.
- m. Causing intentional delays in the action:  
For example, repeatedly spitting out the mouth piece, falling out of the ring to cause delay.
- n. Thumbing
- o. Holding the opponent's leg without executing a legal strike or while executing more than one striking technique. (A contestant may grab the opponent's kicking leg and

immediately execute one legal strike while taking one step, and then they must immediately release the leg.)

- p. Any effort to down a contestant by a method other than a legal strike or strikes; this includes, but is not limited to joint locks, submission attempts, sweeps, reaps, takedowns and throws.
- q. Biting.
- r. Spitting at the opponent.
- s. Striking with the elbow, arm, wrist, or other part of the glove that is not the padded part of the glove
- t. Holding, which is defined as repeatedly grabbing, grasping or tying up an opponent in order to prevent the opponent from striking. Clinching is allowed in order to immediately launch a credible knee attack. If in the referee's estimation the attack and/or counter knee attack is consistent and effective, he may allow it to continue for up to five seconds at which point he will separate the contestants. If within the five seconds the knee attack or counter-attack wanes or appears ineffective the referee will immediately separate the contestants.

13. Permissible Strikes:

- a. All boxing strikes to permissible target areas.
- b. Spinning backhands/fists to permissible target areas
- c. Knee strikes to permissible target areas
- d. All kicking strikes to permissible targets above the beltline
- e. All kicking strikes executed with the foot or shin directed to the legs (excluding linear or thrusting kicks directed to the knee joint.

14. Permissible target areas:

- a. front and sides of the head;
- b. front and sides of the torso above the belt;
- c. entire leg, except the knee joint by thrusting or linear kicks.

15. The winner of a match may be decided in the following ways:

- a. Points Decision: When both contestants finish the scheduled rounds, victory is

awarded by majority decision of the judging panel.

- b. **Knockout:** If a contestant is incapable of resuming the bout within the referee's ten-count due to legal strikes.
- c. **Technical Knockout:**
  - i. If the official determines a contestant shows no will to, or is incapable of resuming the bout due to a legal technique
  - ii. If the official determines the contestant can longer intelligently defend him/herself
  - iii. If the contestant does not leave his corner to take part in the bout following the sounding of the bell.
  - iv. If the referee is of the opinion that one contestant is outmatched by the opponent and continuing the match would jeopardize the athlete's health and safety
  - v. If the bout is terminated for medical reasons due to injury resulting from a legal technique.
  - vi. Where an athlete's corner indicates to the official they no longer wish to continue the contest and "throws in the towel") If a contestant or his coach/corner man gives up the bout. The contestant or his coach/corner man will indicate this to the referee or the regulatory representative assigned to his corner (The corner "throws in the towel").

**D. Disqualification:**

- 1. The referee disqualifies the contestant for any reason including intentional, deliberate, flagrant or repeated fouling.
- 2. The referee disqualifies the contestant if anyone from their corner enters the ring during the bout or touches one of the contestants during the contest, other than during the rest period, or when permitted by the commission representative.

**E. Draw:**

- 1. If following the end of all rounds, at least two of the three judges do not pronounce one of the contestants a winner.
- 2. If both contestants go down at the same time and neither can resume the bout within the referee's ten-count.

**F. No Decision:**

1. If a contestant cannot continue as the result of an accidental foul and the bell has not yet sounded completing the second round of a three round bout, or completed the third round of a five round bout, or completed the fourth round of a bout scheduled for more than five rounds.
  2. If the referee decides both contestants must be disqualified
  3. Where the commission determines any other determination would result in a miscarriage of justice.
- G. A contestant who has been struck with a low blow is allowed up to five minutes to recover from the foul as long as in the referee and/or ringside doctor's opinion the contestant may continue on in the contest. If the contestant states that they can continue on before the five minutes of time have expired, the referee shall as soon as practical restart the bout. If the contestant goes over the five (5) minute time allotment, the bout cannot be restarted, and the contest must come to an end with the outcome determined by the round and time in which the bout was stopped.
- H. Injuries Sustained by Intentional Fouls:
1. If an intentional foul causes an injury, which is severe enough to terminate the bout immediately, the contestant causing the foul shall lose by disqualification.
  2. If the referee determines that a contest may continue despite an injury caused by an intentional foul, the referee shall immediately inform the Commission's representative and the judges and the judges shall deduct the points as determined by the referee and/or the commission's representative
  3. If an injury caused by an intentional foul results in the contest being stopped later in the bout, or in a later round:
    - i. If the injured contestant is ahead on the scorecards, he shall be declared the winner by a technical decision, or
    - ii. If the injured contestant is behind or even on the scorecards, the contest shall be declared a technical draw.
  4. If a contestant injures himself while attempting to foul his opponent, but is able to continue fighting, the referee shall take no action and treat the injury as if produced by a fair blow. If the referee determined contestant who injured him/herself is unable to continue, that contestant will lose by the technical knockout/knockout
- I. Injuries Sustained By Unintentional Fouls:
1. If an unintentional foul causes an injury, which is severe enough to terminate the bout immediately, the contest shall result in a no decision, if a bout has not

completed the rounds necessary to score a technical decision.

2. If an unintentional foul causes an injury severe enough to terminate the bout once the bout is considered official, the bout shall be awarded to the contestant ahead on the scorecards, including incomplete rounds, by way of a technical decision

A bout is considered "official" if completing the second round of a three round bout, or completed the third round of a five round bout, or completed the fourth round of a bout scheduled for more than five rounds.

If the injury from the unintentional foul is not severe enough to immediately stop the bout but later becomes aggravated and causes the bout to be stopped, the bout shall be awarded to the contestant ahead on the scorecards, including incomplete rounds, by way of a technical decision if the bout has been official. Otherwise the bout will result in a no decision,

3. If a contestant injures themselves while attempting to intentionally foul their opponent:

- i. and is able to continue fighting, the referee will not take any action;
- ii. If the referee feels that a contestant has conducted themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner, the referee may stop the bout and disqualify the contestant.
- iii. If the offending contestant fails to intelligently defend him/herself by turning their back on the opponent, the referee may, in the proper exercise of their discretion either treat the injury the same as one produced by a fair blow from the opponent and follow the procedures for a knockdown, or terminate the bout and declare the opponent winner by TKO.

- J. 8 oz. and 10 oz. boxing gloves are the industry standard for professional kickboxing. All issues pertaining to mandatory and optional equipment will be determined by the presiding commission.

- K. Male contestants must not wear clothing or other attire on their upper bodies. Female contestants must wear short sleeved (above the elbow) form fitting tops or a sports bra.

- L. No contestant may leave the ring before the end of the bout. Should the contestant fail to resume the bout following the end of the rest period, the referee shall begin counting as though there were a knock-down. At the conclusion of the count, the opponent shall be awarded the bout by way of technical knockout.

**18VAC120-42-300. Rules for other contests.**

Rules for aikido, karate, judo, taekwondo or similar contests shall be the mixed martial arts rules set forth in 18VAC120-442-110 or other rules submitted with the event application, approved by the department, and agreed to by all licensees participating in the event.

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

DRAFT AGENDA  
Materials contained in this agenda are proposed topics for discussion  
And are not to be construed as regulation or official board position  
DRAFT AGENDA



## PART V.

### STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND PERFORMANCE.

#### 18VAC120-42-310. Grounds for disciplinary action by the department.

- A. The department shall have the authority to discipline a licensee through a fine, license suspension, or license revocation for the same reason it may deny licensure or renewal, and for the following reasons, as may be appropriate:
1. Violating or inducing another person to violate any provisions of the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC §6301 et seq.), Chapters 1, 2, 3 or 8.1 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia or of this chapter.
  2. Using misrepresentation or fraud to obtain or attempt to obtain a license or event license.
  3. Having a medical condition which makes participation in events a health hazard.
  4. Altering a license issued by the department.
  5. Having been convicted in any jurisdiction of any felony or of any misdemeanor involving lying, cheating or stealing, or of any misdemeanor for acts carried out while engaged in boxing, wrestling, or other athletic activities. Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for the purposes of this subsection. A certified copy of a final order, decree or case decision by a court or regulatory agency with the lawful authority to issue such order, decree or case decision shall be admissible as prima facie evidence of such conviction or discipline.
  6. Having been the subject of disciplinary action taken by Virginia or another jurisdiction in connection with the participation in or promotion of professional athletic contests or activities, including but not limited to, monetary penalties, fines, suspension, revocation, or surrender of a license in connection with a disciplinary action.
  7. Failing or refusing to appear when directed by the department or its contractor for the purposes of weighing or conducting a medical examination.
  8. Failing to furnish a valid reason or a doctor's certificate to explain any failure to appear at an event in which an applicant or licensee agreed to participate by signing a contract.
  9. Using unsportsmanlike conduct or other inappropriate behavior inconsistent with generally accepted methods of competition.
  10. Failure to meet financial obligations that results in collection proceedings against the bond required by this chapter and §54.1-833 A of the Code of Virginia.

11. Use of profane or abusive language, during the event, including at the weigh-in and prebout meeting.
  12. Threatening or inflicting bodily harm upon an official or members of the audience during an event.
  13. Making allegations of illegal or improper conduct against officials that the licensee knows or should have known to be false.
  14. Use of any alcohol, controlled substances, or stimulants in any part of the body prior to or during an event or being found to be under the influence of alcohol, controlled substances or stimulants during an event.
  15. Failure to submit to a urinalysis or chemical test before or after an event upon request of the department or its contractor.
  16. Failure to fulfill contracts for participation in an event.
  17. Wearing facial cosmetics or jewelry of any kind, including any type of body piercing by any participants during a contest, except that wrestlers may wear cosmetics or jewelry unless the event official determines there is a safety risk.
  18. Failure by any participant to secure hair with soft, nonabrasive materials during a contest, when deemed appropriate by the department or its contractor.
  19. Allowing a license, certificate or registration to be used by another.
- B. The department shall conduct disciplinary procedures in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§2.2-4000 et seq. of the Code of Virginia).

*Historical Notes*

*Derived from Virginia Register Volume 15, Issue 21, eff. August 5, 1999; amended, Virginia Register Volume 19, Issue 23, eff. August 27, 2003; Volume 23, Issue 24, eff. September 5, 2007.*

**18VAC120-42-320. Reporting the results of Martial Arts bouts.**

Not later than two business days after the conclusion of a mixed martial arts match, the department or its contractor shall report the results of such match and any related ineligibility to compete in martial arts bouts to each registry as required by the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC §6301 et seq.), as amended.

**PART VII.  
GATE FEES.**

**18VAC120-42-330. Reporting, verification, and payment of gate fees.**

- A. No person, except for members of a local police department or rescue squad on duty covering the event, promoters, his representatives, contestants, and the department or designee may be admitted to the event without a ticket.
- B. Each ticket, except those for the working press and official photographers, shall have the price, name of the promoter, date, and place of the event printed plainly on it.
- C. No promoter shall sell a ticket at a price other than the price that appears on the ticket.
- D. No promoter shall change a ticket price or the place or date of the event without the approval of the department.
- E. Tickets of different prices shall be printed in different colors.
- F. Each ticket issued to the press shall be marked "press."
- G. A maximum of 2.0% of the tickets to an event may be complimentary.
- H. Each complimentary ticket shall be marked complimentary.
- I. Each ticket shall be separated from the stub when entering through the gate. No person shall occupy a seat without a stub.
- J. Each promoter shall furnish to the department, within 3 business days after the completion of each event, a written and verified report on the form provided by the department showing the number of tickets sold, unsold, and given away, the amount of the proceeds donated to a charitable organization that is tax exempt under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and the amount of gross proceeds thereof for such events originating in the Commonwealth. The report shall also include the total gross proceeds from the sale of rights to distribute in any manner such event by any video, telephonic, or other communication method involving the control of electrons or other charge carriers for such live events originating in the Commonwealth.
- K. The promoter shall pay the department, within the 3 business days following the event, a fee of (i) 5.0% of the first \$100,000 of its total gross receipts and (ii) 2.5% of the remainder of its total gross proceeds. These fees shall not be reduced for portions of an event containing amateur matches as set forth in 18VAC120-40-10.
- L. The department or its contractor may examine or cause to be audited the records and accounts of the promoter.

**Included in this booklet are relevant excerpts from the *Code of Virginia*. Please note that the Virginia General Assembly is responsible for creating and amending the *Code*, not the Director, Department, or the Advisory Board. The version contained herein contains all changes, if any, that have been made by the General Assembly through the 2016 session. It is your responsibility to stay informed of revisions to the regulations and the statutes governing your profession or occupation. Please consult the General Assembly or your local library for annual changes.**

**§ 54.1-828. Definitions.**

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Amateur" means an individual who has never participated in a boxing, martial arts, or professional wrestling event for money, compensation, or reward other than a suitably inscribed memento.

"Boxer" means a person competing in the sport of boxing.

"Boxing" means the contact sport of attack or defense using fists.

"Cable television system" means any facility consisting of a set of closed transmission paths and associated equipment designed to provide video programming to multiple subscribers when subscriber interaction is required to select a specific video program for an access fee established by the cable television system for that specific video program.

"Contractor" means any person who has been recognized by the Director, through a contract pursuant to § 54.1-832, as an appropriate responsible party to provide services to assist the Commonwealth in complying with the provisions of this chapter.

"Department" means the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation or its successor.

"Director" means the Director of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

"Event" means any boxing, martial arts, or professional wrestling show that includes one or more bouts, contests, or matches.

"Exhibition" means any occurrence in which boxers or martial artists show or display skills without striving to win.

"Manager" means any person who serves as a representative or agent of a boxer, martial artist, or professional wrestler to arrange for his participation in an event.

"Martial artist" means a person competing in the sport of martial arts.

"Martial arts" or "mixed martial arts" means any of several Asian arts of combat or self-defense, alone or in combination, including but not limited to aikido, karate, judo, muay thai, or taekwondo, usually practiced as sport and which may involve the use of striking weapons.

"Matchmaker" means any person who proposes, selects, arranges for, or in any manner procures specific individuals to be contestants in an event.

"Person" means a natural person, corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association or any other entity.

"Professional" means a person who participates or has ever participated for money, compensation, or reward other than a suitably inscribed memento in any boxing, martial arts, or professional wrestling event.

"Professional wrestler" means any professional participating in professional wrestling.

"Professional wrestling" means an event in which contestants incorporate the sport of wrestling into choreographed performances.

"Promote" or "promotion" means to organize, arrange, publicize, or conduct an event or exhibition in the Commonwealth.

"Promoter" means any person who undertakes to promote an event or exhibition.

"Regulant" means any person required by this chapter to obtain a prior authorization from the Department.

"Sanctioning organization" means an entity approved by the Director pursuant to § [54.1-829.1](#).

"Trainer, " "second" or "cut man" means an individual who undertakes to assure the well-being of a boxer or martial artist by providing instruction or advice concerning techniques or strategies of boxing or martial arts, and who may work in the corner with a boxer or martial artist between the rounds of a match to assure his well-being and provide necessary equipment and advice concerning match participation.

"Wrestler" means any person competing or participating as an opponent in wrestling.

"Wrestling" means any of several styles of physical competition in which individuals attempt to subdue or unbalance an opponent, including Greco-Roman, freestyle, grappling, or submission, usually practiced as a sport.

1998, c. 895; 2005, c. 287; 2015, cc. 216, 264; 2016, c. 756.

**§ 54.1-829. Authorization from Director required; bond; physical examination; emergency medical services vehicles; physician; and health insurance.**

A. No person shall act as a promoter, matchmaker, trainer, boxer, martial artist, or professional wrestler in the Commonwealth without first having obtained authorization for such activity from the Department or sanctioning organization approved by the Director pursuant to § 54.1-829.1 and such authorization remains in full force and effect.

B. No authorization to act as a promoter shall be granted unless the applicant executes and files with the Department a bond, in such penalty as the Department shall determine through regulation, conditioned on the payment of the fees and penalties imposed by this chapter and for the fulfillment of contracts made with professional contestants in accordance with Department regulations. This subsection shall not apply to a promoter applying to conduct an amateur-only event under the authority of a sanctioning organization approved by the Director pursuant to § 54.1-829.1.

C. Each boxer and martial artist shall, and each professional wrestler may, be examined prior to entering the ring by a physician who has been licensed to practice medicine in the Commonwealth for at least five years. The physician shall be appointed by the Department or sanctioning organization and shall certify in writing that the contestant's physical condition is such that he is physically able to engage in the contest.

D. No event in which boxers or martial artists are contestants shall be conducted without the continuous presence at ringside of a physician who has been licensed to practice medicine in the Commonwealth for at least five years, and unless an emergency medical services vehicle is at the site of the event.

E. No boxer or martial artist shall participate in any event unless covered by a health insurance policy with minimum coverage in an amount determined by Department regulation.

1998, c. 895; 2007, c. 853; 2015, cc. 216, 264, 502, 503; 2016, c. 756.

**§ 54.1-829.1. Sanctioning organization; amateur martial arts events.**

A. No event in which amateur participants compete in martial arts shall be authorized in the Commonwealth unless the amateur event is conducted by a sanctioning organization approved by the Director. Only the results of amateur events conducted by a sanctioning organization in good standing and in compliance with this section shall be recognized for purposes of reporting bout results to a national database or official registry. Every sanctioning organization, insofar as practicable, shall observe and apply the unified rules adopted by the Association of Boxing Commissions. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, for purposes of amateur martial arts events, weight classes and bout rules governing round length, judging, and scoring shall conform with the Association of Boxing Commissions unified rules.

B. No amateur martial artist shall compete in an event who has:

1. Not attained the age of 18 years;
2. Been knocked out in the 60 days immediately preceding the date of the event;
3. Been technically knocked out in the 30 days preceding the date of the event;
4. Been a contestant in an event consisting of (i) more than six rounds during the 15 days preceding the date of the event or (ii) six or fewer rounds during the seven days preceding the event;
5. Suffered a cerebral hemorrhage or other serious physical injury;
6. Been found to be blind or vision impaired in one or both eyes;
7. Been denied a license or approval to compete by another jurisdiction for medical reasons;
8. Failed to provide negative test results, dated within 180 days preceding the date of the event, for the following: (i) antibodies to the human immunodeficiency virus; (ii) hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg); and (iii) antibodies to the hepatitis C virus; or
9. Failed to provide written certification from a licensed physician, dated within 180 days preceding the date of the event, attesting to the contestant's good physical health and absence of any preexisting conditions or observed abnormalities that would prevent participation in the event. The examination performed by the ringside physician at the event pursuant to clause (ii) of subdivision C 3 shall not satisfy this requirement.

C. For each amateur martial arts event, the sanctioning organization shall:

1. Review the records, experience, and consecutive losses for each amateur martial artist prior to each event to determine, to the extent possible, that contestants scheduled to compete are substantially equal in skills and ability;
2. Verify that each amateur martial artist scheduled to compete is covered by health insurance;
3. Appoint a physician licensed to practice medicine in the Commonwealth for at least five years to remain at ringside on a continuous basis. Duties of the ringside physician shall include (i) conducting a physical examination

of each referee immediately prior to the event to assure his fitness to act in such capacity, (ii) conducting a physical examination and taking a medical history of each amateur martial artist prior to the contestant's entering the ring and certifying the contestant's physical condition, (iii) signaling the referee immediately in the event that an injury is observed, (iv) rendering immediate medical aid to any amateur martial artist injured during an event, and (v) ensuring that all substances in the possession of seconds, trainers, or cut men are appropriate for use on amateur martial artists during the course of the event;

4. Assign a sufficient number of qualified officials, including locker room inspectors, judges, timekeepers, and referees, to protect the health and safety of amateur martial artists and the public. Duties of the referee shall include (i) providing prefight instructions to the contestants; (ii) ensuring that each amateur martial artist is wearing gloves supplied by the sanctioning organization or event promoter that are in new or good condition, weighing between four and six ounces; (iii) exercising supervision over the conduct of the bout and taking immediate corrective action when necessary; (iv) immediately stopping any bout when, in his judgment, one contestant is outclassed by the other, injured, or otherwise unable to continue safely; (v) striving to perform his duties in a manner that does not impede the fair participation of either contestant; (vi) consulting, when he deems appropriate, with the ringside physician on the advisability of stopping the bout if either contestant appears injured or unable to continue; (vii) counting for knockdowns and knockouts, determining fouls and stopping contests, and immediately stopping any bout if one or both contestants are not putting forth their best effort; and (viii) ensuring the health and well-being of the amateur martial artists to the greatest extent possible; and

5. Require a fully equipped emergency medical services vehicle with a currently trained ambulance crew at the site of every amateur event for its entire duration.

D. Any sanctioning organization seeking approval under this section shall make a written application on a form prescribed by the Director. The application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$500. The Director shall annually approve sanctioning organizations whose applications



satisfactorily demonstrate evidence of standards and operations in place that are at least as rigorous as and limited to those required by this section. Following an informal fact-finding proceeding conducted pursuant to § 2.2-4019, the Director may withdraw his approval of any sanctioning organization that has failed to comply with this section based on (i) the review of the annual report submitted by the sanctioning organization or (ii) review of a complaint received pursuant to subdivision A 8 of § 54.1-201 or § 54.1-307.1.

E. A sanctioning organization seeking approval from the Director shall provide documented evidence (i) of operation as a business for at least the immediately preceding three years; (ii) of at least five years of experience as a sanctioning organization representing at least two different promotions during such five-year period or that the principal officers have at least eight years of experience working as a referee or head official for an established sanctioning organization without adverse financial or disciplinary action in any jurisdiction; (iii) indicating that none of its officers, employees, or agents, directly or indirectly, has any pecuniary interest in, or holds any position with, any business associated with a promoter or otherwise operates for the sole benefit of a single promoter; and (iv) of assurance that events will be conducted in a fair and impartial manner with avoidance of any impropriety or appearance of impropriety.

F. Each approved sanctioning organization shall submit an annual report to the Director on or before February 1, with a summary of the events conducted for the preceding calendar year. The Director may address any operational or compliance issues with the sanctioning organization consistent with and in furtherance of the objectives of this section. The Director shall not intervene in the internal activities of a sanctioning organization except to the extent necessary to prevent or cure violations of this section or any statute governing the persons or activities regulated pursuant to this chapter.

G. The Commonwealth, the Director, the Department, and any employee or representative shall be indemnified and held harmless from any liability resulting from or caused by a sanctioning organization or persons conducting activities on behalf of such regulant.

2015, cc. 216, 264; 2016, c. 756.

#### § 54.1-830. Exemptions.

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

1. Amateur wrestling bouts;
2. Amateur exhibitions and the amateur participants therein;
3. Engagements involving amateur martial arts that are conducted by or held under the sponsorship of (i) any elementary or secondary school or public or private institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth, (ii) the Department of Corrections involving inmates of any state correctional institution, or (iii) the United States Olympic Committee; or
4. Amateur boxing.

1998, c. 895; 2015, cc. 216, 264; 2016, c. 756.

**§ 54.1-831. Powers and duties of the Department.**

The Department shall administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter. In addition to the powers and duties otherwise conferred by law, the Director shall have the powers and duties of a regulatory board as contained in §§ 54.1-201 and 54.1-202, and shall have the power and duty to:

1. Promulgate regulations in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) which implement the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.) and protect the public against incompetent, unqualified, unscrupulous or unfit persons engaging in the activities regulated by this chapter.

The regulations shall include requirements for (i) initial authorization and renewal of the authorization; (ii) authorization and conduct of events; (iii) standards of practice for persons arranging, promoting, conducting, supervising, and participating in events; (iv) grounds for disciplinary actions against regulants; (v) records to be kept and maintained by regulants; (vi) the manner in which fees are to be accounted for and submitted to the Department, provided, however, that no gate fee shall be required for amateur-only events conducted by a sanctioning organization approved by the Director pursuant to § 54.1-829.1, and (vii) minimum health coverage for injuries sustained in a boxing or martial arts match. The Department shall have direct oversight of professional events to assure the safety and well-being of boxers, martial artists, and professional wrestlers, except that those portions of an event containing amateur bouts shall be conducted under the oversight of a sanctioning organization. Sanctioning organizations shall have sole responsibility for direct oversight of amateur-only events in which martial artists compete.

2. Charge each applicant for authorization and for renewals of authorization a nonrefundable fee subject to the provisions of § 54.1-113 and subdivision A 4 of § 54.1-201. A sanctioning organization shall be subject to the application fee provisions of subsection C of § 54.1-829.1.

3. Conduct investigations to determine the suitability of applicants for authorization and to determine the regulant's compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

4. Conduct investigations, as to whether monopolies, combinations, or other circumstances exist to restrain matches or exhibitions of boxing, martial arts, or professional wrestling anywhere in the Commonwealth. The Attorney General may assist investigations at the request of the Department.

5. Exercise jurisdiction over all boxing, martial arts, and professional wrestling conducted within the Commonwealth by any person, except where otherwise exempted.

1998, c. 895; 2010, c. 764; 2012, c. 769; 2015, cc. 216, 264; 2016, c. 756.

**§ 54.1-834. Prohibited activities; penalties.**

A. No betting or wagering shall be permitted at an event or exhibition before, during, or after the event in the building where the event is held.

B. No person shall participate in a sham or fake boxing or martial arts contest. The Department shall have the authority to order, without a hearing, the person controlling the purse to hold the distribution to contestants, promoters, and trainers pending a public hearing by the Department. The Department shall, simultaneously with the issuance of such order to retain the share or purse, institute proceedings for a hearing to determine whether a sham or fake boxing or martial arts contest has occurred.

C. It shall be a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to violate this section or any statute or regulation governing the persons or activities regulated pursuant to this chapter.

D. The third or any subsequent conviction for violating any provision of this section during a 36-month period shall constitute a Class 6 felony.

1998, c. 895; 2015, cc. 216, 264; 2016, c. 756.

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Materials contained in this agenda are proposed topics for discussion  
And are not to be construed as regulation or official board position  
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Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

**9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 400  
Richmond, Virginia 23233**

PRE-SORT  
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Permit No. 2005

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**NOTICE**

**PLEASE REFER TO FIRST PAGE OF BOOKLET FOR NOTES ON IMPORTANT CHANGES.**



# ASSOCIATION OF BOXING COMMISSIONS AND COMBATIVE SPORTS

## UNIFIED RULES OF MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

AS APPROVED APRIL 2001. AMENDED 2010. AMENDED AUGUST 3, 2016. AMENDED WITH PROCEDURES JULY 26, 2017. AMENDED WITH PROCEDURES AUGUST 1, 2018. AMENDED WITH PROCEDURE AUGUST 1, 2019. AMENDED WITH PROCEDURE JULY 26, 2022.

**Note: These are the Official Unified Rules of MMA. Any other form of these rules may not be called the “Unified Rules of MMA” and shall be referred to by the name of the commission sanctioning the/an event.**

1. Each round shall consist of a five (5) minute duration (professional), with a one (1) minute rest period between rounds.
  - a. No contests shall exceed five (5) rounds and/or twenty-five (25) minutes.
  - b. Bouts may consist of one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4), or five (5) rounds, with a five (5) minute duration.
  - c. No contestant shall exceed competing more than five (5) rounds and/or twenty-five (25) minutes of fighting in a twenty-four (24) hour period.
2. The referee is the sole arbiter of a bout and is the only individual authorized to stop a contest. This shall not preclude a video or other review of a decision under the procedure of the applicable regulatory authority if a protest is filed claiming a clear rule violation.
  - a. The authority of a referee begins when the inspector(s) exit the cage/ring and does not end until the inspector(s) re-enter the cage/ring, upon conclusion of the fight.
3. Instant replay may be used to review a “Fight Ending Sequence” and shall only be used after a fight has been officially stopped. Once instant replay has been used to review a fight ending sequence, the fight shall not be resumed.
4. All fighters are required to wear a mouthpiece during competition. The round cannot begin without the mouthpiece. If the mouthpiece is dislodged during competition, the referee will call time and have the mouthpiece replaced at the first opportune moment, without interfering with the immediate action. Points may be deducted by the referee if he/she feels the mouthpiece is being purposefully spit out.
5. If an MMA bout is being conducted in a ring and a fighter is knocked out of the ring, the fighter must return to the ring unassisted by spectators or his/her seconds. If assisted by anyone, the fighter may lose points or be disqualified with such a decision being within the sole discretion of the referee. Once knocked from the ring, the competitor will have five (5) minutes to return to fighting surface, similar to an accidental foul, but shall be examined by the ringside physician before returning to action.
6. The reapplication of petroleum jelly or another similar substance, to the face, may be allowed between rounds and shall only be applied by an approved cutman or licensed cornerman.
- 7.. Hand Wraps.
  - a. A maximum of one roll (no more than 2” wide by 15 yards in length) of white, soft, cloth gauze is permitted per hand. The gauze may not exceed the wrist of the competitor’s glove. The exposed thumb is an option to be protected.
  - b. A maximum of one roll (no more than 1.25” wide by 10’ in length) of white athletic tape is permitted per hand. The tape may not exceed the wrist of the competitor’s gloves. Tape may be placed through the fingers but may not cover the knuckles. The exposed thumb is an option to be protected.
  - c. A single layer of elastic or flex-type tape is allowed to be applied over the completed wrap.
  - d. Approved tape/gauze of all brands may be allowed.

8. Joint/Body Coverings.
  - a. Other than the competitor's hands (as previously listed), there will be no taping, covering or protective gear of any kind on the upper body. This includes but is not limited to: joint sleeves, padding, any form of brace or body gauze/tape.
  - b. A competitor may use soft neoprene type sleeves to cover only the knee or ankle joints. Approved sleeves may not have: padding, Velcro, plastic, metal, ties or any other material considered to be unsafe or that may create an unfair advantage. Tape and gauze or any materials other than the approved sleeves are not permitted on the lower body. The sleeves must be Black in color, with the exception of matching the athletes Commission assigned corner with sleeves being Red or Blue in color as appropriate.
9. Cage/Ring Attire.
  - a. All mixed martial artists will be required to wear such protective gear as deemed necessary by the Commission.
  - b. Male contestants shall not wear any form of clothing on their upper body.
  - c. Male and female mixed martial artists shall wear the appropriate trunks, mouthpiece, and gloves. Male mixed martial artists shall also wear the appropriate groin protection.
  - d. Female mixed martial artists shall wear a short sleeved (above the elbow) or sleeveless form fitting rash guard and/or sports bra(s). No loose-fitting tops and/or breast protectors shall be allowed. Female competitors will follow the same requirements for bottom covering as the male competitors, minus the requirement for groin protection.
  - e. The hem of the trunks may not extend below the knee.
  - f. Fighting shorts/trunks shall not have exposed Velcro, pockets, or zippers.
  - g. Mixed martial artists in the same match, contest, or exhibition may wear different color trunks or be designated by glove taping and/or glove coloring to the corner they are assigned.
  - h. Mixed martial artists shall not wear shoes in the cage or ring.
  - i. When deemed necessary by the referee all mixed martial artists shall have their hair secured in a manner that does not interfere with the vision and safety of either contestant.
    - i. No object can be worn to secure the contestant's hair which may cause injury to either contestant.
  - j. The wearing of jewelry will be strictly prohibited during all contests.
  - k. Wearing body cosmetics shall be prohibited during all contests. Wearing facial cosmetics shall be at the discretion of the commission and/or referee.

### **Fouls**

1. Butting with the head;
  - a. The head may not be used as a striking instrument in any fashion. Any use of the head as a striking instrument whether head to head, head to body or otherwise is illegal.
2. Eye gouging of any kind;
  - a. Eye gouging by means of fingers, chin, or elbow is illegal. Legal strikes or punches that contact the fighter's eye socket are not eye gouging and shall be considered legal attacks.
3. Biting or spitting at an opponent;
  - a. Biting in any form is illegal. A fighter must recognize that a referee may not be able to physically observe some actions and must make the referee aware if they are being bit during an exhibition of unarmed combat.
4. Fish Hooking;
  - a. Any attempt by a fighter to use their fingers in a manner that attacks their opponent's mouth, nose or ears, stretching the skin to that area will be considered "Fish hooking". Fish hooking generally is the placing of fingers into the mouth or your opponent and pulling your hands in opposing directions while holding onto the skin of your opponent.



5. Hair pulling;
  - a. Pulling of the hair in any fashion is an illegal action. A fighter may not grab a hold of his opponent's hair to control their opponent in any way. If a fighter has long hair, they may not use their hair as a tool for holding or choking in any fashion.
6. Spiking the opponent to the canvas onto the head or neck (pile-driving);
  - a. Any throw with an arc to its motion is to be considered a legal throw. It does not matter if the opponents head hits the canvas. A pile driver is considered to be any throw where you control your opponent's body placing their feet up in the air with their head straight down and then forcibly drives the opponents head into the canvas or flooring material. It should be noted when a fighter is placed into a submission hold by their opponent, if that fighter is capable of elevating their opponent, they may bring that opponent down in any fashion they desire because they are not in control of their opponent's body. The fighter who is attempting the submission can either adjust their position or let go of their hold before being slammed to the canvas.
7. Strikes to the spine or the back of the head;
  - a. The back of the head starts at the Crown of the head with a one (1) inch variance to either side, running down the back of the head to the occipital junction.
  - b. This area stretches out at the occipital junction (nape of the neck) to cover the entire width of the neck. It then travels down the spine with a one (1) inch variance from the spine's centerline, including the tailbone.
8. Throat strikes of any kind and/or grabbing the trachea;
  - a. No directed throat strikes are allowed. A directed attack would include a fighter pulling his opponents head in a way to open the neck area for a striking attack. A fighter may not gouge their fingers or thumb into their opponent's neck or trachea in an attempt to submit their opponent. If during stand-up action of a fight a strike is thrown and the strike lands in the throat area of the fighter, this shall be viewed as a clean and legal blow.
9. Fingers outstretched toward an opponent's face/eyes;
  - a. In the standing position, a fighter that moves their arm(s) toward their opponent with an open hand, fingers pointing at the opponent's face/eyes, will be a foul. Referees are to prevent this dangerous behavior by communicating clearly to fighters. Fighters are directed to close their fists or point their fingers straight up in the air when reaching toward their opponent.
10. Downward pointing elbow strike (12 to 6);
  - a. The use of a linear "straight up straight down" elbow strike is prohibited. Any variation of this straight up and down linear elbow strike makes the strike legal. Any arc, or any angle change from straight up to straight down makes the strike legal. Any variation of position does not alter the legality of the strike.
11. Groin attacks of any kind;
  - a. Any attack to the groin area including, striking, grabbing, pinching or twisting is illegal. It should be clear that groin attacks are the same for men and women.
12. Kneeing and/or Kicking the head of a grounded opponent;
  - a. A grounded fighter is defined as: Any part of the body, other sole of the feet touching the fighting area floor. To be grounded, the palm of one hand (a flat palm) must be down, and/or any other body part must be touching the fighting area floor. A single knee, arm, (not fingers) makes the fighter grounded without having to have any other body part in touch with the fighting area floor. At this time, kicks or knees to the head will not be allowed.
13. Stomping of a grounded fighter;
  - a. Stomping is considered any type of striking action with the feet where the fighter lifts their leg up bending their leg at the knee and initiating a striking action with the bottom of their foot or heel.
  - b. Axe kicks are not stomping. Standing foot stops are NOT a foul. As such, this foul does not include stomping the feet of a standing fighter.

14. Holding opponent's gloves or shorts;
  - a. A fighter may not control their opponent's movement by holding onto their opponent's shorts or gloves. A fighter may hold onto or grab their opponent's hand as long as they are not controlling the hand only by using the material of the glove, but by actually gripping the hand of the opponent. It is legal to hold onto your own gloves or shorts.
15. Holding or grabbing the fence or ropes with fingers or toes;
  - a. A fighter may put their hands on the fence and push off of it at any time. A fighter may place their feet onto the cage and have their toes go through the fencing material at any time. When a fighter's fingers or toes go through the cage and grab hold of the fence and start to control either their body position or their opponent's body position it now becomes an illegal action. A fighter may not grab the ropes or wrap their arms over or under the ring ropes at any time. The fighter may not purposely step through the ropes. If a fighter is caught holding the fence, cage or ring rope material the referee may issue a one-point deduction from the offending fighters scorecard if the foul caused a substantial effect in the fight. If a point deduction for holding the fence occurs, and because of the infraction, the fouling fighter ends up in a superior position due to the foul, the fighters should be re-started by the referee, standing in a neutral position.
16. Small joint manipulation;
  - a. Fingers and Toes are small joints. Wrists, Ankles, Knees, Shoulders and Elbows are all large joints. Grabbing the majority of fingers/toes at once is allowed.
17. Throwing an opponent out of the ring or caged area;
  - a. A fighter shall not throw their opponent out of the ring or cage.
18. Intentionally placing a finger into any orifice, or into any cut or laceration of your Opponent;
  - a. A fighter may not place their fingers into an open laceration in an attempt to enlarge the cut. A fighter may not place their fingers into an opponent's, nose, ears, mouth, or any body cavity.
19. Clawing, pinching, twisting the flesh;
  - a. Any attack that targets the fighter's skin by clawing at the skin or attempting to pull or twist the skin to apply pain is illegal.
20. Timidity (avoiding contact, or consistently dropping the mouthpiece, or faking an injury);
  - a. Timidity is defined as any fighter who purposely avoids contact with his opponent or runs away from the action of the fight. Timidity can also be called by the referee for any attempt by a fighter to receive time by falsely claiming a foul, injury, or purposely dropping or spitting out their mouthpiece or other action designed to stall or delay the action of the fight
21. Use of abusive language in the fighting area;
  - a. The use of abusive language is not allowed during MMA competition. It is the sole responsibility of the referee to determine when language crosses over the line to abusive. It should be clear that fighters can talk during a match. The mere use of auditory language is not a violation of this rule. Examples of abusive language would be (Racially motivated or Derogatory language).
22. Flagrant disregard of the referee's instructions;
  - a. A fighter MUST follow the instructions of the referee at all times. Any deviation or non-compliance may result in the fighter's disqualification.
23. Unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to opponent;
  - a. Every athlete competing in the sport of MMA is expected to represent the sport in a positive light emphasizing sportsmanship and humility. Any athlete that disrespects the rules of the sport or attempts to inflict unnecessary harm on a competitor who has been either taken out of the competition by the referee or has tapped out of the competition shall be viewed as being unsportsmanlike.

24. Attacking an opponent after the bell has sounded the end of the period of unarmed combat;
  - a. The end of a round is signified by the sound of the bell and the call of time by the referee. Once the referee has made the call of time, any offensive actions initiated by the fighter shall be considered after the bell and illegal.
25. Attacking an opponent on or during the break;
  - a. A fighter shall not engage their opponent in any fashion during a time-out or break of action in competition.
26. Attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee;
  - a. *Once the referee has called for a stop of the action to protect a fighter who has been incapacitated or is unable to continue to compete in the fight, fighters shall cease all offensive actions against their opponent.*
27. Interference from a mixed martial artist's corner or seconds;
  - a. Interference is defined as any action or activity aimed at disrupting the fight or causing an unfair advantage to be given to a corner's combatant. Corners are not allowed to distract the referee or influence the actions of the referee in any fashion.

#### **A. Intentional Fouls**

1. If an intentional foul causes an injury, and the injury is severe enough to terminate the bout immediately, the fighter causing the injury shall lose by disqualification.
2. If an intentional foul causes an injury and the bout is allowed to continue, the referee shall notify the authorities and deduct two (2) points from the fighter who caused the foul. Point deductions for intentional fouls will be mandatory.
3. If an intentional foul causes a laceration and/or swelling and the bout is allowed to continue, and the injury results in the fight being stopped in any round after  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the scheduled rounds, of the fight has been completed, by either another legal or illegal strike, the injured fighter will win by TECHNICAL DECISION if they are ahead on the score cards; and the bout will result in a TECHNICAL DRAW if the injured fighter is behind or even on the score cards.
4. If the fighter injures himself/herself while attempting to intentionally foul their opponent, the referee will not act in their favor, and this injury shall be the same as one produced by a fair blow.
5. If the referee feels that a fighter has conducted themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner, they may stop the action of the fight to deduct points or stop the bout to disqualify the fighter.

#### **B. Accidental Fouls**

1. If an accidental foul causes an injury severe enough for the referee to stop the bout, the bout will result in either a NO CONTEST or DISQUALIFICATION if stopped before:
  - A completed 2 rounds of a scheduled 3 round bout or
  - A completed 3 rounds of a scheduled 5 round bout
2. If an accidental foul causes an injury severe enough for the referee to stop the bout after
  - A completed 2 rounds of a scheduled 3 round bout or
  - A completed 3 rounds of a scheduled 5 round boutThe bout will result in a TECHNICAL DECISION awarded to the fighter who is ahead on the score cards at the time the bout is stopped. Partial or incomplete rounds will be scored. If no action has occurred, the round should be scored as an even round. This is at the discretion of the judges.
3. If a fighter, during the course of a round, visibly loses control of bodily function (vomit, urine, feces), the fight shall be stopped by the referee and the fighter shall lose the contest by a Technical Knockout (TKO) due to Medical Stoppage.
  - i. In the event a loss of bodily function occurs in the rest period between rounds, the ringside physician shall be called in to evaluate if the combatant can continue. If the combatant is not cleared by the ringside physician to continue, that combatant shall lose by a Technical Knockout (TKO) due to Medical Stoppage.

ii. If fecal matter becomes apparent at any time, the contest shall be halted by the referee, and the offending combatant shall lose by a Technical Knockout (TKO) due to Medical Stoppage

**C. Foul Procedures:** If a foul is committed, the referee shall:

1. Call Time;
2. Check the fouled mixed martial artist's condition and safety; and
3. Assess the foul for potential point(s) deductions and/or time considerations.
4. During all time out procedures, there shall be no coaching of a contestant permitted.

**D. Time Consideration:**

***Low Blow***

A fighter who has been stuck with a low blow is allowed up to five minutes to recover from the foul as long as in the ringside doctor's opinion the fighter may possibly continue on in the contest. If the fighter states that they can continue on before the five minutes of time have expired, the Referee shall as soon as practical restart the fight. If the fighter goes over the five minutes time allotment the fight cannot be restarted and the contest must come to an end with the outcome determined by the round and time in which the fight was stopped.

***Eye Poke***

A fighter who has received an eye poke as called by the referee is allowed up to five minutes to recover from the foul as long as the ringside doctors confirms the fighter may possibly continue in the contest once recovered. If the fighter states they can see and wish to continue, and confirmed by doctor, the referee shall as soon as practical restart the fight. If the fighter goes over the five-minute time allotment the fight cannot be restarted and the contest must come to an end with the outcome determined by the round and time in which the fight was stopped.

**A. Judging Criteria**

- a. All bouts will be evaluated and scored by a minimum of three (3) judges.
- b. The 10 Point Must System will be the standard of scoring about.
  - i. Under the 10-Point Must Scoring System, 10 points must be awarded to the winner of the round and nine points or less must be awarded to the loser, except for a rare even round, which is scored (10-10).
- c. Judges shall evaluate Mixed Martial Arts techniques, such as effective striking/grappling(Plan A), effective aggressiveness(Plan B),and control of the fighting area(Plan C).Plans B and C are not taken into consideration unless Plan A is weighed as being even.
- d. Evaluations shall be made in the specific order in which the techniques appear in (c)above ,giving the most weight in scoring to effective striking/grappling, and effective aggressiveness, and control of the fighting area.
- e. Effective striking is judged by determining the impact/effect of legal strikes landed by a contestant solely based on the results of such legal strikes. Effective grappling is assessed by the successful executions and impactful/effective result(s)coming from: takedown(s), submission attempt(s), achieving an advantageous position(s) and reversal(s).
- f. Effective aggressiveness means aggressively making attempts to finish the fight.
- g. Fighting area control is assessed by determining who is dictating the pace, place and position of the bout.

1. The following objective scoring criteria shall be utilized by the judges when scoring a round:
  - (i) A round is to be scored as a 10-10 Round when both contestants have competed for whatever duration of time in the round and there is no difference or advantage between either fighter;
  - (ii) A round is to be scored as a 10-9 Round when a contestant wins by a close margin; where the winning fighter lands the better strikes or utilizes effective grappling during the round;
  - (iii) A round is to be scored as a 10-8 Round when a contestant wins the round by a large margin by impact, dominance, and duration of striking or grappling in a round.
  - (iv) A round is to be scored as a 10-7 Round when a contestant is completely dominated by impact, dominance, and duration of striking or grappling in a round.

2. **Impact:** A judge shall assess if a fighter impacts their opponent significantly in the round, even though they may not have dominated the action. Impact includes visible evidence such as swelling and lacerations. Impact shall also be assessed when a fighter's actions, using striking and/or grappling, lead to a diminishing of their opponent's energy, confidence, abilities and spirit. All of these come as a direct result of impact. When a fighter is impacted by strikes, by lack of control and/or ability, this can create defining moments in the round and shall be assessed with great value.

3. **Dominance:** As MMA is an offensive based sport, dominance of a round can be seen in striking when the losing fighter is forced to continually defend, with no counters or reaction taken when openings present themselves. Dominance in the grappling phase can be seen by fighter staking dominant positions in the fight and utilizing those positions to attempt fight ending submissions or attacks. Merely holding a dominant position(s) shall not be a primary factor in assessing dominance. What the fighter does with those positions is what must be assessed. In the absence of dominance in the grappling phase, as set forth in paragraph 3 of the promulgated rules, to be considered dominate, there must be a singularly or in combination, some types of submission attempts, strikes, or an overwhelming pace which is measured by improved or aggressive positional changes that cause the losing fighter to consistently be in a defensive or reactive mode

4. **Duration:** Duration is defined by the time spent by one fighter effectively attacking, controlling, and impacting their opponent; while the opponent offers little to no offensive output. A judge shall assess duration by recognizing the relative time in a round when one fighter takes and maintains full control of the effective offense. This can be assessed both standing and grounded.

5. **Scoring of Incomplete Rounds:** There should be scoring of incomplete rounds. If the referee penalizes either contestant, then the appropriate points shall be deducted when the scorekeeper calculates the final score for the partial round

## **B. Types of Decisions**

### **a. Submission by:**

- i. Tap Out: When a contestant physically uses of their body to indicate that he or she no longer wishes to continue; or
- ii. Verbal Tap Out: When a contestant verbally announces or voluntarily/involuntarily screams in pain or distress to the referee that they do not wish to continue;
- iii. Technical Submission: When a legal submission act results in unconsciousness or broken/dislocated bone(s)/joint(s).

- b. Technical Knockout (TKO) by:
- i. Referee Stoppage: the referee stops the contest because the combatant IS NOT INTELLIGENTLY DEFENDING HIMSELF/HERSELF;
    1. Strikes
    2. Laceration
    3. Corner Stoppage
    4. Did Not Answer the Bell
  - ii. TKO due to Medical Stoppage;
    1. Laceration
    2. Doctor Stoppage
    3. Loss of control of bodily function.
- c. Knockout (KO) by:
- i. Referee Stoppage: the referee stops the contest because the combatant CANNOT INTELLIGENTLY DEFEND HIMSELF/HERSELF.
    1. Due to Strikes
- d. Disqualification:
- i. When an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul is severe enough to terminate the contest, multiple fouls have been assessed, and/or there is flagrant disregard for the rules and/or referee's commands.
- e. No Contest:
- i. When a contestant is prematurely stopped due to accidental injury and a sufficient amount of time has not been completed to render a decision via the score cards.
- f. Decisions:
- i. Unanimous Decision: When all three judges score the bout for the same contestant;
  - ii. Split Decision: When two judges score the bout for one contestant and one judge scores for the opponent; or
  - iii. Majority Decision: When two judges score the bout for the same contestant and one judge scores a draw;
  - iv. Technical Decision: When a bout is prematurely stopped due to injury from an accidental foul and a contestant is leading on the score cards;
- g. Draws:
- i. Unanimous Draw – When all three judges score the bout a draw;
  - ii. Majority Draw – When two judges score the bout a draw; or
  - iii. Split Draw – When all three judges score differently and the score total results in a draw;
  - iv. Technical Draw - When an injury is sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul and the bout is allowed to continue, then later the injury requires stoppage from either a legal or illegal strike to the affected area after:
    - A completed 2 rounds of a scheduled 3 round bout or
    - A completed 3 rounds of a scheduled 5 round boutIf the injured contestant is even or behind on the score cards at the time of stoppage, the decision is a Technical Draw.

## Weight Classes

### Weight Class

Atomweight  
Straw Weight  
Flyweight  
Bantamweight  
Featherweight  
Lightweight  
Super Lightweight  
Welterweight  
Super Welterweight  
Middleweight  
Super Middleweight  
Light Heavyweight  
Cruiserweight  
Heavyweight  
Super Heavyweight

### Weight

up to and including 105 lbs.  
over 105 to 115 lbs.  
over 115 to 125 lbs.  
over 125 to 135 lbs.  
over 135 to 145 lbs.  
over 145 to 155 lbs.  
over 155 to 165 lbs.  
over 165 to 170 lbs.  
over 170 to 175 lbs.  
over 175 to 185 lbs.  
over 185 to 195 lbs.  
over 195 to 205 lbs.  
over 205 to 225 lbs.  
over 225 to 265 lbs.  
over 265 lbs.

*a. **Allowances within Division:** there are no allowance restrictions if both combatants weigh-in within the same contracted division.*

*b. **Weight Miss Catch Weight:** If a person misses the contracted weight and the two competitors are in different weight classes, the heavier opponent shall not exceed five (5) lbs. of the lower weighing fighter.*

*c. **Contracted Catch Weight(s):** there is no weight spread allowance between contracted catch weight fighters, so long as both competitors are below the contracted weight. Commissions may deny Catch Weight fights if they see the weight differential as a large enough disparity to the safety of either of the fighters.*

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DRAFT AGENDA

**ASSOCIATION OF BOXING COMMISSIONS UNIFIED RULES  
AND GUIDELINES FOR MUAY THAI REPORT**

**PRESENTATION: AUGUST 3, 2011**

**ASSOCIATION OF BOXING COMMISSIONS ANNUAL  
CONVENTION, WASHINGTON D.C.**



**PHOTO BY** Ray Kasrowicz, Courtesy of Muay Thaimex

**SUBMITTED BY :**

**COMMITTEE CHAIR NICK LEMBO, NEW JERSEY**

**ON BEHALF OF ABC PRESIDENT TIM LUECKENHOFF**



**ASSOCIATION OF BOXING COMMISSIONS  
2009-2011 MUAY THAI COMMITTEE FOR UNIFIED  
RULES**

**(PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR)**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:**

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**DR. SHERRY WULKAN, NEW JERSEY**

*DRAFT AGENDA*  
*Materials contained in this agenda are proposed topics for discussion  
And are not to be construed as regulation or official board position*  
*DRAFT AGENDA*

**CHAIRMAN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE EXPERT  
APPOINTMENTS AND BIOGRAPHIES**

**JOHN E. BAKER**

**VLADIMIR BORODINE**

**MICK DOYLE**

**CLINT HEYLIGER**

**SAMASEK KANTHAWONG**

**COBAN LOOKCHAOMAESAITONG**

**TONY MOORE**

**TONY MYERS**

**SIRAPHOP RATANASUBAN, JR.**

**KAENSAK SOR PLOENCHIT**

**STEPHEN STROTMeyer**

**MANUEL R. TANINGCO**

**KUMRON VAITAYANON**

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**JOHN E. BAKER –**

John E. Baker, Ph.D, P.E.

## WBC - Muay Thai - North American Federation

2010: Ring Chairman - WBC Muay Thai World Championship event in Haikou, China

2010: Attended WBC Annual Conference in Cancun Mexico. Attended judges seminars and special WBC Muay Thai sessions. Judged WBC Muay Thai Mexican National Championship fight at finale of convention.

2010: Appointed as President of North America Federation for WBC Muay Thai by Pol. General Kovid Bhakdibhumi, Muay Thai Chairman of Thailand and WBC Vice President

2010: Licensed as Judge for Muay Thai events by California State Athletic Commission. Judged WBC World Championship fights.

2009 to Pres: Muay Thai training at One Kick Nick's in Las Vegas, NV. Trained by Master Nick Blomgren and Master Lukechang.

2009: Attended follow-up judge and rules conferences and training at World Boxing Council - Muay Thai headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand with Prof. Anek Hongtongkam, WBC Muay Thai Chairman of Ring Officials

2008 to Pres: Licensed as Judge by Nevada State Athletic Commission for Muay Thai events. Judged numerous Muay Thai events and WBC Muay Thai National and International Championship events

2008 Attended WBC Annual Conference in Chengdu, China. Attended special WBC Muay Thai sessions regarding Muay Thai Rules and Regulations/ Scoring Criteria per Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) Section 15.1

2008: Re-Certified in San Diego, CA as a WBC-Muay Thai Judge and Referee by Dej Nokweed Sri-Ampai with WBC-Muay Thai, WBC USA Ring Official  
*November 2010*

2008: Attended Muay Thai Judging Training and follow-up training in Bangkok, Thailand with Professor Anek Hongtongkam, WBC-Muay Thai chairman of Ring Officials

2008: Certified in Bangkok, Thailand as a WBC Muay Thai Judge and Ring Official by Pol. General Kovid Bhakdibhumi, Muay Thai Chairman of Thailand and WBC Vice President

2007: Certified as Judge with World Muay Thai Federation in Bangkok, Thailand

2004: USA Delegate to World Muay Thai Council Annual Meeting in Bangkok,

## Thailand

2004: Muay Thai Judge Training in Bangkok, Thailand with Professor Radom of WBC Muay Thai

2004: Attended World Muay Thai Council meeting in Bangkok, Thailand as delegate of USA

2003 to 8: Vice President of Muay Thai International Association (MTIA)

2003 to 8: Muay Thai training at Master Toddy's in Las Vegas, NV. Reached 3rd level Brown Belt rank. Trained by Master Toddy and Master Chan.

2003 to Pres: Judge and Ring Supervisor at Muay Thai numerous amateur fighting events in Nevada and California. Responsible for coordination and training of ring officials, and instruction to judges regarding Muay Thai round-scoring criteria.

2003 to Pres: Muay Thai training in Bangkok, Phuket, and Chaingmai, Thailand at numerous Muay Thai camps on 11 international trips

### **VLADIMIR BORODINE-**

Vladimir Borodine is a trainer and instructor at Boridin's Gym in Brooklyn, New York. He was born in Odessa in the Ukraine, Russia. He has competed in over 250 contests and was a national champion of the Ukraine. He was a five time Soviet army champion. He was presented with his Kru at the Master Pimu camp in Bangkok, Thailand long after starting with Grandmaster Thom Harnick of Holland and continuing his studies with Arjarn Tony Moore, Kru Vtali Rykov of Russia, Hadj Bettahar of France and Marco DeCesaris of Italy. He has organized many muay thai tournaments and has been a multiple time representative of US national muay thai teams. He founded the first muay thai association in Russia. He is a licensed muay thai and kickboxing judge with the New Jersey State Athletic Control Board.

### **MICK DOYLE-**

Mick Doyle is a former two time World Muay Thai champion. Born and raised in Dublin Ireland Mick began fighting professionally at the age of 16 and emigrated to the United States in 1986. On April 25th, 1996, Mick was appointed Head Coach of the first ever United States Muay Thai Team. In May of that year Mick

traveled with the team to Thailand to train and compete in the Princes Cup World Championship where they took third place. He was also the first ever promoter to stage a legitimate National Kickboxing and Muay Thai championship tournament in association with the International Kickboxing Federation (IKF). He has worked with many federations and sanctioning bodies all around the world to ensure that the art of Muay Thai stays strong and continues to grow and gain worldwide popularity. To date he has trained 6 World Champions and 27 National Champions and continues to train fighters out of his gym in Omaha Nebraska.

### **CLINT HEYLIGER-**

Arjarn Clint Heyliger is the founder of the United States Muay Thai Association – Native American League (USMTA – NAL) in 1991 and the American Muay Thai Judge and Referee Association (AMTJRA) in 1993, making the U.S.A. the first nation outside of Thailand to have an officiating branch just for judging and refereeing Muay Thai.

He is a veteran of martial arts for 46 years and has studied several martial arts disciplines, including: Shotokan, Judo, Kendo, Kung-Fu (Black Tiger System), Muay Thai, and Muay Chao Cherk. Clint has trained under such renowned instructors as the late Master Graham Ballance, Master Kim Wilson, Master Ronnie Green and Arjarn Thongpresert Trithara. He has been recognized and endorsed by the late Arjarn Sammai Massaman, Grandmaster of Buddhai Sawan Institute of Swordsmanship of Bangkok.

Clint is internationally credited with pushing forward American Muay Thai to the world, and in 1994 he became a founding member of the World Muay Thai Council (WMTA) in Bangkok, Thailand. That same year he entered America into the European Muay Thai Union (EMTU) of Italy and the International Federation Muay Associations (IFMA) of Bangkok, Thailand. He became a member of the World Muay Thai Federation (WMTF). Clint became a member of the AMTAT and was made the official United States Representative of the Amateur Muay Thai Association of Thailand by the late Khun Bunyeun Savandana, President of the AMTAT.

He is credited with re-drafting the English regulations of the AMTAT. Clint brought the first U.S. Amateur Muay Thai team (Team Muay Thai – U.S.A-I) to Thailand representing America in the 1996 “Princess Cup” of Thailand World Championships. Arjarn Heyliger produced the very first Muay Thai league, representing the interests of Native American Muay Thai competitors.

He is currently the only U.S. instructor in the rare ‘Chun Ghoy’ Combat fighting system, taught by the late Grandmasters Louis and Thomas Reed. He specialized in blade training and combat concepts and qualified in CQB, has instructed members of the DEA and NYPD, U.S. Navy Seals, and Federal

Officers of the Justice Department. Clint was inducted into the CBKBT Hall of Fame. He is currently a member of the U.S. Diplomatic Corps.

He has authored, amended and produced the Rules and Regulations related to competitive American Muay Thai since 1991. These regulations have been used, adopted and translated into several languages since then and continue to be used and adapted today.

Arjarn Clint Heyliger was born in 1956. He was educated in England. Having traveled throughout Europe, Asia, S.E. Asia and the Caribbean, he returned to the U.S. in the late 1980's and moved to New York City, where he now resides.

### **SAMASEK KANTHAWONG-**

Samasek is a three time muay thai world champion with over 225 professional muay thai fights. Samasek is a well respected fighter and trainer, both in the United States and Thailand. He is a sought after trainer who frequently teaches at seminars and trains young fighters.

### **COBAN LOOKCHAOMAESAITONG-**

Coban is a renowned 5 time muay thai world champion and 2 time Lumpini champion with over 270 fights in a 23 year career. He is a well respected trainer and a licensed muay thai referee and judge with the New Jersey State Athletic Control Board.

Video of Coban competing can be viewed at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7gline-QnA>

### **ANTHONY (TONY) MOORE-**

Tony is one of the foremost authorities on the Martial Arts of Thailand in the Western world. Having traveled to Thailand on more than fifty occasions, he has been taught by some of Thailand's top Instructors, including: Arjarn Panya Kraitus, Arjarn Pan Lang (Kru Lang) and of course the most famous teacher of the Thai Martial Arts, the late Grand Master Samai Messamarn of the Buddhai Swan Institute.

He is Chairman of the Technical Committees for the British Thai Boxing Council, the British Association of Muay Thai Officials and Technical Advisor to the Irish, Romanian and United States Muay Thai Associations.

In 1991, Tony was awarded a White Mongkon, the highest award in Muay Thai by the Secretary of the International Muay Thai Association, Mr Kachorn Prowsree and Thailand's Crown Property Bureau Official, Mr Virasak Tokakuna, who also bestowed him with the Thai name "Singh Pra Dtom" – meaning "Wise lion".

Tony and the BTBC Demonstration Team regularly give displays and exhibitions of the Thai Martial Arts at the major Thai festivals held through Britain. Following one such display, Tony was invited to have lunch with the Thai Ambassador at the Royal Thai Embassy in London, as part of the celebrations for the King of Thailand's 70th birthday.

In 1994 Tony was invited to give a demonstration of Krabi Krabong before her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand, as part of the Buddhai Swan (Thailand) Demonstration Team on the occasion of Queen Sirikit's birthday.

In 2002 Tony was appointed the Buddhai Swan Institute Representative for Europe and received the Standard (flag) to promote not only the Buddhai Swan Institute but also the traditional Martial Arts of Thailand throughout Europe. Tony is the only person ever to have been allowed to use the name Buddhai Swan outside Thailand and counts this award as his greatest honour.

In 2005 South African publishers, New Holland, published Tony's first book worldwide. Entitled "Muay Thai – the Essential Guide to Thai Boxing", the book has received many accolades from sources around the world. It sold 18,000 copies in the first few months of issue.

In December 2005 Chief Technical Officers of the British Thai Boxing Council Arjarn Lec Chaikewrung and Arjarn Boonkun Chuicharoen promoted Tony to the rank of Arjarn at a special ceremony held in Manchester to celebrate this unique achievement and to commemorate Tony's dedication to the promotion of the Martial Arts of Thailand throughout Great Britain, Europe and the U.S.A.

Although Tony has been officially authorized to use the title "Arjarn", meaning "head teacher" or "professor", Tony still prefers to use the name "Kru", meaning "Instructor" or "Coach". Tony sees himself first and foremost as a student of the Thai Martial Arts.

#### **HONOURS:**

- British Light Middleweight Thai Boxing Champion, retired undefeated in 1992.
- British All-Styles Light Middleweight Champion, retired undefeated in 1992.

- Champion of Champions (Hong Kong), 1988. First Westerner to win an Eastern Title.
- First Westerner to be awarded the Gold Sash 9th degree Instructor (Arjarn) Grade in Krabi Krabong (Thai Weapons) in 1999.
- Presented with the Official Standard for the Buddhai Swan Samnak Daab Si Ayutthaya and asked by the school to carry the name forward into the Western world.
- Judge/Referee at South East Asian Games held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in 1995.
- Trainer of one European, sixteen British and multiple Northern Counties champions at Junior and Senior level, amateur and professional.
- Chairman of the British Thai Boxing Council.

### **TONY MYERS, M. A.-**

#### **INTERNATIONAL OFFICIATING QUALIFICATIONS:**

- World Muaythai Council (WMC)
- Professional referee/judge (qualified in 1998), International Federation Muaythai Amateur (qualified in 1996)

#### **MUAY THAI POSITIONS HELD:**

- Head of Judging and Refereeing and Judge and Referee Education for the United Kingdom Muaythai Federation (UKMF).
- Chief Advisor on Officiating and on Judge and Referee Education for the Irish Muaythai Council (IMC).
- Chief Advisor on Rules and Regulations for the Scottish Thai Boxing Association (STBA).
- Senior Referee/Judge and Technical Advisor for the World Muay Thai Organisation (WMTO).
- Senior judge/referee British Thai Boxing Council (BTBC).

#### **ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS:**

- Current academic post: Senior Lecturer in Sports Studies and Physical Education at Newman University College in Birmingham, U.K.
- M.A. sports Studies, dissertation on "Technique Selection in Muay Thai" passed with distinction.
- Currently in the final stage of a Ph.D. dissertation on Muay Thai judging, estimated completion date in January of 2010.



### **MUAY THAI OFFICIATING EXPERIENCE:**

- Twenty years of experience. Refereed at national, international and world level in Britain, Europe, Kazakhstan and Thailand.
- Selected in 2002 to referee live on national Thai TV and in front of Thai Royalty in Bangkok.

### **MUAY THAI COACHING EXPERIENCE:**

Coached a number of British, Commonwealth and World champions over a the years, including:

- Peter Crooke. Former WAKO World Professional Super Welterweight Muay Thai Champion.
- Winston Walker. WAKO World professional Muay Thai Middleweight champion.
- Damian Hood. Former BTBC British professional Middleweight Muay Thai champion. Current WAKO-pro professional Commonwealth Light Heavyweight Muay Thai champion. Currently ranked number one Light Heavyweight in the U.K.
- Karla Hood. Former ISKA British professional Muay Thai ladies Junior Welterweight Champion. Ranked number one in the U.K. for 5 years.
- Reece Crooke. Former ISKA European professional Bantamweight Muay Thai champion. WAKO British professional Bantamweight Muay Thai champion. ISKA Commonwealth professional Bantamweight Muay Thai champion.
- Will Hastings. Former BTBC British professional Light Welterweight Muay Thai champion. Voted best pound for pound U.K. fighter in 1997 by Combat magazine.
- Dean James. Current ISKA professional Commonwealth Bantamweight Muay Thai Champion. Voted the 2nd most technical U.K. Muay Thai fighter in 2008 by Fighters magazine.
- Liam Robinson. Former ISKA British professional Welterweight Muay Thai Champion. Current Golden Belt World professional Welterweight Muay Thai champion.

### **SELECTED MUAY THAI RELATED PUBLICATIONS:**

Myers, T.D. & Nevill A.M. (2008). "The Effects of Different Judging Styles on Technique Selection of Elite Thai and U.K. Muay Thai Competitors." Poster presentation at the BASES annual conference at Brunel University 2 – 4 September, 2008.

Myers, T.D., Balmer, N.J., Nevill, A.M. & Al-Nakeeb, Y (2006). "Evidence of Nationalistic Bias in Muaythai." Journal of Sports Science and Medicine CSSI, 21-27.

Myers, T.D. (2007). "Cultural Differences in Judging Muay Thai.", abstract BASES abstracts, Journal of Sports Sciences, 25(3): 235 – 369.

Myers, T.D. & Balmer, N.J., (2007). "Political Bias in Muay Thai and Its Consequences," abstract BASES abstracts, Journal of Sports Sciences, 25(3), 235 – 369.

Myers, T.D., Nevill, A.M. & Al-Nakeeb, Y. (in review). "An Examination of Judging Consistency in a Combat Sport". The Quantitative Journal of Sport.

Myers, T. D. (2000). "Judging a Thai Boxing Contest." United Kingdom MuayThai Magazine. July/August, pp. 35-38.

### **SIRAPHOP RATANASUBAN, JR.-**

Siraphop's family has been involved with the most, and the largest scale, most renowned, and highly prominent muay thai promotions ever presented in Thailand's rich history, or anywhere in the world. The company profile can be found at [www.onesongchai.com](http://www.onesongchai.com).

### **KAENSAK SOR PLOENCHIT-**

Kaensak was the 1989, and 1990 fighter of the year, going a combined 15-0 in the 2 years. He held titles at both Lumpinee and Raja in multiple weight divisions, and was also involved in the 1993 fight of the year. He is a well respected trainer and a licensed muay thai judge and referee with the New Jersey State Athletic Control Board.

Video of Kaensak fighting and teaching can be found at:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JU\\_9maW7IDs&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JU_9maW7IDs&feature=player_embedded)

or

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JU\\_9maW7IDs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JU_9maW7IDs)

Kaensak highlights

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhXspG2vUXw&feature=related>

Kaensak teaching

### **STEPHEN STROTMAYER-**

Stephen Strotmeyer is the head trainer at Khaay Muay Sit-Kangmongkorn in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has trained, fought and been a trainer for nearly a decade in the sport of Muay Thai. Having retired from professional fighting, his sights are set on training younger fighters and, of particular interest, in the officiating of Muay Thai, notably in the U.S.A.

#### **SOME RING ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:**

- Super Bantam/Featherweight A-Class fighter; 19-5-2.
- IFMA World Championships.
- Fighter (2004).
- Captain (2006 & 2007).
- Fought on Channel 7 and UBC-TV in Thailand.

#### **TITLES:**

- WKA U.S. Muay Thai Featherweight champion (2004).
- WKA U.S. Amateur Kickboxing Lightweight Champion (2003).
- USKBA Lightweight Amateur Muay Thai Champion (2003).
- Battlegrounds Muay Thai Lightweight East Coast Champion (2003).
- USMTA Midwest Lightweight Muay Thai Champion(2002).

#### **FOUGHT FOR:**

- X-1 Thailand World Title in Hua Hin, Thailand (2007).
- WKA North American Featherweight Muay Thai title (2003 & 2005).
- Superfight competitor in the King of San Da World Championships (2004).

#### **NOTABLE OPPONENTS:**

- Tongchai Khamlayok Fairtex (Thailand).
- Graeme Ness (Scotland).
- Darren Robson (Canada).
- Songkreat (Thailand).
- Saruul-Od (Mongolia).

- Salma Sakayev (Kazakhstan).
- Tomas Dupuy (France).
- Jose Villarisco (USA).
- Terrence Hill (USA).

#### **RANKINGS:**

- #3 IKF Bantamweight Pro, modified Muay Thai.
- #1 IKF Featherweight amateur Muay Thai (2004).
- #2 IKF Lightweight amateur Muay Thai (2003).

#### **OFFICIATING:**

- Interim USKBA Thaiboxing Coordinator (2005 – 2007).
  - USMF East Coast Coordinator (2004 – Present)
  - USMTA Certified Kru (2005).
  - **WMC/IFMA Official courses (2004, 2007).**
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#### **MANUEL R. TANGCO-**

Manuel R. Tangingco is a martial artist veteran with over 45 years experience. Tangingco founded Tama Martial Arts Center in 1976. He is also the current president of the World Muay Thai Kickboxing Association (WMA). He has been promoting Muay Thai tournaments since 2000 in Midwest area and has trained both fighters, judges and referees.

He has studied more than several disciplines, Tien Shan Pai Kung-fu (65<sup>th</sup> generation disciple), Tai-chi, Filipino Kali and family Kali/Panantukan/sikaran, Kempo Jujitsu, Aikijijutsu, and BJJ.

Studied Muay thai and Kali since 1979 for ten years under Dan Inosanto; Muay thai under Sakasem, Saekson, and Vut. Certified Instructor under United World Muay Thai Association (UWMTA). Helped trained as a sparring partner of brother-in-law Alan Schroeder in Boxing. Alan went on to become 5 time champion in Golden Gloves in Dayton in late 70's to early 80's.

Have Trained fighters from their humbling beginning to their becoming a professional fighters like Christian Toleque, T.G. Gear, Joe Shilling, Robert Walker Jr. and Neal Rowe. Neal Rowe is one of the current trainers for UFC Rich Franklin.

Contract Occupation for the US Government US Armed Special Forces.  
Designed the curriculum for and trained US Armed Forces-Security Forces for

Close Quarter Tactical Combat in 2004 (preparing troops going to IRAQ). Trained also local, State law enforcements and Swat Teams. Was invited by US Marines to train their instructors in Quantico, Virginia 2005. Taught and trained the Special Action Forces (special unit designed to seek terrorists) in Philippines and the Philippine Marine Instructors in CQC in 2004.

Director (Muay Thai Division) for the Ohio's Arnold's Martial Arts Festival in the last two years. Responsible for writing the rules and regulations, matching and refereeing. Has refereed and judge in the last 30 years in all aspects of both full contact and other martial arts competitions nationally and internationally

More than several "Hall of Fame" inductees awards, along with being champion in 1980 full contact "Stick Fighting". In 1993 coached the USA team (Lei Tai-similar to Sanshou) in Taiwan with over 40 countries. Winning the coveted 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the World Championship, and the "Most Spirited Award". Tamingco came out of retirement in 1994 (38) to fight in St. Petersburg, Russia, representing the USA Team: winning the team and individual division. Upon the results of the competition, he was invited by Estonia, Siberia, and Venezuela to train their fighters. He currently conducts seminars on Muay Thai, Panantukan, Sikaran, Kali and CQC.

Wrote "Rules and Regulations for the Muay Thai competition in Ohio" accepted by Ohio Athletic Commission. Published the book of "Wings of Thoughts", Handbook for Aikijujitsu, Kempo Jujitsu for adults and children, Tien Shan Pai Handbook, and currently working on several subjects involving tactical combat and Muay Thai handbook.

Developed a working relationship with other Canadian Teams and produced the (US Team versus Canada Team) in our last show in Cincinnati, Ohio.

### **KUMRON VAITAYANON-**

Mr. Kumron Vaitayanon, known professionally as Master K, is a nationally-recognized martial arts instructor and is one of the leading authorities on Muay Thai in the United States. Master K was born on January 11, 1938 and raised in Prapradeng, Thailand, about 45 minutes outside of Bangkok. Master K became interested in Muay Thai beginning at an early age and trained himself through most of his childhood. Beginning at the age of 13, he received training from his cousin, who was a professional Muay Thai fighter and a champion in the bantamweight category.

Between 1953 and 1962, Master K was a professional Muay Thai fighter in Thailand. He developed fighting techniques using the "eight limbs" of Muay Thai. He became well-known for his powerful elbow techniques, inspiring his motto,

“Elbow KO.” During his professional fighting career in Thailand, Master K had a record of 71 wins and 4 losses.

During the time that he fought professionally, Master K attended school, and in 1962, he received an associate’s degree in photography and public relations from the Technical Institute of Thailand. In 1962, at the age of 24, Master K retired from fighting professionally and began working at the Government Savings Bank of Thailand in the public relations department. He continued to work as a Muay Thai instructor in Thailand.

In 1970, the bank sent Master K to the United States to study public relations and advertising in New York City. In New York, Master K worked as a public relations representative for the Thai Association. In 1972, he received a certificate in advertising from the Institute of Advertising. During his two-year stint in the United States, Master K performed Muay Thai demonstrations throughout the New York City and New Jersey area. In 1973, Master K returned to Thailand, where he resumed working for the bank and subsequently became the bank’s head of public relations. He continued to work as a Muay Thai instructor.

In 1984, at the age of 46, Master K returned to the United States, and he and his family settled in Paterson, New Jersey. He worked as a professional photographer for weddings and schools and as a Muay Thai instructor in northern Virginia, New York, and New Jersey.

In 1992, Master K established the Suriya Sak Muay Thai team. The members of the team have fought in numerous Muay Thai competitions throughout the United States. The team has grown significantly over the years and is based in a number of locations throughout the United States. Master K has trained several hundred students, male and female, in Muay Thai. His students have ranged in age from their teens into their 50s and have included police officers and agents with the United States Secret Service. Many of Master K’s former students have become instructors with their own boxing camps. In 2007, Master K was inducted in to the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

## **REPORT –**

### **Background**

On July 30, 2009, at the Association of Boxing Commissions annual convention in New Orleans, Nick Lembo presented a report entitled “Guidelines For Muay Thai”. This presentation was intended to provide information to those Commissions who were not overly familiar with the sport. For example, several

jurisdictions had contacted New Jersey, prior to the report, with regard to questions about amateur and/or professional rule sets and officiating, after promoters had contacted them to possibly stage muay thai events in their jurisdiction. Lembo noted that while many commissions have rule sets for the sports of boxing, mixed martial arts, and even kick boxing, few had established rule sets for muay thai. It was suggested that the lack of a unified rule set, or at least an ABC recognized guide rule set might be hampering the growth of the sport. After the presentation, ABC President Tim Lueckenhoff saw fit to form a committee to present a full rules report regarding professional and amateur muay thai. This Committee was to study the issues present for one year and report back at the following year's annual convention (2010).

At the 2010 convention, Lembo made a brief presentation noting the progress of the committee, but asked for one more year in order to provide the in depth review and discussion that the sport deserved. The advisory panel was still engaging in deep discussions with the Committee. ABC President Leuckenhoff granted the extension.

This report is the culmination of the meetings, detailed input, and mass of correspondence of the committee and the expert appointments. The input from this worldwide group of highly decorated men in the sport proved invaluable. It was a true and amazing honor to even discuss their sport with them. Their participation led to a product that has much more worth. That being said, it does not mean that all the experts agreed on every point within the report. There are certainly some points of contention. Such would be expected when discussing a subject matter steeped in such rich tradition, meaning and history.

In addition to the expert panel, special mention must be made of Mr. Robert Reiter of Muay Thaimes for his unyielding assistance and support. His true love of the sport is self-evident and I am grateful for his participation. Others who provided noteworthy and esteemed input on this project include Chris Ballard, Rigel Balsamico, David Ross, Anthony Salcedo, Chris Tran and Chris Wagner.

It is our hope that this report assists member athletic Commissions to be more comfortable and well versed in the rules and traditions of this fine sport.

### **History**

This form of unarmed combat originated in the country of Thailand. The sport's name Muay Thai evidences the connection that the sport has to the country of Thailand and the need to incorporate their traditions.

The sport evolved from Muray Boran meaning “ancient boxing”. After the reported occurrence of a death in the ring, King Rama the VII pushed for some rules to be instituted such as using gloves and covering the feet and ankles in cotton. At this time, the term muay thai became more commonly used when the contests utilized these new requirements.

Muay Thai is commonly referred to as “The Art of Eight Limbs” because the hands, shins, elbows and knees are all utilized to strike with. Thus, there are eight points of contact to utilize for striking.

March 17 is celebrated in certain parts of the world as “Boxer’s Day” or “National Muay Thai” day to honor the sport and the story of King Burma and Nai Knamom Tom. Tom fought ten Burmese Lethwei champions and defeated them all in succession.

Muay Thai is a stand up combative sport which typically places an emphasis on striking with the knees and the elbows. Two common kicks in the sport are the foot jab and an angle kick to the ribcage area which is based on rotational movement of the body. Kicking is typically performed with the shin as opposed to the foot. Push kicks are also used frequently, but primarily as a defensive technique. Unlike boxing, the fighters are not separated when they clinch (assuming activity). The clinch is the position where the knee and elbow strikes are mainly delivered. Several methods are used to block strikes, where such defense is an integral part of the sport.

Muay Thai also involves the practicing of pre-fight rituals performed by each contestant prior to the start of the contest and such rituals must be permitted.

### **General Guidelines**

This document is being prepared in an effort to offer unified rules and general guidelines to consider when reviewing a proposed muay thai event. Unlike boxing and mixed martial arts, muay thai does not currently have a unified rule set.

There will always some contention between the “pure” rules as utilized in Thailand and what would commonly be accepted in North America.

I am a firm believer in unified rules across jurisdictions which I believe helps to further the growth of a sport.

### **Pre-Fight Rituals**



The referee should order the fight to start only after the contestants have completed their pre-fight rituals, in accordance with Thai traditions. The Referee should instruct the seconds/corner men to remove any ceremonial garb when their fighter returns to his corner after he/she has performed the pre-fight ritual.

However, Commissions may wish to notify the contestants of a time limit on their pre-fight rituals. (for example, three minutes maximum)

Amulets are sacred and highly respected items believed to bestow blessings and protection. All Muay Thai fighters must use the *mongkon*, a head circlet, which is worn until completion of the Ram Muay ritual dance, and the *prajed*, a woven armband. The *prajed* contains a small Buddha image and is worn throughout the match. Such must be neatly wrapped and covered with cloth.

The special relationship between a Muay Thai fighter and his trainer are gracefully expressed during the Ram Muay that precedes every Muay Thai match. This ancient tradition is a further demonstration of the fighter's respect and gratitude. The Ram Muay is a series of gestures and movements performed in rhythm to ringside musical accompaniment. The Ram Muay developed differently in various regions under different teachers. Two fighters performing identical Ram Muay rituals would know they studied under the same teacher or came from the same school, and likely would not compete against each other. Today, it is not so easy to tell the difference in rituals. Wearing the traditional *mongkon* head circlets created from monk's writings that are wrapped in silk thread, the fighter moves gracefully in the center of the ring, bowing in all directions. The ritual is a gesture of respect for the fighter's trainer and family.

The sarama or musical accompaniment to Muay Thai accompanies the Ram Muay as well as the contest itself. The music is performed by musicians playing oboes, Thai drums and cymbals. The tempo of the music varies. During the Ram Muay it is slow and to respect the mood of the ritual. When the fight commences the tempo is increased.

### **Use of Ointments, Etc. (Namman Muay)**

As in boxing and mixed martial arts, the application of limited Vaseline to the face at ringside is permissible. Unlike boxing and mixed martial arts, the use of Thai liniment (Namman Muay) is permissible and typically expected, to be applied to the fighter's body.

Namman Muay, however, is a specific item and should not be confused with other oils, greases, ointments, balms or butters such as Tiger Balm, IcyHot or Cocoa Butter.

### **Groin Protection**

Unlike boxing or mixed martial arts, Commissions should mandate and require that muay thai contestants, at any level, wear a steel cup.

### **Suggested Weight Classes**

Mini Flyweight	From 100 pounds but not over 105 pounds
Light Flyweight	Must be over 105 pounds but not over 108 pounds
Flyweight	Must be over 108 pounds but not over 112 pounds
Super Flyweight	Must be over 112 pounds but not over 115 pounds
Bantamweight	Must be over 115 pounds but not over 118 pounds
Super Bantamweight	Must be over 118 pounds but not over 122 pounds
Featherweight	Must be over 122 pounds but not over 126 pounds
Super Featherweight	Must be over 126 pounds but not over 130 pounds
Lightweight	Must be over 130 pounds but not over 135 pounds
Super Lightweight	Must be over 135 pounds but not over 140 pounds
Welterweight	Must be over 140 pounds but not over 147 pounds
Super Welterweight	Must be over 147 pounds but not over than 154 pounds
Middleweight	Must be over 154 pounds but not over than 160 pounds
Super Middleweight	Must be over 160 pounds but not over than 168 pounds
Light Heavyweight	Must be over 168 pounds but not over 175 pounds
Cruiserweight	Must be over 175 pounds but not over than 190 pounds

Super Cruiserweight Must be over 190 pounds but not over 210 pounds

Heavyweight Must be over 210 pounds but not over 230 pounds

Super Heavyweight 230 pounds and up

It is recommended that the unwritten custom of the one pound allowance for non-title bouts be continued, but only if provided for in the written bout contract or by regulation.

Commissions may also approve catch weight bouts, subject to their review and discretion. For example, the Commission may still decide to allow the contest if it feels that the contest would still be fair, safe and competitive if a set catch weight is set in advance.

In addition, if one athlete weighs in at 227 pounds while the opponent weighs in at 232, the Commission may still decide to allow the contest if it feels that the contest would still be fair and competitive. This would be despite the fact that the two athletes weighed in at differing weight classes.

No Fighter shall be permitted to lose more than 2% of his/her bout weight after initially failing to make weight. The weight loss described in subsection 3 must not occur later than 1 hour after the initial weigh-in.

Commissions should establish and make known to promoters the maximum allowable weight differences for contestants for each weight class. For example,

. No unarmed combatants may engage in a contest or exhibition, without the approval of the Commission or the Commission's representative if the difference in weight between unarmed combatants exceeds the allowance shown in the following schedule:

up to 118 lbs.....	not more than 3 lbs.
118 lbs.-126 lbs.....	not more than 5 lbs.
126 lbs.-160 lbs.....	not more than 7 lbs.
160 lbs.-175.....	not more than 9 lbs.
175 lbs.-195 lbs.....	not more than 12 lbs.
195lbs.and over .....	no limit.

### **Training for Referees and Judges**

The Committee suggests that parties who hold training courses to educate current or prospective muay thai and/or referees, submit their full course training materials to this specific ABC Committee for our review and comment.

Upon approval of a submitted course curriculum, this Committee will notify the ABC President as to which courses have been reviewed and approved.

The ABC President can then list on its website or issue a press release noting that a course has been reviewed and endorsed by the ABC.

The Committee strongly suggests that each Commission utilize properly trained muay thai judges and referees and continually evaluate their performances and competency. In addition, post-event performance reviews should be conducted, and training and review courses should be regularly held for all officials, including inspectors.

### **Handwraps**

All contestants shall be required to gauze and tape their hands prior to all contests.

In all weight classes, the bandages on each contestant's hand shall be restricted to soft gauze cloth not more than 20 yards in length not more than two inches in width, held in place by not more than 10 feet of surgeon's tape, not more than two inches in width, for each hand.

The tape may cross the back of the hand twice, but may not extend within three-fourths of an inch of the knuckles when the hand is clenched to make a fist.

Strips of tape may be used between the fingers to hold down the bandages.

The bandages shall be evenly distributed across the hand. It is absolutely prohibited to "top – up" on the knuckles.

Bandages and tape shall be placed on the contestant's hands in the dressing room in the presence of the inspector and, if warranted, in the presence of the manager or chief second of his or her opponent.

Substances other than surgeon's tape and gauze shall not be utilized. For example, pre wraps should not be used.

### **Females**

Females competitors should be allowed to compete in the same round time lengths and number of rounds as men.

### **Gloves**

Gloves should be supplied by the promoter and approved by the commission. No contestant shall supply their own gloves for participation.

Gloves must weigh a minimum of eight ounces or above. Weight Class of 160 lbs. and above must wear 10 ounce Gloves. With Commission approval, six ounce gloves may be permitted for for weight classes up to, and including featherweight.

Gloves must not be squeezed, kneaded or crushed to change the original shape.

The gloves used in the competitions must have the leather portion not heavier than one-half of the glove's total weight and the glove's inner pads must weigh at least one-half of the glove's total weight.

Gloves must only be placed on the Fighter in the presence of an Inspector.

New replacement Gloves must be kept at ringside.

All gloves must have the distal portion of the thumb attached to the body of the glove so as to minimize the possibility of injury to an opponent's eye.

Gloves should be wiped by referee after knockdown, slip or fall of contestant before the fallen contestant may resume competing, the referee shall wipe the gloves with a damp towel or the referee's shirt.

### **Downward Pointed Elbow Strikes-**

Ceiling to floor or 12 to 6 elbow strikes should be prohibited.

### **Double Knockout Situations-**

The referee shall stop a contest or exhibition of unarmed combat at any stage if the referee determines that both unarmed combatants are in such a condition that to continue might subject the unarmed combatants to serious injury. If a contest or exhibition is stopped pursuant to this subsection, the decision shall be deemed to be a technical draw.

### **Scoring-**

Muay Thai suggests that techniques should be strong and delivered with power to score. Judges should not only make an assessment of the actions of the contestant delivering the blow. They must also assess the effect of the technique on the opponent. These assessments include stopping an opponent's advance, unbalancing the opponent, slowing the opponent's own offense, and causing the opponent to show pain.

The winner in Muay Thai is the stronger fighter over the entire contest length. This means that the fighter needs to maintain physical and mental equilibrium as well as demonstrating their superiority in technique. Landing a strike, in and of itself, does not always mean that it is a scoring strike.

The 10 point must system, as utilized in boxing, is the preferred scoring method at this time.

The 10 point must system is defined as follows:

All bouts will be evaluated and scored by three judges.

The 10-Point Must System will be the standard system of scoring a bout. Under the 10-Point Must Scoring System, 10 points must be awarded to the winner of the round and nine points or less must be awarded to the loser, except for an even round, which is scored (10-10).

Effective striking is judged by determining the number of legal strikes landed by a contestant and the significance of such legal strikes.

Fighting area control is judged by determining who is dictating the pace, location and position of the bout

Effective aggressiveness means moving forward and landing a legal strike.

Effective defense means avoiding being struck while countering with offensive attacks.

The following objective scoring criteria shall be utilized by the judges when scoring a round;

1. A round is to be scored as a 10-10 Round when both contestants appear to be fighting evenly and neither contestant shows dominance in a round;
2. A round is to be scored as a 10-9 Round when a contestant wins by a close but clear margin, landing the greater number of effective legal strikes and other maneuvers;
3. A round is to be scored as a 10-8 Round when a contestant wins a round by a wide margin and damages his opponent.
4. A round is to be scored as a 10-7 Round when a contestant totally and completely dominates in a round and damages his opponent.

**TECHNIQUES** which have a visible impact on the Opponent should be weighed most heavily.

- a. Consider the Effectiveness of the Strike, its Strength, and Target and how much it causes Disadvantage to the Opponent.
- b. Knocking the Opponent to the ground with a legal Strike.
- c. Unbalancing the Opponent with a legal Strike.
- d. Techniques that cause the Opponent to stop advancing.
- e. Techniques that force an Opponent to cover up and limit his/her offense.
- f. Defense and ability to evade the Opponent's attack.
- g. Maintenance of proper Footwork, Balance, Stance and Stamina.

**ROUND ONE:** Generally Scored as 10/10 but a note is made as to the better Fighter, unless clear Dominance or Knock Downs are present.

**ROUND TWO:** Can also be scored as 10/10 if is close or the losing Fighter in Round One wins by a small margin.

Rounds one and two are commonly scored as 10-10 rounds because it is usually difficult to declare a winner when both fighters are fresh, strong and utilizing proper technique. The reason for the later rounds being scored decisively is because the judge can now see the accumulative effect of the earlier blows and more clearly determine which fighter is fresher, stronger, and still maintaining proper technique.

**ROUNDS THREE, FOUR AND FIVE:** Are to be Decisively Scored for one Fighter.

In the sport of muay thai, a much greater emphasis is placed on how a fighter finishes the fight. Analogies are often made to a marathon race. Although one fighter may begin strongly and dominate early in the fight, it is the finish that is important and a boxer behind early can be overtaken and lose. Greater emphasis is given to a fighter finishing strongest over the last three rounds.

For amateur bouts, it may be preferable to promote 5 rounds of 1.5 minute rounds, rather than 3 rounds of 2 minutes. If using 3 round bouts, it is advisable to notify all involved parties that the first round will be scored on its own merits and should not be assumed to be a 10-10.

### **Scoring Techniques:**

The technique, preferably should be a muay thai technique and not a kick or strike from another form of martial art. The technique should have a visible effect on an opponent. If a technique strikes the opponent's arms or shin, then generally the technique doesn't score. However, there are exceptions. For example, if a kick makes contact with a fighter's arm and physically moves the person being kicked or causes them to lose balance, solely due to the kick's power, that kick would score; although not as highly as a kick that had the same effect but cleanly made contact with the body.

The most scored techniques are those that have the greatest effect on the opponent. It is not the number or variety of techniques delivered but their effectiveness that is important in determining the winner of a fight. For example, it is possible for one competitor to use one type of technique exclusively and win if the use of that technique results in that competitor delivering more, effective techniques than their opponent (one competitor may win by only kneeing their opponent.)



The judges must ignore the sounds at ringside and focus on looking carefully at each technique. Corner persons and the crowd at muay thai events are very vocal and typically yell each and every single time that their chosen contestant seems to land a strike. Judges should only score techniques which they actually see land.

### **Scoring of incomplete rounds-**

There should be scoring of an incomplete round. If the referee penalizes either contestant, then the appropriate points shall be deducted when the scorekeeper calculates the final score for the partial round.

### **Bout Results**

#### **1. KNOCKOUT:**

- a. When an Opponent is unable to regain his/her feet prior to the Count of Ten.
- b. When any Fighter falls out of the Ring, the Referee shall Count immediately.
  - (i) If the Count reaches 20, the fallen Fighter cannot come up on the Ring and he/she will lose by K.O.
  - (ii) If the fallen Fighter can come up on the Ring before Counting up to 20, he/she can continue the Fight.

#### **2. TECHNICAL KNOCKOUT:**

- a. When the Referee orders the Fight stopped because it is determined that one Fighter is not fit to continue.
- b. When a Fighter cannot answer the Bell for the upcoming Round or is so badly cut that it is too dangerous to continue.

#### **3. SUBMISSION:**

- a. When one Fighter notifies the Referee that he/she no longer wishes to continue.
- b. When a licensed Second assigned to a Fighter throws in the towel.

4. **UNANIMOUS DECISION:** All three Judges score in favor of one Fighter.
5. **MAJORITY DECISION:** Two Judges score in favor of one Fighter and one Judge has is a draw.
6. **SPLIT DECISION:** Two Judges score in favor of one Fighter, while one Judge scores in favor of the other.
7. **DISQUALIFICATION:** Due to an intentional fouls or fouls, a Referee may Disqualify a Fighter.
8. **TECHNICAL DRAW:** In case of an intentional violation which causes injury AND the Fight is continued BUT is later stopped because of the initial foul, the Referee should stop the Fight and give a TKO Draw
- If the scores are equal OR
  - If the fouled Fighter is behind on the cards.
9. **TECHNICAL DECISION:**
- In case of an intentional violation which causes injury AND the Fight is continued BUT is later stopped because of the initial foul, the Referee should declare a Victory **for the fouled Fighter** if he/she is ahead on the cards.
  - If a Fight cannot continue due to an unintentional foul but enough Rounds have been completed, the Referee shall declare a Victory **for the Fighter ahead on the score cards**.
10. **NO CONTEST:** In case of an unintentional violation which causes injury so serious that the Fight cannot be continued BUT less than enough Rounds have been completed.
11. **DRAW:** When the score cards result in a three way tie.
12. **MAJORITY DRAW:** When two Judges score the Fight a Draw AND one Judge has declared a Victor.

## **Fouls-**

The following are fouls and will result in penalties if committed:

1. Head Butting
2. Strikes to the Groin- hits to the groin area/lower abdomen just below the navel called 'neeb' is permitted and is classic technique. This is the reason why Thai boxers wear a steel cup to protect the testicles as opposed to a western style boxer full groin protector. Thus, strikes to the testicles (cup area) are what are to be considered as fouls.
3. Direct Attacks to the Knee- it is considered unsporting in Thai to side kick an opponent to the front of the knee
4. Strikes to the Back of the Head
5. Strikes to the Spine
6. Strikes to the Throat
7. Striking a Fighter while he/she is Down
8. Striking a Fighter while he/she is under the Referee's care
9. Shoving, Throwing or Wrestling an Opponent except when Pushing in a legal Clinch
10. Striking when the Referee has called a Break
11. Striking after the Bell has sounded
12. Holding the Ropes or using the ropes as a weapon, for example pushing an opponent's face across the ropes in an attempt to cut them.
13. Timidity or intentionally avoiding contact
14. The use of abusive language or abusive gestures
15. Causing intentional Delays in the action, such as repeatedly spitting out the Mouth Piece
16. Eye Gouging
17. Hair Pulling

18. Biting or Spitting

19. Holding the Opponent's shorts

20. Interference from a Fighter's Seconds

21. Tripping or Sweeping an Opponent- Using trips and sweeps; it is legal to kick an opponent off their feet. A kick is considered to be an action that uses the top of the foot and/or front of the shin. It is possible to hook the foot and kick as long as the top of the foot and/or shin, and not the side of the foot, make contact with the opponent's leg.

22. Hip Throws, Shoulder or Leg Throws

23. Grasping the Opponent's Lower Back while also forcing an opponent's spine to hyperextend.

24. Intentionally falling on a down Opponent, pressing Elbow or Knee upon him/her

25. Wrestling, back or arm locks or any similar judo or wrestling hold

26. Attempting to 'pile-drive' an opponent's head into the canvas

27. Catching an opponent's kick and pushing an opponent for MORE than three steps without attempting to deliver an attacking technique. (i.e. permissible to catch your opponent's kick, hold your opponent's leg, and take up to three steps)

28. After kicking with his kicking leg being caught, the boxer pretends to throw himself down on ring floor. It is considered taking advantage over his opponent.

Fouls are subject to the Discretion of the Referee. Fouls may result in a Warning, a Point Deduction of one to two Points or Disqualification. The Referee will base his Decision on the Severity of the Foul and the Intent of the Fouling Fighter.

The referee may consider :

1. A Fighter who Violates the Rules intentionally but does not put the Opponent at a Disadvantage or Injure him/her shall be given one Warning or be assessed a one Point Deduction.

2. A Fighter who Violates the Rules intentionally and puts the Opponent at a Disadvantage or makes him/her unable to continue the Fight shall be Disqualified and lose the Fight.

3. In case of an unintentional Violation, the Referee shall give no more than two Warnings before assessing a Point Deduction.

**Fouls Further Explained:**

1. **DIRECT (SIDE KICK STYLE) KICKS** to the Front of a Fighter's Legs are illegal.

2. **HIP THROWS:**

- a. Over the Hip Throws such as in Japanese arts like Judo, Jujitsu, Karate, Sambo, or San Shou are illegal.
  - b. A Fighter is not allowed to use the Hip or Shoulder to Throw an Opponent in any kind of Judo Throw or Reap.
  - c. A Fighter is not allowed to Step across or in front of an Opponent's Leg with his/her own Leg and bring the Opponent over his/her Hip.
  - d. Taking an Opponent around the Waist with both Arms and Twisting him/her off balance so the Opponent will fall is legal.
3. A Fighter is not allowed to Twist and Pull an Opponent over the side of his/her body and then land on top.
4. It is an Intentional Foul when a Fighter plans, with the sole intention of falling on top of his/her Opponent, to either strike with the knee or to intentionally hurt the Opponent while down, by contriving to make it look like an accident.
5. Stepping on a fallen Opponent is illegal.

6. **ILLEGAL TRIPS:**

- a. If a Fighter positions a Foot next to the Opponent and Twists him/her over the Leg, it is an illegal Trip unless the Leg is cleared as the Opponent falls.
- b. If a Fighter Spins or Pulls the Opponent over the inside or outside of the Leg and Dumps him/her on the ground, it is an illegal Trip when the Leg being used to Manipulate and Dump the Opponent stays in that position as he/she goes down.
- c. If the Leg is Set and stays in that position, it is an illegal Throw or Trip.

d. The Leg must Clear immediately after the Opponent is Pulled or Tripped over the Knee. Clear means that the Leg must be moved out of the way before the Opponent hits the canvas by skipping the leg or slightly jumping to the side, as long as it is moved from the original position. Taking out an Opponent's Footing is legal only if the Tripping Leg is withdrawn from contact as he/she falls to the ground.

#### **7. NECK WRESTLING:**

a. If in a Clinch with Arms around each other's Shoulder, such as to deliver or defend from an Elbow Strike, twisting the Opponent using the Upper Body in such a way that he/she will fall to the ground is allowed.

b. By using Neck and Shoulder manipulation, it is legal for a Fighter to Spin and Throw/Dump an Opponent to the canvas without using any part of his/her body as a barrier.

#### **8. SWEEPING:**

a. A Fighter is allowed to Roundhouse Kick the Opponent's supporting Leg with the Top of his/her own Foot or Shin, taking out the Opponent's footing, but Karate style Sweeps with the Foot's Instep is illegal.

b. It is illegal to take out the Opponent's footing in the Clinch by Sweeping the back of his/her supporting leg with the back of Fighter's own Leg or Calf.

9. **LIFTING:** It is illegal in any way to Lift an Opponent off the ground and Throw him/her on the canvas. If a Fighter Clinches the Opponent around the Waist and Lifts the Opponent off the ground, Twisting and Throwing the Opponent around to the side and onto the canvas in a Suplex.

#### **Scoring the foul to be performed by the Scorekeeper**

Fouls may result in a point being deducted by the official scorekeeper from the offending mixed martial artist's score. The scorekeeper, not the judges, will be responsible for calculating the true score after factoring in the point deduction.

Only a referee can assess a foul. If the referee does not call the foul, judges shall not make that assessment on their own and cannot factor such into their scoring calculations.

#### **Foul Procedures-**

If a foul is committed, the referee shall:

1. call time;
2. check the fouled contestant's condition and safety; and
3. assess the foul to the offending contestant, deduct points, and notify each corner's seconds, judges and the official scorekeeper.
4. When the round is over, the referee shall assess the foul and notify both corners' seconds, the judges and the official scorekeeper.
5. The referee may terminate a bout based on the severity of a foul. For such a flagrant foul, a contestant shall lose by disqualification.

### **Time Considerations for Fouls**

#### **Low Blow Foul**

A fighter who has been struck with a low blow is allowed up to five minutes to recover from the foul as long as in the ringside doctor's opinion the fighter may possibly continue on in the contest. If the fighter states that they can continue on before the five minutes of time have expired, the referee shall as soon as practical restart the fight. If the fighter goes over the five minute time allotment the fight cannot be restarted and the contest must come to an end with the outcome determined by the round and time in which the fight was stopped.

#### **Fighter who is not fouled by low blow but another foul:**

If a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts is stopped because of an accidental foul, the referee shall determine whether the unarmed combatant who has been fouled can continue or not. If the unarmed combatant's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of the foul and if the foul did not involve a concussive impact to the head of the unarmed combatant who has been fouled, the referee may order the contest or exhibition continued after a recuperative interval of not more than 5 minutes. Immediately after separating the unarmed combatants, the referee shall inform the Commission's representative of his determination that the foul was accidental.

If a fighter is fouled by blow that the referee deems illegal, the referee should stop the action and call for time. The referee may take the injured fighter to the ringside doctor and have the ringside doctor examine the fighter as to their ability to continue on in the contest. The ringside doctor has up to 5 minutes to make their determination. If the ringside doctor determines that the fighter can

continue in the contest, the referee shall as soon as practical restart the fight. However, unlike the low blow foul rule, the fighter does not have up to 5 minutes of time to use at their discretion.

For a foul other than a low blow, the fouled fighter is not guaranteed 5 minutes of recovery time. If deemed not fit to continue by the referee or ringside physician, the referee must immediately call a halt to the bout. If the fighter is deemed not fit to continue by the referee or ringside physician but some of the five minute foul time is still remaining, the fighter cannot avail himself of the remaining time.

If the referee stops the contest and employs the use of the ringside doctor, the ringside physician's examinations shall not exceed five minutes. If five minutes is exceeded, the fight cannot be re-started and the contest must end.

### **Fouls: Intentional.**

1. If the referee determines that a contest or exhibition may not continue because of an injury caused by an intentional foul, the unarmed combatant who committed the intentional foul loses by disqualification.

2. If the referee determines that a contest or exhibition may continue despite an injury caused by an intentional foul, the referee shall immediately inform the Commission's representative and the judges and shall deduct two points from the score of the unarmed combatant who committed the intentional foul.

3. If an injury caused by an intentional foul results in the contest or exhibition being stopped in a later round:

(a) The injured unarmed combatant wins by technical decision, if he is ahead on the scorecards; or

(b) The contest or exhibition must be declared a technical draw, if the injured unarmed combatant is behind or even on the scorecards.

4. If an unarmed combatant injures himself while attempting to foul his opponent, the referee shall not take any action in his favor and the injury must be treated the same as an injury produced by a fair blow.

### **Fouls : Accidental.**

1. If a contest or exhibition is stopped because of an accidental foul, the referee shall determine whether the unarmed combatant who has been fouled can



continue or not. If the unarmed combatant's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of a foul and if the foul did not involve a concussive impact to the head of the unarmed combatant who was fouled, the referee may order the contest or exhibition continued after a reasonable interval. Before the contest or exhibition begins again, the referee shall inform the Commission's representative of his determination that the foul was accidental.

2. If the referee determines that the contest or exhibition may not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an accidental foul, the contest or exhibition must be declared a no decision if the foul occurs during the first three rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for six rounds or less or the first four rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for more than six rounds.

3. If an injury inflicted by an accidental foul later becomes aggravated by fair blows and the referee orders the contest or exhibition stopped because of the injury, the outcome must be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops the contest or exhibition.

### **Rings**

The ring specifications must meet the following requirements. The ring may be no smaller than twenty feet square and no larger than thirty-two feet square within the ropes. One of the corners must have a blue designation, the corner directly across must have a red designation. The ring floor must extend at least eighteen inches beyond the ropes. The ring floor must be padded with ensolite or similar closed-cell foam, with at least one inch layer of foam padding. Padding must extend beyond the ring ropes and over the edge platform, with a top covering of canvas, duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Material that tends to gather in lumps and ridges may not be used. The ring platform must no be more than four feet above the floor of the building and must have suitable steps for the use of the contestants. The steps should be placed in both of the fighter's corners, and a third set of steps should be located in a neutral corner for Commission use. Ring posts must be made of metal, not more than three inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a minimum height of fifty-eight inches above the ring floor, and must be properly padded in a manner approved by the commission. Ring posts must be eighteen inches away from the ring ropes. There must be at least four ring ropes not less than one inch in diameter and wrapped in soft material. The lowest rope must be no higher than twelve inches from the ring floor. There must not be any obstruction or object, on any part of the ring floor. There should be at least two rope ties per side of the ring.

### **Rule Meetings:**

In many jurisdictions, group rule meetings have been commonplace in the reviewing of rules, fouls and other considerations. It is recommended that individual meetings between the bout supervising referee and each competitor in the contest be conducted backstage in the locker room or another appropriate location. Many times contestants will ask questions of the official when the rules are covered individually in private, when they would have been hesitant to ask the same question in front of their competitor. This also provides the referee to observe any peculiar idiosyncrasies of the fighter, such as an odd speech pattern, nervous ticks, or different eye colors.

This does not supersede the ability of the Commission to have a general rules meeting about the requirements and also discuss items such as a fighter's time to report, the location, interaction with the inspectors, available liquids and foods, taping requirements and so on, with all the fighters gathered en masse.

### **Weight Loss**

Athletes shall be examined at the pre-fight examination to screen for in excessive or extreme weight loss practices leading to dehydration.

### **Consumables**

Only water or an approved electrolyte drink by the Commission may be consumed during the bout. The use of banned substances is grounds for DISQUALIFICATION and administrative disciplinary action. Particular attention should be given to amateurs consuming energy drinks prior to the contest.

### **Time Between Bouts-**

Unless otherwise cleared by a Commission ringside physician, a Contestant shall not appear in a subsequent event unless:

Four days have elapsed since his last contest or exhibition if the contest or exhibition lasted not more than 4 rounds.

Seven days have elapsed since his last contest or exhibition if the contest or exhibition lasted 5 or 6 rounds.

Fourteen days have elapsed since his last contest or exhibition if the contest or exhibition lasted 7 or 8 rounds.

Twenty-one days have elapsed since his last contest or exhibition if the contest or exhibition lasted 9 or 10 rounds.

Thirty days have elapsed since his last contest or exhibition if the contest or exhibition lasted 11 or 12 rounds.

**Protective Equipment:**

1. All male fighters must wear a steel cup to protect their groin.
2. Women must wear Breast Protection and Rash Guards for shirts.
3. All fighters must wear an approved mouth guard.

**Appearance:**

1. Shirts and rashguards are not permitted. (males only)
2. Shoes are not permitted.
3. No Head Bands during the Contest.
4. No jewelry or body piercing.
5. Hair must be trimmed or tied back. No hair lotions, creams or sprays.
6. Beards are subject to trimming.
7. Thai shorts are to be worn by the contestants, as opposed to other types of shorts or long pants.
8. Knee or ankle braces are not permitted.

During the bout, the fighters may wear an inscribed cloth, ad amulet, or an inscribed charm around the upper arm or strung around the waist, but neatly wrapped and covered with cloth. However, wrapping the ankles or legs with pieces of cloth is prohibited.

**Referee:**

The Referee uses the following three orders. (*Thai version in brackets*).

1. Stop! (*Yed!*) When he or she wants the Fighters to stop the fight.
2. Break! (*Yak!*) When he or she wants the Fighters to separate.
3. Fight! (*Chok!*) When he or she wants the Fighters to continue the fight.

**ROUND LENGTH – PROFESSIONAL:** Are up to five Rounds, three minutes each, with a one minute rest period between each Round.

**ROUND LENGTH – AMATEURS:** Are up to five Rounds, up to two minutes each, with a one minute rest period between each Round.

**EXPERIENCE CLASSES – AMATEURS:**

**CLASS “A” AMATEURS:** Elbows with Pads or Knees to the Head may be permitted.

**CLASS “B” AMATEURS:** Entry level competitors. Elbows or Knees to the Head are not permitted.  
Head Guards, Shin Guards, Elbow Pads and Body Protectors may be worn.

**Considerations:**

A fighter cannot be saved by the bell in any round, including the final round.

The three knockdowns rule could be in effect for knockdowns caused by strikes to the head.

The standing eight count can be utilized.

**Duration of fight cards:**

**Minimum number of rounds for program.** a promoter shall not schedule fewer than Twenty-five rounds on any one program, without prior Commission approval.

**Maximum number of rounds for program.** a promoter shall not schedule more than Fifty rounds on any one program, without prior Commission approval.

**Seconds:**

Only one of the seconds may be inside the ring ropes during a period of rest.

Any excessive or undue spraying or throwing of water on an unarmed combatant by a second during a period of rest is prohibited.

**One-sided contest or exhibition; risk of serious injury.**

1. The referee may stop a contest or exhibition at any stage if the referee determines that the contest or exhibition is too one-sided or if either unarmed combatant is in such a condition that to continue might subject the unarmed combatant to serious injury.

2. The referee shall stop a contest or exhibition of unarmed combat at any stage if the referee determines that both unarmed combatants are in such a condition that to continue might subject the unarmed combatants to serious injury. If a contest or exhibition is stopped pursuant to this subsection, the decision shall be deemed to be a technical draw.

**Procedure for counting; knockdown; knockout; technical draw.**

1. When an unarmed combatant is knocked down, the referee shall order the opponent to retire to the farthest neutral corner of the ring, by pointing to the corner, and shall immediately begin the count over the unarmed combatant who is down. The referee shall audibly announce the passing of the seconds, accompanying the count with motions of his arm, with the downward motion indicating the end of each second.

2. The timekeeper, by effective signaling, shall give the referee the correct 1-second interval for his count. The referee's count is the official count. Once the referee picks up the count from the timekeeper, the timekeeper shall cease counting. No unarmed combatant who is knocked down may be allowed to resume competing until the referee has finished counting to eight. The unarmed combatant may take the count either on the floor or standing.

3. If the opponent fails to stay in the farthest corner, the referee shall cease counting until he has returned to his corner and shall then go on with the count from the point at which it was interrupted. If the unarmed combatant who is down arises before the count of 10, the referee may step between the unarmed combatants long enough to assure himself that the unarmed combatant who has just arisen is in condition to continue. If so assured, he shall, without loss of time,

order both unarmed combatants to go on with the contest or exhibition. During the intervention by the referee, the striking of a blow by either unarmed combatant may be ruled a foul.

4. When an unarmed combatant is knocked out, the referee shall perform a full 10-second count unless, in the judgment of the referee, the safety of the unarmed combatant would be jeopardized by such a count. If the unarmed combatant who is knocked down is still down when the referee calls the count of 10, the referee shall wave both arms to indicate that he has been knocked out.

5. If both unarmed combatants go down at the same time, the count must be continued as long as one is still down. If both unarmed combatants remain down until the count of 10, the contest or exhibition must be stopped and the decision is a technical draw.

6. If an unarmed combatant is down and the referee is in the course of counting at the end of a period of unarmed combat, the bell indicating the end of the period of unarmed combat must not be sounded, but the bell must be sounded as soon as the downed unarmed combatant regains his feet.

7. When an unarmed combatant has been knocked down before the normal termination of a period of unarmed combat and the period of unarmed combat terminates before he has arisen from the floor of the ring, the referee's count must be continued. If the unarmed combatant who is down fails to arise before the count of 10, he is considered to have lost the contest or exhibition by a knockout in the round containing the period of unarmed combat that was just concluded.

8. If a legal blow struck in the final seconds of a period of unarmed combat causes an unarmed combatant to go down after the bell has sounded, that knockdown must be regarded as having occurred during the period of unarmed combat just ended and the appropriate count must continue.

**Procedure when unarmed combatant has fallen through or been knocked through ropes.**

1. An unarmed combatant who has been knocked or has fallen through the ropes and over the edge of the ring platform during a contest or exhibition:

- (a) May be helped back by anyone except his seconds or manager; and
- (b) Will be given 20 seconds to return to the ring.

2. An unarmed combatant who has been knocked or has fallen on the ring platform outside the ropes, but not over the edge of the ring platform:

(a) May not be helped back by anyone, including, without limitation, his seconds or manager; and

(b) Will be given 10 seconds to regain his feet and get back into the ring.

3. If the seconds or manager of the unarmed combatant who has been knocked or has fallen pursuant to subsections 1 and 2 helps the unarmed combatant back into the ring, such help may be cause for disqualification.

4. When one unarmed combatant has fallen through the ropes, the other unarmed combatant shall retire to the farthest corner and stay there until ordered to continue the contest or exhibition by the referee.

5. An unarmed combatant who deliberately wrestles or throws an opponent from the ring, or who hits him when he is partly out of the ring and is prevented by the ropes from assuming a position of defense, may be penalized.

. An unarmed combatant shall be deemed to be down when:

1. (a) Any part of his body other than his feet is on the floor; or

(b) He is hanging over the ropes without the ability to protect himself and he cannot fall to the floor.

2. A referee may count an unarmed combatant out if the unarmed combatant is on the floor or is being held up by the ropes.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Lembo  
August 2011



## UNIFIED RULES OF AMATEUR KICKBOXING

Approved July 29, 2019

1. Bouts may consist of a maximum of nine (9) rounds of three (2) minutes each in duration, with a minimum of one (1) minute rest period between each round.
2. The referee and/or the ringside physician are the only individuals authorized to stop the contest, as determined by the presiding commission. This rule shall not preclude a video or other review of a decision under the procedures of the applicable regulatory authority if a protest is filed claiming a clear rule violation.
3. All bouts are evaluated and scored by three (3) judges.
4. Scoring:
  - A. The 10 Point Must System will be the standard system of scoring a bout. Under the 10 Point Must Scoring System, 10 points must be awarded to the winner of the round.
  - B. The fighter who has lost the round may be awarded 9, 8, or 7 points.
  - C. If the round is determined to be an even round, a score of 10/10 may be awarded.
  - D. Partial or incomplete rounds will be scored. If no significant action has occurred, the round shall be scored as an even round. This is at the discretion of the judges.

### Scoring Criteria:

Bouts will be evaluated using the following prioritized criteria;

1. Number of Knockdowns.
  2. Cumulative effective Impact on the Opponent.
  3. Number of Clean Scoring Strikes
  4. Ring Generalship or Aggressiveness
5. In the event of a knockdown the referee shall send the standing fighter to a neutral corner and administer a Mandatory Eight (8) Count to the downed fighter.

A knockdown is defined as when a fighter touches the mat with anything other than the soles of their feet as the result of a legal, damaging strike – or is in a defenseless position grabbing the opponent, or hanging on or over the ropes. The referee will have sole discretion in determining a knockdown versus a slip.



If a fighter goes down from what the referee indicates is a “slip” but fails to rise after the referee’s repeated commands, the referee will initiate a count, and follow the procedures of a knockdown. If the fighter does not rise at the count of 10, it will be considered a TKO.

If a fighter injures him/herself and then fails to intelligently defend him/herself by turning their back on the opponent, the referee may, in the proper exercise of their discretion either treat the injury the same as one produced by a fair blow from the opponent and follow the procedures for a knockdown, or terminate the bout and declare the opponent winner by TKO.

6. The Three (3) Knockdown Rule is in effect only where a fighter has been knocked down 3 times in the same round by strikes/kicks to the head. In this event, this fighter shall be determined to have lost the bout by **TECHNICAL KNOCKOUT** (note that “standing eight (8) counts are considered the same as knockdowns in making this determination).
7. The use of the “Standing Eight (8) Count is allowed in order to provide the referee the opportunity to make the best determination regarding if a damaged fighter should be allowed to continue in the match.
8. A fighter who has been knocked down CANNOT be saved by the bell in any round, including the final round.
9. All fighters are required to wear a mouthpiece during any contest. No round can begin without the mouthpieces in place. If any mouthpiece becomes dislodged during the contest, the referee shall call time and have the mouthpiece rinsed and put back in the fighter’s mouth at the first opportune moment, without interfering with the action. The referee may deduct points if he/she feels the mouthpiece is being intentionally dislodged.
10. A fighter shall receive a 20 second count if the fighter is knocked out of the ring and onto the floor. The fighter shall **NOT** be assisted by anyone, including spectators or his seconds. If the fighter is assisted, he may be deducted points, or disqualified, at the sole discretion of the referee. If the fighter falls or is thrown from the ring the referee shall “stop time”, allow the fighter to return, seek the council of the ringside physician and/or penalize the other fighter if there was a fouling action, where appropriate.
11. Fouls:
  - A. Head butts.
  - B. Groin strikes.
  - C. Thrusting or Linear kicks directed at the knee joint
  - D. Striking the back of the head or the spine – defined as striking any of the area beginning at the back of the head starting at the crown of the head and running directly down the center of the head, spreading from ear to ear in the back of the head, running down the entire rear portion of the neck, and beginning again at the occipital junction and stopping at the top of the trapezius, and again from the trapezius muscle down the spine to the tailbone
  - E. Attacks to the throat.
  - F. Striking a downed fighter (a fighter is considered “down” whenever they have any part of their body other than the soles of their feet touching the canvas).
  - G. Failure to obey the referee’s commands.
  - H. Striking on a break.

- I. Striking after a bell.
- J. Holding or using the ropes while striking or clinching.
- K. Timidity: Repeatedly, intentionally avoiding engagement or contact with the opponent.
- L. Use of abusive language and/or gestures.
- M. Causing intentional delays in the action: For example, repeatedly spitting out the mouth piece, falling out of the ring to cause delay.
- N. Thumbing
- O. Holding the opponent's leg without executing a legal strike or while executing more than one striking technique. (A fighter may grab the opponent's kicking leg and immediately execute one legal strike while taking one step, and then they must immediately release the leg.)
- P. Any effort to down a fighter by a method other than a legal strike or strikes; this includes, but is not limited to joint locks, submission attempts, sweeps, reaps, takedowns and throws
- Q. Biting.
- R. Spiting at the opponent.
- S. Striking with the elbow, arm, wrist, or other part of the glove that is not the padded part of the glove
- T. Holding, which is defined as repeatedly grabbing, grasping or tying up an opponent in order to prevent the opponent from striking. Clinching is allowed in order to immediately launch a credible knee attack. If in the referee's estimation the attack and/or counter knee attack is consistent and effective, he may allow it to continue for up to five seconds at which point he will separate the fighters. If within the five seconds the knee attack or counterattack wanes or appears ineffective the referee will immediately separate the fighters.
- U. Striking with the knee to the opponent's head

12. Permissible Strikes:

- A. All boxing strikes to permissible target areas.
- B. Spinning backhands/fists to permissible target areas
- C. Knee strikes to permissible target areas
- D. All kicking strikes to permissible targets above the belt line
- E. All kicking Strikes executed with the foot or shin directed to the legs (excluding linear or thrusting kicks directed to the knee joint.

Permissible target areas: a) front and sides of the head (except for knee strikes); b) front and sides of the torso above the belt; c) entire leg, except the knee joint by thrusting or linear kicks.

13. The winner of a match may be decided in the following ways:

- A. Points Decision: When both contestants finish the scheduled rounds, victory is awarded by majority decision of the judging panel.
- B. Knockout: If a contestant is incapable of resuming the fight within the referee's ten-count due to legal strikes.
- C. Technical Knockout:
  - 1. If the official determines a contestant shows no will to, or is incapable of resuming the fight due to a legal technique
  - 2. If the official determines the contestant can no longer intelligently defend him/herself
  - 3. If the contestant does not leave his corner to take part in the fight following the sounding of the bell.
  - 4. If the referee is of the opinion that one contestant is outmatched by the opponent and continuing the match would jeopardize the athlete's health and safety
  - 5. If the bout is terminated for medical reasons due to injury resulting from a legal technique.
  - 6. Where an athlete's corner indicates to the official, they no longer wish to continue the contest and "throws in the towel") If a contestant or his coach/corner man gives up the

fight. The contestant or his coach/corner man will indicate this to the referee or the regulatory representative assigned to his corner (The corner “throws in the towel”).

D. Disqualification:

1. The referee disqualifies the fighter for any reason including intentional, deliberate, flagrant or repeated fouling.
2. The referee disqualifies the fighter if anyone from their corner enters the ring during the bout or touches one of the fighters during the contest, other than during the rest period, or when permitted by the commission representative.

E. Draw:

1. If following the end of all rounds, at least two of the three judges do not pronounce one of the fighters a winner.
2. If both fighters go down at the same time and neither can resume the fight within the referee’s ten-count.

F. No Decision:

1. If a fighter cannot continue as the result of an accidental foul and the bell has not yet sounded completing the second round of a three round bout or completed the third round of a five round bout or completed the fourth round of a bout scheduled for more than five rounds.
2. If the referee decides both fighters must be disqualified
3. Where the commission determines any other determination would result in a miscarriage of justice.

14. A fighter who has been struck with a low blow is allowed up to five minutes to recover from the foul as long as in the referee and/or ringside doctor’s opinion the fighter may continue on in the contest. If the fighter states that they can continue on before the five minutes of time have expired, the referee shall as soon as practical restart the fight. If the fighter goes over the five (5) minute time allotment, the fight cannot be restarted, and the contest must come to an end with the outcome determined by the round and time in which the fight was stopped.

15. Injuries Sustained by Intentional Fouls:

- A. If an intentional foul causes an injury, which is severe enough to terminate the bout immediately, the fighter causing the foul shall lose by DISQUALIFICATION.
- B. If the referee determines that a contest may continue despite an injury caused by an intentional foul, the referee shall immediately inform the Commission’s representative and the judges and the judges shall deduct the points as determined by the referee and/or the commission’s representative

C. If an injury caused by an intentional foul result in the contest being stopped later in the bout, or in a later round:

- (i) If the injured fighter is ahead on the scorecards, he shall be declared the winner by a **TECHNICAL DECISION**, or
- (ii) If the injured fighter is behind or even on the scorecards, the contest shall be declared a **TECHNICAL DRAW**.

D. If a fighter injures himself while attempting to foul his opponent, but is able to continue fighting, the referee shall take no action and treat the injury as if produced by a fair blow. If

the referee determined fighter who injured him/herself is unable to continue, that fighter will lose by **TECHNICAL KNOCKOUT/KNOCKOUT**.

16. Injuries Sustained by Unintentional Fouls:

- A. If an unintentional foul causes an injury, which is severe enough to terminate the bout immediately, the contest shall result in a **NO DECISION**, if a bout has not completed the rounds necessary to score a technical decision.
- B. If an unintentional foul causes an injury severe enough to terminate the bout once the bout is considered official, the bout shall be awarded to the fighter ahead on the scorecards, including incomplete rounds, by way of a **TECHNICAL DECISION**.

A bout is considered "official" if completing the second round of a three round bout or completed the third round of a five round bout or completed the fourth round of a bout scheduled for more than five rounds.

If the injury from the UNINTENTIONAL foul is not severe enough to immediately stop the bout but later becomes aggravated and causes the bout to be stopped, the bout shall be awarded to the fighter ahead on the scorecards, including incomplete rounds, by way of a TECHNICAL DECISION if the bout has been official. Otherwise the bout will result in a NO DECISION.

- C. If a fighter injures themselves while attempting to intentionally foul their opponent:
  - (i) and is able to continue fighting, the referee will not take any action;
  - (ii) If the referee feels that a fighter has conducted themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner, the referee may stop the bout and disqualify the fighter
  - (iii) If the offending fighter fails to intelligently defend him/herself by turning their back on the opponent, the referee may, in the proper exercise of their discretion, either treat the injury the same as one produced by a fair blow from the opponent and follow the procedures for a knockdown, or terminate the bout and declare the opponent winner by TKO.

17. 10 oz. and 12 oz. boxing gloves are the industry standard for amateur kickboxing. All issues pertaining to mandatory and optional equipment, including protective headgear and/or shin and instep protectors will be determined by the presiding commission.

18. Male contestants must not wear clothing or other attire on their upper bodies. Female contestants must wear short sleeved (above the elbow) form fitting tops or a sports bra.

19. No fighter may leave the ring before the end of the bout. Should the fighter fail to resume the bout following the end of the rest period, the referee shall begin counting as though there were a knock-down. At the conclusion of the count, the opponent shall be awarded the bout by way of **TECHNICAL KNOCKOUT**.



## UNIFIED RULES OF PROFESSIONAL KICKBOXING

As approved on July 26, 2017

1. Bouts may consist of a maximum of ten (10) rounds of three (3) minutes each in duration, with a minimum of one (1) minute rest period between each round.
2. The referee and/or the ringside physician are the only individuals authorized to stop the contest, as determined by the presiding commission. This rule shall not preclude a video or other review of a decision under the procedures of the applicable regulatory authority if a protest is filed claiming a clear rule violation.
3. All bouts are evaluated and scored by three (3) judges.
4. Scoring:
  - A. The 10 Point Must System will be the standard system of scoring a bout. Under the 10 Point Must Scoring System, 10 points must be awarded to the winner of the round.
  - B. The fighter who has lost the round may be awarded 9, 8, or 7 points.
  - C. If the round is determined to be an even round, a score of 10/10 may be awarded.
  - D. Partial or incomplete rounds will be scored. If no significant action has occurred, the round shall be scored as an even round. This is at the discretion of the judges.

### Scoring Criteria:

Bouts will be evaluated using the following prioritized criteria;

1. Number of Knockdowns.
  2. Cumulative effective Impact on the Opponent.
  3. Number of Clean Scoring Strikes
  4. Ring Generalship or Aggressiveness
5. In the event of a knockdown the referee shall send the standing fighter to a neutral corner and administer a Mandatory Eight (8) Count to the downed fighter.

A knockdown is defined as when a fighter touches the mat with anything other than the soles of their feet as the result of a legal, damaging strike – or is in a defenseless position grabbing the

opponent, or hanging on or over the ropes. The referee will have sole discretion in determining a knockdown versus a slip.

If a fighter goes down from what the referee indicates is a “slip” but fails to rise after the referee’s repeated commands, the referee will initiate a count, and follow the procedures of a knockdown. If the fighter does not rise at the count of 10, it will be considered a TKO.

If a fighter injures him/herself and then fails to intelligently defend him/herself by turning their back on the opponent, the referee may, in the proper exercise of their discretion either treat the injury the same as one produced by a fair blow from the opponent and follow the procedures for a knockdown, or terminate the bout and declare the opponent winner by TKO.

6. The Three (3) Knockdown Rule is in effect only where a fighter has been knocked down 3 times in the same round by strikes/kicks to the head. In this event, this fighter shall be determined to have lost the bout by **TECHNICAL KNOCKOUT**.
7. There is **NO** Standing Eight (8) Count.
8. A fighter who has been knocked down CANNOT be saved by the bell in any round, including the final round.
9. All fighters are required to wear a mouthpiece during any contest. No round can begin without the mouthpieces in place. If any mouthpiece becomes dislodged during the contest, the referee shall call time and have the mouthpiece rinsed and put back in the fighter’s mouth at the first opportune moment, without interfering with the action. The referee may deduct points if he/she feels the mouthpiece is being intentionally dislodged.
10. A fighter shall receive a 20 second count if the fighter is knocked out of the ring and onto the floor. The fighter shall **NOT** be assisted by anyone, including spectators or his seconds. If the fighter is assisted, he may be deducted points, or disqualified, at the sole discretion of the referee. If the fighter falls or is thrown from the ring the referee shall “stop time”, allow the fighter to return, seek the council of the ringside physician and/or penalize the other fighter if there was a fouling action, where appropriate.
11. Fouls:
  - A. Head butts
  - B. Groin strikes.
  - C. Thrusting or Linear kicks directed at the knee joint
  - D. Striking the back of the head or the spine – defined as striking any of the area beginning at the back of the head starting at the crown of the head and running directly down the center of the head, spreading from ear to ear in the back of the head, running down the entire rear portion of the neck, and beginning again at the occipital junction and stopping at the top of the trapezius, and again from the trapezius muscle down the spine to the tailbone
  - E. Attacks to the throat.
  - F. Striking a downed fighter (a fighter is considered “down” whenever they have any part of their body other than the soles of their feet touching the canvas).
  - G. Failure to obey the referee’s commands.
  - H. Striking on a break.
  - I. Striking after a bell.

- J. Holding or using the ropes while striking or clinching.
- K. Timidity: Repeatedly, intentionally avoiding engagement or contact with the opponent.
- L. Use of abusive language and/or gestures.
- M. Causing intentional delays in the action: For example, repeatedly spitting out the mouth piece, falling out of the ring to cause delay.
- N. Thumbing
- O. Holding the opponent's leg without executing a legal strike or while executing more than one striking technique. (A fighter may grab the opponent's kicking leg and immediately execute one legal strike while taking one step, and then they must immediately release the leg.)
- P. Any effort to down a fighter by a method other than a legal strike or strikes; this includes, but is not limited to joint locks, submission attempts, sweeps, reaps, takedowns and throws.
- Q. Biting.
- R. Spiting at the opponent.
- S. Striking with the elbow, arm, wrist, or other part of the glove that is not the padded part of the glove
- T. Holding, which is defined as repeatedly grabbing, grasping or tying up an opponent in order to prevent the opponent from striking. Clinching is allowed in order to immediately launch a credible knee attack. If in the referee's estimation the attack and/or counter knee attack is consistent and effective, he may allow it to continue for up to five seconds at which point he will separate the fighters. If within the five seconds the knee attack or counter-attack wanes or appears ineffective the referee will immediately separate the fighters.

12. Permissible Strikes:

- A. All boxing strikes to permissible target areas.
- B. Spinning backhands/fists to permissible target areas
- C. Knee strikes to permissible target areas
- D. All kicking strikes to permissible targets above the belt line
- E. All kicking Strikes executed with the foot or shin directed to the legs (excluding linear or thrusting kicks directed to the knee joint.

Permissible target areas: a) front and sides of the head; b) front and sides of the torso above the belt; c) entire leg, except the knee joint by thrusting or linear kicks.

13. The winner of a match may be decided in the following ways:

- A. Points Decision: When both contestants finish the scheduled rounds, victory is awarded by majority decision of the judging panel.
- B. Knockout: If a contestant is incapable of resuming the fight within the referee's ten-count due to legal strikes.
- C. Technical Knockout :
  1. If the official determines a contestant shows no will to, or is incapable of resuming the fight due to a legal technique
  2. If the official determines the contestant can no longer intelligently defend him/herself
  3. If the contestant does not leave his corner to take part in the fight following the sounding of the bell.
  4. If the referee is of the opinion that one contestant is outmatched by the opponent and continuing the match would jeopardize the athlete's health and safety
  5. If the bout is terminated for medical reasons due to injury resulting from a legal technique.
  6. Where an athlete's corner indicates to the official they no longer wish to continue the contest and "throws in the towel") If a contestant or his coach/corner man gives up the fight. The contestant or his coach/corner man will indicate this to the referee or the regulatory representative assigned to his corner (The corner "throws in the towel").

D. Disqualification :

1. The referee disqualifies the fighter for any reason including intentional, deliberate, flagrant or repeated fouling.
2. The referee disqualifies the fighter if anyone from their corner enters the ring during the bout or touches one of the fighters during the contest, other than during the rest period, or when permitted by the commission representative.

E. Draw :

1. If following the end of all rounds, at least two of the three judges do not pronounce one of the fighters a winner.
2. If both fighters go down at the same time and neither can resume the fight within the referee's ten-count.

F. No Decision:

1. If a fighter cannot continue as the result of an accidental foul and the bell has not yet sounded completing the second round of a three round bout, or completed the third round of a five round bout, or completed the fourth round of a bout scheduled for more than five rounds.
2. If the referee decides both fighters must be disqualified
3. Where the commission determines any other determination would result in a miscarriage of justice.

14. A fighter who has been struck with a low blow is allowed up to five minutes to recover from the foul as long as in the referee and/or ringside doctor's opinion the fighter may continue on in the contest. If the fighter states that they can continue on before the five minutes of time have expired, the referee shall as soon as practical restart the fight. If the fighter goes over the five (5) minute time allotment, the fight cannot be restarted, and the contest must come to an end with the outcome determined by the round and time in which the fight was stopped.

15. Injuries Sustained by Intentional Fouls:

- A. If an intentional foul causes an injury, which is severe enough to terminate the bout immediately, the fighter causing the foul shall lose by **DISQUALIFICATION**.
- B. If the referee determines that a contest may continue despite an injury caused by an intentional foul, the referee shall immediately inform the Commission's representative and the judges and the judges shall deduct the points as determined by the referee and/or the commission's representative
- C. If an injury caused by an intentional foul results in the contest being stopped later in the bout, or in a later round:
  - (i) If the injured fighter is ahead on the scorecards, he shall be declared the winner by a **TECHNICAL DECISION**, or
  - (ii) If the injured fighter is behind or even on the scorecards, the contest shall be declared a **TECHNICAL DRAW**.
- D. If a fighter injures himself while attempting to foul his opponent, but is able to continue fighting, the referee shall take no action and treat the injury as if produced by a fair blow. If the referee determined fighter who injured him/herself is unable to continue, that fighter will lose by **TECHNICAL KNOCKOUT/KNOCKOUT**.



16. Injuries Sustained By Unintentional Fouls:

- A. If an unintentional foul causes an injury, which is severe enough to terminate the bout immediately, the contest shall result in a **NO DECISION**, if a bout has not completed the rounds necessary to score a technical decision.
- B. If an unintentional foul causes an injury severe enough to terminate the bout once the bout is considered official, the bout shall be awarded to the fighter ahead on the scorecards, including incomplete rounds, by way of a **TECHNICAL DECISION**.

A bout is considered "official" if completing the second round of a three round bout, or completed the third round of a five round bout, or completed the fourth round of a bout scheduled for more than five rounds.

If the injury from the UNINTENTIONAL foul is not severe enough to immediately stop the bout but later becomes aggravated and causes the bout to be stopped, the bout shall be awarded to the fighter ahead on the scorecards, including incomplete rounds, by way of a TECHNICAL DECISION if the bout has been official. Otherwise the bout will result in a NO DECISION.

- C. If a fighter injures themselves while attempting to intentionally foul their opponent:
  - (i) and is able to continue fighting, the referee will not take any action;
  - (ii) If the referee feels that a fighter has conducted themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner, the referee may stop the bout and disqualify the fighter
  - (iii) If the offending fighter fails to intelligently defend him/herself by turning their back on the opponent, the referee may, in the proper exercise of their discretion, either treat the injury the same as one produced by a fair blow from the opponent and follow the procedures for a knockdown, or terminate the bout and declare the opponent winner by TKO.

17. 8 oz. and 10 oz. boxing gloves are the industry standard for professional kickboxing. All issues pertaining to mandatory and optional equipment will be determined by the presiding commission.

18. Male contestants must not wear clothing or other attire on their upper bodies. Female contestants must wear short sleeved (above the elbow) form fitting tops or a sports bra.

19. No fighter may leave the ring before the end of the bout. Should the fighter fail to resume the bout following the end of the rest period, the referee shall begin counting as though there were a knock-down. At the conclusion of the count, the opponent shall be awarded the bout by way of **TECHNICAL KNOCKOUT**.

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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA BOXING, MARTIAL ARTS AND  
PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING  
ADVISORY BOARD



**PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING  
REGULATIONS**

Last Updated - DRAFT

STATUTES  
Title 54.1, Chapter 8.1



Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

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[www.dpor.virginia.gov](http://www.dpor.virginia.gov)

**NOTICE  
SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES**

These regulations are effective?????, and replaced all previous versions of the regulations. As a regulant of the Board, you are responsible for following all regulations and therefore you should read and become familiar with all regulations printed in this booklet. These regulations should be thoroughly reviewed. Following is a brief summary of the regulations to assist you in your review.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

This booklet contains the information you will need to obtain your license. The law that governs your profession is found in the *Code of Virginia*, 1950, as amended, in Title 54.1, Chapter 8.1. That law permits the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation to issue regulations that tell you more about what is expected of you in your profession. This booklet contains a copy of the law and regulations that you will need to know and obey to obtain and keep your license. **BE SURE YOU READ AND UNDERSTAND THE STANDARDS OF PRACTICE AND CONDUCT. YOUR FAILURE TO OBEY THESE STANDARDS COULD RESULT IN A MONETARY PENALTY OR THE LOSS OF YOUR LICENSE.**

It is the goal of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation to provide you with the information you need to comply with the law and regulations. If you have a question and cannot find the answer to it in this booklet, please write to:

Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation  
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 400  
Richmond, Virginia 23233

or call the Agency at (804) 367-8500.

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## **PART I.**

### **SCOPE.**

#### **18VAC120-43-10. Scope.**

This chapter contains procedures and requirements for the licensure of individuals and businesses to engage in the conduct of professional wrestling events as provided for in Chapter 8.1 (§54.1-828 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia.

The director of the department is empowered to (i) promulgate this chapter, (ii) issue licenses, (iii) investigate to determine compliance with this chapter, and (iv) take disciplinary action, in accordance with the Virginia Administrative Process Act, against those who fail to comply with this chapter. Furthermore, to the extent applicable, this chapter shall be construed in accordance with and governed by Virginia's Administrative Process Act. The director is also empowered to contract with a vendor to perform certain tasks on the director's behalf. These tasks include examining and recommending licensure, investigating and ensuring that events are conducted in compliance with statutes and regulations, performing clerical duties, collecting fees, maintaining records, developing proposed regulations, and recommending enforcement actions.

#### **18VAC120-43-20. Applicability.**

Event licensing and conduct standards for wrestling are set forth in 18VAC120-43-100, and 18VAC120-43-110 through 18VAC120-43-130.

## PART II.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS.

#### 18VAC120-43-30. Definitions.

A. Section 54.1-828 of the Code of Virginia provides definitions of the following terms:

Cable television system

Contractor

Department

Director

Event

Manager

Matchmaker

Person

Promote

Promoter

Regulant

Trainer, second, or cut man

Wrestler

Wrestling

B. The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Assistant event inspector" means the individual assigned to assist the event inspector.

"Business" means any sole proprietorship, general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, association, corporation, or other business entity.

"Charity event" means an event where all or a portion of the proceeds are donated to a charitable organization that is tax-exempt under §501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

"Bout" means the portion of an event wherein specific individuals (two contestants engage in wrestling which ends when a decision is reached.

"Event," as defined in §54.1-828 of the Code of Virginia, begins when a promoter takes possession or control of a facility or area as specified in the contract between the promoter and the facility and lasts until the promoter releases control of the facility or area. One event shall not exceed one 24-hour period.

"Event inspector" means the event official assigned to be in overall charge of the conduct of an event to assure compliance with this chapter.

"Event license" means a method of regulation whereby any promoter arranging or conducting a wrestling event is required to obtain a prior authorization from the department.

"Event officials" means those individuals assigned to carry out the duties of an event inspector, assistant event inspector, inspector, referee, timekeeper, judge, or ringside physician as established by this chapter.

"Inspector" means the event official assigned to assist the event inspector as provided for in this chapter.

"Licensed event" means an event that has been issued a license from the department in accordance with this chapter.

"Referee" means a licensed wrestler assigned to assure the proper conduct of the bout and the safety of the contestants to assure the safety of the spectators as provided for in this chapter.

"Responsible management" means the following individuals:

1. The sole proprietor of a sole proprietorship;
2. The partners of a general partnership;
3. The general partners of a limited partnership;
4. The officers of a corporation;
5. The managers of a limited liability company; or
6. The officers and directors of an association.

**18VAC120-43-40. License expiration.**

- A. Except as set out in subsection B of this section, each license, other than an event license or a limited contestant shall expire on December 31 of the year in which the license was issued, except that licenses issued during the last 45 days of any calendar year shall expire on December 31 of the following calendar year.
- B. Each license to conduct a wrestling event issued to a licensed promoter shall be valid only for the duration of the event described in the application for licensure. Each limited license issued to a contestant shall be valid only for the duration of one specifically identified event or two specifically identified events held on consecutive days at the same location.

**18VAC120-43-50. Fees.**

A. Each applicant shall submit the following fee along with the application for licensure:

Wrestler	\$40
Wrestler--limited	\$30
Manager	\$50
Promoter	\$500
Matchmaker	\$50
Event Fee	\$125

B. All fees are nonrefundable.

**PART III.**

**LICENSING STANDARDS.**

**18VAC120-43-60. General application requirements.**

A. Applicants shall apply on forms supplied by the department or its contractor.

B. Applicants shall be at least 18 years of age.

C. The individual applicant or business, and every member of the responsible management of the business, shall disclose the following information:

1. Any guilty finding by the department, or by a court of any competent jurisdiction, of any material misrepresentation while engaged in wrestling or other athletic activities, or any conviction, guilty plea, or finding of guilty, regardless of adjudication or deferred adjudication, of any felony or misdemeanor;
2. Any disciplinary action taken by the department or another jurisdiction in connection with the applicant's participation in or promotion of professional athletic bouts or activities including, but not limited to, monetary penalty, fine, suspension, revocation, or surrender of a license in connection with a disciplinary action; and
3. Any current or previously held licenses issued by this Commonwealth or any other jurisdiction.



Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for the purposes of this subsection. A certified copy of a final order, decree, or case decision by a court or regulatory agency with the lawful authority to issue such order, decree, or case decision shall be admissible as prima facie evidence of such conviction or discipline. Subject to the provisions of §54.1-204 of the Code of Virginia, the department may deny an application for a license if, in its judgment, the actions disclosed in subdivisions 1 and 2 of this subsection would render the applicant unfit or unsuited to engage in wrestling.

- D. Each individual applicant, business, and responsible management of the business, shall disclose a physical address. A post office box shall not be accepted in lieu of a physical address.
- E. The fees established by 18VAC120-43-50.A. shall accompany the application and shall not be refunded.
- F. The receipt of an application and the deposit of fees does not indicate approval of licensure by the department.

**18VAC120-43-70. Additional requirements for a contestant.**

Each applicant for a license as a contestant shall submit a completed application as described in 18VAC120-43-60 and shall:

- A. Submit the following certification:

I understand as a professional wrestler I should be aware that the activities of professional wrestling includes many health and safety risks. I will take the necessary medical exams to assure I am physically able to safely compete. I certify I have received the necessary training and/or have the necessary experience to safely participate in the activity of professional wrestling. I further certify that I am in good physical health, have no abnormalities or deficiencies that would prevent my participation in a wrestling event or endanger my health when engaging in a wrestling exhibition, and understand the health and safety risks involved in participation in a wrestling event.

- B. All contestants aged 38 or older shall submit a physical obtained within the last year from the date of application by a physician licensed by a medical board in the United States or its territories to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine, certifying that the contestant is in good physical health and that the physician has not observed any abnormalities or deficiencies that would prevent the contestant from participating in a wrestling event or endanger the contestant, the public, officials, or other contestants participating in the event.

The department may require additional medical tests to determine the fitness of a contestant upon receipt of information of a preexisting condition that may present a danger to the contestant.

**18VAC120-43-80. Entry requirements for contestants.**

- A. The department may deny the application for a license as a wrestler to any applicant who has suffered a serious head injury or other serious physical injury, and may, in any case, require an additional, specific medical examination to determine the applicant's suitability before approving the applicant for licensure as a wrestler.
- B. The department may deny the application for a license as a wrestler of any applicant who has been subject to the following actions by agencies in other jurisdictions that regulate wrestling:
  - 1. Denial or suspension of a license as a wrestler for reasons of medical safety when it has been determined by competent medical examination that participation in a wrestling event by the applicant may pose a risk to the applicant's health, or the health of opponents or;
  - 2. A violation of a law or regulation governing wrestling which is substantially the same as that found in Chapter 8.1 (§54.1-828 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia or in this chapter.

**18VAC120-43-90. Additional requirements for promoter.**

Each applicant for a license as a promoter shall submit a completed application as described in 18VAC120-43-70, which includes a statement that the applicant possesses knowledge of this chapter, and the following certification:

“I understand that I am not entitled to compensation in connection with a wrestling event, including gate fees, until I provide the department with a copy of any agreement in writing to which I and any contestant participating in the match are parties; a statement made under penalty of perjury that there are no other agreements; a statement of fees, charges, and expenses that will be assessed by or through me on the contestant.

**PART IV.**

**EVENT LICENSING AND CONDUCT STANDARDS FOR WRESTLING.**

**18VAC120-43-100. Application for a license to conduct a wrestling event.**

- A. At least 30 days before the date of any wrestling event in the Commonwealth, the licensed

promoter requesting to conduct the event shall deliver an application for a license to conduct a wrestling event to the department or its contractor. The application shall be on forms provided by the department and shall include:

1. The card of the wrestling event to be exhibited, including the name of each participant. The promoter may modify the card at any time up to the day of the event by providing the required documents for the additions to and the notice of the deletions from the card that accompanied the application;
  2. A certification by the promoter that all contestants are properly trained and competent to perform within the ring and ring area;
  3. The date, location, and time of the event for which a license is sought. The department will consider the size and configuration of the location and may deny approval of the event license for safety reasons;
  4. A statement certifying that all contestants scheduled to compete are covered by a health insurance policy that covers medical expenses for injuries incurred during the wrestling event. A waiver of liability will be accepted in lieu of a health insurance policy.
  5. Evidence of a surety bond filed with the department or its designee based on the payment of gate fees and penalties imposed by Chapter 8.1 (§54.1-828 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia and on the fulfillment of the contracts made with the participants. The bond shall be in form and substance satisfactory to the department and in an amount equal to the sum of (i) the total gate fee required by this chapter and §54.1-833 A of the Code of Virginia if all seats were to be sold and (ii) the total amount due to all participants for their appearance in the event. The bond shall not exceed \$100,000 and shall be executed by a surety authorized to do business in the Commonwealth;
  6. Acknowledgment that the promoter will provide a copy of the contract between the promoter and each of the contestants to the department or its designee upon request;
  7. A copy of each contract by the promoter for the sale of the rights to distribute in any manner such event by any video, telephonic, or other communication method involving the control of electrons or other charge carriers;
  8. A statement that the promoter has read and understands this chapter and will conduct the event in full compliance with same; and
  9. Verification of status as a charity event as defined in this chapter.
- B. In no case shall the promoter for an event license announce or advertise, either directly or indirectly, the event to the public until the department has approved the application and issued the event license.

**18VAC120-43-110. Equipment to be provided by wrestling promoters.**

The promoter shall assure that each event shall have the following:

1. The ring shall be in the shape of a square, hexagon, or an octagon. A square ring shall not be less than 16 feet square within the ropes and shall not exceed 20 feet square inside the ropes. A hexagon or octagon ring shall not be less than 16 feet (from any side to the opposite side) inside the ropes and shall not exceed 32 feet (from any side to the opposite side) inside the ropes. The ring floor shall be padded with ensolite, one inch thick, or another similar closed-cell foam. The padded ring floor must extend at least 18 inches beyond the ropes and over the edge of the platform with a top covering of canvas or other similar material tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges shall not be used. The ring platform shall not be more than five feet above the floor of the building and shall have suitable steps for use of the contestants in their corners. Ring posts shall be of metal, not more than three inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a height of 58 inches above the ring floor. The ring posts shall be at least 18 inches away from the ring ropes. There shall be three or four ring ropes, no more than one inch in diameter, evenly spaced, with the bottom ring rope not less than 18 inches above the ring floor and the top ring rope not more than 52 inches above the ring floor. All ring ropes are to be tight, and all corners must be padded with appropriate pads. All turnbuckles are to be covered with a protective padding. The ring shall have bright lights and light all four corners and middle of the ring equally. No lights shall shine into the face of the contestants, lights may only shine downward and not shine at any angle directly into the ring area that may blind the contestants. The promoter shall provide a ringside restrictive barrier between the first row of ringside seats that will prevent the crowd from confronting the contestants. The ringside barrier must be a minimum of six feet from the outside edge of the ring;
2. A bell or gong located at the ring no higher than the floor level of the ring. The bell or gong must produce a clear tone easily heard by the participants;
3. Locker rooms adequate in number and equipment to reasonably facilitate the wrestlers' activities before and after the show. Separate locker rooms shall be provided when both male and female contestants are scheduled to compete. Locker rooms shall have restroom facilities easily available;

**18VAC120-43-120. Wrestling event conduct standards.**

A. Wrestling bouts shall be conducted inside the ring ropes or inside a securely barricaded area that prevents any direct contact between the contestants and the audience.

1. A contestant shall not physically engage and/or include in the bout any spectator or third person not licensed by the department.

B. Each bout shall be conducted under the supervision of a referee who shall be currently

licensed as a wrestler and who shall be responsible for the safety of the wrestlers and spectators.

- C. Neither the promoter nor referee shall permit physically dangerous conduct or tactics by any contestant.
- D. Wrestlers shall not intentionally cause a flow of blood or any other fluid during the course of the event.
  - 1. In the event a visible flow of blood or any other fluid from any contestant occurs during the bout, the referee shall immediately suspend the bout until medical treatment can be obtained. If the flow of blood or other fluid cannot be stopped, the bout involving that wrestler shall not continue.
  - 2. A solution, of one part bleach and nine parts water for disinfecting blood on the ring canvas or ropes, shall be available ringside for use by promoter or his representative to clean the ring canvas and ropes as needed.
- E. Promoters shall maintain peace, order and decency in the conduct of all contestants and spectators.
  - 1. Promoters must have, and maintain for review if requested, individual contracts on file for all their contestants.
  - 2. Promoters shall report to the department, on a form provided by the department, within 3 business days of the completion of the event, any fees paid to the contestants of that event.

**18VAC120-43-130. Promoter to allow access to event and facilities.**

- A. The department may assign one or more representatives to an event to assure compliance with Chapter 8.1 (§54.1-828 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia and this chapter.
- B. Representatives of the department or its designee assigned to observe an event, shall be granted immediate access by the promoter and the promoter's representatives to any area of the event facilities.
- C. The promoter is responsible for security of the locker room area and shall permit no person to enter the locker room area except for the promoter, his representatives, contestants, or any representatives of the department or its designee.

**PART V.**

## GATE FEES.

### 18VAC120-43-140. Reporting, verification, and payment of gate fees.

- A. No person, except for members of a local police department or rescue squad on duty covering the event, promoters, his representatives, contestants, and the department or designee may be admitted to the event without a ticket.
- B. Each ticket, except those for the working press and official photographers, shall have the price, name of the promoter, date, and place of the event printed plainly on it.
- C. No promoter shall sell a ticket at a price other than the price that appears on the ticket.
- D. No promoter shall change a ticket price or the place or date of the event without the approval of the department.
- E. Tickets of different prices shall be printed in different colors.
- F. Each ticket issued to the press shall be marked "press."
- G. A maximum of 2.0% of the tickets to an event may be complimentary.
- H. Each complimentary ticket shall be marked complimentary.
- I. Each ticket shall be separated from the stub when entering through the gate. No person shall occupy a seat without a stub.
- J. Each promoter shall furnish to the department, within 3 business days after the completion of each event, a written and verified report on the form provided by the department showing the number of tickets sold, unsold, and given away, the amount of the proceeds donated to a charitable organization that is tax exempt under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and the amount of gross proceeds thereof for such events originating in the Commonwealth. The report shall also include the total gross proceeds from the sale of rights to distribute in any manner such event by any video, telephonic, or other communication method involving the control of electrons or other charge carriers for such live events originating in the Commonwealth.
- K. The promoter shall pay the department, within the 3 business days following the event, a fee of (i) 5.0% of the first \$100,000 of its total gross receipts and (ii) 2.5% of the remainder of its total gross proceeds. These fees shall not be reduced for portions of an event containing amateur matches as set forth in 18VAC120-40-10.
- L. The department or its contractor may examine or cause to be audited the records and accounts of the promoter.

## PART VI.

### STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND PERFORMANCE.

#### 18VAC120-43-150. Grounds for disciplinary action by the department.

- A. The department shall have the authority to discipline a contestant through a fine, license suspension, or license revocation for the same reason it may deny licensure, for the following reasons, as may be appropriate:
1. Using misrepresentation or fraud to obtain or attempt to obtain a license or event license.
  2. Having a medical condition which makes participating in an event a health hazard.
  3. Altering a license issued by the department.
  4. Having been convicted in any jurisdiction of any felony or of any misdemeanor involving lying, cheating or stealing, or of any misdemeanor for acts carried out while engaged in boxing, wrestling, or other athletic activities. Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for the purposes of this subsection. A certified copy of a final order, decree or case decision by a court or regulatory agency with the lawful authority to issue such order, decree or case decision shall be admissible as prima facie evidence of such conviction or discipline.
  5. Having been the subject of disciplinary action taken by Virginia or another jurisdiction in connection with the participation in or promotion of professional athletic contests or activities, including but not limited to, monetary penalties, fines, suspension, revocation, or surrender of a license in connection with a disciplinary action.
  6. Using unsportsmanlike conduct or other inappropriate behavior inconsistent with generally accepted methods of competition.
  7. Failure to meet financial obligations that results in collection proceedings against the bond required by this chapter and §54.1-833 A of the Code of Virginia.
  8. Use of profane or abusive language, during the event.
  9. Threatening or inflicting bodily harm upon a member of the department or its designee, or members of the audience during an event.
  10. Use of any alcohol, controlled substances, or stimulants in any part of the body prior to or during an event or being found to be under the influence of alcohol, controlled substances or stimulants during an event.
  11. Failure to fulfill contracts for participation in an event.

12. Cosmetics and jewelry may be worn by wrestlers unless the department or its designee determines there is a safety risk.

13. Allowing a license, certificate or registration to be used by another.

B. The department shall conduct disciplinary procedures in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§2.2-4000 et seq. of the Code of Virginia).

DRAFT AGENDA  
Materials contained in this agenda are proposed topics for discussion  
And are not to be construed as regulation or official board position  
DRAFT AGENDA



**Included in this booklet are relevant excerpts from the *Code of Virginia*. Please note that the Virginia General Assembly is responsible for creating and amending the *Code*, not the Director, Department, or the Advisory Board. The version contained herein contains all changes, if any, that have been made by the General Assembly through the 2016 session. It is your responsibility to stay informed of revisions to the regulations and the statutes governing your profession or occupation. Please consult the General Assembly or your local library for annual changes.**

#### **§ 54.1-828. Definitions.**

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Amateur" means an individual who has never participated in a boxing, martial arts, or professional wrestling event for money, compensation, or reward other than a suitably inscribed memento.

"Boxer" means a person competing in the sport of boxing.

"Boxing" means the contact sport of attack or defense using fists.

"Cable television system" means any facility consisting of a set of closed transmission paths and associated equipment designed to provide video programming to multiple subscribers when subscriber interaction is required to select a specific video program for an access fee established by the cable television system for that specific video program.

"Contractor" means any person who has been recognized by the Director, through a contract pursuant to § 54.1-832, as an appropriate responsible party to provide services to assist the Commonwealth in complying with the provisions of this chapter.

"Department" means the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation or its successor.

"Director" means the Director of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

"Event" means any boxing, martial arts, or professional wrestling show that includes one or more bouts, contests, or matches.

"Exhibition" means any occurrence in which boxers or martial artists show or display skills without striving to win.

"Manager" means any person who serves as a representative or agent of a boxer, martial artist, or professional wrestler to arrange for his participation in an event.

"Martial artist" means a person competing in the sport of martial arts.

"Martial arts" or "mixed martial arts" means any of several Asian arts of combat or self-defense, alone or in combination, including but not limited to aikido, karate, judo, muay thai, or tae kwon do, usually practiced as sport and which may involve the use of striking weapons.

"Matchmaker" means any person who proposes, selects, arranges for, or in any manner procures specific individuals to be contestants in an event.

"Person" means a natural person, corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association or any other entity.

"Professional" means a person who participates or has ever participated for money, compensation, or reward other than a suitably inscribed memento in any boxing, martial arts, or professional wrestling event.

"Professional wrestler" means any professional participating in professional wrestling.

"Professional wrestling" means an event in which contestants incorporate the sport of wrestling into choreographed performances.

"Promote" or "promotion" means to organize, arrange, publicize, or conduct an event or exhibition in the Commonwealth.

"Promoter" means any person who undertakes to promote an event or exhibition.

"Regulant" means any person required by this chapter to obtain a prior authorization from the Department.

"Sanctioning organization" means an entity approved by the Director pursuant to § 54.1-829.1.

"Trainer, " "second" or "cut man" means an individual who undertakes to assure the well-being of a boxer or martial artist by providing instruction or advice concerning techniques or strategies of boxing or martial arts, and who may work in the corner with a boxer or martial artist between the rounds of a match to assure his well-being and provide necessary equipment and advice concerning match participation.

"Wrestler" means any person competing or participating as an opponent in wrestling.

"Wrestling" means any of several styles of physical competition in which individuals attempt to subdue or unbalance an opponent, including Greco-Roman, freestyle, grappling, or submission, usually practiced as a sport.

1998, c. 895; 2005, c. 287; 2015, cc. 216, 264; 2016, c. 756.

**§ 54.1-829. Authorization from Director required; bond; physical examination; emergency medical services vehicles; physician; and health insurance.**

A. No person shall act as a promoter, matchmaker, trainer, boxer, martial artist, or professional wrestler in the Commonwealth without first having obtained authorization for such activity from the Department or sanctioning organization approved by the Director pursuant to § 54.1-829.1 and such authorization remains in full force and effect.

B. No authorization to act as a promoter shall be granted unless the applicant executes and files with the Department a bond, in such penalty as the Department shall determine through regulation, conditioned on the payment of the fees and penalties imposed by this chapter and for the fulfillment of contracts made with professional contestants in accordance with Department regulations. This subsection shall not apply to a promoter applying to conduct an amateur-only event under the authority of a sanctioning organization approved by the Director pursuant to § 54.1-829.1.

C. Each boxer and martial artist shall, and each professional wrestler may, be examined prior to entering the ring by a physician who has been licensed to practice medicine in the Commonwealth for at least five years. The physician shall be appointed by the Department or sanctioning organization and shall certify in writing that the contestant's physical condition is such that he is physically able to engage in the contest.

D. No event in which boxers or martial artists are contestants shall be conducted without the continuous presence at ringside of a physician who has been licensed to practice medicine in the Commonwealth for at least five years, and unless an emergency medical services vehicle is at the site of the event.

E. No boxer or martial artist shall participate in any event unless covered by a health insurance policy with minimum coverage in an amount determined by Department regulation.

1998, c. 895; 2007, c. 853; 2015, cc. 216, 264, 502, 503; 2016, c. 756.

**§ 54.1-829.1. Sanctioning organization; amateur martial arts events.**

A. No event in which amateur participants compete in martial arts shall be authorized in the Commonwealth unless the amateur event is conducted by a sanctioning organization approved by the Director. Only the results of amateur events conducted by a sanctioning organization in good

standing and in compliance with this section shall be recognized for purposes of reporting bout results to a national database or official registry. Every sanctioning organization, insofar as practicable, shall observe and apply the unified rules adopted by the Association of Boxing Commissions. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, for purposes of amateur martial arts events, weight classes and bout rules governing round length, judging, and scoring shall conform with the Association of Boxing Commissions unified rules.

B. No amateur martial artist shall compete in an event who has:

1. Not attained the age of 18 years;
2. Been knocked out in the 60 days immediately preceding the date of the event;
3. Been technically knocked out in the 30 days preceding the date of the event;
4. Been a contestant in an event consisting of (i) more than six rounds during the 15 days preceding the date of the event or (ii) six or fewer rounds during the seven days preceding the event;
5. Suffered a cerebral hemorrhage or other serious physical injury;
6. Been found to be blind or vision impaired in one or both eyes;
7. Been denied a license or approval to compete by another jurisdiction for medical reasons;
8. Failed to provide negative test results, dated within 180 days preceding the date of the event, for the following: (i) antibodies to the human immunodeficiency virus; (ii) hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg); and (iii) antibodies to the hepatitis C virus; or
9. Failed to provide written certification from a licensed physician, dated within 180 days preceding the date of the event, attesting to the contestant's good physical health and absence of any preexisting conditions or observed abnormalities that would prevent participation in the event. The examination performed by the ringside physician at the event pursuant to clause (ii) of subdivision C 3 shall not satisfy this requirement.

C. For each amateur martial arts event, the sanctioning organization shall:

1. Review the records, experience, and consecutive losses for each amateur martial artist prior to each event to determine, to the extent possible, that contestants scheduled to compete are substantially equal in skills and ability;
2. Verify that each amateur martial artist scheduled to compete is covered by health insurance;

3. Appoint a physician licensed to practice medicine in the Commonwealth for at least five years to remain at ringside on a continuous basis. Duties of the ringside physician shall include (i) conducting a physical examination of each referee immediately prior to the event to assure his fitness to act in such capacity, (ii) conducting a physical examination and taking a medical history of each amateur martial artist prior to the contestant's entering the ring and certifying the contestant's physical condition, (iii) signaling the referee immediately in the event that an injury is observed, (iv) rendering immediate medical aid to any amateur martial artist injured during an event, and (v) ensuring that all substances in the possession of seconds, trainers, or cut men are appropriate for use on amateur martial artists during the course of the event;

4. Assign a sufficient number of qualified officials, including locker room inspectors, judges, timekeepers, and referees, to protect the health and safety of amateur martial artists and the public. Duties of the referee shall include (i) providing prefight instructions to the contestants; (ii) ensuring that each amateur martial artist is wearing gloves supplied by the sanctioning organization or event promoter that are in new or good condition, weighing between four and six ounces; (iii) exercising supervision over the conduct of the bout and taking immediate corrective action when necessary; (iv) immediately stopping any bout when, in his judgment, one contestant is outclassed by the other, injured, or otherwise unable to continue safely; (v) striving to perform his duties in a manner that does not impede the fair participation of either contestant; (vi) consulting, when he deems appropriate, with the ringside physician on the advisability of stopping the bout if either contestant appears injured or unable to continue; (vii) counting for knockdowns and knockouts, determining fouls and stopping contests, and immediately stopping any bout if one or both contestants are not putting forth their best effort; and (viii) ensuring the health and well-being of the amateur martial artists to the greatest extent possible; and

5. Require a fully equipped emergency medical services vehicle with a currently trained ambulance crew at the site of every amateur event for its entire duration.

D. Any sanctioning organization seeking approval under this section shall make a written application on a form prescribed by the Director. The application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$500. The Director shall annually approve sanctioning organizations whose applications satisfactorily demonstrate evidence of standards and operations in place that are at least as rigorous as and limited to those required by this section. Following an informal fact-finding proceeding conducted pursuant to § 2.2-4019, the Director may withdraw his approval of any sanctioning organization that has failed to comply with this section based on (i) the review of the annual report submitted by the sanctioning organization or (ii) review of a complaint received pursuant to subdivision A 8 of § 54.1-201 or § 54.1-307.1.

E. A sanctioning organization seeking approval from the Director shall provide documented evidence (i) of operation as a business for at least the immediately preceding three years; (ii) of at least five years of experience as a sanctioning organization representing at least two different promotions during such five-year period or that the principal officers have at least eight years of experience working as a referee or head official for an established sanctioning organization without adverse financial or disciplinary action in any jurisdiction; (iii) indicating that none of its officers, employees, or agents, directly or indirectly, has any pecuniary interest in, or holds any position with, any business associated with a promoter or otherwise operates for the sole benefit of a single promoter; and (iv) of assurance that events will be conducted in a fair and impartial manner with avoidance of any impropriety or appearance of impropriety.

F. Each approved sanctioning organization shall submit an annual report to the Director on or before February 1, with a summary of the events conducted for the preceding calendar year. The Director may address any operational or compliance issues with the sanctioning organization consistent with and in furtherance of the objectives of this section. The Director shall not intervene in the internal activities of a sanctioning organization except to the extent necessary to prevent or cure violations of this section or any statute governing the persons or activities regulated pursuant to this chapter.

G. The Commonwealth, the Director, the Department, and any employee or representative shall be indemnified and held harmless from any liability resulting from or caused by a sanctioning organization or persons conducting activities on behalf of such regulant.

2015, cc. 216, 264; 2016, c. 756.

#### **§ 54.1-830. Exemptions.**

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

1. Amateur wrestling bouts;
2. Amateur exhibitions and the amateur participants therein;
3. Engagements involving amateur martial arts that are conducted by or held under the sponsorship of (i) any elementary or secondary school or public or private institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth, (ii) the Department of Corrections involving inmates of any state correctional institution, or (iii) the United States Olympic Committee; or
4. Amateur boxing.

1998, c. 895; 2015, cc. 216, 264; 2016, c. 756.

**§ 54.1-831. Powers and duties of the Department.**

The Department shall administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter. In addition to the powers and duties otherwise conferred by law, the Director shall have the powers and duties of a regulatory board as contained in §§ 54.1-201 and 54.1-202, and shall have the power and duty to:

1. Promulgate regulations in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) which implement the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.) and protect the public against incompetent, unqualified, unscrupulous or unfit persons engaging in the activities regulated by this chapter.

The regulations shall include requirements for (i) initial authorization and renewal of the authorization; (ii) authorization and conduct of events; (iii) standards of practice for persons arranging, promoting, conducting, supervising, and participating in events; (iv) grounds for disciplinary actions against regulants; (v) records to be kept and maintained by regulants; (vi) the manner in which fees are to be accounted for and submitted to the Department, provided, however, that no gate fee shall be required for amateur-only events conducted by a sanctioning organization approved by the Director pursuant to § 54.1-829.1; and (vii) minimum health coverage for injuries sustained in a boxing or martial arts match. The Department shall have direct oversight of professional events to assure the safety and well-being of boxers, martial artists, and professional wrestlers, except that those portions of an event containing amateur bouts shall be conducted under the oversight of a sanctioning organization. Sanctioning organizations shall have sole responsibility for direct oversight of amateur-only events in which martial artists compete.

2. Charge each applicant for authorization and for renewals of authorization a nonrefundable fee subject to the provisions of § 54.1-113 and subdivision A 4 of § 54.1-201. A sanctioning organization shall be subject to the application fee provisions of subsection C of § 54.1-829.1.

3. Conduct investigations to determine the suitability of applicants for authorization and to determine the regulant's compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

4. Conduct investigations as to whether monopolies, combinations, or other circumstances exist to restrain matches or exhibitions of boxing, martial arts, or professional wrestling anywhere in the Commonwealth. The Attorney General may assist investigations at the request of the Department.

5. Exercise jurisdiction over all boxing, martial arts, and professional wrestling conducted within the Commonwealth by any person, except where otherwise exempted.

1998, c. 895; 2010, c. 764; 2012, c. 769; 2015, cc. 216, 264; 2016, c. 756.

**§ 54.1-831.01. Boxing, Martial Arts, and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board.**

A. The Boxing, Martial Arts, and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board (the Board) is established as an advisory board, within the meaning of § 2.2-2100, in the executive branch of state government to advise the Director on matters relating to boxing, martial arts, and professional wrestling events in the Commonwealth.

B. The Board shall consist of seven members appointed by the Director as follows: one representative of the sport of boxing; one representative of the sport of professional wrestling; one representative of the sport of martial arts; one representative of either the sport of boxing, martial arts, or professional wrestling; one member who is a martial arts instructor who has obtained the rank of black belt or higher; and two citizen members. All members shall be residents of the Commonwealth. All appointments shall be for terms of four years, except that appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired terms. No person shall be eligible to serve for more than two successive full terms.

C. The Board shall elect its chairman and vice-chairman from among its members. The Board shall meet at least once each year to conduct its business and upon the call of the Director or chair of the Board. Four members shall constitute a quorum.

D. Members of the Board shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties as provided in § 2.2-2825.

E. Such staff support as is necessary for the conduct of the Board's business shall be furnished by the Department.

2007, c. 853; 2012, c. 522; 2015, cc. 216, 264.

**§ 54.1-831.1. Summary suspension of boxing license.**

When required in order to comply with applicable federal law, the Department may suspend the license of any person holding a license as a boxer on medical grounds or when there is substantial



danger to the public health or safety without a hearing or informal fact-finding conference. Institution of a proceeding for a hearing or conference shall be provided simultaneously with the summary suspension. The hearing or conference shall be scheduled within a reasonable time of the date of the summary suspension. The suspension shall remain in effect only so long as the medical grounds or danger to the public health or safety shall exist.

2002, c. 33.

**§ 54.1-832. Director authorized to contract for certain services; award of contract; authority when no contract is in effect.**

A. The Director may contract with a private person, firm, corporation or association to provide any or all of the following services on behalf of the Department: examining and recommending licensure, investigating and ensuring that events are conducted in compliance with statutes and regulations, performing clerical duties, collecting fees, maintaining records, developing proposed regulations in accordance with Article 2 (§ 2.2-4006 et seq.) of the Administrative Process Act, and recommending enforcement actions in accordance with Article 3 (§ 2.2-4018 et seq.) of the Administrative Process Act.

B. The Director shall procure any or all of such services in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Public Procurement Act (§ 2.2-4300 et seq.). Prior to the award of such contract, a proposer shall demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Director:

1. Personnel and financial resources necessary to carry out the provisions of the contract;
2. Adequate indemnification to protect the Commonwealth and its agencies and instrumentalities from all claims and losses incurred as a result of the contract;
3. Compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws;
4. Ability to develop, implement, and maintain the internal operations necessary to carry out the provisions of the contract; and
5. Ability to meet any other qualifications the Director deems appropriate in the procurement process.

C. Any contract awarded in accordance with this section shall not exceed a three-year term, but may be renewed annually upon the approval of the Director. The Director shall be the signatory to the contract on behalf of the Commonwealth.

D. Nothing herein is intended to deprive the contractor or the Commonwealth of the benefits of any law limiting exposure to liability or setting a limit on damages.

E. Nothing herein is intended to deprive the Director of his authority to carry out the requirements of this chapter when no contract is in effect.

1998, c. 895.

**§ 54.1-833. Reports; cable television systems; fee on receipts.**

A. Each promoter shall furnish to the Department, within twenty-four hours after the completion of each event, a written and verified report on the form provided by the Department showing the number of tickets sold, unsold and given away and the amount of gross proceeds thereof for such events originating in the Commonwealth, and its total gross receipts from the sale of rights to distribute in any manner such event by any video, telephonic or other communication method involving the control of electrons or other charge carriers for such live events originating in the Commonwealth. Within the twenty-four-hour period, the promoter shall pay to the Department a fee of (i) five percent of the first \$100,000 of its total gross receipts; and (ii) two and one-half percent of the remainder of its total gross receipts. Records of the promoter shall be subject to audit by the Department.

B. Each cable television system or other multichannel video programming service shall report to the Department in writing the name and address of each person from whom it obtains the rights to provide a live event originating in the Commonwealth.

C. The Department shall hold all license fees in a special fund of the state treasury subject to appropriation of the General Assembly. Payments from this fund shall be made to the contractors for their services on behalf of the Commonwealth. No payment shall exceed the balance of the fund. The Department shall draw from the fund to cover any expenses associated with the provisions of this chapter.

1998, c. 895; 2015, cc. 216, 264.

**§ 54.1-834. Prohibited activities; penalties.**

A. No betting or wagering shall be permitted at an event or exhibition before, during, or after the event in the building where the event is held.

B. No person shall participate in a sham or fake boxing or martial arts contest. The Department shall have the authority to order, without a hearing, the person controlling the purse to hold the distribution to contestants, promoters, and trainers pending a public hearing by the Department. The Department shall, simultaneously with the issuance of such order to retain the share or purse, institute proceedings for a hearing to determine whether a sham or fake boxing or martial arts contest has occurred.

C. It shall be a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to violate this section or any statute or regulation governing the persons or activities regulated pursuant to this chapter.

D. The third or any subsequent conviction for violating any provision of this section during a 36-month period shall constitute a Class 6 felony.

1998, c. 895; 2015, cc. 216, 264; 2016, c. 756.

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Materials contained in this agenda are proposed topics for discussion  
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Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

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**NOTICE**



**PLEASE REFER TO FIRST PAGE OF BOOKLET FOR NOTES ON IMPORTANT CHANGES.**

- **Other Business**
- **Conflict of Interest Forms /  
Travel Vouchers**
- **Adjourn**

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