

PART I.

SCOPE.

18 VAC 120-40-10. Scope.

These regulations contain procedures and requirements for the licensure of individuals and firms to engage in the conduct of professional boxing and wrestling events as provided for in Chapter 8.1 (§ 54.1-828 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Amateur boxing and wrestling contests, where the participants receive no money, compensation, including expectation of a future benefit, or reward other than a suitably inscribed memento are exempt from the provisions of Chapter 8.1 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia and from the provisions of these regulations.

The director of the department is empowered to (i) promulgate these regulations, (ii) issue licenses, (iii) investigate to determine compliance with these regulations, and (iv) take disciplinary action, in accordance with the Virginia Administrative Process Act, against those who fail to comply with these regulations. Furthermore, to the extent applicable, these regulations 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.

~~The director is empowered by Chapter 8.1 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia to conduct investigations as to whether monopolies, combinations, or other circumstances exist to restrain matches or exhibitions of professional boxing or wrestling.~~

PART II.

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

18 VAC 120-40-20. Definitions.

The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

~~“Boxer” means a person competing in the sport of boxing.~~

~~“Boxer registry” means an any entity that maintains certified by the Association of Boxing Commissions for the purposes of maintaining records and identification of boxers.~~

~~“Boxing” means the contact sport of attack or defense using fists, feet, or both, including professional kick boxing, boxing, or any similar contest.~~

~~“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.~~

~~“Contest,” “bout,” or “match” means the portion of an event wherein specific individuals (two boxers, or two or more wrestlers) engage in boxing or wrestling which ends when a~~

decision is reached.

~~“Contractor” means any person who has entered into a contract with the department 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 professional boxing or wrestling show that includes one or more contests or matches.~~

“Event inspector” means the individual 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 or 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, inspector, referee, timekeeper, judge, or ringside physician as established by this

chapter.

“Firm” means any sole proprietorship, general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, association, corporation or other business entity.

“Inspector” means the individual assigned to assist the event inspector as provided for in this chapter.

“Judge” means an individual assigned to score a boxing contest as provided for in this chapter.

~~“License” means a method of regulation whereby any person arranging, conducting, or participating in boxing or wrestling activities is required to obtain a prior authorization from the department.~~

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

~~“Manager” means any person who receives compensation for services as a representative or agent of a boxer or wrestler to arrange for his participation in an event.~~

~~“Matchmaker” means any person who selects, arranges for, or in any manner procures specific individuals to be contestants in an event or match.~~

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

~~“Promote” or “promotion” means to organize, arrange, publicize, or conduct an event in the Commonwealth.~~

~~“Promoter” means any person who undertakes to promote an event.~~

“Rabbit punch” means a blow delivered by a boxer against his opponent that strikes the back of the opponent’s neck with a chopping motion.

“Referee” means the event official assigned to a boxing contest to assure the proper conduct of the contest and the safety of the contestants or the licensed wrestler assigned to a wrestling contest 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 managing 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 medical doctor assigned to assure the medical health and safety of each boxer as provided for in this chapter.

“Task force” means the professional boxing and wrestling task force.

“Timekeeper” means the individual assigned to time each round and the interval between rounds, and to count for knockdowns as provided for in this chapter.

~~“Trainer,” “second,” or “cutman” means an individual who undertakes to assure the well-being of a boxer by providing instruction or advice concerning techniques or strategies of boxing, and who may work in the corner with a boxer 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 contact sport or exhibition in which individuals attempt to subdue or unbalance an opponent.~~

~~18 VAC 120-40-30. License required.~~

~~A. No individual shall engage or offer to engage in the activities of a boxer, manager,~~

~~matchmaker, promoter, trainer, second, cutman, or wrestler, as defined in Chapter 8.1 (§ 54.1-828 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia, without first possessing a valid license therefor.~~

~~B. No person shall promote or conduct a boxing or wrestling event without first having obtained a license for such event.~~

18 VAC 120-40-40. License expiration and renewal.

A. Except as set out in subsection B of this section, each license ~~issued to an individual or to a firm~~, other than an event license, 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 or wrestling event issued to a licensed promoter shall be valid only for the duration of the event described in the application for licensure.

C. Prior to the expiration date shown on the license, each licensee desiring to renew the license shall cause the department or its contractor to receive a photocopy of his license and the fee specified in 18 VAC 120-40-50.

18 VAC 120-40-50. Fees.

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

Boxer	\$20
Wrestler	\$20
Manager	\$30
Promoter	\$300
Trainer, second, and cutman	\$20
Matchmaker	\$50

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

1. Events of 42 rounds or fewer, with no more than one nontitle 10- or 12-round bout - \$850.
2. Events exceeding 42 rounds, with more than one nontitle 10- or 12-round bout or any event with a title bout - \$2,000.

C. Each application for a wrestling event license shall be accompanied by a fee of ~~\$50~~ \$75.

D. All fees are nonrefundable.

18 VAC 120-40-60. Professional boxing and wrestling task force.

A. The director may appoint a professional boxing and wrestling task force, consisting of ~~four~~ five members, which shall advise the director on any matters relating to professional boxing and wrestling events in the Commonwealth.

B. The task force shall be composed of ~~two representatives~~ one representative of the sport of boxing, one representative of the sport of wrestling and one representative of either the sports ~~sport~~ of boxing or wrestling, and two citizen members as defined in §§ 54.1-107 and 54.1-200 of the Code of Virginia. All members shall be residents of the Commonwealth.

C. Each task force member shall serve a four-year term, except that of the initial appointments, one shall be for two years and one shall be for three years. No member shall serve more than two consecutive four-year terms.

PART III.

INDIVIDUAL AND EVENT LICENSING STANDARDS.

18 VAC 120-40-70. Application requirements.

A. ~~Individuals and firms desiring to be issued a license~~ Applicants shall apply on forms supplied by the department or its contractor.

B. Individual applicants shall be at least 18 years of age.

C. ~~The application shall be completed according to the instructions provided with the application. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant. Fees shall remain valid for 90 days and shall not be refunded.~~

~~D.~~ The applicant shall disclose the following information about himself, in the case of an individual, or about the firm and every member of the responsible management of the firm, in the case of a firm:

1. Any guilty finding by the department, or by a court of any competent jurisdiction, of any material misrepresentation while engaged in boxing, 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 ~~which, in the judgment of the department, adversely affects the applicant's ability while engaged in boxing, wrestling,~~

~~or other athletic activities;~~

2. Any disciplinary action taken by the department or another jurisdiction in connection with the applicant's participation in or promotion of professional athletic contests 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 currently or previously held boxing or wrestling 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. The department may deny an application for a license if, in its judgement, the actions disclosed in subsections 1 and 2 of this section would render the applicant unfit or unsuited to engage in boxing, wrestling, or other athletic activities.

~~ED.~~ Each individual applicant shall disclose his physical address and each firm applying for licensure shall disclose the physical addresses of the firm and the firm's responsible management. A post office box shall not be accepted in lieu of a physical address.

~~FE.~~ The fee established by 18 VAC 120-40-50 A shall accompany the application and shall

not be refunded.

~~GE~~. The receipt of an application and the deposit of fees in no way indicates approval by the department.

18 VAC 120-40-80. Entry requirements for boxer.

A. Each applicant for a license as a boxer shall submit a completed application as described in 18 VAC 120-40-70 and ~~the following shall~~:

1. ~~A~~ Have a satisfactory record of professional boxing or, in the case of applicants who have participated in fewer than 10 professional boxing 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 boxing competition and shall be sufficient to satisfy the department that the applicant has the ability to compete; ~~and~~

2. ~~A~~ Submit a list of all ring names under which the applicant has competed as a boxer in this Commonwealth or elsewhere.

3. Have a current personal identification number as required by 15 USC § 6305.

4. Submit the following certification:

I understand as a professional boxer 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.

5. Submit a complete professional record, including date and result of last fight.

~~B. All licenses issued by the~~ The department shall ~~conform with~~ 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.

18 VAC 120-40-90. Entry requirements for wrestler.

A. Each applicant for a license as a wrestler shall submit a completed application as described in 18 VAC 120-40-70 and a signed statement from a licensed physician that the applicant is in good physical health and has no abnormalities or deficiencies which would prevent his participation in a wrestling event or endanger the applicant's health when engaging in a wrestling exhibition.

B. 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.

C. The department may deny the application for a license as a wrestler of any applicant, ~~or suspend or revoke the license as a wrestler of any licensee~~ 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
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.

18 VAC 120-40-100. Entry requirements for manager.

Each applicant for a license as a manager shall submit a completed application as described in 18 VAC 120-40-70 and a statement that the applicant possesses a knowledge of this chapter.

18 VAC 120-40-110. Entry requirements for matchmaker.

Each applicant for a license as a matchmaker shall submit a completed application as described in 18 VAC 120-40-70 and a statement that the applicant does not employ and does not

otherwise have a financial interest in or commercial connection with any wrestler, boxer, manager, trainer, or second, except that which may be necessary to arrange a wrestler's or boxer's participation in a specific event.

18 VAC 120-40-120. Entry requirements for promoter.

Each applicant for a license as a promoter shall submit a completed application as described in 18 VAC 120-40-70 ~~and~~, a statement that the applicant possesses a 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 boxer 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 boxer, including any portion of the boxer's purse that I receive and training expenses; all payments, gifts or benefits I am providing to any sanctioning organization affiliated with the event; any reduction in the boxer's purse contract to a previous agreement between myself and the boxer. Further, I understand that I am not entitled to compensation in connection with a boxing match until I provide the boxer 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 boxer pertaining to the event, including any portion of the boxer's purse that I will receive and training expenses; and

any reduction in a boxer's purse contract to a previous agreement between myself and the boxer.

18 VAC 120-40-130. Entry requirements for trainer, second, or cutman.

Each applicant for a license as a trainer, second, or cutman shall submit a completed application as described in 18 VAC 120-40-70 and evidence of a 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 boxer'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 clients, or other documentary evidence that establishes that the applicant is competent.

PART IV.

OFFICIAL APPROVAL AND CONDUCT STANDARDS FOR EVENTS.

18 VAC 120-40-140. Requirements for approval to act as a boxing event inspector, inspector, referee, judge, or timekeeper.

To qualify to act on the department's behalf as an event inspector, inspector, referee, judge, or timekeeper of boxing contests, a person must:

1. Be at least 18 years of age;
2. Not have been convicted or found guilty, regardless of adjudication, of any felony or other crime involving lying, cheating or stealing, or involving illegal drugs or other acts involving the sport of boxing. Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for the purposes of this chapter. The record of conviction, authenticated in such form as to be admissible as evidence under the laws of the jurisdiction where convicted, shall be admissible as prima facie evidence of such conviction; and
3. Submit verifications from three persons of his proficiency as an event inspector, inspector, referee, judge, or timekeeper, whichever is appropriate. Evidence of approval by the department, its contractor, or another jurisdiction with a regulatory program substantially equivalent to this chapter, may be submitted in lieu of the verifications from

three persons.

4. In addition to requirements set forth in this section, each referee or judge shall submit the following certification:

I understand that I am not entitled to receive any compensation in connection with a boxing match until I provide the department a statement of all consideration , including reimbursement for expenses that will be received from any source for participation in the match.

18 VAC 120-40-150. Requirements for approval of boxing ringside physicians.

To qualify to act on the department's behalf as a boxing ringside physician, an applicant must provide evidence of (i) licensure by the Virginia Board of Medicine as a physician for a period of at least five years and (ii) a current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

18 VAC 120-40-160. Assignment to boxing event.

A. The department or its contractor shall assign a sufficient number of event officials to each licensed boxing event who shall discharge the duties established in this chapter and 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. Event officials not assigned to a licensed event shall be present at the event only upon payment of admission as a spectator.

18 VAC 120-40-170. Duties of boxing event inspectors.

A. An event inspector shall be assigned by the department or its contractor to each boxing event and shall be in overall charge of the conduct of the event and shall assure that all assigned inspectors, referees, timekeepers, judges, and ringside physicians are present and perform their duties.

B. The event inspector shall officiate at weigh-in to assure that all boxers are properly weighed and licensed, and shall assure that the boxers have no weights or other objects which could influence the accuracy of the weighing.

C. The assigned event inspector shall assure compliance with Chapter 8.1 (§ 54.1-828 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia and this chapter.

18 VAC 120-40-180. Duties of boxing inspectors.

A. Inspectors shall be assigned to each event to assist the event inspector in the discharge of his duties.

B. Inspectors shall be assigned by the event inspector to be in charge of the dressing room

and the corners and shall accompany the boxers to the corner. An inspector shall remain in each corner and assure compliance with this chapter.

C. An inspector shall assist the event inspector during the weigh-in and the ringside physician during the physical examination.

D. Inspectors shall perform other duties as assigned to assure compliance with this chapter.

18 VAC 120-40-190. Duties of boxing referees.

An assigned referee shall perform the following duties before, during, and after each assigned contest:

1. Provide the prefight instructions to boxers;
2. Assure that each boxer is properly gloved and wearing the required safety equipment;
3. Exercise supervision over the conduct of the contest to assure compliance with this chapter and to take immediate corrective action when a failure to comply is observed;
4. Immediately stop any contest when, in his judgment, one of the boxers is outclassed by the other, injured, or otherwise unable to safely continue to participate in the contest;

5. Endeavor to perform his duties in a manner which does not impede the fair participation of either boxer;
6. Consult, when he feels it appropriate, with the ringside physician on the advisability of stopping the contest if either boxer appears injured or unable to continue;
7. Count for knockdowns and knockouts as provided for in 18 VAC 120-40-340;
8. Determine fouls and stop contests as provided in 18 VAC 120-40-350;
9. Immediately stop any contest and notify the department's representative or contractor present at the event if one or both of the boxers is not putting forth his best effort; and
10. Assure the health and well-being of the boxers to the greatest extent possible.

18 VAC 120-40-200. Duties of boxing judges.

An assigned boxing judge shall perform the following duties before, during, and after each assigned contest:

1. Score each contest on the 10-point system. The better boxer of each round shall receive 10 points and the opponent proportionately less. If the round is even, assign each boxer 10 points. No fractional points shall be given. Points shall be awarded

immediately after the end of the round;

2. Be present and attentive during the entire contest;
3. Provide his scorecards to the event inspector or his designee at the end of each round;
and
4. Report to the event inspector or his designee promptly at the time directed.

18 VAC 120-40-210. Duties of boxing timekeepers.

An assigned boxing timekeeper shall perform the following duties before, during, and after each assigned contest:

1. Provide a chronometer of a type suitable for timing the rounds of a boxing contest;
2. Assure that a warning is sounded 10 seconds before the start of each round by blowing a whistle or other sound easily heard by the boxers and distinct from the sound signaling the beginning and end of each round;
3. Assure that each round and the interval between each round is correctly and uniformly timed and that a bell or gong with a distinctive tone which is easily heard by the boxers is sounded at the beginning and end of each round;

4. Assist the referee in the counting for a knockdown to assure the downed boxer receives the correct amount of time allowed by this chapter to return to the contest; and
5. Report to the event inspector or his designee promptly at the time directed.

18 VAC 120-40-220. Duties of ringside physicians.

The assigned ringside physician shall perform the following duties before, during, and after each assigned contest:

1. Conduct a physical examination and take a medical history of each boxer immediately before the contest to assure his fitness to compete. ~~In addition, for female boxers, examine the breasts and note any masses, determine whether she is experiencing her menstrual period, and obtain her verbal assurance that she is not pregnant. A~~ Tests, including a pregnancy test, may be conducted if the ringside physician determines it is necessary to assure the health and safety of the boxer;
2. Report to the event inspector or his designee promptly at the time directed and remain at ringside during the entire duration of all contests assigned;
3. Signal the referee immediately in the event an injury is observed which the referee has not observed and enter the ring only after the referee has stopped or suspended the

contest;

4. Render immediate medical aid to any boxer injured during a contest and, where appropriate, accompany the boxer to the hospital or other place where competent medical aid may be delivered. In no case shall the assigned ringside physician cease the direct application of his skills as a physician to an injured boxer until such time as the ringside physician, in his best medical judgment, determines that his services are no longer necessary or the injured boxer is under the care of other medically competent individuals;

5. Assure all substances in the possession of seconds, trainers, or cutmen are appropriate for use on boxers during the course of the contest; and

6. Report immediately to the department or its contractor his determination of the fitness of each boxer to participate in the boxing contest. A written report summarizing the results of his examination of each boxer shall be provided to the department or its contractor within 24 hours after the date of the licensed boxing event.

PART V.

EVENT LICENSING AND CONDUCT STANDARDS.

18 VAC 120-40-230. Application for a license to conduct a boxing or wrestling event.

A. At least 14 days before the date of any boxing or wrestling event in the Commonwealth, the licensed promoter desiring to conduct the event shall deliver an application for a license to conduct a boxing or 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 boxing or wrestling contests to be exhibited, including the name of each contestant, and, in the case of a boxing contest, the number of rounds each is scheduled to compete. 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 notice of the deletions from the card which accompanied the application;
2. The date, location, and time of the event for which a license is sought;
3. Evidence that all boxers scheduled to compete are covered by a health insurance policy ~~to cover~~ which covers medical expenses for injuries incurred during the boxing event ~~which shall have~~ , has a minimum of coverage of ~~\$5,000~~ \$25,000, and meets all requirements specified in 15 USC § 6304;

4. 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 boxers and wrestlers. 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 if all seats were to be sold and (ii) the total amount due to all boxers and wrestlers for their appearance in the event, but shall not exceed \$100,000. The bond shall be executed by a surety authorized to do business in the Commonwealth.

5. Acknowledgment that the boxing promoter will provide a copy of the contract between the promoter applying for an event license and each licensed boxer at weigh-in. No contract shall be required from wrestling promoters;

6. A copy of each contract by the promoter 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; and

7. A statement that the applicant has read and understands this chapter and will conduct the event in full compliance with same.

B. In no case shall the applicant 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.

18 VAC 120-40-240. Equipment to be provided by boxing promoters.

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

1. A boxing ring which shall be in the shape of a square not less than 16 feet nor more than 24 feet on each side within the ropes. The ring floor must extend at least 18 inches beyond the ropes and shall be padded with ensolite or another similar closed-cell foam. Padding must extend beyond the ring ropes and over the edge of the 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 or ridges shall not be used. The ring platform shall not be more than five feet above the floor of the building and shall be provided with suitable steps for use by contestants. 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 and wrapped in soft material. The lower rope shall be 18 inches above the ring floor;
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 contestants;
3. Dressing rooms adequate in number and equipment to reasonably facilitate the boxer's

activities before and after the contest. Separate dressing rooms shall be provided when both male and female boxers are scheduled to compete;

4. A fully equipped ambulance with a currently trained ambulance crew 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;

5. A notice to the nearest hospital and the persons in charge of its emergency room of the date, time, and location of the boxing event;

6. Boxing gloves of at least 10 ounces for all contestants, except that during all championship bouts, boxers weighing under 147 pounds shall wear at least eight-ounce gloves; and

7. Boxing gloves having the distal portion of the thumb attached to the body of the glove so as to minimize the possibility of injury to the opponent's eye and shall, if not new, be whole, clean and in sanitary condition with no displacement or lumping of the padding material. Gloves shall be inspected by the event inspector or his designee before each contest and those found defective shall be replaced before the contest begins.

18 VAC 120-40-250. Promoter to provide copy of contract with boxer at weigh-in; penalty for noncompliance; contents of contract.

A. The promoter shall provide a copy of his contract with each boxer scheduled to compete in the event to the event inspector at the time of weigh-in for the event.

B. Failure to provide a copy of the contract for a boxer at weigh-in shall result in the boxer's disqualification to compete in the event.

C. Each contract shall contain the name of the promoter, the name of the boxer, ~~and~~ the amount of compensation to be paid to the boxer by the promoter and shall comply with the minimum provisions promulgated by the Association of Boxing Commissions.

18 VAC 120-40-260. Equipment to be provided by boxing seconds.

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

1. A clear plastic water bottle;
2. A bucket containing ice;
3. A solution of a kind approved by the ringside physician to stop hemorrhaging;
4. Adhesive tape;
5. Gauze;

6. Scissors; and

7. One extra mouthpiece.

18 VAC 120-40-270. Equipment to be provided by each boxer.

Each boxer shall provide the following equipment:

1. Trunks for male boxers, and trunks and upper body covering for female boxers;
2. Foul-proof groin protector (males) or foul-proof pelvic girdle and foul-proof breast protector as a binder (females);
3. A mouth piece properly fitted to each boxer's mouth;
4. Boxing shoes;
5. Foot pads - kick boxers only; and
6. Shin pads - kick boxers only.

18 VAC 120-40-280. Contest approval; request for reconsideration; weight classifications.

A. The event inspector assigned to an event shall obtain information on each boxer from a boxer registry and examine that information, the results of the ringside physician's examination, and any other pertinent information available to determine, to the extent possible, that both contestants are substantially equal in boxing skill and ability and are medically fit to compete. No contest shall take place without the approval of the event inspector and the ringside physician assigned to the event by the department or its contractor.

B. No boxer shall participate in a boxing contest who has:

1. Been knocked out in the 60 days immediately preceding the date of the contest;
2. Been technically knocked out in the 30 days preceding the date of the contest;
3. Been a contestant in a boxing bout of more than six rounds during the 15 days preceding the date of the contest or in a boxing bout of six or fewer rounds during the seven days preceding the date of the contest;
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 boxer's suitability; or

6. Been found to be blind in one eye or whose vision in one eye is so poor that a physician recommends the boxer not participate in a boxing contest.

C. No boxer shall participate in a boxing contest while under a 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 box;
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.

D. Any promoter or boxer may request a reconsideration by the director of the event inspector's decision by immediately providing in writing additional information or contradictory evidence concerning the boxer's skill, ability, or medical fitness.

E. A boxer who is suspended by a boxing commission of another jurisdiction of the United States may be allowed to box if:

1. The boxer 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 B of this section has been met and further proof of sufficiently improved medical or physical condition has been furnished;
2. The boxer 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 boxer 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 boxer to participate in a boxing contest; or
4. The boxer was suspended for any reason other than those mentioned in subdivisions 1 and 2 of this subsection and the boxer'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 boxer or the purposes of ~~the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 USC §§ 6301 et seq.)~~;

F. Each boxer shall compete only with a boxer within the same weight classification as specified in the following schedule:

Mini-Flyweight	up to 105 pounds
Light-Flyweight	over 105 to 108 pounds
Flyweight	over 108 to 112 pounds
Junior Bantamweight	over 112 to 115 pounds
Bantamweight	over 115 to 118 pounds
Junior Featherweight	over 118 to 122 pounds
Featherweight	over 122 to 126 pounds
Junior Lightweight	over 126 to 130 pounds
Lightweight	over 130 to 135 pounds
Junior Welterweight	over 135 to 140 pounds
Welterweight	over 140 to 147 pounds
Junior Middleweight	over 147 to 154 pounds
Middleweight	over 154 to 160 pounds
Super Middleweight	over 160 to 168 pounds
Light-Heavyweight	over 168 to 175 pounds
Cruiserweight	over 175 to 190 pounds
Heavyweight	over 190 pounds

G. No boxer may engage in a boxing contest without the approval of the department or the

department's representative if the difference in weight between the contestants exceeds the allowance shown in the following schedule:

Up to 118 pounds, not more than 3 pounds

118 pounds - 126 pounds, not more than 5 pounds

126 pounds - 135 pounds, not more than 7 pounds

135 pounds - 147 pounds, not more than 9 pounds

147 pounds - 160 pounds, not more than 11 pounds

160 pounds - 175 pounds, not more than 12 pounds

175 pounds - 190 pounds, not more than 20 pounds

190 pounds and over, no limit.

18 VAC 120-40-290. Boxing event conduct standards.

A. Bandaging of each boxer's hands shall not exceed one winding of surgeon's adhesive tape, not over 1½ inches wide, placed directly on the hand to protect the part of the hand near the wrist. 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. 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. Up to one 15-yard roll of bandage may be used to complete the wrappings for each hand. Strips of tape may be used between the fingers to hold down the bandages. Bandages shall be adjusted in the dressing room in the presence of the event inspector or his designee.

B. Any boxer who has signed a contract to box 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 boxer may not be qualified or may not be medically sound to participate in the contest.

C. Each boxer who signs a contract to box on a promoter's program 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. Boxers 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 boxer shall be examined immediately before the contest by a ringside physician assigned to the event and shall not participate in the contest unless pronounced medically able to compete by the ringside physician.

18 VAC 120-40-300. Access to boxer's dressing rooms.

On the day of a contest, only the following individuals are allowed in the dressing room of a boxer:

1. The boxer's manager;

2. The boxer's trainers, seconds, or cutmen;
3. 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 of competent jurisdiction while discharging his official duties.

18 VAC 120-40-310. Referee's instructions to boxing contestants.

The referee shall, before starting a contest, ascertain from each boxer the name of his chief second, and shall hold the chief second responsible for the conduct of the assistant seconds during the progress of the contest. The referee shall call contestants together before each bout for final instructions, at which time each contestant shall be accompanied by his chief second only.

18 VAC 120-40-320. Number and conduct of seconds.

A. No contestant may have more than four seconds, except that in a contest for a world title, the department or its contractor may authorize five seconds.

B. Only one of the seconds may be inside the ring ropes between rounds.

C. Any excessive or undue spraying or throwing of water on any boxer by a second between rounds is prohibited.

D. Seconds shall not enter the ring until the bell signals the end of a 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.

E. Seconds shall not use during any contest Monsol's solution, alcoholic beverages, stimulants, or other substances not approved by the department or its contractor.

18 VAC 120-40-330. Duration of round.

Each round of boxing shall be three minutes in duration with a one-minute lapse between rounds, except that bouts between female boxers shall consist of two-minute rounds with a one-minute lapse between rounds.

18 VAC 120-40-340. Counting by referee during knockdowns and knockouts.

A. A boxer who is knocked from his feet by a blow from his opponent shall receive a count of 10 seconds from the referee. The referee shall begin his count when the boxer is down or is helpless on the ropes.

B. A boxer who leaves the ring during a round for any reason shall have a count of 20 seconds to reenter the ring unassisted.

C. The referee shall administer a “mandatory eight” count to a boxer who is knocked down.

D. The referee shall rule as a knockout any count of 10 where the boxer is unable or unwilling to reenter the contest before the count of 10 or, in the case of a boxer who has left the ring for any reason, before the count of 20. The opponent of the boxer so counted shall win the contest.

18 VAC 120-40-350. Boxing fouls, duties of referee, and deduction of points.

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

1. Hitting below the belt.
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 going down without being hit.
10. Striking deliberately at that part of the body over the kidneys.
11. Deliberately using the rabbit punch.
12. Jabbing the opponent's eyes with the thumb of the glove.
13. Using abusive language in the ring.
14. Engaging in any unsportsmanlike trick or action which causes injury to an opponent.

15. Hitting on the break.

16. Hitting after the bell has sounded signaling the end of the round.

17. Hitting an opponent whose head is between or outside of the ropes.

18. Pushing an opponent about the ring or into the ropes.

B. Referees are responsible for enforcing the rules of the contest and shall not permit fouls or other unfair practices which may cause an injury to a boxer. Referees shall warn each boxer who commits a foul during a boxing contest.

C. Any boxer who commits any foul after being warned by the referee may have points deducted by the referee or may lose the contest by disqualification by the referee.

D. Boxers who commit fouls or any other infraction may be penalized by the referee through the deduction of points from his score. 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.

E. The referee shall stop a contest when he determines that a foul has occurred and determine whether the fouled boxer is able to continue. The referee may order the contest

suspended for a reasonable period of time to allow the fouled boxer to recover if the referee determines the boxer's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized. The referee shall inform the event inspector or his designee of his determination that the foul was accidental.

F. The referee shall stop a contest when he determines that an injury resulting from an accidental foul is so severe as to adversely affect the fouled boxer's chances of winning. The contest shall be a draw if the accidental foul occurs during the first ~~three~~ four rounds. The contest shall be determined by a tabulation of the scores of the completed rounds if the accidental foul occurs after the ~~third~~ fourth round.

G. The referee shall stop a contest when he determines that an injury resulting from an accidental foul has been aggravated by fair blows. The outcome of the contest shall be determined by scoring the completed rounds.

18 VAC 120-40-360. Scoring of boxing contest, decisions, and announcement 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 cards shall be presented to the event inspector or his designee who shall examine the score cards. The winner shall be the boxer who receives the highest score from the majority of the judges. The contest is a draw if neither boxer 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. The announcer may inform the audience of the decision.

C. The department shall not change a decision rendered at the end of any boxing contest unless:

1. It is determined that there has been wrongful or illegal collusion affecting the result of the contest;
2. An error is found in the compilation of the scorecards which discloses an error which shows that the decision favored the wrong boxer; or
3. The department determines through investigation that there was a violation of this chapter which adversely impacted on the fairness of the contest or the decision.

18 VAC 120-40-370. Boxer conduct standards.

A. The administration of or use of any alcohol, controlled substance, or stimulant in any part of the body, either before or during a match, to or by any boxer shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

B. A boxer shall submit to a urinalysis or chemical test before or after a contest if the department or its contractor directs him to do so. Failure to submit to medical testing shall be

grounds for disciplinary action.

C. A boxer found to be under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance shall be subject to disciplinary action.

18 VAC 120-40-380. Full contact karate (kick boxing) event conduct standards.

The provisions of this chapter which apply to boxers shall also apply to full contact karate (kick boxing) with the following modifications:

1. Contests shall not exceed 12 two-minute rounds with a one-minute rest period between rounds.
2. Fouls may result in the deduction of one or more points based on the severity of the foul as determined by the referee. The referee shall base his decision as to the severity of the foul on the intent of the contestant committing the foul and the result of the foul on the fouled contestant. At the time of the foul, the referee shall indicate to the judges the number of points to be subtracted from each judge's ballot. Fouls include:
 - a. Head butting;
 - b. Striking with the elbow;

- c. Striking to the groin;
- d. Attacking with the knee;
- e. Chopping to the back of the neck (rabbit punch);
- f. Striking to the face with any part of the arm other than the gloved hand (as in the spinning-back first attempt which lands with the forearm or elbow);
- g. Kicking to the legs;
- h. Punching or kicking a contestant when he is down (A contestant is knocked down when any part of his body, other than his feet, touches the floor. If a contestant is on his way to the floor, his opponent may continue to attack until he has touched the floor with any part of his body other than his feet.);
- i. Takedowns;
- j. Intentionally pushing, shoving, or wrestling an opponent out of the ring with any part of the body;
- k. Sweeping other than boot to boot;

- l. Attacking on the break when both contestants have been ordered to take one step back by the referee;
- m. Attacking after the bell has sounded to end the round;
- n. Holding and hitting, such as holding with one hand, especially behind the neck, and hitting with the other hand;
- o. Grabbing or holding onto an opponent's foot or leg, followed by a takedown;
- p. Holding the ropes with one hand while kicking, punching, or defending with the other hand or with the legs;
- q. Leg checking - extending the leg to check an opponent's leg to prevent him from kicking;
- r. Purposely going down without being hit, resulting in the referee automatically administering an 8 count;
- s. Using abusive language in the ring;
- t. Hitting or flicking with an open glove; and

- u. Refusing to compete.

18 VAC 120-40-390. Reporting the results of boxing contests.

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 contests to each boxer registry as required by ~~the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996~~ (15 USC §§ 6301 et seq.).

18 VAC 120-40-400. Wrestling event conduct standards.

A. Wrestling exhibitions shall be conducted inside the ring ropes or inside of a securely barricaded area which positively prevents any direct contact between the wrestlers and the audience.

B. Each match 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 spectators.

C. Each participant in each wrestling match shall be currently licensed as a wrestler.

D. In no case shall a wrestler intentionally cause a flow of blood or other bodily fluid from his body during the course of the exhibition.

E. In the event a visible flow of blood or other bodily fluid from any wrestler occurs during a contest, the referee shall immediately suspend the contest until medical treatment can be obtained. If the flow of blood or other bodily fluid cannot be stopped, the exhibition involving that wrestler shall not continue.

F. Neither referees nor promoters shall permit physically dangerous conduct or tactics by any wrestler.

G. Promoters shall maintain peace, order, and decency in the conduct of any wrestling exhibition.

18 VAC 120-40-410. 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.

PART VI.

GATE FEES.

18 VAC 120-40-420. Reporting, verification, and payment of gate fees.

A. Each promoter shall furnish to the department, within 24 hours after the completion of each boxing or wrestling 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. 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.

B. The promoter shall pay the department, within the same 24-hour period, 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.

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

PART VII.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND PERFORMANCE.

18 VAC 120-40-430. Grounds for disciplinary action by the department.

A. The department shall have the authority to ~~deny application for a license or event license and to deny renewal of a license as well as to~~ discipline a licensee through a fine, license suspension, or license revocation for the same reason is may deny licensure, and for the following reasons:

1. Violating or inducing another person to violate any provisions of 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 boxing or wrestling 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. Unsportsmanlike conduct or other inappropriate behavior inconsistent with generally accepted methods of competition in a professional boxing match.

B. The department, ~~or its contractor if the contractor's duties include the conduct of disciplinary proceedings,~~ shall conduct disciplinary procedures in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:4.1 et seq. of the Code of Virginia).