STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA ATHLETIC COMMISSION
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 165-X-2
PROFESSIONAL MIXED MARTIAL ARTS RULES

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165-X-2-.01 Definitions.

(1) "Mixed Martial Arts" – Unarmed combat involving the use of any combination of techniques from different disciplines of the martial arts, including, without limitation, grappling, submission holds, throws, and striking or kicking with the hands, feet, knees, or elbows.

(2) "Professional Mixed Martial Arts" – Includes kick boxing matches, contests, or exhibitions, or a mixed martial arts matches, contests, or exhibitions or events, which is not governed or otherwise designated by the Alabama Athletic Commission as an amateur mixed martial arts event.

(3) "Applicant" – Means any persons, corporations, organizations or associations required to be licensed before promoting, holding, organizing, participating in, or competing in a professional mixed martial arts match.

(4) "Body Jewelry" – Means any tangible object affixed to, through, or around any portion of the contestant's body.

(5) "Federal Identification Card" – Means any identification card issued by the Commission pursuant to or any such card issued by another boxing, mixed martial arts or athletic Commission as required by Chapter 165-X-1.02.

(6) "Official" – Unless otherwise indicated is an exclusive term collectively meaning "Inspectors" "judges," "referees," "timekeepers," and "inspectors."

(7) "Professional Mixed Martial Arts Sanctioning Organization" – A national or internationally organization generally recognized in the mixed martial arts community and which: ranks mixed martial arts competitors within each weight class; sanctions and approves championship matches in those weight classes; and awards championship status and championship prizes (belts, rings, plaques, etc.) to the winner of those matches.

(8) "Special Event" – Means a professional mixed martial arts card event, exhibition or event, which has among its contests a championship match, a pay-per-view or subscription match, a national televised match, or any other match or significance to mixed martial arts in this state as designated by the Alabama Athletic Commission.

(9) "The Commission" – refers to the Alabama Athletic Commission.
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165-X-2-.02 License Fees.

(1) Application Procedures.

(a) Terms and Agreements. Every license issued is subject to the terms, conditions, and agreements set forth in the application as well as those set forth in these rules and the Alabama Boxing, Wrestling, and Mixed Martial Arts Act.

(b) Applications Forms. Applications for annual license shall be submitted to the Commission on an application form provided by the Commission.

(c) Incomplete Applications.

1. No license or permit shall be issued until the person seeking the license or permit has submitted a complete application.

2. Applications submitted without proper payment as provided in these rules will not be processed or approved.

(d) Participant Application Due Date. Except as provided in 165-X-2-.03(a) below, all participant applications must be submitted prior to the weigh-in preceding the first professional match, contest, or exhibition in which the applicant intends to participate in this state.

1. No official weigh-in will be performed for an unlicensed mixed martial artist.

2. Licenses shall be issued annually and shall expire on December 31 of each calendar year.

(e) Approval and Denial of Participant Licenses. Annual licenses for referees, judges, timekeepers, matchmakers, mixed martial artist, managers, trainers and seconds, may be approved or denied by the Commission.

1. Any individual denied a license by the Commission can appeal the denial of the license to the Commission. The appeal will be heard by the Commission at a hearing set by the Commission. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Commission will vote to sustain or overrule the denial.

(f) Background Investigation. The Commission shall request general background information of any applicant for any license.

(g) Denial of License. The Commission may deny issuing a license to any person who has violated the Alabama Boxing, Wrestling, and Mixed Martial Arts Act, or has violated Commission rules and regulations or violated Commission bylaws or who submits an application containing false statements or material omissions.

(h) Expiration Date. Annual licenses are valid until December 31 of the calendar year in which they are issued.

(i) Verbal or physical abuse of official or commission appointed supervisor. Any licensee who verbally or physically abuses an official or member of the Commission appointed supervisor of a match, contest, or exhibition shall be summarily suspended and his or her license may be revoked.

(j) Prohibited Communication with Individual Commissioners. Anyone wishing to communicate with members of the Commission must notify the executive director of the Commission two (2) weeks prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting. Timely written notices will be added to the meeting’s agenda. Any person wishing to address the Commission shall be given the

opportunity to do so during the new business section of the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

1. Promoters, referees, judges, timekeepers, matchmakers, mixed martial artists, managers, trainers, seconds or their agents, are prohibited from petitioning any individual Commissioner with the intent of affecting the outcome of an application or other issue being actively reviewed or expected to be reviewed by the Commission. Persons who violate this rule shall be subject to disciplinary action.

(k) Documents. All documents submitted to the Commission for the purposes of making application or any other purpose shall be property of the Commission.

(2) License Fees.

(a) Application Fee. All application and renewal fees shall be submitted with the application or renewal. All fees shall be by certified check or money order.

1. Schedule of Fees. Annual fees for participant licenses, promoter's licenses, and match permits are as follow:

(i) Mixed martial artists $ 40.00

(ii) Judge $100.00

(iii) Manager $100.00

(iv) Application for Match Permit $250.00

(v) Match Permit 6% of gross sales

(vi) Matchmaker $100.00

(vii) Promoter $250.00

(viii) Referee $100.00

(ix) Second $ 40.00

(x) Timekeeper $100.00

(xi) Trainer $100.00

(xii) Returned Check $ 30.00

2. Application Fees are not refundable. The proposed date of any match, contest, or exhibition disclosed on an open

match permit application may be changed without the requirement of an additional fee.

3. All fees shall be paid by cash, certified check, cashier's check, or personal check.

(3) Licenses Issued By the Commission.

(a) Promoter's License. Application for a promoter's license must be made in writing and received by the Commission no less than thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed date for promoting any professional match, contest, or exhibition in this state.

1. Each application for a promoter's license shall be accompanied cash, certified check, cashier's check, or personal check in the amount of $250.00 and made out to the Commission.

2. Each application for a promoter's license shall be accompanied with an appropriate security bond.

3. Applications for a promoter's license shall be signed in the presence of a Commission representative, or shall be signed in the presence of and verified by a notary public.

4. The promoter shall provide the Commission's executive director a video of the match, contest, or exhibition within thirty (30) days of the match, contest, or exhibition. The video shall be provided in a format acceptable to the Commission or the Commission's executive director. The Commission reserves the right to change the requested format of the video at any time.

5. Promoters are prohibited from participating in any match, contest, or exhibition that they are promoting without approval from the Commission. Any promoter that is approved to participate in a match, contest, or exhibition must obtain the appropriate participant license from the Commission.

6. Any licensed promoter who partners or joint-ventures with any other person, for the promotion of a mixed martial arts match, contest, or exhibition in this state, shall disclose to the Commission each party's financial responsibility in the partnership or joint-venture. The promoter licensed by the Commission shall be considered the principal promoter of the show and will be solely responsible for all financial obligations incurred in its production. Contracts shall be filed with the Commission delimiting each party's financial responsibility.

7. Any licensed promoter who partners or joint-ventures with any other person, or the promotion of a mixed martial arts match, contest, or exhibition in this state, shall be considered a co-promoter.

8. Co-promoters must obtain a promoters license prior to promoting any professional match, contest, or exhibition in this state.

9. Agreements between the promoter and any other party or co-promoter for payment of any purse will not be honored by the Commission unless the co-promoter or any other party files with the Commission an approved security bond in the amount of the total deferred obligation.

10. Agreements between the promoter and any other party or co-promoter for payment of any regulatory fees, match permit fees, license fees, and or taxes will not be honored by the Commission without prior approval by the Commission and without the co-promoter or other party filing with the Commission an approved security bond or some combination thereof in the amount of the total deferred obligation.

11. Any co-promoter of a mixed martial arts match, contest, or exhibition shall obtain a promoter license from the Commission. There shall be no limitation on the number of days prior to a match, contest or exhibition when a co-promoter's application may be submitted to the Commission, however, the application must be submitted thirty (30) days prior to promoting the match, contest or exhibition.

(i) Rules and requirements shall be the same for co-promoters as for promoters, provided however that the Commission may require from each co-promoter, in addition to the promoter's license bond, a suitable match permit bond or such other financial security as defined by these rules or the Alabama Boxing, Wrestling and Mixed Martial Arts Act.

(ii) Agreements between the co-promoter and the promoter for payment of any purse shall be submitted to the Commission and approved prior to the start of the match, contest, or exhibition.

(iii) Agreements between the co-promoter and the promoter for payment of any fees, and taxes shall be submitted to the Commission and approved prior to the start of the match, contest, or exhibition.

(b) Match Permit.

1. Applications for a match permit must be made in writing and received by the Commission at least 30 days in advance of the date for such professional mixed martial arts match, contest, or exhibition. Any licensed promoter who has held a professional mixed martial arts match, contest, or exhibition in the state within the previous twelve months may apply for subsequent match permits no less than 15 days in advance of the proposed date of each subsequent professional mixed martial arts match, contest, or exhibition.

2. Each match permit application shall be accompanied by a non-refundable cashier's check or money order in the amount of $250.00 and made out to the Commission.

3. A match permit fee will be calculated by the Commission. Match permit fee shall be calculated at six percent (6%) of gross receipts from ticket sales to the professional mixed martial arts match, contest, or exhibition. For television and broadcasts, match permit fee shall be calculated at three percent (3%) of gross receipts from television and broadcast revenue for the first one million dollars ($1,000,000) of revenue and one percent (1%) of the next two million ($2,000,000). Broadcast fees will cap at fifty thousand dollars ($50,000).

(i) Ticket sales include the face value all tickets, orders, and lots sold for the event, and the fair value or face value of any promotional tickets, orders, and lots sold or provided at no cost.

(ii) The promoter must complete and submit to the Commission a Match Permit Fee Form provided by the Commission at the conclusion of the match, contest, or exhibition. The Commission will calculate the Permit Fee and notify the promoter.

(iii) The promoter shall have thirty (30) days to submit the Permit Fee. Permit applications and fees not received within thirty (30) days of the planned event may be subject to an additional match permit application and match permit application fee.

(iv) Two percent (2%) of tickets may be complimentary and exempt from the match permit fee.

4. Each application for a match permit shall be accompanied with an appropriate security bond as provided for in these rules.

5. Each match permit application should be accompanied with copies of all contracts with all participants and

officials, and any other contracts which the promoter has entered into for the match, contest, or exhibition.

6. Applicants for a match permit will be notified of the date, time, and place of documents submitted by the applicant will be reviewed by the Commission.

(i) Applicants or their designated and licensed representative(s) may attend the meeting and answer any questions the Commission has concerning the proposed event.

(ii) The Commission shall notify the applicant that his or her application has been approved or denied within seven (7) days of the Commission's decision.

(c) Matches, Contests and Exhibitions Benefiting Charity.

1. A person who wishes to promote a match, contest or exhibition for charitable purposes must file with the Commission a letter of intent to present the match, contest or exhibition as benefiting a charitable organization. The letter of intent must contain the name of the charity, charitable fund, or organization which is to benefit from the match, contest or exhibition and the amount expected to be to be paid to the charity. The letter of intent must be signed by the promoter and co-signed by an authorized representative of the charity to benefit from the match, contest or exhibition. No match permit shall be issued for a charitable match, contest, or exhibition without full financial disclosure of all promoters and charitable organizations involved, including all contracts and proposals between all licensees, officials, and parties involved.

2. Within three (3) business days after a match, contest, or exhibition benefiting a charitable organization is held, the promoter(s) and benefiting charitable organization(s) shall furnish to the Commission:

(i) A certified copy of the ticket manifest showing the number of tickets sold. The manifest shall give a breakdown disclosing the number of tickets sold in each price range and the number of complimentary tickets given for the match, contest, or exhibition;

(ii) A certified and itemized statement of the match, contest, or exhibition's gross receipts from sponsorships, ticket sales, advertisements, or any other source;

(iii) A statement disclosing the itemized and total gross expenditures in connection with the match, contest, or exhibition;

(iv) A statement co-signed by the promoter and the authorized representative of the Charitable organization, disclosing the net amount paid to the charitable fund or organization

3. If the promoter or charitable organization fails to file any of these statements within the prescribed time, the Commission:

(i) Shall notify the promoter that his or her license is summarily suspended.

(ii) Shall notify the charity of the suspension.

(iii) Shall decline to issue a match permit to the promoter for the holding of any match, contest, or exhibition until the statements are provided.

(iv) Shall decline to issue a match permit to any promoter to hold any future match, contest, or exhibition for the benefit of the charitable organization, until the statements are provided.

(d) Matchmakers. Matchmakers applying for licensure shall meet the following requirements:

1. A matchmaker shall demonstrate to the Commission that he or she has the proper background in matchmaking, and shall produce a list of all professional fighters that he or she has matched, the promoters who promoted the matches, and the results of the matches.

2. The Commission may contact the persons listed to determine whether the applicant is qualified for licensure.

(e) Trainers. Trainers applying for licensure shall meet the following requirements:

1. An applicant shall demonstrate to the Commission that he or she has experience in training mixed martial artists, and shall produce a list of all professional fighters that he or she has trained, the promoters who promoted the matches, and the results of the matches. The applicant may be required to provide a list of amateur fighters that he or she has trained.

2. The Commission may contact the persons listed to determine whether the applicant is qualified for licensure.

(f) Seconds. Seconds applying for licensure shall meet the following requirements:

1. An applicant shall demonstrate to the Commission that he or she has experience in serving as a second, and shall produce a list of all professional fighters that he or she has served as a second, the promoters who promoted the matches, and the results of the matches. The applicant may be required to provide a list of amateur fighters that he or she has served as a second.

2. The Commission may contact the persons listed to determine whether the applicant is qualified for licensure.

(g) Disciplinary Action.

1. The Commission may revoke, suspend, place on probation or take other disciplinary action against the license of any licensee who has violated any of its rules or regulations or any of the provisions of Code of Ala. 1975, §41-9-2010 or whose application contains false statements or material omissions.

(i) Any person who has had his or her license revoked by the Commission may not petition for reinstatement or apply for a new license until one (1) year after the revocation.

(h) Falsifying an Application. Upon a finding by the majority of the Commission that any licensee or applicant has knowingly made a misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representation in regard to a professional match contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts or any document connected therewith or practiced fraud or deceit or intentionally made any false statement in obtaining a license to participate or promote a professional match contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts or made a false statement or deceptive registration with the Commission then the Commission shall have the authority to refuse to grant a license to an applicant, revoke the license of a person licensed by the Commission, or discipline a person licensed by the Commission.

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165-X-2-.03 Bond Procedure.

(1) Promoter's License Surety Bond.

(a) Before any promoter's license is issued authorizing the promotion of professional mixed martial arts matches in Alabama, the applicant shall make and deliver to the Commission a security bond executed by a surety corporation authorized to transact business in this state.

(b) Any and all bond applications shall be on a form provided by the Commission, and shall be accompanied by an enforceable power of attorney. The Commission may also require certificate of "good standing" issued by the Commissioner of Insurance.

(c) If any company issuing a bond shall be removed from doing business in this state, it shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Insurance to notify the Commission within 30 days.

(d) The bond shall be in such amount as the Commission may determine based upon the payment of officials' fees, fees necessary to secure the proper medical supervision of any professional mixed martial arts show in Alabama, and/or the estimated potential damages, penalties, taxes or expenses resulting from promotional activities contemplated in Alabama.

(e) Whenever the Commission shall determine that a previously approved bond has for any cause become insufficient, the Commission may require an additional bond or bonds to be given, conforming with the requirements of these rules.

1. Unless the additional promoter's license bond or bonds are given within the time fixed by written demand therefore, or if the promoter's license bond of a licensee is canceled, the license of such person shall be summarily suspended without notice or hearing.

(2) Match Permit Bond.

(a) Before any match permit is issued authorizing the sale of tickets and the ancillary contracting necessary to promote a professional mixed martial arts show in Alabama, the applicant shall make and deliver to the Commission a security bond executed by a surety corporation authorized to transact business in this state. The purpose of the bond is to ensure that each Contestant competing in Alabama is paid their entire

purse, and that full payment of other contractual liabilities is made.

(b) Any and all bond applications shall be on a form provided by the Commission, and shall be accompanied by an enforceable power of attorney. The Commission may also require a certificate of 'good standing' issued by the Commissioner of Insurance.

(c) If any company issuing a bond shall be removed from doing business in this state, it shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Insurance to notify the Commission within 30 days.

(d) The bond shall be in such amount as the Commission may determine based upon the estimated contractual liabilities against the licensed promoter for damages and expenses resulting from non-payment of contract liabilities, including but not limited to the total amount of each competing Contestant's purse or other services contracted for or from promotional activities conducted within Alabama.

(e) Whenever the Commission shall determine that a previously approved bond has for any cause become insufficient, the Commission may require additional bond or bonds to be given, conforming with the requirements of these rules.

1. Unless the additional match permit bond(s) are given within the time fixed by written demand, or if the match permit bond of a licensee is canceled, the match permit of such person shall be summarily suspended and without notice or hearing.

(3) **Complaints and Actions to Recover Damages.** Complaints shall be categorized and kept on file by the Commission the appropriate action to be taken. Reports of illegal events, contesting of bout results, complaints against a licensee, and claims against a bond shall be categorized as complaints.

(a) Any person claiming that he or she has been damaged by a breach of the conditions of a bond given by a licensee as provided in these rules shall notify the Attorney General.

(b) The Attorney General, after an investigation is conducted, may contract the Commission, its executive director or other duly authorized representative for disciplinary action against the person whom the complaint was filed.

(c) Reports of unsanctioned events shall be logged on a complaint database and given a claim number. The Executive Director or other Commission appointed representative(s) may work with the Attorney General's Office and federal, state,

and/or local law enforcement agencies to terminate illegal event.

(d) Complaint against a bout result. See 165-X-2-.08,9.,C.

(e) Complaints against a licensee. See 165-X-2-.08,9,.C and D.

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165-X-2-.04 Medical Requirements.

(1) Medical Examinations.

(a) Neurological Examination.

1. All mixed martial artists intended to compete in Alabama who have competed in over two-hundred (200) rounds during their career, according to the number of rounds disclosed on such mixed martial artist's official cage or ring record, and prior to competing in Alabama, must submit to the Commission the results of a detailed neurological examination performed within the previous twelve (12) months by a board certified and state licensed neurologist.

2. Such examination shall include a careful examination for signs of any trauma-induced neurological damage along with any other specific test or tests requested by the neurologist.

3. Any mixed martial artist not submitting said results prior to the match may be allowed to compete provided however that such mixed martial arts figher's license will, at the conclusion of the match, be medically suspended until such time as his/her neurological examination requirement is fulfilled.

(b) Eye Examination.

1. All mixed martial fighters intending to compete in Alabama who have competed in over two-hundred (200) rounds during their career, according to the number of rounds disclosed on such mixed martial artist's official cage or ring record, and prior to competing in Alabama, must submit to the Commission results from a complete

ophthalmological or optometric examination performed within the previous twelve (12) months by a state licensed optometrist or board-certified ophthalmologist.

2. Such examination shall include a careful dilated examination of the retinal periphery utilizing indirect ophthalmoscope sufficient to identify any sign of previous trauma or retinal damage along with any other specific test or tests requested by said ophthalmologist or optometrist.

3. Any mixed martial artist not submitting said results prior to the match may be allowed to compete provided however that such mixed martial artist's license will, at the conclusion of the match, be medically suspended until such time as this ophthalmological optometric requirement is fulfilled.

(i) The Commission may require updated examinations pursuant to sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of this rule after each successive fifty (50) fought rounds after the previous submission, as disclosed on such mixed martial artist's official cage or ring record.

(2) Pre-Fight Examination. At the time of weigh-in, or at such other time as is then announced, all mixed martial arts fighers must pass a pre-fight medical examination and a commission designated physician must complete a Pre-Fight Medical Examination Form. The examining physician shall deliver all Pre-Fight Examination Forms to the Commission or to its authorized representative no more than five (5) days after the weigh-in.

(a) Pregnancy Testing.

1. Each female mixed martial artist, during the pre-fight physical, will be required to submit to a pregnancy test administered under the direction of the examining physician, or such physician's authorized assistant. The cost of such test, unless the mixed martial artist's contract or bout agreement states otherwise, shall be the responsibility of the promoter. For purposes of this sub-paragraph, the term "pass" shall mean that the participant is not pregnant.

2. Female mixed martial artists submitting written documentation acceptable to the examining physician may be waived from the pre-fight physical pregnancy test requirement. Such documentation shall be limited to:

(i) A copy of a lab report from a recognized clinical laboratory and dated within ten (10) days of the pre-fight physical attesting that the mixed martial artist is not pregnant, or

(ii) A statement from a state licensed physician, on such physician's letterhead stationery, stating that the mixed martial artist has undergone certain medical procedures rendering her medically improbable of bearing children.

(b) Failed Pre-Fight Physical.

1. Whenever a mixed martial artist's examination indicates that he or she is unfit for competition, because of any weakness or disability discovered by the physician, an immediate report of such evidence must be made to the Commission. In such case, the mixed martial artist shall be prohibited from participating in the match.

2. The examining physician shall deliver all pre-fight examination reports to the Commission or to its authorized representative immediately after the weigh-in.

3. Any contestant who fails his or her pre-fight physical for medical reasons or for lack of general conditioning shall be placed on immediate medical suspension and reported to the Commission.

(c) Hydration Testing.

1. At the official weigh-in, all mixed martial artists' hydration shall be examined by the pre-fight physician.

(d) Minimum Uncorrected Visual Acuity.

1. A mixed martial artist must have a minimum uncorrected visual acuity of 20/200 in both eyes. Any person who applies for a license or renewal of license to compete as a professional mixed martial artist in Alabama may, upon the request of the Commission, be required to present evidence of his/her visual acuity.

(e) Additional Medical Examinations.

1. Upon recommendation of the examining physician or the medical advisory panel, the Commission may require a mixed martial artist to undergo additional medical examinations performed by a state licensed physician to determine the mixed martial artist's medical fitness to compete.

(i) The Commission shall require re-examinations submitted after each successive fifty (50) rounds after the previous submission, as disclosed on such mixed martial artist's official cage or ring record.

(f) Medical Suspensions by Other Commissions.

1. Medical suspensions. Other athletic commissions recognized by the Association of Boxing Commissions and which are published by any boxing registry approved for such purposes by the Association of Boxing Commissions shall be recognized by the Commission.

2. Medical examinations after suspensions. A mixed martial artist who is under medical suspension in another state shall submit to any medical examination listed in this chapter as requested by the Commission prior to competing in a contest or exhibition in this state.

(g) Drugs Prohibited.

1. The administration or use of any drugs, alcohol, stimulants, or injections in any part of the mixed martial art fighter's body, either prior to or during a match, is prohibited unless such drugs are administered by a physician and with the approval of the Commission.

(i) The Commission may order a mixed martial artist to undergo a drug screening at any time. A Drug Screen Form must be completed by an approved laboratory and submitted to the Commission within seven (7) days of the order.

(h) Post Contest Inactive Period.

1. No mixed martial artist shall be permitted to engage in another contest or exhibition in this state for a period of seven (7) days after competing in a contest or exhibition.

(i) Head Injury.

1. Any mixed martial artist who suffers a knock out, concussion, or other serious head injury should be examined by the Cage Side or Ringside Physician. The Physician shall immediately report to the Commission or its representative, the condition of such mixed martial artist and whether or not additional medical attention is advised.

(j) Knock Out and Technical Knock Out.

1. When a mixed martial artist is defeated by knock out, that mixed martial artist's license shall be placed on an immediate sixty (60) day medical suspension at minimum.

2. Upon a mixed martial artist's second defeat by knock out, the mixed martial artist's license may be placed on

an immediate ninety (90) day medical suspension, with discretion given to the physician and the Commission's Executive Director.

3. A Post-Knock Out Examination Form shall be completed by a physician and submitted to the Commission along with request for medical clearance for thirty (30) days prior to participating in a contest or exhibition in this state. Any mixed martial artist losing by knock out in three (3) or more consecutive fights shall be placed on immediate medical suspension for a period of six (6) months.

4. Unless otherwise ordered by the attending cage side or ringside physician, there shall be a minimum thirty (30) day medical suspension after a technical knockout.

5. Technical knock outs caused by a severe cut shall result in a minimum sixty (60) day medical suspension.

6. Submissions with injury may also warrant a medical suspension as determined by the cage side or ringside physician.

7. Completing a suspension may require approved medical evaluations as determined by the cage side or ringside physician.

(k) Under-Conditioned Fighter.

1. A mixed martial artist deemed under-conditioned by the referee, the Commission, or any designated representative of the Commission, shall be immediately disqualified and suspended for ninety (90) days.

(i) If it should be determined by the referee, any member of the Commission present, or any designated representative of the Commission present that a mixed martial artist did not give a good faith effort to display his or her skills, then that mixed martial artist shall be subject to disciplinary action.

(ii) A disqualified mixed martial artist may be disciplined by the Commission.

(l) Consecutive Losses.

1. Four or More Consecutive Losses by TKO, KO, or DQ. A mixed martial artist who has four (4) consecutive fights by knock-out, technical knock-out, or disqualification, according to the mixed martial artist's official cage or ring record compiled and maintained by the mixed martial arts registry, shall be summarily suspended pending a

hearing by the Commission. Suspension will be listed as "Indefinite Pending Hearing."

2. History of Poor Performance. Any mixed martial artist with a history of poor performance shall not be approved to compete against any other mixed martial artist, except another mixed martial artist who has a similar history of poor performance in the same weight class.

(m) Verification of Contestant Experience.

1. The trainer or manager for a mixed martial artist that meets the following criteria shall submit an affidavit that the mixed martial artist is prepared for a professional contest:

(i) Mixed martial artist is making his or her pro debut

(ii) Mixed martial artist has not competed in the last twelve (12) months

(iii) Mixed martial artist has lost his or her last six (6) consecutive events

(iv) Mixed martial artist has lost four (4) consecutive events by TKO, KO, or DQ

(n) General Responsibilities and Provisions.

1. During the performance of any promotion, it shall be the promoter's responsibility to ensure the compliance with all laws and rules governing professional mixed martial arts in Alabama. Such responsibilities shall include, but will not be limited to the following:

(i) Medical Insurance.

(I) The promoter shall provide for the mixed martial artists' insurance covering ambulance services, medical, surgical, and hospital care with a minimum limit of $20,000 for injuries sustained while participating in said program and for a $20,000 death benefit awarded to the estate of any contestant should death occur from injuries received while participating in the contest or exhibition.

(ii) Physician.

(I) A cage side or ringside physician shall be present at all events. A Commission-designated cage side or ringside physician must be at cage

side or ringside each bout. A Commission-designated cage side or ringside physician shall be either a M.D. or D.O.

1. Physicians not having completed the Ringside Physician Certification shall be licensed as "Non-Ringside Physicians," but may serve at ring or cage side so long as a minimum of one certified Ringside Physician is present.

(II) All "Ringside" physicians serving ring or cage side shall obtain ARP/ACSM Certified Ringside Physician (CRP) certification. All physicians having completed the CRP shall be licensed as a "Ringside Physician."

(iii) Ambulance Service.

(I) The promoter shall provide continuous ambulance service with a state-certified EMT attendant and a state-certified paramedic, who shall provide a resuscitator, stretcher, backboard, oxygen, and such other medical equipment reasonably expected for immediate trauma care, and who shall be present before the start of each contest and shall remain on site until the end of the program.

(II) For the purposes of this section, a program of mixed martial arts begins with the commencement of the first contest or exhibition and ends when the last mixed martial artist leaves the site of the program.

(III) The chief referee and/or Commission-appointed supervisor shall meet with the EMT and paramedic prior to the beginning of the match, contest, or exhibition. During such meeting the chief referee or Commission supervisor will instruct the EMT and paramedic concerning the match, contest, or exhibition, placement of the stretcher and any other information necessary to ensure prompt and appropriate immediate care.

(IV) An ambulance shall be able and available to immediately transport any severely injured mixed martial artist to an appropriate medical facility. No other scheduled contest or exhibition may proceed until there is an ambulance and paramedic at the facility, that has met with the chief referee and/or the Commission

appointed supervisor as described in subparagraph (III), above.

(V) In addition to the above-mentioned ambulance, a paramedic, licensed by the State of Alabama, shall be present at ring or cage side with the ringside physician. The paramedic shall possess advanced life support equipment necessary to resuscitate a fighter and package them for transport to the hospital. The paramedic is in addition to any EMT's or paramedics that are hired for the safety of the crowd and shall not leave ringside while a fight is taking place and shall be in direct communication with the ringside physician at all times. The ringside paramedic shall only leave ringside to attend to a spectator or other person in the event of an emergency and when no other paramedic is available.

(iv) Hepatitis and HIV Testing.

(I) Blood borne pathogen testing. All mixed martial artists in all bouts shall be tested for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV by a laboratory approved by the Commission. The initial test for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV detection shall be conducted within (365) days prior to competition.

I. In addition to the pre-competition test, any mixed martial artist shall be re-tested for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV prior to his or her participation in each mixed martial arts match, contest, or exhibition in Alabama if the match, contest, or exhibition is scheduled to occur more than (365) days after the date of the most recent test. The results must be submitted to the Commission with the show date request prior to the official weigh-in.

(II) Positive tests for blood-borne pathogens. Any mixed martial artist who tests positive for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or HIV shall appear before the medical advisory panel, which after verifying the results of the test, shall advise the Commission as to whether the mixed martial artist's participation in a match, contest, or exhibition would pose a threat to the health and safety of a participant, official, or spectator.

I. Any mixed martial artist that tests positive for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or HIV who is scheduled for competition must disclose to the promoter that he or she has tested positive for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or HIV.

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165-X-2-.05 Conduct Of Promotions.

(1) General Safety. It shall be the promoter's responsibility to ensure safety for the Contestants, officials, media and fans and to comply with all safety standards required by the Commission.

(a) Arena Security. Arena security is the responsibility of the promoter and such security measures provided by the promoter shall be sufficient to maintain order. At a minimum, two (2) sworn off duty law enforcement officers shall be retained for security.

(b) Obtain Cage or Ring. The promoter will provide a cage or ring for the match and that the cage or ring must pass the certification requirements established by the Commission.

(c) Extra Gloves. Each promoter must have an extra set of gloves of the appropriate weight available to be used in case a glove is broken or otherwise damaged during the course of the contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts.

(d) Cage or Ring and Glove Certification. It is the promoter's responsibility to ensure that the cage or ring and gloves selected for use during each show meet the Commission's rules and regulations concerning proper certification and should be resolved no less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the show.

(e) Advanced Advertising. In addition to the requirements in this Chapter, no contestant or celebrity shall be advertised by any promoter before said promoter has in his or her possession a written commitment from said contestant or celebrity and before said promoter has filed a copy of such written commitment with the Commission.

(f) Suggesting Benefits for Charitable Organization. No promoter may advertise, hold out, or suggest in any fashion

that a portion of the proceeds of any proposed mixed martial arts show will be donated to a charitable organization without first complying with the Commission's rules governing "programs for charity."

(g) Main Event Start Time. The final bout for all mixed martial arts events sanctioned by the Alabama Athletic and Entertainment Commission shall start by 11:59pm on the date for which the event permit is approved.

(2) Cage Side or Ringside Physician.

(a) Providing a physician. It shall be the responsibility of the Commission representative to assign one or more physicians at cage side or ringside during each mixed martial arts contest.

1. The physicians assigned must be on the roster of physicians authorized to conduct pre-fight physicals and serve as cage side or ringside physicians created by the Commission.

2. At least one cage side or ringside physician must have in his or her possession any medical supplies and equipment reasonably anticipated to provide first-aid medical assistance for the type of injuries reasonably anticipated to occur in professional mixed martial arts matches.

3. The promoter shall compensate assigned cage side or ringside physicians in an amount to be mutually agreed upon by the promoter.

(3) Arena.

(a) Drinks. No mixed martial arts match will be allowed to commence or continue, without specific authorization from the Commission, in any arena where concessionaires dispense or serve beverages in containers other than plastic or paper cups, or aluminum cans.

(b) Arena safety. No mixed martial arts match will be allowed to commence or continue in any arena which appears to the Commission-appointed supervisor to be unsafe or where the Commission-appointed supervisor has reason to believe that such building or location does not conform to any applicable laws, ordinances and regulations in the city or unincorporated county area.

(c) Dressing rooms. The only people allowed in the Contestant's dressing room are the contestants, managers, seconds, Commission representatives including appointed commissioners and approved physician(s).

1. Promoters shall be required by the Commission-appointed supervisor to post a Guard or Commission-appointed inspector at the entrance to the dressing rooms to aid in enforcement of dressing room security.

2. A separate dressing area shall be provided for all referees and judges and all other Commission-appointed representatives.

(4) Media Guidelines.

(a) Promoter Responsibilities For Media Personnel. It shall be the responsibility of the promoter to provide access to any sanctioned event to media professionals for print, television, radio and online media. The promoter has a duty to provide access to media professionals while ensuring their personal safety at the event.

1. Promoters of mixed martial arts events shall provide media personnel with easily identifiable credentials that are clearly visible to state inspectors.

2. Promoters of mixed martial arts events shall provide a four-foot (4’) wide open buffer zone between credentialed media and the cage or ring apron.

3. Promoters shall ensure the safety of credentialed media professionals by requiring them to remain outside the four-foot (4’) buffer zone at all times.

(b) Promoters shall provide security in the general area of credentialed media to insure they are allowed to perform their job functions with a clear view of the action and without hindrance from ticket holders, fight staff or others.

(c) Media Access to Restricted Areas. Promoters may provide access to credentialed media inside the cage or ring immediately following a bout upon clearance from an official.

1. Following an individual bout or at the close of an event, promoters may allow access to credentialed reporters and photographers directly outside the dressing rooms or staging areas restricted for fighters, fight staff and state officials.

2. Promoters shall ensure the personal safety of any credentialed media by providing a police officer in any area designated for interviews, photographs or press conferences.

(5) Violation: Penalties.

(a) Promoters or contestants that violate any section of this chapter shall be referred to the investigations hearing of the Commission for further action. Provided however that any action taken as a result of the hearing or by the full Commission to enforce or attempt to enforce the provisions of this chapter will be taken only after notice and hearing according to the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act. Either paragraph (a) or (b) within this subsection shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Commission.

(6) Show.

(a) Marketing Prohibited Without Prior Commission Approval. Commission approval or authorization must be obtained prior to selling tickets, making announcements, or distributing advertisements concerning any show, show date, contestants, or matches of professional mixed martial arts. Violations shall be referred to the investigations hearing of the Commission for disciplinary action.

(b) Professional Rounds scheduled.

1. Unless otherwise approved by the Commission, promoters shall schedule no less than twenty (20) rounds of mixed martial arts on one (1) program. An emergency bout must be provided in case any of the scheduled bouts are not held.

2. No professional mixed martial arts match shall have any rounds lasting longer than five (5) minutes.

(i) All contests or exhibitions in professional mixed martial arts featuring male mixed martial artists will be required to have three (5) minute rounds with one (1) minute rest periods between rounds.

(ii) All contests or exhibitions in professional mixed martial arts featuring female mixed martial artists will be allowed to have three (5) minute rounds with one (1) minute rest periods between rounds.

3. No professional mixed martial arts match or exhibition shall be permitted for more than three (3) rounds duration, except in a championship match, which shall not exceed five (5) rounds.

(c) Card Approval. Requests for preliminary approval of mixed martial arts cards should be received by the Executive Director of the Commission or Commission-appointed supervisor no less than ten (10) days prior to the start of the event. The names and federal identification numbers and verification numbers of all competitors must be included and shall be

typed. No handwritten requests shall be accepted. The Final card must be received by the Commission-appointed supervisor or Chief Inspector no less than three (3) days prior to the date of the contest.

1. Substitutions to the final card will only be allowed after sufficient written evidence documenting the reason why such substitution is required. The information must be written on a form provided by the Commission and the signature must be witnessed by the Executive Director, Commission-appointed supervisor or a state of Alabama notary public. Failure to provide sufficient evidence will result in the cancellation of the scheduled bout and/or disciplinary action by the Commission.

2. No substitution will be allowed during the final twelve hours prior to the beginning of the event.

(i) No bout will be allowed to take place without the prior approval of the Chief Inspector or Commission-appointed supervisor for the event.

(7) Purse.

(a) Method of Payment. Except as otherwise stated below, purses shall be paid by check, certified or cashier's check immediately after the contest. No cash shall be accepted. Payments of percentage contracts shall be made as soon as the amount can be determined. If requested by the Commission or by any Contestant, All purse payments shall be made in the presence of the authorized Commission representative.

1. After notification and approval by the Commission, arrangement for the payment of any purse greater than $50,000.00 shall be mutually agreed to by the promoter and the Contestant.

2. Should a promoter default on payments to Contestants, only that amount disclosed on the contract or bout agreement filed with the Commission and in advance of the bout will be covered by any bond on file with the Commission.

(b) Minimum Payment per Contracted Round. All contestants shall be guaranteed a purse equal to or exceeding $100 per contracted round. No "cash equivalent" substitutions for the payment of the minimum contracted amount including tickets in lieu of payment shall be allowed. Contestants shall be paid by check or money order only. Violations shall be referred to an investigative hearing of the Commission for disciplinary action.

(8) Contracts.

(a) Contract or Bout Agreement: Unless agreed upon in advance by the Commission, all bout agreements must be on the form approved by the Commission.

1. All bout agreements will state the following in bold type:

(i) The amount of guarantee or percentage promised; the number and time limit of rounds; when and where the official weigh-in will be conducted; when and where the Contestants are scheduled to appear; weight; and all other reasonably expected to be an issue of agreement within professional mixed martial arts contracts and agreements.

(I) Weights expressed on bout agreements for all four (4) and six (6) round bouts shall allow no less than a +/-2 pounds variance of the contracted weight.

(II) Weights expressed on bout agreements for all championship (12 rounds) matches shall be absolute and shall not allow for any variance.

(ii) Signature of the promoter or his or her designated representative, and the Contestant or his or her designated representative.

(iii) Each Contestant applying for a license is required to obtain on their own a Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C blood test and must present to the Commission representative no later than at the weigh-in the results of such test conducted within 180 days of the proposed match.

(b) Contract or Bout Agreement: Required Form for Submission. All information appearing on any written agreements or contracts shall be typed.

(c) Contract or Bout Agreement: File with Commission. One (1) copy of each signed written agreement or contract, once executed by both parties and within three (3) calendar days of such execution, shall be filed with the Commission or the Commission-appointed representative.

1. No mixed martial arts match shall be allowed to commence prior to execution of a signed contract or bout agreement by both parties or before said contract or bout agreement is submitted to the Commission or the Commission-appointed representative.

(d) Violations: Grounds for Suspension. Violation by either party of any written bout agreement or contract may be grounds

for suspension of any license issued by the Commission and shall in addition to such suspension result in a fine or other disciplinary action imposed by the Commission. Violations shall be referred to the investigations hearing of the Commission for disciplinary action.

(9) Failure to Perform.

(a) Promoter Failure to Perform. The failure of a promoter to perform according to the terms of the contract; to produce contestants or special added attractions as advertised; to pay the contestants their contractual guarantee, or percentage; or the failure of a promoter to live up to his or her agreement with his or her contestants or performers who did perform as scheduled is prohibited and violations shall be referred to an investigative hearing of the Commission for disciplinary action.

(b) Contestant Failure to Perform. The failure of a contestant under contract with a licensed promoter to perform according to the terms of said contract; or the failure of a contestant to live up to his or her agreement with a person to which the contestant is under contractual agreement is prohibited. Violations shall be referred to an investigative hearing of the Commission for disciplinary action.

(c) Violation: Penalties.

(i) Violation of either paragraph (a) or (b) within this subsection may, for the first offense, be grounds for administrative suspension of not less than 90 days and a fine of not more than the contracted purse amount disclosed on the bout agreement or contract. Violations shall be referred to an investigative hearing of the Commission for disciplinary action.

(ii) The second and/or any subsequent violation by any person of either paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) within this subsection may, in addition to any suspension by the Commission, subject the violator to a fine of not more than the contracted purse amount as disclosed on the bout agreement or contract plus not more than an additional $10,000. Said fine is to be imposed by the Commission. Violations shall be referred to an investigative hearing by the Commission for disciplinary action. Additional disciplinary action may be imposed.

(iii) Any person or license holder violating on three (3) or more occasions either sub-paragraph (a) or sub-paragraph (b) within this subsection shall have his or her license suspended indefinitely. Provided however that any action by the Commission to enforce or attempt to enforce the provisions of this sub-paragraph will be

taken only after notice and hearing according to the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act.
Author: J. Matt Bledsoe, Brandon Owens, Casey Sears
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165-X-2-.06 Cage Or Ring And Equipment.

(1) Fighting Area.

(a) The fighting area shall be no smaller than 18 feet by 19 feet and no larger than 32 feet by 32 feet. The fighting area canvas or synthetic/vinyl mat shall be padded in a manner as approved by the Commissioner, with at least one inch layer of foam padding. Padding shall extend beyond the fighting area and over the edge of the platform. No vinyl or other plastic rubberized covering shall be permitted.

1. The fighting area canvas or synthetic/vinyl mat shall not be more than four feet above the floor of the building and shall have suitable steps or ramp for use by the participants. Posts shall be made of metal not more than six inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a minimum height of 58 inches above the fighting area canvas and shall be properly padded in a manner approved by the Commissioner.

2. The fighting area canvas or synthetic/vinyl mat shall be enclosed by a fence made of such material as will not allow a fighter to fall out or break through it onto the floor or spectators, including, but not limited to, vinyl coated chain link fencing. All metal parts shall be covered and padded in a manner approved by the Commissioner and shall not be abrasive to the contestants.

3. The fence shall provide two separate entries onto the fighting area canvas.

4. Instead of a fenced in area, the Commissioner may approve the use of a ring with five ring ropes and an adequate apron area outside of the fighting area.

(2) Stools.

(a) A ring stool of a type approved by the Commissioner shall be available for each contestant.

1. An appropriate number of stools or chairs, of a type approved by the Commissioner, shall be available for each contestant's seconds.

2. Such stools or chairs shall be located near each contestant's cornet.

3. All stools and chairs must be thoroughly cleaned or replaced after the conclusion of each bout.

(3) Equipment. For each bout, the promoter shall provide a clean water bucket and a clean plastic water bottle in each corner.

(4) Specifications for Bandages on Mixed Martial Artist's Hands.

(a) In all weight classes, the bandages on each contestant's hand shall be restricted to soft gauze cloth not more than 13 yards in length and two inches in width, held in place by not more than 10 feet of surgeon's tape, one inch in width, for each hand.

1. Surgeon's adhesive tape shall be placed directly on each hand for protection near the wrist. The tape may cross the back of the hand twice and extend to cover and protect the knuckles when the hand is clenched to make a fist.

2. The bandages shall be evenly distributed across the hand.

3. Bandages and tape shall be placed on the contestant's hands in the dressing room in the presence of the inspector and in the presence of the manager or chief second of his or her opponent.

4. Under no circumstances are gloves to be placed on the hands of a contestant until the approval of the inspector is received.

(5) Mouth Pieces.

(a) All contestants are required to wear a mouthpiece during competition. The mouthpiece shall be subject to examination and approval by the attending physician.

1. The round cannot begin without the mouthpiece in place.

(i) If the mouthpiece is involuntarily dislodged during competition, the referee shall call time, clean the mouthpiece and reinsert the mouthpiece at the first opportune moment, without interfering with the immediate action.

(6) Protective Equipment.

(a) Male mixed martial artists shall wear a groin protector of their own selection, of a type approved by the Commissioner.

1. Professional female mixed martial artists are prohibited from wearing groin protectors.

(b) Female mixed martial artists shall wear a chest protector during competition. The chest protector shall be subject to approval of the Commissioner.

(7) Gloves.

(a) The gloves shall be new for all main events and in good condition or they must be replaced. In certain instances multiple pairs of gloves may be required for use in matches, bouts, and exhibitions.

1. All contestants shall wear four-, five- or six-ounce gloves, supplied by the promoter and approved by the Commission. No contestant shall supply their own gloves for participation.

(8) Scales.

(a) Scales shall be furnished by the promoter. The Commission may require that the scales be certified. Residential bathroom scales of the type generally used in private residences will not meet certification requirements of the Commission and will not be allowed for use at any weigh-in.

(b) Weigh-Ins for Championship and Televised Events.

1. The scale used for the official weigh-in shall be provided by the promoter.

2. The scale used for the weigh-in shall be an NTEP Certified Scale, which shall be registered with the Alabama Department of Agriculture, Weight & Measure Division.

3. The scale used for the official weigh-in shall be certified as being accurate, on the morning of the weigh-in, by the State of Alabama, Department of Agriculture, Weight & Measures Staff.

4. Documentation verifying the scales accuracy shall be submitted to the Executive Director no later than noon (12pm) on the date the weigh-in is to occur.

5. No one shall be allowed on the scale once it is certified, until the Chief Inspector is present.

6. If a scale is moved after certification, it shall be recertified before any further weigh-ins can be performed on that scale.

7. Once certified, the promoter shall have a security member watch the scale until the time of weigh-in, to avoid tampering.

8. A "Ceremonial" scale may be used during a Ceremonial Weigh-in. The Ceremonial Scale shall not be used to record official weights and are strictly to be used for ceremonial purposes.

Author: J. Matt Bledsoe, Brandon Owens, Casey Sears, Joseph B. McCormick
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165-X-2-.07 Officials: Chief Inspector, Corner Inspectors, Referees, Judges, And Timekeepers.

(1) General Provisions.

(a) The Commission shall appoint to each contest, match, or exhibition, at minimum, one chief inspector, two referees, three judges, two door wardens, and one timekeepers.

(b) The referee or three judges shall determine the outcome of all contests, matches, or exhibitions. A majority vote of the judges will determine the outcome of a contest that does not result in a knockout, TKO, submission, or disqualification.

(c) No manager, promoter, matchmaker, trainer, second, or contestant shall be allowed to officiate at any contest.

(d) Officials must be physically fit and mentally sharp.

(e) All mixed martial arts events must have, at minimum, two referees.

(2) **Officials' Fees.**

(a) All fees and travel expenses shall be paid by the promoter conducting the match, contest, or exhibition and shall be on the following schedule:

1. Payment shall be made to the Commission appointed supervisor no later than at the weigh-in, and shall be by cashier's check or money order.

2. When assigned by the Commission or the Executive Director, the fee for a chief official who will perform the duties of the Commission representative shall be $425.00

3. When the gross aggregate purse of the match, contest, or exhibition does not exceed $50,000, the fee for each judge shall be $175.00 and the fee for each referee shall be $300.00.

4. When the gross aggregate purse of the match, contest, or exhibition is between $50,000 and $100,000, the fee for each chief official shall be $450.00

5. When the gross aggregate purse of the match, contest, or exhibition is between $50,000 and $100,000, the fee for each judge shall be $200.00 and the fee for each referee shall be $350.00.

6. When the gross aggregate purse of the match, contest, or exhibition is between $100,000 and $300,000, the fee for each chief official shall be $500.00

7. When the gross aggregate purse of the match, contest, or exhibition is between $100,000 and $300,000, the fee for each judge shall be $250.00 and the fee for each referee shall be $450.00.

8. When the gross aggregate purse of the match, contest, or exhibition exceeds $300,000, the fee for the chief official, referees and judges shall not exceed $5,000 for each official.

9. Except as provided in the 7(c) below, [sanctioned championship bouts], payment for the timekeeper and countdown person shall be the same as payment for each assigned judge.

10. Travel expenses for officials required to travel a distance of fifty (50) miles or greater to the site of a match, contest, or exhibition shall be set by the Commission-appointed supervisor, provided that such amount shall not exceed the usual and customary amount allowed by state guidelines for state employees. Hotel rooms may be required, but only when the distance traveled one way exceeds 100 miles.

(b) In the event one or more of the referees assigned to a mixed martial arts match, contest, or exhibition become incapacitated, or in an emergency situation where he or she become unavailable, the remaining referee(s) shall referee the remaining contests of the program and, at the discretion of the Commission-assigned supervisor, may be compensated in a

greater amount not to exceed the total amount originally intended for the unavailable referee(s). In such a situation, the compensation to be paid to the incapacitated or unavailable referee shall be reduced accordingly.

(c) The compensation schedule set forth in (b) above shall not apply in a sanctioned championship bout. The Commission shall set compensation to be paid to the referees and judges officiating at sanctioned championship bouts. In making this determination, the Commission may consider any standards or recommendations made by a recognized mixed martial arts association or organization. Nevertheless, the Commission shall retain full authority to set the compensation schedule for referees and judges in championship bouts regardless of a recommendation by such an association.

(3) **Chief Inspector.**

(a) Chief Inspector's Authority. The Chief Inspector shall have complete authority over each professional contest, match, or exhibition in this state.

(b) Chief Inspector's Duties. The Chief Inspector assigned to a contest, match, or exhibition shall have the following duties:

1. The Chief Inspector shall attend the weigh-in and contest, match, or exhibition.

2. The Chief Inspector shall ensure that all rules and regulations of the Commission and the Alabama Boxing, Wrestling, and Mixed Martial Arts Act are strictly followed and enforced.

(4) **Corner Inspectors.**

(a) Corner Inspector's Authority. A Corner Inspector shall be assigned to the red corner and a Corner Inspector shall be assigned to the blue corner to observe the fighters assigned to the corresponding corners before, during, and after each match.

(5) **Locker Room Inspectors and Door Wardens.**

1. Corner inspectors shall observe fighters in dressing room while wrapping hands, securing gloves, and warming up.

2. Door Wardens shall observe fighters, trainers, and seconds, before, during, and between rounds.

3. Corner Inspectors and Door Wardens shall be responsible for identifying and reporting all rules violations to the chief official and referee.

(6) **Referee.**

(a) Referee's Authority. The referee is the chief official of the contest and has general supervision over the contest, match, or exhibition.

(b) Referee's Duties. The referee assigned to a contest, match, or exhibition shall have the following duties:

1. Before the contest, the referee shall ask the name of each contestant's chief second and shall hold that chief second responsible for the conduct of the contestant during the contest.

2. Before each bout the referee shall call the contestants and their chief second together for final instructions. Referees must then instruct mixed martial artists that illegal techniques or fouls will not be tolerated, and instruct the mixed martial artists to protect themselves at all times. The contestants, after receiving final instructions, shall touch gloves and retire to their corners.

3. Any referee or judge assigned to a match who becomes unable to officiate shall notify the chief inspector twelve (12) hours before the start of the contest.

(c) Referee License. Referees applying for licensure shall meet the following requirements:

1. An applicant shall demonstrate to the Commission that he or she has experience in refereeing, and shall produce a list of all professional matches that he or she has served as referee, the judges who scored the matches, and the results of the matches. The applicant may be required to provide a list of amateur matches that he or she has served as referee, the judges who scored the matches, and the results of the matches.

2. The Commission may contact the persons listed to determine whether applicant is qualified for licensure.

3. A referee must pass the Association of Boxing Officials and Combative Sports referee examination in order to be licensed as a referee.

(7) **Judges.**

(a) Judge's Authority. Each judge shall determine the outcome of each contest, match, or exhibition in this state that does not end in knockout, TKO, or disqualification.

(b) Judge's Duties. The judges assigned to a contest, match, or exhibition shall have the following duties:

1. The judges shall score the contest, match, or exhibition according to the rules and regulations of the Commission.

2. The judges shall score the contest, match, or exhibition fairly.

3. The judges shall deduct points as directed by the referee.

(c) Judge License. Judges applying for licensure shall meet the following requirements:

1. An applicant shall demonstrate to the Commission that he or she has experience in judging, and shall produce a list of all professional matches that he or she has served as official judge, the referees who refereed the matches, and the results of the matches. The applicant may be required to provide a list of amateur matches that he or she has served as official judge, the referees who refereed the matches, and the results of the matches.

2. The Commission may contact the persons listed to determine the whether the applicant is qualified for licensure.

3. A judge must pass the Association of Boxing Officials and Combative Sports judges examination in order to be licensed as a judge.

(8) **Timekeepers.**

(a) Timekeepers' Authority. At mixed martial arts matches, there shall be appointed to each contest, match or exhibition one (1) Timekeeper: a Clock Timekeeper who keeps time of the match.

(b) Clock Timekeeper's duties. The timekeeper starts the clock and rings the bell at the beginning of each round. Ten (10) seconds before the end of the round, the Clock Timekeeper shall alert the referee to the impending end of the round.

(c) Timekeepers License. Timekeepers applying for licensure shall meet the following requirements:

1. An applicant shall demonstrate to the Commission that he or she has experience in timekeeping, and shall produce a list of all professional matches that he or she has served as official timekeeper, the referees who refereed the matches, and the results of the matches. The

applicant may be required to provide a list of amateur matches that he or she has served as official timekeeper, the referees who refereed the matches, and the results of the matches.

2. The Commission may contact the persons listed to determine whether the applicant is qualified for licensure.

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165-X-2-.08 Officials: Conduct Of Contest, Match, Or Exhibition.

(1) Mixed Martial Artists.

(a) False Name. No mixed martial artist shall enter any agreement or contract with a promoter, compete in any match, contest, or exhibition, or otherwise participate in any capacity in a mixed martial arts program under any name which does not appear on his or her Federal ID card.

(b) Prohibition if Under Suspension. No mixed martial artist shall enter any agreement or contract with a promoter, compete, or attempt to compete in any match, contest, or exhibition in this state when the mixed martial artist knows that his or her mixed martial arts license, issued by this Commission is under suspension.

(c) Pregnancy. No mixed martial artist shall enter any agreement or contract with a promoter, compete, or attempt to compete in any match, contest, or exhibition in Alabama when such mixed martial artist knows that she is pregnant.

(d) Diuretics Prohibited. The use of any herbal, prescription or non-prescription diuretic by any mixed martial artist within twelve hours prior to the weigh-in is strictly prohibited.

(e) Weigh-In.

1. In all contests and exhibitions, contestants shall weigh-in in the presence of the chief official appointed to preside over the contest or exhibition. The official weigh-in shall not take place less than six (6) hours nor

more than thirty-six (36) hours prior to the contest or exhibition.

(i) All official weigh-ins shall be conducted at a time and place designated by the Commission. Attendance to official weigh-ins is strictly limited to Commissioners, licensees and officials scheduled to participate in the contest or exhibition.

(ii) Ceremonial weigh-ins may be conducted in such manner and at such place as agreed to by all parties involved in the promotion or match, contest, or exhibition.

2. No over-contract-weight contestant appearing at the initial weigh-in will be allowed to lose in excess of two (2) pounds in order to make contract weight unless mixed martial artist is re-examined by the cage side or ringside physician and receive clearance from the cage side or ringside physician prior to entering the cage or ring.

(f) Weight Classes. Weight classes for professional mixed martial artists shall be:

1. Straw Weight (up to 115 lbs.) – 3 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

2. Flyweight (115.1 to 125) – 3 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

3. Bantamweight (125.1 to 135 lbs.) –3 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

4. Featherweight (135.1 to 145 lbs.) –5 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

5. Lightweight (145.1 to 155 lbs.) – 5 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

6. Super Lightweight (155.1 to 165 lbs.) – 5 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

7. Welterweight (165.1 to 170 lbs.) –5 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

8. Super Welterweight (170.1 to 175 lbs.) – 7 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

9. Middleweight (175.1 to 185 lbs.) –7 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

10. Super Middleweight (185.1 to 195 lbs.) – 7 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

11. Light Heavyweight (195.1 to 205 lbs.) –7 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

12. Cruiserweight (205.1 to 225 lbs.) – 7 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

13. Heavyweight (205.1 to 265 lbs.) - 7 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

14. Super Heavyweight (265.1 lbs. and above)– in div. or spread of lighter div. maximum allowable weight spread.

(i) No professional mixed martial art contest or exhibition may be scheduled, and no mixed martial artist may engage in a contest or exhibition without the approval of the Commission or the Commission's representative if the difference in weight between the mixed martial artists exceeds the allowances set out above.

(ii) Any agreement to proceed with a mixed martial arts contest or exhibition where the weight spread exceeds the limit established in this rule shall be entered on each participant's bout contract and shall be initialed or signed by such participant.

(g) Weighing of Mixed Martial Artists. Weighing of all mixed martial artists shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements for professional boxers of Appendix B.

(h) Appearance Time. All contestants must be in the officially designated dressing room at least sixty (60) minutes before the event is scheduled to begin.

(i) Drastic Weight Cutting Measures.

1. Weight Class Restrictions. Competitors who have missed their contract or agreed upon weight more than once, shall have their weight class for competition restricted. A competitor who misses weight more than once shall be required to compete in a higher weight class until a physician certifies they may safely compete at a lower weight classification.

(a) Missed weights shall be noted on a competitor's official record on the ABC Mixed Martial Arts Database.

(b) Competitors with weight class restrictions shall be noted on the ABC Mixed Martial Arts Database.

2. Early Weigh-Ins may be used to all competitors the maximum time for rehydration and mental preparation for their competition. When conducted, early weigh-ins shall be the official weigh-in and may be conducted up to thirty-six (36) hours prior to competition.

3. A secondary weigh-in shall occur on the day of the event to ensure competitors have not gained more than ten percent (10%) of their body weight back in the time between the official weigh-in and the event. Competitors who gain more than the ten percent (10%) of their weight back between the official weigh-in and their fight may still be allowed to compete but may be required to move up in weight classes for future matches, bouts, or exhibitions.

4. Checks for Dehydration. Checks for dehydration may be conducted on competitors, by the Ringside Physician, by specific gravity and/or pre-fight physical at both the official weigh-in and the second day weight check.

(j) Cage or Ring Attire. Mixed martial artists shall appear and compete in proper cage or ring attire.

1. All mixed martial artists will be required to wear such protective gear as deemed necessary by the Commission.

(i) Male and female mixed martial artists shall wear the appropriate trunks, groin cup, mouthpiece, and gloves.

(ii) Female mixed martial artists shall wear a short sleeved (above the elbow) or sleeveless form fitting rash guard and/or sports bra. No loose-fitting tops shall be allowed. Female competitors will follow the same requirements for bottom covering as the male competitors, minus the requirement for groin protection.

2. The belt-1ine of the trunks shall not extend above the waistline and the hem may not extend below the knee.

3. Mixed martial artists in the same match, contest, or exhibition shall wear different color trunks.

4. Each mixed martial artist shall use a mouthpiece and no round may start without a boxer’s mouthpiece in place.

(i) 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 immediate action.

(ii) Points may be deducted by the referee, if the referee feels the mouthpiece is purposely spit out.

5. Mixed martial artists shall not wear shoes in the cage or ring.

6. 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) Provided however that no object can be worn to secure the contestant's hair which may cause injury to either contestant.

7. The wearing of body jewelry will be strictly prohibited during all contests.

8. The wearing of any facial or body cosmetic is strictly prohibited during all contests.

(k) Profanity. Use of profanity by an all-mixed martial artist, manager or second is prohibited. Any use of profanity after a warning by the referee or chief official may result in disqualification of the contestant, or ejection from the facility and a penalty point may be deducted from the contestant.

(l) Entering Cage or Ring. All contestants must be ready to enter the cage or ring immediately upon the conclusion of the preceding contest or exhibition on a scheduled fight card.

1. Failure to enter the cage or ring when requested and, after warning by the inspector or chief official of the program, may result in disciplinary action by the Commission.

(m) Demeanor During the Round. Each all-mixed martial artist shall take care to avoid fouling their opponent or illegally striking their opponent.

1. Regulations against fouls, as defined in these rules will be strictly enforced.

2. Illegal techniques or fouls in the cage or ring will not be tolerated.

3. All mixed martial artists are at all times to follow the instructions of the referee. Any call for a break should immediately result in a clean break.

(n) Under-Conditioned Fighter. A contestant deemed under-conditioned by the referee, Commission or any designated

representative of the Commission, shall be suspended for ninety (90) days.

1. If it should be determined by the referee that a contestant did not give a good faith effort to display their skills they shall be subject to disciplinary action.

(o) Penalty for Disqualification. Any mixed marital artist who is disqualified for any reason by the referee or chief official of the program will be subject to disciplinary action by the Commission.

1. Any mixed marital artist disciplined by the Commission because of a loss by disqualification has a right to a hearing and must request a hearing in writing to the Commission within fifteen days of the disqualification.

(p) Fines. Any mixed marital artist can be fined, have his or her license suspended or have his or her license revoked in the event that a majority of the Commission determines that the mixed marital artist did not utilize his or her best efforts in a match, contest, or exhibition.

(q) Cuts and Lacerations. A cut or laceration caused by either an intentional or an unintentional foul may only be treated during the one (1) minute break between rounds, provided however that the referee may a call a brief time-out and request a physician’s evaluation of the cut to determine if the bout shall be allowed to continue. During such time-out, the cut may not be treated by the physician or any other person.

(r) Recuperation Time. Any contestant struck by a low blow may, at the discretion and after consultation with the cage or ring physician, be given up to five (5) minutes to recuperate.

1. During such recuperation the injured mixed martial artist may sit on a stool inside the cage or ring, or in a neutral corner, but may not rest in his assigned corner.

2. Only the referee is allowed to assist the injured mixed martial artist during the five-minute rest period.

3. The uninjured fighter, during any such rest period, may not be assisted and shall remain in the neutral corner furthest from the injured mixed martial artist.

(s) Bout Stopped by Low Blow. Except as provided in sub-paragraph (5) (a) (15) of this rule, no contestant injured by a low blow may be awarded the contest.

1. If a contestant falls to the cage or ring floor or otherwise indicates an unwillingness to continue because of a claim of a low-blow, he shall be declared the loser by a technical knockout.

(2) Seconds.

(a) Number Allowed. Each mixed marital artist must have two (2) seconds, unless the Commission permits otherwise. Each contestant shall have one (1) chief second and each chief second must have a complete first aid kit. The seconds must be neatly attired. Persons holding a manager's or trainer's license in this state may participate in a contest as a second without applying for or obtaining a second's license.

(b) Leaving the Cage or Ring. Seconds shall leave the cage or ring enclosure at the sound of the timekeeper's whistle. They shall leave the cage or ring platform promptly when the bell sounds for the beginning of each round and immediately remove all obstructions, including stools, buckets, and any other corner equipment. None of these articles shall be replaced on the cage or ring floor until the bell has sounded the end of a round.

(c) Assisting Contestant during Bout. During rounds, seconds are prohibited from assisting or interfering with the contestants.

(d) Throwing Towels. Seconds are prohibited from tossing a towel into the cage or ring.

(e) Ejection and Disqualification. Violations of the provisions of this subparagraph may result in ejection of the offender from the cage or ring corner, and may result in the disqualification of his or her contestant by the referee.

(3) Between Round Care. Between rounds care of a mixed marital artist will be strictly enforced by the Commission.

(a) Licensees Allowed in Cage or Ring between Rounds. One (1) licensee shall be allowed in the cage or ring with the mixed marital artist during the rest period between rounds and no more than two (2) licensees, exclusive to the corner inspector and approved media personnel, will be allowed on the apron during that time.

(b) Swinging Towel. Fans may be used between rounds. Towels may not be used to fan the contestant. Motorized fans must be approved by the Commission, prior to use at a contest or exhibition.

(c) Corner Kit. The use of an unapproved preparation during the match, contest, or exhibition is prohibited. The only

substances and materials allowed in the corner are limited to the following:

1. Ice;

2. Water;

3. Cotton swabs;

4. Gauze pads;

5. Clean towels;

6. Vaseline or surgical lubricant approved by the Commission;

7. Enswell;

8. Avitine or Adrenalene;

9. Athletic tape approved by the Commission.

(i) Any variance to the materials must be approved by the Commission.

(ii) Substances such as Monsell's solution, other iron or bismuth compounds, collodion, silver nitrate, ammonia or smelling salts will not be used and the use of such modalities will result in disqualification, and disciplinary action against the mixed martial artist, manager, second and/or trainer.

(d) Excessive Lubricant. The use of excessive lubricant on the body, arms or face of a mixed marital artist shall be prohibited. The referee shall determine whether excessive lubricant is on mixed marital artist's body, arms or face.

(e) Rehydration of Contestant during Bout. Water shall be used to hydrate a mixed marital artist between rounds. Honey, electrolyte glucose, sugar or any other substance mixed with water is prohibited.

(4) Referee.

(a) Stopping a Match. No one other than the referee may stop a fight during or between rounds. The referee shall have the authority to stop a contest at any time if one of the mixed marital artists is unable or no longer able to defend himself.

(b) Pre-match Instructions. Referees shall meet with the contestants and with each chief second appointed by the contestants prior to the beginning of the match, contest, or exhibition and during that meeting shall inform each party of

the rules applicable to each fight as well as the in-ring or cage conduct expected from each contestant and second assisting in the corner of each contestant.

(c) Pre-Bout Confirmation of Officials and Physician. Prior to calling for the sounding of the bell to begin each bout, the referee in the cage or ring will confirm that the cage side or ringside physician as well as each judge assigned to the bout is in place at the cage side or ringside.

(d) Touching Contestants. The referee shall not touch the competing mixed marital artists, unless a contestant fails to obey the break command.

(e) Count. The referee shall have sole determination of whether a mixed martial artist has been knocked out. There will be no knockout count.

(f) Mixed Martial Artists Knocked Out of the Ring.

1. Any mixed marital artist knocked out of the ring shall receive a twenty (20) second count.

2. During the time that any such mixed marital artist is outside the ring, he or she shall not be assisted by any member of their corner, and if such assistance is offered, it shall end the match, contest, or exhibition with that mixed marital artist losing by a technical knockout.

3. As a general precaution, to protect the safety of the mixed marital artist and to prevent any potential injury, a mixed marital artist knocked out of the ring may have his or her fall stopped or slowed by any person without penalty, provided that such assistance shall only be to prevent injury from the fall and not to assist the mixed marital artist in returning to the ring.

(g) Standing Eight Count. There shall be no standing eight count.

(h) Knock-Out. Knockouts are instantly called by the referee in mixed martial arts matches. There shall be no ten-count.

(i) Failure to Answer Bell. A contestant shall not leave the cage or ring during any one (1) minute rest period between rounds. If any contestant fails or refuses to resume fighting when the bell sounds signaling the commencement of the next round, the referee shall award a decision of technical knockout to his opponent as of the round which has last been finished.

1. If the circumstances indicate to the referee the need for investigation or punitive action, the referee may withhold giving a decision and may recommend the purse or purses of either or both fighters should be withheld pending a Commission hearing.

(5) Fouls.

(a) The following are fouls and will result in penalties if committed:

1. Butting with the head;

2. Eye gouging of any kind;

3. Biting or spitting at an opponent;

4. Hair pulling;

5. Fish hooking;

6. Groin attacks of any kind;

7. Intentionally placing a finger in any opponent’s orifice;

8. Downward pointing of elbow strikes;

9. Small joint manipulation;

10. Strikes to the Spine or back of the head;

11. Fingers outstretched toward an opponent’s face/eyes;

12. Throat strikes of any kind;

13. Clawing, pinching, twisting the flesh;

14. Kicking the head of a grounded fighter;

15. Kneeing the head of a grounded fighter;

16. Stomping of a grounded fighter;

17. The use of abusive language in fighting area;

18. Any unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to opponent;

19. Attacking an opponent on or during the break;

20. Attacking an opponent who is under the referee’s care at the time;

21. Timidity (avoiding contact, or consistent dropping of mouthpiece, or faking an injury);

22. Interference from a mixed martial artist's second(s);

23. Throwing an opponent out of the fighting area;

24. Flagrant disregard of the referee's instructions;

25. Spiking an opponent to the canvas on his or her head or neck.

(b) Disqualification occurs after any combination of three or more of the fouls listed in (a) above or after a referee determines that a foul was intentional or flagrant.

(c) A grounded fighter is defined as any part of the body, other than a single hand and soles of the feet touching the fighting area floor. To be grounded, both hands palm/fist down, and/or any other body part must be touching the fighting area floor. At this time, kicks or knees to the head will not be allowed.

1. At the referee's discretion, any foul defined in sub-paragraph (a) may be called "intentional" or "flagrant."

(d) Fouls will result in a point being deducted by the official scorekeeper from the offending mixed martial artist's score.

(e) 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.

(f) A fouled fighter has up to five (5) minutes to recuperate.

(g) 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 to the offending contestant, deduct points, and notify each corner's seconds, judges, and the official scorekeeper.

(h) If a bottom contestant commits a foul, unless the top contestant is injured, the fight shall continue, so as not to jeopardize the top contestant's superior positioning at the time.

1. The referee shall verbally notify the bottom contestant of the foul.

2. When the round is over, the referee shall assess the foul and notify both corners' seconds, the judges, and the official scorekeeper.

3. The referee may terminate a bout based on the severity of a foul.

(i) Injuries sustained during competition

1. If an injury sustained during competition as a result of a legal maneuver is severe enough to terminate a bout, the injured contestant loses by technical knockout.

2. If an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul is severe enough to terminate a bout, the contestant causing the injury loses by disqualification.

3. If an injury is sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul and the bout is allowed to continue, at the referee's discretion, the referee may notify the scorekeeper to automatically deduct two points from the contestant who committed the foul.

4. If an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul causes the injured contestant to be unable to continue at a subsequent point in the contest, the injured contestant shall win by technical decision, if he or she is ahead on the score cards. If the injured contestant is even or behind on the score cards at the time of stoppage, the outcome of the bout shall be declared a technical draw.

5. If a contestant injures himself or herself while attempting to foul his or her opponent, the referee shall not take any action in his or her favor, and the injury shall be treated in the same manner as an injury produced by a fair blow.

6. If an injury sustained during competition as a result of an accidental foul is severe enough for the referee to stop the bout immediately, the bout shall result in a no contest if stopped before two (2) rounds have been completed in a three (3) round bout or if stopped before three (3) rounds have been completed in a five (5) round bout.

7. If an injury sustained during competition as a result of an accidental foul is severe enough for the referee to stop the bout immediately, the bout shall result in a

technical decision awarded to the contestant who is ahead on the score cards at the time the bout is stopped only when the bout is stopped after two (2) rounds of a three (3) round bout, or three (3) rounds of a five (5) round bout have been completed.

8. There will be no scoring of an incomplete round. However, if the referee penalizes either contestant, then the appropriate points shall be deducted when the scorekeeper calculates the final score.

(6) Warnings.

(a) The referee shall issue a single warning for the following infractions.

1. Holding or grabbing the fence;

2. Holding opponent's shorts or gloves; or

3. The presence of more than one second on the fighting area perimeter.

(b) After the initial warning, if the prohibited conduct persists, a penalty will be issued. The penalty may result in a deduction or points or disqualification.

(7) Types of Bout Results.

(a) Submission by:

1. Tap Out: When a contestant physically uses his hand to indicate that he or she no longer wishes to continue; or

2. Verbal tap out: When a contestant verbally announces to the referee that he or she does not wish to continue;

(b) Technical knockout by:

1. Referee stops bout;

2. Cage side or ringside physician stops bout; or

3. When an injury as a result of a legal maneuver is severe enough to terminate a bout;

(c) Knockout by failure to rise from the canvas;

(d) Decision via score cards:

1. Unanimous: When all three judges score the bout for the same contestant

2, Split Decision: When two judges score the bout for one contestant and one judge scores for the opponent; or

3. Majority Decision: When two judges score the bout for the same contestant and one judge scores a draw;

(e) Draws:

1. Unanimous – When all three judges score the bout a draw;

2. Majority – When two judges score the bout a draw; or

3. Split – When all three judges score differently and the score total results in a draw;

(f) Disqualification: When an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul is severe enough to terminate the contest;

(g) Forfeit: When a contestant fails to begin competition or prematurely ends the contest for reasons other than injury or by indicating a tap out;

(h) Technical Draw: When an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul causes the injured contestant to be unable to continue and the injured contestant is even or behind on the score cards at the time of stoppage;

(i) Technical Decision: When a bout is prematurely stopped due to injury and a contestant is leading on the score cards; and

(j) No Contest: When a contestant is prematurely stopped due to accidental injury and a sufficient number of rounds have not been completed to render a decision via the score cards.

(8) Judging.

(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. 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, effective aggressiveness, and control of the fighting area.

(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, 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, landing the greater number of effective legal strikes, grappling and other maneuvers;

(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 totally dominates by striking or grappling in a round.

(v) Judges shall use a sliding scale and recognize the length of time the fighters are either standing or on the ground, as follows:

(I) If the mixed martial artists spend a majority of a round on the canvas, then effective grappling is weighed first, and effective striking is then weighed.

(II) If the mixed martial artists spent a majority of a round standing, then effective striking is weighed first, and effective grappling is then weighed.

(III) If a round ends with a relatively even amount of standing and canvas fighting, striking and grappling are weighed equally.

(9) Timekeepers.

(a) Number Assigned per Bout. Two (2) licensed timekeepers, assigned by the Commission, shall be required at each event; one (1) to keep time and one (1) to count for the knockdowns.

(b) Duration of Rounds. Except as provided in (3)(c)6 above, the timekeeper shall ensure that each round last no more and no less than five (5) minutes.

(c) Announcement Responsibilities.

1. The bell shall be sounded at the beginning and at the end of each round. Except as provided in (d) below the timekeeper shall not sound the bell during the process of the round.

(i) Regardless of the sounding of the bell, the referee in the cage or ring is the sole authority to announce when the round begins. Each mixed martial artist will remain in their assigned corner. The referee, once he or she is satisfied that each mixed martial artist is prepared to begin and that no condition exists which may present a medical hazard to either mixed martial artist, will announce "FIGHT."

(ii) The timekeeper will immediately start the clock at the referee's command of "FIGHT."

2. Timekeepers shall alert the referee by striking the table ten (10) seconds prior to the end of each round.

3. Timekeepers shall blow their whistle ten (10) seconds prior to the end of each one (1) minute rest period.

(d) Responsibility to Announce in an Emergency Suspension of Round. If the referee is absent from the cage or ring or temporarily incapacitated the timekeeper shall immediately sound the gong for temporary discontinuance of the contest.

(10) After the Contest, Match, or Exhibition.

(a) Contestants to Leave Cage or Ring. When the decision of the referee or judges has been announced both contestants and their seconds shall at once leave the cage or ring and retire to their dressing rooms.

(b) Decision Announcement. In all preliminary contests decided by the judges' scorecards, up to and including the semi-main event, the announcer will announce if the decision is "unanimous," "a majority decision," or "a draw." In main events and championship contests decided by the judges' scorecards, the total points given each contestant by the three (3) individual judges will be announced.

(c) Finality of the Decision. A decision rendered at the end of any event is final and shall not be changed unless the Commission determines that any of the following occurred:

1. There was collusion or fraud affecting the result of any contest, or,

2. The compilation of the score cards of the referee and judges reveals a clerical or mathematical error which caused the decision to be given to the wrong mixed martial artist.

3. There was a violation of the laws or rules and regulations governing professional mixed martial arts in this state which affected the results of any contest.

4. The chief official may in his or her discretion change a referee's decision if, in his or her judgment, a palpable and self-evident error has been committed.

5. Video Instant-Replay. When available, video instant-replay may be used to ensure the accuracy of a fight ending sequence and at no other point in the bout. Once video instant-replay is employed, the bout, match, or exhibition is over. When used, the Chief Inspector shall review whether the cause of the bout's end was by means of legal or illegal striking or submission or not submitting. Bouts ending due to illegal (intentional or unintentional foul) shall be resolved in the manner listed in the chapter above for each distinct type of foul. In bouts where a submission, verbal or with the hand, is called, if overturned, the bout is to be scored a "No Contest." The secondary referee, outside the ring, may consult with the Chief Inspector on the correct outcome of the bout, but the decision rests solely with the Chief Inspector.

(d) Appeal of Decision.

1. A petition to change a decision or the ruling of the chief official shall be in writing and filed by a mixed martial artist or the mixed martial artist's manager within five (5) business days from the date the decision was rendered.

2. The Commission may hold a hearing to change the decision or the ruling of the chief official at any time within fourteen (14) days from the date the decision was written. A majority vote of the Commissioners shall be required prior to holding a hearing.

3. If the Commission determines that any of the above occurred with regards to any contest then the decision rendered shall be changed as the Commission may direct, and shall notify the national registry of the change.

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