STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA ATHLETIC COMMISSION
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 165-X-3
AMATEUR MIXED MARTIAL ARTS RULES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

165-X-3-.01 Definitions
165-X-3-.02 Licenses
165-X-3-.03 Bonds
165-X-3-.04 Medical Requirements
165-X-3-.05 Conduct Of Promotion
165-X-3-.06 Ring And Equipment
165-X-3-.07 Officials: Chief Inspector, Corner Inspectors, Referees, Judges, And Timekeepers
165-X-3-.08 Officials: Conduct Of Contest, Match Or Exhibition

165-X-3-.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, including kickboxing.

(2) "Amateur Mixed Martial Arts" – Includes mixed martial arts or kickboxing matches, contests, or exhibitions or events, which are not governed or otherwise dedicated by the Alabama Athletic Commission as a professional 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 an amateur mixed martial arts match.

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

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

(6) "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.

(7) "The Commission" is reference for the Alabama Athletic Commission.
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165-X-3-.02 Licenses.

(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 first 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 unless deemed necessary by the Chief Inspector supervising the event.

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

3. In addition to the participant's application, each contestant shall complete an Amateur Bout Letter of Intent, declaring they intend to compete for a certain

promotion, at a defined weight, against a specific opponent.

(e) Approval and Denial of Participant Licenses. Annual licenses for referees, inspectors, physicians, 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) Amateur mixed martial artists $ 40.00

(ii) Judge $100.00

(iii) Manager $100.00

(iv) Application for Match Permit $250.00

(v) Match Permit (Minimum) $250.00

(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, credit card, 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 with 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 Permi**t.

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 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 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 experience in matchmaking, and shall produce a list of all 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 fighters that he or she has trained, 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.

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

1. An applicant shall demonstrate to the Commission that he or she has the necessary training to serve as a second, and shall produce a list of all fighters that he or she has served as a second, 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.

(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, §41-9-1020 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.

Author: J. Matt Bledsoe, Brandon Owens, Casey Sears, Joseph B. McCormick
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165-X-3-.03 Bonds.

(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 an amateur 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 or bonds are given within the time fixed by written demand therefor, 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 contact 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-3-.08, (20)., C.

(e) Complaints against a licensee. See 165-X-3-.08, (20)., C and D.

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165-X-3-.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) **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. Promoters shall be responsible for paying any deductible.

(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.

Author: J. Matt Bledsoe, Brandon Owens, Casey Sears, Joseph B. McCormick
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §41-9-1024.
History: **New Rule:** Filed December 27, 2013; effective January 31, 2014. **Amended:** Filed December 11, 2015; effective January 25, 2016. **Amended:** Filed June 20, 2018; effective August 4, 2018.

165-X-3-.05 Conduct Of Promotion.

(1) Security.

(a) General Safety. It shall be the promoter's responsibility to ensure safety of the contestants, officials, and fans and to comply with all safety standards required by the Commission.

1. Arena Security. Arena security is the responsibility of the promoter and such security measures 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) Arena Safety Compliance. No amateur mixed martial arts match, contest, or exhibition will be allowed to commence or continue in any arena which to the Commission to be unsafe or where the Commission 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 Contestant, manager, seconds, Commission representatives including appointed commissioners, approved physician(s), approved media representatives, and promoter's personnel.

1. Promoters may be required by the Commission to post a guard at the entrance to the dressing rooms to aid in enforcement of dressing room security.

(2) Beverage and Liquor Sales.

(a) Liquor Sales at Event. If the chosen venue has a liquor license, and liquor is intended to be sold at the event, the Commission must be advised in writing in advance of the show and give its approval. No Glass bottles or aluminum cans will be allowed.

(3) Split or Different Styles. Cards split between professional and amateur matches. Mixed cards shall be left at the discretion of the Commission. All amateur shows shall reflect the amateur status of the event in all advertising in a way approved by the Executive Director. A card split between professional and amateur matches shall be advertised as "Pro-Am," and shall include a minimum of three professional bouts on the card. Failure to provide the minimum number of professional bouts will result in action against the promoter by the Alabama Athletic Commission.
Author: J. Matt Bledsoe, Brandon Owens, Casey Sears
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §41-9-1024.
History: New Rule: Filed December 27, 2013; effective January 31, 2014.

165-X-3-.06 Ring And Equipment.

(1) **Competition Area**

(a) Amateur contests locations. All competitions will take place either a Cage or a Ring that has been approved by the Commission. The Cage or Ring will meet the requirements set forth by the Commission and also be subject to inspection prior to each event by the designated Commission representative.

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

(2) **Ring.**

(a) Ring Specifications. The ring specifications for amateur mixed martial arts must meet the following requirements.

(b) The ring requirements. The ring may be no smaller than twenty feet square and no larger than thirty-two feet square within the ropes.

1. One of the corners must have a blue designation, and the corner directly across must have a red designation.

2. The ring floor must extend at least eighteen inches beyond the ropes. The ring floor must be padded with ensolite or a similar closed-cell foam, with at least one inch layer of foam padding.

3. Padding must extend beyond the ring ropes and over the edge platform, with a top covering of canvas, duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Material that tends to gather in lumps and ridges may not be used.

4. The ring platform must not be more than four feet above the floor of the building and must have suitable steps for the use of the contestants.

5. Ring posts must be made of metal, not more than three inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a minimum height of fifty-eight inches above the ring floor, and must be properly padded in a manner approved by the Commission. Ring posts must be eighteen inches away from the ring ropes.

6. There must be five ring ropes, not less than one inch in diameter and wrapped in soft material. The lowest rope must be no higher than twelve inches from the ring floor. All five ring ropes must be secured to each other in no less than two places on all four sides of the ring. On all four sides of the ring, there should be tables lining the ring, draped from corner to corner.

7. There must not be any obstruction or object, on any part of the ring floor.

(3) **Cage Requirements.**

(a) Cage specifications. The fighting area canvas shall be no smaller than 18 feet by 18 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 Commission, with at least one inch layer of foam padding.

1. Padding shall extend beyond the fighting area and over the edge of the platform. No vinyl or other plastic rubberized covering shall be permitted.

2. 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 Commission.

3. The fighting area canvas or synthetic/vinyl mat area 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.

4. All metal parts shall be covered and padded in a manner approved by the Commission and shall not be abrasive to the contestants. The fence shall provide two separate entries onto the fighting area canvas. Both doors shall have a "clasp and pin" or similarly approved dual locking system and steps that facilitate safe entry and exit.

(4) **Equipment.** All appropriate equipment shall be approved at the discretion of the Commission.

(5) **Specifications for Bandages on Mixed Martial Artists' Hands.**

(a) Pre-fight hand wraps. All mixed martial arts contestants shall be required to gauze and tape their hands prior to all contests. In all weight classes, the bandages on each contestant's hand shall be restricted to soft gauze cloth not more than 15 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. Surgeon's adhesive tape shall be placed directly on each hand for protection near the wrist.

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

3. Under no circumstances are gloves to be placed on the hands of a contestant until the approval of the opponent's chief second or commission representative is received.

4. Substances other than surgeon's tape and soft gauze shall not be utilized. (Example)Pre-wraps shall not be used.

5. Under no condition will any adhesive tape be allowed to extend a position within one inch of the posterior line of knuckles. Provided however that a thin

"butterfly" of tape between the fingers will be allowed to stabilize the placement of gauze.

(6) **Mouth Pieces.**

(a) Mouth piece requirements. All contestants are required to wear a mouth piece during competition. The mouthpiece shall be subject to examination and approval by the attending physician. The round cannot begin without the mouthpiece in place. In the event that the mouth pieces come out of a competitor's mouth during the action of a round, the referee shall wait until a break in the natural fighting action and escort the fighter to his corner to have his mouthpiece replaced. Intentionally spitting out a mouthpiece is grounds for penalization or disqualification.

(7) **Protective Equipment.**

(a) Shin Guards. Approved shin guard with instep pads, supplied by the promoter, and in good condition, must be worn by all novice division contestants. Advanced division contestants may choose to do so.

(b) Female mixed martial artists may wear a chest protector or other properly fitted sports bra during competition. Chest protectors shall be subject to the approval of the Commission.

(c) All contestants, male and female, shall wear groin protection during competition.

(d) Contestants may choose between a MMA Cup or a traditional boxing style protector. Groin protection shall be subject to the approval of the Commission.

(e) A single elastic or neoprene sleeve may be worn to support either or both ankles and knees. Sleeve supports must not have any metal or plastic hinges and must not have seams that could injure the fighter or his/her opponent. Tape of any kind is prohibited.

(8) Gloves.

(a) Glove condition. The gloves shall be in good condition for all contests or they must be replaced.

(b) Glove weights. All contestants shall wear gloves at least six ounces supplied by the promoter and approved by the Commission. No contestant shall supply his or her own gloves for participation unless approved 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, match, or exhibition.

(d) Glove Certification. It is the promoter's responsibility to ensure that the 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) Gloves may not be broken or twisted, nor may the padding be misplaced or lumpy.

(9) Apparel.

(a) Acceptable attire. Each contestant shall wear mixed martial arts shorts, biking shorts, or kickboxing shorts. Shorts with a grip panel are not permitted. Shorts with metal parts are not permitted unless properly covered.

1. GI's, shirts, and biking pants with a grip panel are prohibited during competition for male Contestants. Female competitors must wear a short sleeved (above the elbow) or sleeveless form fitting rash guard and/or sports bra. No loose-fitting tops are allowed. Female contestants will follow the same requirements for bottom coverings as the male contestants, minus the requirement for groin protection. Male contestants may wear rashguard shirts.

2. Shoes are prohibited during competition.

(10) Corner Equipment.

(a) Corner Kit: Substances Allowed. 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 Adrenaline;

9. Athletic tape approved by the Commission.

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

(b) Corner Kit: Substances Prohibited. 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 fighter and/or second.

Author: J. Matt Bledsoe, Brandon Owens, Casey Sears, Joseph B. McCormick
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §41-9-1024.
History: **New Rule:** Filed December 27, 2013; effective January 31, 2014. **Amended:** Filed November 30, 2016; effective January 14, 2017. **Amended:** Filed June 20, 2018; effective August 4, 2018. **Amended:** Published August 31, 2022; effective October 15, 2022.

165-X-3-.07 Officials: Chief Inspector, Corner Inspectors, Referees, Judges, And Timekeepers.

(1) Referee. No one other than the referee may stop a fight during or between rounds.

(2) 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/in-cage conduct expected from each contestant and second assisting in the corner of each contestant.

(3) Pre-Bout Confirmation of Officials, Physician, and Ring/Cage Certification. Prior to calling for the sounding of the bell to begin each bout, the referee in the ring will confirm that the ringside physician as well as each judge assigned to the bout is in place at ringside. Prior to calling for the sounding of the bell to begin each bout, the referee shall also certify the ring or cage is in a safe condition to sustain competition and in compliance with the guideline set forth by the Commission.

(4) Touching Contestants. The referee shall not touch the competing amateur mixed martial artists except when one or both fails to obey the break command, or at such time as to break one contestants hold on the other upon a physical or verbal tap out submission, or when necessary to protect the safety of one or both competitors.

(5) Saved by the Bell due to a Lock or Hold. An amateur mixed martial artist shall be saved by the bell in any round including the final round of any contest, when the contestant is being controlled by a lock or hold intended to force the other contestant to submit.

(6) Amateur Mixed Martial Artists Knocked out of the Ring. Any amateur mixed martial artist knocked out of the ring unintentionally by a legal technique shall receive a twenty (20) second count. During the time that any such amateur mixed martial artist is outside the ring, he or she shall not be assisted by any member of their corner and such assistance, if offered, shall end the match, contest, or exhibition with that amateur mixed martial artist losing by a technical knockout.

(a) As a general precaution to protect the safety of the amateur mixed martial artists and to prevent any potential injury, an amateur mixed martial 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 boxer in returning to the ring.

(7) Standing Eight Count. There shall be no standing eight (8) count.

(8) Failure to Answer Bell. A contestant shall not leave the ring or cage during any 1-minute rest period between rounds. If any contestant fails or refuses to resume competition 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.

(a) If the circumstances indicate to the referee the need for investigation or punitive action, the referee may withhold giving a decision.

(b) The referee shall have the authority to stop a contest at any time if one of the competitors is unable or no longer able to defend himself or herself.

Author: J. Matt Bledsoe, Brandon Owens, Casey Sears
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §41-9-1024.
History: New Rule: Filed December 27, 2013; effective January 31, 2014.

165-X-3-.08 Officials: Conduct Of Contest, Match Or Exhibition.

(1) Round Length. All amateur bouts will consist of no more than three (3), three (3) minute rounds with a one (1) minute rest period in between rounds.

(2) Number of Bouts Per Card. Unless otherwise approved by the Commission, promoters shall have no fewer than eight (8) contests on an individual card. Cards with more than twelve (12) contests must be approved by the Commission. The Commission may require additional officials to be present when a card has more than twelve (12) contests.

(3) Weight Classes of Amateur Mixed Martial Artists

(a) Amateur mixed martial artist shall be divided into the following classes (all weights in pounds)

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.

(4) Weighing of Mixed Martial Artists

(a) Weigh-in Procedures. In all contests and exhibitions, contestants shall have the option to weigh-in in the presence of each other and each other's coach. 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.

(b) Official Weigh-Ins shall be conducted at a time and place approved by the promoter hosting the contest or exhibition. The time and location must be submitted to the Commission no less than seven (7) days prior to the weigh-in for approval. Attendance to official weigh-ins is strictly limited to promotional staff, participants, coaches, licensed organization representative, and Commission officials.

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

(d) Each card shall have one official weigh-in. A promoter may request additional official weigh-ins for one card. The Chief Inspector alone shall determine if an additional weigh-in may be held.

(e) 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.

(5) Consumables Before and During the Contest. Water shall be used to hydrate an amateur mixed martial artist between rounds. Honey, electrolyte glucose, sugar or any other substance mixed with water is prohibited. Contestants should not consume energy drinks on the date of the contest.

(6) Seconds.

(a) Number of seconds allowed per fight. Each amateur mixed martial artist must have two (2) seconds, unless the Commission permits otherwise. Each contestant shall have one chief second and each chief second must have a complete first aid kit. The seconds must be neatly attired.

(b) Leaving the Ring or Cage: When seconds leaving the ring. Seconds shall leave the ring or cage enclosure at the sound of the timekeeper’s whistle. They shall leave the ring or cage 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 ring floor until the bell has sounded the end of a round.

(c) Assisting Contestant During Bout: Prohibited. During rounds, seconds shall not assist or interfere with the contestants unless directed by the referee.

(d) Throwing Towel: Prohibited. Seconds are forbidden from tossing a towel into the ring.

(e) Ejection and Disqualification. Violations of the provisions of this section (165-X-3-.08(6)).

(7) Appearance and Hygiene. The Commission may prevent any contestant from competing in any match or event due to the contestant’s personal hygiene, length of head hair, length of facial hair, or any other aspects of personal appearance that may present a hazard to the safety of the contestant or their opponent, or that may interfere with the supervision or conduct of the event.

(8) Amateur Novice vs. Advanced Divisions.

(a) Novice Division Rules. Fighters who have competed in two (2) bouts or less must follow novice division rules.

(b) Advanced Division Rules. Fighters who have competed in more than two (2) verifiable bouts regulated by a recognized commission and subject to commission matchmaking approval. Non-sanctioned bouts occurring before 2011 may be counted at the Executive Director's discretion.

1. Bouts between fighters who have more than two (2) fights may be contested using novice division rules

2. Bouts between fighters with two (2) fights or less may not be contested using advanced division rules.

3. Bouts contested between one fighter who has two (2) fights or less, and one fighter who has more than two (2) fights, shall be contested using novice division rules.

4. Fighters who have more than two (2) fights may not qualify for bouts using advance division rules if they do not have a winning record. The decision shall be made by the Executive Director.

5. Decisions regarding the qualifying amateur fighters for Advanced Division Rule status shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director.

(9) **Fouls for Novice Division.**

(a) Novice Amateur Rules. The following are fouls and will result in penalties such as warning, point deduction or disqualification, if committed:

1. Holding or grabbing the fence or ropes.

(i) A fighter may put their hands on the fence and push off of it at anytime. A fighter may place their feet onto the cage and have their toes go through the fencing material at any time. When a fighter's fingers or toes go through a cage and grab hold of the fence and start to control with their body position or their opponent's body position it now becomes an illegal action. A fighter may not grab the ropes or wrap their arms over the ring ropes at any time.

(ii) If a fighter is caught holding the fence, cage or ring rope material the referee shall issue a one-point deduction from the offending fighter's scorecard if the foul caused a substantial change in position such as the avoidance of a takedown.

(iii) If a point deduction for holding the fence occurs, and because of the infraction, the fouling fighter ends up in a superior position due to the foul, the fighters should be restarted by the referee, standing in a neutral position.

2. Holding opponent's shorts or gloves. A fighter may not control their opponent's movement by holding onto their opponent's shorts or gloves. A fighter may hold onto or grab their opponent's hand as long as they are not controlling the hand only by using the material of the glove, but by actually gripping the hand of the opponent. It is legal to hold onto your gloves or shorts.

3. Butting with the head.

4. The use of the head as a striking instrument.

5. Eye gouging. Eye gouging of any kind by means of fingers, chin, or elbows is illegal. Legal strikes or punches that contact the fighter's eye socket are not eye gouging and shall be considered legal attacks.

6. Biting or spitting at an opponent.

7. Hair pulling.

8. Fish Hooking. Any attempt by a fighter to use their fingers in a manner that attacks their opponent's mouth, nose or ears, stretching the skin to that area will be considered "Fish-Hooking". Fish-hooking generally is the placing of fingers into the mouth of your opponent and pulling your hands in opposing direction while holding onto the skin of your opponent.

9. Groin attacks of any kind.

10. Placing a finger into any orifice or into any cut or laceration of your opponent.

(i) A fighter may not lace their fingers into an open laceration in an attempt to enlarge the cut.

(ii) A fighter may not place their fingers into an opponent's nose, ear, mouth, or any other body cavity.

11. Elbow strikes of any kind to any area.

12. Small joint Manipulation. Fingers and Toes are small joints. Wrist, Ankles, knees, Shoulders and Elbows are all large joints.

13. Strikes to the spine or the back of the head. Strikes are not permissible from the nape of the neck area up to the top of the ears.

14. Fingers outstretched toward an opponent's face/eyes.

15. No throat strikes of any kind are allowed.

(i) A directed attack would include a fighter pulling his or her opponent's head in a way to open the neck for a striking attack.

(ii) A fighter may not gouge their fingers or thumb into their opponent's neck or trachea in an attempt to submit their opponent.

16. Clawing, Pinching, Twisting the flesh. Any attack that targets the fighter's skin by clawing at the skin or attempting to pull or twist the skin to apply pain is illegal.

17. Kicking the Head of a grounded opponent. An opponent is considered grounded when any part of the body, other than a single hand and feet touching the fighting area floor. To be grounded, both hands and feet, 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.

18. Kneeing the head of an opponent.

19. Stomping of a grounded fighter. Stomping is considered any type of striking action with the feet where the fighter lifts their leg up bending their leg at the knee and initiating a striking action with the bottom of their foot or heel.

(i) Axe Kicks are not stomps. Standing foot stomps are NOT a foul. As such, this foul does not include stomping the feet of a standing fighter.

20. The use of abusive language in the fighting arena.

21. Conduct of any kind that may cause an injury to any officials.

22. Attacking an opponent on or during the break. A fighter shall not engage their opponent in any fashion during a time-out or break of action in competition.

23. Attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee.

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

25. Interference from a corner. Interference is defined as any action or activity aimed at disrupting the fight or causing an unfair advantage to be given to one combatant. Corners are not allowed to distract the referee or influence the actions of the referee or any other official.

26. Throwing an opponent out of the cage or ring fighting area. A fighter shall not throw their opponent out of the cage.

27. Flagrant disregard of the referee's instructions. A fighter MUST follow the instructions of the referee at all times. Any deviation of non-compliance may result in the fighter's disqualification.

28. Spiking the opponent to the floor onto the head or neck. Illegal spiking is considered to be any maneuver where you control your opponent's body and then forcibly drive your opponents head or neck into the flooring material. Illegal spiking moves are, but not limited to, pile drivers and suplexes.

(i) A pile driver is considered to be any throw where you control your opponent's body placing his feet straight up in the air with his head straight down and then forcibly drive your opponents head into the flooring material.

(ii) Suplex has several variations but generally consists of lifting your opponent off the flooring material and then using their body weight to drive the opponent down onto the flooring material on their head or neck.

(iii) It should be noted when a fighter is placed into a submission hold by their opponent, if that fighter is capable of elevating their opponent, they may bring that opponent down in any fashion they desire because they are not in control of their opponents body. The fighter who is attempting the submission can either adjust their position, or let go of their hold before being slammed to the floor.

29. Attacking an opponent after the bell or horn has sounded.

30. Linear kicks to the knee joint.

31. Neck Cranks. Any hold that places the fighter's neck in jeopardy from a crank is illegal.

32. All Twisting leg submissions

(i) Heel hooks and toe holds are prohibited.

(ii) Straight Kneebars and the straight ankle locks are allowed.

33. Spine locks.

34. No elbows or knees to the head, no matter whether the opponent is up or down.

(10) **Fouls for Advanced Division.**

(a) Advanced amateur rules are allowed to be used after a fighter has had more than three (3), verifiable, amateur fights regulated by a recognized athletic commission, and subject to commission matchmaking approval.

1. Holding or grabbing the fence or ropes is not allowed.

(i) A fighter may put their hands on the fence and push off of it at anytime. A fighter may place their feet onto the cage and have their toes go through the fencing material at any time. When a fighter's fingers or toes go through a cage and grab hold of the fence and start to control whether their body position or their opponent's body position, it now becomes an illegal action. A fighter may not grab the ropes or wrap their arms over the ring ropes at any time.

(ii) If a fighter is caught holding the fence, cage or ring rope material, the referee shall issue a one-point deduction from the offending fighter's scorecard, if the foul caused a substantial change in position such as the avoidance of a takedown.

(iii) If a point deduction for holding the fence occurs, and because of the infraction, the fouling fighter ends up in a superior position due to the foul, the fighters should be restarted by the referee, standing in a neutral position.

2. Holding opponent's shorts or gloves. A fighter may not control their opponent's movement by holding onto their opponent's shorts or gloves. A fighter may hold onto or grab their opponent's hand as long as they are not controlling the hand only by using the material of the glove, but by actually gripping the hand of the opponent. It is legal to hold onto your gloves or shorts.

3. Butting with the head.

4. The use of the head as a striking instrument.

5. Eye gouging. Eye gouging of any kind by means of fingers, chin, or elbows is illegal. Legal strikes or punches that contact the fighter's eye socket are not eye gouging and shall be considered legal attacks.

6. Biting or spitting at an opponent.

7. Hair pulling.

8. Fish Hooking. Any attempt by a fighter to use their fingers in a manner that attacks their opponent's mouth, nose or ears, stretching the skin to that area will be considered "Fish-Hooking". Fish-hooking generally is the placing of fingers into the mouth of your opponent and pulling your hands in opposing direction while holding onto the skin of your opponent.

9. Groin attacks of any kind.

10. Placing a finger into any orifice or into any cut or laceration of your opponent.

(i) A fighter may not lace their fingers into an open laceration in an attempt to enlarge the cut.

(ii) A fighter may not place their fingers into an opponent's nose, ear, mouth, or any other body cavity.

11. Elbow strikes of any kind to any area.

12. Small joint Manipulation. Fingers and Toes are small joints. Wrist, Ankles, knees, Shoulders and Elbows are all large joints.

13. Strikes to the spine or the back of the head. Strikes are not permissible from the nape of the neck area up to the top of the ears.

14. Fingers outstretched toward an opponent's face/eyes.

15. No throat strikes of any kind are allowed.

(i) A directed attack would include a fighter pulling his or her opponent's head in a way to open the neck for a striking attack.

(ii) A fighter may not gouge their fingers or thumb into their opponent's neck or trachea in an attempt to submit their opponent.

16. Clawing, Pinching, Twisting the flesh. Any attack that targets the fighter's skin by clawing at the skin or attempting to pull or twist the skin to apply pain is illegal.

17. Kicking the Head of a grounded opponent. An opponent is considered grounded when any part of the body, other than a single hand and feet touching the fighting area floor. To be grounded, both hands and feet, 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.

18. Kneeing the head of an opponent.

19. Stomping of a grounded fighter. Stomping is considered any type of striking action with the feet where the fighter lifts their leg up bending their leg at the knee and initiating a striking action with the bottom of their foot or heel.

(i) Axe Kicks are not stomps. Standing foot stops are NOT a foul. As such, this foul does not include stomping the feet of a standing fighter.

20. The use of abusive language in the fighting arena.

21. Conduct of any kind that may cause an injury to any officials.

22. Attacking an opponent on or during the break. A fighter shall not engage their opponent in any fashion during a time-out or break of action in competition.

23. Attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee.

24. Timidity. Timidity is defined as any fighter who purposely avoids contact with his opponent, or runs away from the action of the fight. Timidity can also be called by the referee for any attempt by a fighter to receive time by falsely claiming a foul, injury, or purposely

dropping or spitting out their mouthpiece or other action designed to stall the fight.

25. Interference from a corner. Interference is defined as any action or activity aimed at disrupting the fight or causing an unfair advantage to be given to one combatant. Corners are not allowed to distract the referee or influence the actions of the referee or any other official.

26. Throwing an opponent out of the cage or ring fighting area. A fighter shall not throw their opponent out of the cage.

27. Flagrant disregard of the referee's instructions. A fighter MUST follow the instructions of the referee at all times. Any deviation of non-compliance may result in the fighter's disqualification.

28. Spiking the opponent to the floor onto the head or neck. Illegal spiking is considered to be any maneuver where you control your opponent's body and then forcibly drive your opponents head or neck into the flooring material. Illegal spiking moves are, but not limited to, pile drivers and suplexes.

(i) A pile driver is considered to be any throw where you control your opponent's body placing his feet straight up in the air with his head straight down and then forcibly drive your opponents head into the flooring material.

(ii) A suplex has several variations but generally consists of lifting your opponent off the flooring material and then using their body weight to drive the opponent down onto the flooring material on their head or neck.

(iii) It should be noted when a fighter is placed into a submission hold by their opponent, if that fighter is capable of elevating their opponent, they may bring that opponent down in any fashion they desire because they are not in control of their opponents body. The fighter who is attempting the submission can either adjust their position, or let go of their hold before being slammed to the floor.

29. Attacking an opponent after the bell or horn has sounded.

30. Linear kicks to the knee joint.

31. Neck Cranks. Any hold that places the fighter's neck in jeopardy from a crank is illegal.

32. All Twisting leg submissions

(i) Heel hooks and toe holds are prohibited.

(ii) Straight Kneebars and the straight ankle locks are allowed.

33. Spine locks.

34. Strikes to the head when the opponent is down.

(11) Use of Body Grease, Water, and Other Similar Substances. Use of body grease is forbidden. The use of body grease, gels, balms, lotions, oil, or other substances is a violation and is prohibited from being applied to the hair, face, or body. This includes excessive amounts of water being splashed upon a contestant, which could result in penalties or disqualification.

(12) Foul Procedures. If a foul is committed, the referee shall:

(a) Call time;

(b) Check the fouled mixed martial artist's condition and safety; and

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

(d) If a bottom contestant commits a foul, unless the top contestant is injured, the fight will continue, so to not 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 corner's seconds, the judges, and the official scorekeeper.

3. The referee may terminate a bout based on the severity of a foul. For such a flagrant foul, a contestant shall lose by disqualification.

(13) Time Considerations for a Low Blow Foul. A fighter who has been struck with a low blow is allowed up to five (5) minutes to recover from the foul as long as in the ringside doctor's opinion the fighter may possibly continue on in the contest. If the fighter states that they can continue on before the five minutes

has expired, the referee shall as soon as practical restart the fight. If the fighter goes over the five-minute time allotment the fight cannot be restarted and the contest must come to an end with the outcome determined by the round and time in which the fight was stopped.

(14) Fighter Who is Not Fouled by Low Blow But Another Foul.

(a) Accidental Foul. If a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts is stopped because of an accidental foul, the referee shall determine whether the unarmed combatant who has been fouled can continue or not. If the unarmed combatant's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of the foul and if the foul did not involve a concussive impact to the head of the unarmed combatant who has been fouled, the Referee may order the contest or exhibition continued after a recuperative interval of not more than 5 minutes. Unlike the low blow foul rule, the fighter does not have up to 5 minutes of time to use at their discretion. Immediately after separating the unarmed combatants, the Referee shall call in the ringside doctor if necessary and inform the scorekeeper of his determination that the foul was accidental.

(b) Illegal Foul. If a fighter is fouled in a way that the referee deems is not an accident, the referee should stop the action and call for time. The referee may take the injured fighter to the ringside doctor and have the ringside doctor examine the fighter as to their ability to continue on in the contest. The ringside doctor has up to 5 minutes to make their evaluation. If the ringside doctor determines that the fighter can continue in the contest, the referee shall, as soon as practical, restart the fight. Unlike the low blow foul rule, the fighter does not have up to 5 minutes of time to use at their discretion. Foul not subject to five-minute rule. For a foul other than a low blow, the fouled fighter is not guaranteed 5 minutes of recovery time. If deemed not fit to continue by the referee or ringside physician, the referee must immediately call a halt to the bout. If the fighter is deemed not fit to continue by the referee or ringside physician but some of the five-minute foul time is still remaining, the fighter cannot avail himself of the remaining time. If the referee stops the contest and employs the use of the ringside doctor, the ringside physician's examinations shall not exceed five minutes. If five minutes is exceeded, the fight cannot be re-started and the contest must end.

(15) Scoring the Foul to be Performed by the Scorekeeper.

(a) Scoring a foul. Fouls may result in a point being deducted by the official Scorekeeper from the offending mixed martial artist’s score. The Scorekeeper, not the judges, will be

responsible for calculating the true score after factoring in the point deduction.

1. Only the referee may assess fouls.

(16) Injuries Sustained During Competition that Will Terminate the Bout.

(a) Injury due to legal maneuver. 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.

(b) Self-Inflicted Injury. If an injury that is considered self-inflicted occurs, and it is severe enough to terminate the bout, the injured contestant shall lose by technical knockout.

(c) Accidental Foul. If an injury sustained during competition as a result of an accidental foul is severe enough to terminate a bout; if it occurs after the horn sounds ending the 2nd round, the partial round is scored and we go to the score cards for the technical decision. If it occurs at any earlier time, the bout will be declared a "no contest."

1. If the injury from the accidental foul is not severe enough to stop the bout but then later it is further aggravated by legal techniques enough to warrant an end to the match, if it occurs after the horn sounds ending the 2nd round, the partial round is scored and we go to the score cards for the technical decision. If it occurs at any earlier time, the bout will be declared a "no contest."

2. Only in rare instances, such as subsequent to repeated warnings for the same foul, will the referee take a point or points from a fighter for an accidental foul.

(d) Intentional Foul. If an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul is severe enough to terminate a bout then the injured fighter will win by disqualification. If the injury from the intentional foul is not severe enough to stop the bout but then later is further aggravated by legal techniques enough to warrant an end to the match, the partial round is scored, then we go to the score cards for the technical decision (the bout does not need to have progressed past a minimum number of rounds). If the fouled fighter is ahead on the score cards, the fouled fighter will be declared the winner by technical decision. If the fouling fighter is ahead or tied, the bout will be declared a "no contest."

(e) Regarding "Low Blows." A fighter, who chooses not to continue based on receiving a non-called low blow, will have the stoppage treated under typical accidental foul rules unless for some reason the referee sees fit to disqualify the fighter (i.e., repeated excessive accidental low blow fouls).

(17) Stopping a Contest. The referee is the sole arbiter of a bout and is the only individual authorized to enter the fighting area at any time during the competition and authorized to stop a contest.

(a) A physician may enter the ring and advise the referee but shall have no authority to stop a fight.

(18) Judging.

(a) Number of Judges. All bouts will be evaluated and scored by three (3) 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 striking/grappling, and effective aggressiveness, and control of the fighting area.

(e) Effective striking is judged by determining the impact/ effect of legal strikes landed by a contestant solely based on the results of such legal strikes. Effective grappling is assessed by the successful executions and impactful/effective result(s) coming from: takedown(s), submission attempt(s), achieving an advantageous position(s) and reversal(s).

(f) Effective aggressiveness means aggressively making attempts to finish the fight.

(g) Fighting area control is assessed by determining who is dictating the pace, place and position of the bout.

1. The following objective scoring criteria shall be utilized by the judges when scoring a round:

(i) A round is to be scored as a 10-10 Round when both contestants have competed for whatever duration

of time in the round and there is no difference or advantage between either fighter;

(ii) A round is to be scored as a 10-9 Round when a contestant wins by a close margin, 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 a 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 completely overwhelms their opponent in Effective Striking and/or Grappling and stoppage is warranted.

(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.

(19) Types of Bout Results.

(a) Submission. A referee will award the bout via Submission when one or more of the following occur:

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

2. Verbal tap out: When a contestant verbally announces to the referee that he or she does not wish to continue; or makes audible sounds such as screams indicating pain or discomfort.

3. Technical Submission: When a submission is executed to its completeness which cause the referee to intervene and stop the contest. Example, a choke causes a fighter to go unconscious, or a joint lock causes a fracture.

(b) Technical knockout. A referee will award a Technical Knockout when one or more of the following occur:

1. An opponent is clearly overmatched in a way that poses a danger to allow the contest to continue.

(c) Knockout. A referee will award the bout via Knockout when an opponent is damaged by a legal technique or techniques and is incapable of intelligently defending themselves.

(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

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

(e) Types of 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. A Disqualification will be declared when an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul is severe enough to terminate the contest.

1. A Disqualification may be declared for one or more of the following:

(i) Intentional fouling with or without injury

(ii) Repeated or consistent fouling

(iii) Fighter or Corner misconduct

(g) Forfeit. A Forfeit is declared when a contestant fails to begin competition. A “forfeit” does not grant the opponent a “victory.”

(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; or; in Double Knockout Situations, the referee shall

stop a contest or exhibition of unarmed combat at any stage if the referee determines that both unarmed combatants are in such a condition that to continue might subject the unarmed combatants to serious injury;

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

(j) No Contest. When a contest 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.

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

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

(b) Decision Announcement. In all contests decided by the judges' scorecards, the announcer will announce if the decision is "unanimous," "a majority decision," or "a draw," and the total points given to each contestant by the three judges will be announced.

(c) Finality of the Decision. A decision rendered at the end of any amateur mixed martial arts contest 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

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 amateur mixed martial artist.

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

4. 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 bouts end was by means of legal or illegal striking. Bouts ending due to illegal (intentional or unintentional foul) shall be settled in the manner listed in the chapter above. 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. A competitor may appeal the decision of the contest to the Commission. A written appeal must be submitted to the Commission within five (5) business days of the contest. The appeal shall be addressed according to the rules and regulations of the Commission.

(e) A petition to change a decision. A petition shall be in writing and filed by the contestants manager to the Commission within five (5) business days from the date the decision was rendered. The petition shall be addressed according to the rules of the Commission.

(21) Certification Results.

(a) Certification of Results. The Commission is the only organization permitted by state regulations to certify the results of individual amateur mixed martial arts contests.

1. The Commission's Executive Director shall review and certify all individual fight results before they are submitted to the national registry.

2. A licensed Chief Inspector must submit a signed affidavit stating that all amateur contests for each individual event were held according to the Commission's rules; were strictly followed and enforced.

3. Any contest not certified by the Commission shall be listed as a non-sanctioned fight in the fighter's official record.

4. Non-sanctioned fights will not be applied to the fighter's win/loss record in the national registry.

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