STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA ATHLETIC COMMISSION
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 165-X-5
PRO WRESTLING

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165-X-5-.01 Definitions.

(1) "Official" - Unless otherwise indicated is an exclusive term collectively meaning "Inspectors."

(2) "Participants" - Everyone serving inside the ring area is a participant. This includes, but is not limited to, wrestlers, announcers, managers, referees, timekeepers, valets, trainers, seconds, and judges.

(3) "Event fees" – Match permit fees plus broadcasting fees. All other fees are excluded.
Author: Matt Bledsoe; Brandon Owens
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §41-9-1020.
History: New Rule: Filed February 10, 2012; effective March 16, 2012. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed December 27, 2013; effective January 31, 2014.

165-X-5-.02 Licenses.

(1) Participants. No person under the age of eighteen (18) shall be licensed by the Commission.

(a) Anyone serving inside the ring area must be licensed as a participant. This includes, but is not limited to, wrestlers, managers, referees, timekeepers, valets, trainers, seconds, and judges.

(b) Licensure for participants shall be thirty dollars ($30) and must accompany an application and photo identification for

the participant. Licenses for participants shall expire December 31 of each year.

(c) Participants who have physical contact with other participants of simulated violence must be properly trained and in good physical condition. If it is deemed by a doctor, medical personnel, or promoter that a participant is not physically fit to perform, an official shall be notified and the participant shall not be allowed to perform.

(d) Participants shall not have physical contact with any spectator involving simulated violence, unless the "spectator" is a planted, licensed participant, imitating a spectator.

(e) Participants must be properly clothed in attire that would be appropriate for a Parental TV Rating of TV PG.

(f) Issuing of temporary license. When an application is made in front of the Commission, a temporary license shall be issued to the applicant in the form of a receipt. The issued temporary ID shall expire ninety (90) days from the date it was issued.

(2) Wrestling Sanctioning Organizations, Promoters and Promotions.

(a) All Wrestling Sanctioning organizations must submit applications to the Commission for licensure and these applications must be approved by the Commission.

1. Application and license fee for Wrestling Sanctioning Organizations and Promoters shall be one hundred dollars ($100) and shall expire December 31 each year.

2. Before each event, Wrestling Sanctioning Organizations or Promoters must submit an Event Permit application and a twenty-five ($25) fee at least thirty (30) days before the event is to commence. After each event, Wrestling Sanctioning Organizations or Promoters must submit to the Commission a completed promoter's ticket account form along with six percent (6%) gate fee to all compensated tickets. No refunds will be given for any difference.

3. Live and taped broadcasts are subject to a three percent (3%) broadcasting fee.

4. Combined event fees for professional wrestling are not to exceed $50,000.

5. All fees are due thirty (30) days after the event.

(b) Promoters must:

1. Provide an event area meeting the requirements of the Commission.

2. Be present at all events, or shall designate a representative to be present at the event.

3. Abide by the rules of the Commission.

4. Make sure each participant is licensed by the Commission.

5. Provide the Commission with written notice of all events at least 30 days before the event date.

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

(i) Participant $ 30.00

(ii) Promoters $100.00

(iii) Application for Match Permit $ 25.00

(iv) Returned Check $ 30.00

Author: Matt Bledsoe, Brandon Owens, Joseph B. McCormick
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165-X-5-.03 Medical Requirements.

(1) The promoter shall ensure that all participants are physically fit and properly trained to participate.

Author: Matt Bledsoe, Brandon Owens, Joseph B. McCormick
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §41-9-1020.
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165-X-5-.04 Conduct Of Promotion.

(1) **General Safety.** It shall be the promoter's responsibility to ensure the safety for the Contestants, officials, media and fans

and to comply with all safety standards required by the Commission.

(a) **Arena Securit**y. Arena security is the responsibility of the promoter and such security measures provided by the promoter shall be sufficient to maintain order.

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

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

(d) **Suggesting Benefits for Charitable Organization.** No promoter may advertise, hold out, or suggest in any fashion that a portion of the proceeds of any proposed professional wrestling show will be donated to a charitable organization without first complying with the Commission's rules governing "Programs for Charity."

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

2. Within three (3) business days after an event 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 event'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 event;

(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) Decline to issue a match permit to the promoter for the holding of any events until the statements are provided.

(iv) Decline to issue a match permit to any promoter to hold any future event for the benefit of the charitable organization, until the statements are provided.

(2) **Required Medical Profesionals.**

(a) **Providing an Emergency Medical Technician.** It shall be the responsibility of the promoter to have a state-certified Emergency Medical Technician at all shows.

(3) **Arena.**

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

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

(4) **Show.**

(1) Pyrotechnics.

(a) No pyrotechnics will be allowed without the approval of the local fire marshall.

(5) **Violation: Penalties.**

(a) Violation of any article within this chapter may, for the first offense, be grounds for an administrative suspension of not less than thirty (30) days. Violations shall be referred to an investigative hearing of the Commission for disciplinary action.

(b) The second and/or any subsequent violation of any rule within this chapter may result in suspension or revocation. Violations shall be referred to an investigative hearing by the Commission for disciplinary action. Additional disciplinary fines may be imposed.

Author: Matt Bledsoe, Brandon Owens, Joseph B. McCormick
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §41-9-1020.
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165-X-5-.05 Ring And Equipment.

(1) Ring.

(a) The ring for professional wrestling must have at least three (3) ropes and provide ample padding for the participants.

(b) There shall be a visible border at least six (6) feet from the ring separating spectators from the ring. Security shall be responsible for ensuring participants and spectators remain on their respective side of the barrier.

(c) A non-slip padding must line the venue floor immediately outside the ring, between the ring and the spectator barrier.

Author: Matt Bledsoe, Brandon Owens, Joseph B. McCormick
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §41-9-1020.
History: New Rule: Filed February 10, 2012; effective March 16, 2012. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed December 27, 2013; effective January 31, 2014. **Amended:** Filed June 20, 2018; effective August 4, 2018. **Amended:** Published August 31, 2022; effective October 15, 2022.

165-X-5-.06 Officials.

(1) Inspectors shall be appointed by the commission to monitor all participants, promoters, and sanctioning bodies in obeying the rules.
Author: Matt Bledsoe; Brandon Owens
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §41-9-1020.
History: New Rule: Filed February 10, 2012; effective March 16, 2012. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed December 27, 2013; effective January 31, 2014.

165-X-5-.07 Conduct Of Contest.

(1) No exhibition shall have any act that creates intentional bleeding without the approval of the Commission and submission of the required bloodwork.

(2) No foreign objects shall be allowed in an exhibition without the approval of the Commission. No foreign object will be allowed that can pierce the skin or shatter with the possibility of spectators being injured. Objects containing glass are strictly prohibited.

(a) Only properly trained participants shall be allowed to use foreign objects.

(3) Compliance.

(a) Spot Checks. To ensure compliance with these rules, Pro Wrestling events with less than 1,000 spectators will be subject to compliance checks from Commission Inspectors.

(b) At least one Alabama Athletic Commission inspector must be present at all events that have more than 1,000 spectators in attendance.

(c) Promoters and participants not in compliance with the Commission rules shall be subject to fines, probation, suspension and/or revocation.

(d) 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.
Author: Matt Bledsoe, Brandon Owens, Joseph B. McCormick
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§41-9-1024.

History: New Rule: Filed February 10, 2012; effective March 16, 2012. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed December 27, 2013; effective January 31, 2014. **Amended:** Filed June 20, 2018; effective August 4, 2018.

Ed. Note: As per certification filed December 27, 2013; effective January 31, 2014. The following rules were repealed: 165-X-5-.08

Ed. Note: As per certification filed December 27, 2013; effective January 31, 2014. The following rules were repealed:

165-X-5-.08 Contracts.
Author: Casey C. Sears
Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §41-9-1024.
History: New Rule: Filed February 10, 2012; effective March 16, 2012. Repealed: Filed December 27, 2013; effective January 31, 2014.

165-X-5-.09 Failure To Perform.
Author: Casey C. Sears
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§41-9-1024.
History: New Rule: Filed February 10, 2012; effective March 16, 2012. Repealed: Filed December 27, 2013; effective January 31, 2014.