STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA ATHLETIC COMMISSION
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 165-X-6
PROFESSIONAL KICKBOXING RULES

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165-X-6-.01 Definitions.

(1) "Kickboxing" – Unarmed combat involving the use of any combination of techniques, including, without limitation, striking or kicking with the hands, feet, or knees.

(2) "Professional Kickboxing" – Includes kickboxing matches, contests, or exhibitions, which are not governed or otherwise designated by the Alabama Athletic Commission as an amateur kickboxing event.

(3) "Applicant" – Means any persons, corporations, organizations, or associations required to be licensed before promoting, holding, organizing, participating in, or competing in a professional kickboxing 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 "chief inspectors," "judges," "referees," "timekeepers," and "inspectors."

(6) "Professional Kickboxing Sanctioning Organization" – A national or international organization generally recognized in the kickboxing community and which: ranks kickboxing competitors within each weight class; sanctions and approves championship matches in those weight classes; and awards championship status

and championship prizes (belts, rings, plaques, etc.) to the winner of those matches.

(7) "Special Event" – Means a professional kickboxing 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 of significance to kickboxing in this state as designated by the Alabama Athletic Commission.

(8) "The Commission" – Refers to the Alabama Athletic Commission.

(9) "Match" – Means match, contest, or exhibition.
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165-X-6-.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 and Forms. Applications for annual license shall be submitted to the Commission on an application form provided by the Commission.

1. Licenses for kickboxing are distinct and separate from those of boxing and mixed martial arts. All persons applying to participate in the capacity of promoter, referee, judge, timekeeper, matchmaker, kickboxer, managers, trainer, and/or second shall make application for a kickboxing specific license. These licenses shall be designated "MMA-Kickboxing."

(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-6-.02 (a) below, all participant applications must be submitted prior to the weigh-in preceding the first professional match in which the applicant intends to participate in this state, in a given year.

1. No official weigh-in will be performed for an unlicensed kickboxer.

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

(e) Approval and Denial of Participant Licenses. Annual licenses for promoters, referees, judges, timekeepers, matchmakers, kickboxers, 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 may 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) Verbal or physical abuse of officials or commission supervisor(s). Any licensee who verbally or physically abuses an official or member of the Commission appointed supervisor of a match shall be summarily suspended and his or her license may be revoked.

(i) Prohibited Communication with Individual Commissioners. Anyone wishing to communicate with member 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.

(j) License Differentiation. Persons wishing to compete in kickboxing matches, bouts:

1. Promoters, referees, judges, timekeepers, matchmakers, kickboxers, 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 issues being actively reviewed or expected to be reviewed by the Commission. Persons who violate this rule shall be subject to disciplinary actions.

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

(2) **License Fees.**

(a) Application Fees. 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 follows:

(i) Kickboxer $ 40.00

(ii) Kickboxing Judge $100.00

(iii) Kickboxing Manager $100.00

(iv) Application for Match Permit Kickboxing $250.00

(v) Match Permit Kickboxing (Minimum) $250.00

(vi) Kickboxing Matchmaker $100.00

(vii) Kickboxing Promoter $250.00

(viii) Kickboxing Referee $100.00

(ix) Kickboxing Timekeeper $100.00

(x) Kickboxing Trainer/Second $ 40.00

(xi) Returned Check $ 30.00

2. Application Fees are not refundable. The proposed date of any match disclosed on an open match permit application may be changed without the requirement of an additional fee.

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

(3) **Licenses Issued By the Commission.**

(a) Promoter's License. Application for 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 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 within thirty (30) days of the match. 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 that they are promoting without approval from the Commission. Any promoter that is approved to participate in a match 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 kickboxing match 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 kickboxing match in this state, shall be considered a co-promoter.

8. Co-promoters must obtain a promoter's license prior to promoting any professional match in this state.

9. Any licensed promoter and co-promoter may be able to cross-promote a joint boxing and kickboxing event or

mixed martial arts and kickboxing event under one event permit. The promoter shall declare on their event permit application that they intend to promote the event as a cross-promotional event.

(i) A promoter for a cross-promotion event must be licensed as a promoter for each type of match that is to be held at a cross promotional event. When more than one promoter promotes an event, the collective licenses held by the promoters must cover each type of match that is to be held at a cross-promotional event.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. Any co-promoter of a kickboxing match shall obtain a promoter license from the Commission. There shall be no limitation on the number of days prior to a match 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.

(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.

(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.

(b) Match Permit.

1. Applications for a match permit must be made in writing and received by the Commission at least thirty (30) days in advance of the date for such professional kickboxing match. Any licensed promoter who has held a professional kickboxing match in the state within the previous twelve (12) months may apply for subsequent match permits no less than fifteen (15) days in advance of the proposed date of each subsequent professional kickboxing match.

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 Alabama Athletic Commission.

3. A match permit fee will be calculated by the Commission. The Match permit fee shall be calculated at six percent (6%) of the gross receipts from ticket sales to the professional kickboxing match. For television and broadcasts, the match permit fee shall be calculated at three percent (3%) of the gross ticket 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 dollars ($2,000,000). Television and broadcast fees will cap at fifty thousand dollars ($50,000).

(i) Ticket sales include the face value of 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. 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 shall 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. All contracts must be submitted prior to the first official weigh in of any fighter in the match.

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.

7. Cross-promotional events shall be subject to one match permit fee by the promoter, unless written documentation is provided to the Commission stating the financial responsibilities of a co-promoter for their portion of the event. The rate of the fee schedule shall be the same as mentioned in the above rules.

(c) Matches, Contest and Exhibitions Benefiting Charity.

1. A person who wishes to promote a match for charitable purposes must file with the Commission a letter of intent to present the match as benefitting 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 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. No match permit shall be issued for a charitable match without full financial disclosure of both promoter(s) and charitable organization(s) involved, including all contracts and proposals between all licensees, officials, and parties involved.

2. Within three (3) business days after a match benefitting a charitable organization is held, the promoter(s) and benefitting 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;

(ii) A certified and itemized statement of the match'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;

(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 any promoter to hold any future match for the benefit of the charitable organization, until the statements are provided.

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

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

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

3. For cross-promotional events, a matchmaker shall be licensed for each combative discipline in which he or she is matching competitors in the event.

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

1. An applicant shall demonstrate to the Commission that they have experience in training kickboxers, and shall produce a list of all professional fighter that they have trained, the promoters who promoted the matches, and the

results of the matches. The applicant may be required to provide a list of amateur fighters that he or she has trained.

2. The Commission may contact the person 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 they have experience in serving as a second, and shall produce a list of all professional fighters that they have served as a second, the promoters who promoted the matches, and the results of the matches. The applicant may be required to provide a list of amateur fighters that they have served as a second.

2. The Commission may contact the persons listed by the applicant 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 provisions of Code of Ala. 1975, §41-9-1024, 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 of kickboxing 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 of kickboxing, 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 otherwise discipline the applicant.

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165-X-6-.03 Bond Procedure.

(1) **Promoter's License Surety Bond.**

(a) Before any promoter's license is issued, authorizing the promotion of professional kickboxing 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 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 thirty (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 kickboxing event 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 other bonds are given within the time fixed by written demand therefore, or if the promoter's license bond of a licensee is cancelled, the license of such person shall be summarily suspended without notice or hearing.

(2) Match Permit Bond.

(a) Before any match permit is issued, authorizing the sale of tickets and the ancillary contracting necessary to promote a professional kickboxing show in Alabama, the applicant shall make and deliver to the Commission a security bond executed by a surety bond 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 thirty (30) days.

(d) The bond shall be in such amount as the Commission may determine based on 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 contestants' 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 obtained, 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, or if the match permit bond of a licensee is cancelled, 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 Commission.

(b) The Commission, after an investigation is conducted, may initiate disciplinary action against the person who 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-6-.08,9., C.

(e) Complaints against a licensee. See 165-X-6-.08,9., C and D

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165-X-6-.04 Medical Requirements.

(1) **Medical Examinations**

(a) Neurological Examination.

1. All kickboxers intended to compete in Alabama, who have competed in over two hundred (200) rounds during their professional career, according to the number of rounds disclosed on such kickboxer's official 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 kickboxer not submitting said results prior to the match may be allowed to compete provided however that such kickboxer's license will, at the conclusion of the match, be medically suspended until such time as his or her neurological examination requirement is fulfilled.

(b) Eye Examination.

1. All kickboxers intending to compete in Alabama, who have competed in over two hundred (200) rounds during their professional career, according to the number of rounds disclosed on such kickboxer's official record, and prior to competing in Alabama, must submit to the Commission results from a complete optometric or ophthalmological examination, performed within the previous twelve (12) months, by a board-certified ophthalmologist or state licensed optometrist.

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 kickboxer not submitting said results prior to the match may be allowed to compete provided however that such kickboxer's license will, at the conclusion of the match, be medically suspended until such time as this ophthalmological or 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 kickboxer's official ring record.

(2) **Pre-Fight Examination.** At the time of weigh-in, or at such other time as is then announced, all kickboxers 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 Medical 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 kickboxer, during the pre-fight physical, will be required to submit a pregnancy test administered under the direction of the examining physician, or such physician's authorized assistant. The cost of such test, unless the kickboxer'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 contestant is not pregnant.

2. Female kickboxers 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 kickboxer is not pregnant, or

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

(b) Failed Pre-Fight Physical.

1. Whenever a kickboxer's examination indicates that they are 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 kickboxer 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 following 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 kickboxers hydration shall be examined by the pre-fight physician.

(d) Minimum Uncorrected Visual Acuity.

1. A kickboxer 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 kickboxer in Alabama may, upon the request of the Commission, be required to present evidence of his or her visual acuity.

(e) Additional Medical Examinations.

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

(i) The Commission shall require re-examinations submitted after each successive fifty (50) professional rounds after the previous submission, as disclosed on such kickboxer's official record.

(f) Medical Suspensions by Other Commissions.

1. Medical suspensions. Other athletic commissions recognized by the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports and which are published by any boxing and/or mixed martial arts registry approved for such

purposes by the Association of Boxing Commission and Combative Sports shall be recognized by the Commission.

2. Medical examinations after suspensions. A kickboxer 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, match, 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 kickboxer's body, either prior 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 kickboxer to undergo 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. On site doping control tests may also be implemented for the enforcement purposes of these rules.

(h) Post Contest Inactive Period.

1. No kickboxer shall be permitted to engage in another match in this state for a period of seven (7) days after competing in a match. The Commission shall recognize such suspensions from other commissions recognized by the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports.

(i) Head Injury.

1. Any kickboxer who suffers a knockout, concussion, or other serious head injury shall be examined by the Ringside Physician. The physician shall immediately report to the Commission or its representative, the condition of such kickboxer and whether or not additional medical attention is advised.

(j) Knockout and Technical Knockout.

1. When a kickboxer is defeated by knockout, that kickboxer's license shall be placed on an immediate sixty (60) day medical suspension.

2. Upon a kickboxer's second defeat by knockout, the kickboxer'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. Any kickboxer losing by knockout 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 ringside physician, there shall be a minimum thirty (30) day medical suspension after a technical knockout.

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

6. Completing a suspension may require approved medical evaluations as determined by the ringside physician.

(k) Under-Conditioned Fighter.

1. A kickboxer 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 kickboxer did not give a good faith effort to display his or her skills, then that kickboxer shall be subject to disciplinary action.

(ii) A disqualified kickboxer may be disciplined by the Commission.

(l) Consecutive Losses.

1. Four (4) or More Consecutive Losses by TKO, KO, or DQ. A kickboxer who suffers his fourth (4th) or more consecutive loss by knockout, technical knockout, or disqualification, according to the kickboxer’s official record, shall be summarily suspended pending a hearing by the Commission. The suspension will be listed as “Indefinite Pending Hearing” and reported to both the official boxing and mixed martial arts registries, or an official registry for kickboxing.

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

(m) Verification of Contestant Experience.

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

(i) Kickboxer is making a pro debut;

(ii) Kickboxer has not competed in the last twelve (12) months;

(iii) Kickboxer has lost his or her last six (6) consecutive events;

(iv) Kickboxer has lost four (4) or more consecutive events by TKO, KO, or DQ.

(n) General Responsibilities and Provisions.

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

(i) Medical Insurance.

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

(ii) Physician.

(I) A ringside physician shall be present at all events. A Commission-designated ringside physician must be at ringside each bout. A Commission-designated 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 kickboxing begins with the commencement of the first contest or exhibition and ends when the last kickboxer 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. During such meeting the chief referee or Commission supervisor will instruct the EMT and paramedic concerning the match, 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 kickboxer 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 ringside 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 kickboxers 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 kickboxer shall be re-tested for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV prior to his or her participation in each kickboxing match in Alabama if the match 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 kickboxer 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 kickboxer's participation in a match would pose a threat to the health and safety of a participant, official, or spectator. I. Any kickboxer that tests positive for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or HIV who is scheduled for competition must disclose to the promoter that they have tested positive for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or HIV.

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165-X-6-.05 Conduct Of Promotions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(f) Suggesting Benefits for Charitable Organizations. No promoter my advertise, hold out, or suggest in any fashion that a portion of the proceeds of any proposed kickboxing event will be donated to a charitable organization without first complying with the Commission's rules governing "programs for charity."

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

(2) **Ringside Physician.**

(a) Providing a Physician. It shall be the responsibility of the Commission representative to assign one or more physicians at ringside during each kickboxing match.

1. The physicians assigned must be on the roster of physicians authorized to conduct pre-fight physicals and serve as ringside physicians created by the Commission and must meet the physician requirements in these Rules.

2. At least one ringside physician must have in their possession any medical supplies and equipment reasonably anticipated to provide first-aid medical assistance for the type of injuries reasonably anticipated to occur in professional kickboxing matches, contests, or exhibitions.

3. The promoter shall procure the physicians to be used at the event and compensate the ringside physicians in an amount mutually agreed upon by the promoter.

(3) **Arena.**

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

(b) Arena Safety. No kickboxing match will be allowed to commence or continue in any arena which appears to the Commission-appointed supervisor if they have reason to believe that such building or location does not conform to any applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations in the city or unincorporated county area.

(c) Dressing Rooms. The only people allowed in the Contestant's dressing room are the contestants, managers, trainers, seconds, Commission representatives, Commissioners, referees, and approved physician(s).

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

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

(4) **Media Guidelines.**

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

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

2. Promoters of kickboxing events shall provide a four-foot (4') wide open buffer zone between credentialed media and the ring apron.

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

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

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

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

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

(5) **Violation: Penalties.**

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

(6) **Match.**

(a) Marketing Prohibited Without Prior Commission Approval. Commission approval or authorization must be obtained prior to selling tickets, making announcements, or distributing advertisements concerning any event, event date, contestants, or matches, bouts, or exhibitions of professional kickboxing. Violations shall be referred to the Commission for disciplinary action.

(b) Professional Rounds Scheduled.

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

(i) The number of rounds may be split amongst the distinct combative disciplines in cross-promotional events.

2. No professional kickboxing match shall have any rounds lasting longer than three (3) minutes.

(i) All non-title matches, contests, or exhibitions in professional kickboxing featuring male kickboxers will have three (3), three (3) minute rounds, with a one (1) minute rest period between each round.

(ii) All non-title matches, contests, or exhibitions in professional kickboxing featuring female kickboxers will have three (3), two (2) minute rounds, with a one (1) minute rest period between each round.

(iii) All title matches, contests, or exhibitions in professional kickboxing featuring male kickboxers will have five (5), three (3) minute rounds, with a one (1) minute rest period between each round.

(iv) All title matches, contests, or exhibitions in professional kickboxing featuring female kickboxers will have five (5), two (2) minute rounds, with a one (1) minute rest period between each round.

3. No professional kickboxing matches, contests, or exhibitions shall be permitted for more than three (3) rounds, except in a championship match, which shall not exceed five (5) rounds.

(c) Card Approval. Requests for preliminary approval of kickboxing cards should be received by the Executive Director of the Commission or the Commission-appointed supervisor no less than ten (10) days prior to the start of the event. The names, birthdates, and verifiable records, with suspension histories, of all competitors must be included and shall be typed. No handwritten requests shall be accepted. The final card must be received by the Executive Director or Chief Inspector no less than three (3) days prior to the date of the event.

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

2. No substitution will be allowed during the final twelve (12) hours prior to the beginning of the event.

(i) No bout will be allowed to take place without the prior approval of the Chief Inspector or Executive Director.

(7) **Purse.**

(a) Method of Payment. Except as otherwise stated below, purses shall be paid by check, certified or cashier's check immediately after the contest. Cash payments may be required of new and/or first-time promoters, if the Commission is unable to obtain a letter of good standing from another recognized Commission. Payments of percentage contracts shall be made as soon as the amount can be determined. If requested by the Commission or by any Contestant, all purse payments shall be made in the presence of the authorized Commission representative.

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

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

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

(8) **Contracts.**

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

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

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

(I) Weights expressed on bout agreements for all three (3) and five (5) round bouts shall allow no less than a +/-2 pounds variance of the contracted weight.

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

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

(iii) Each Contestant applying for a license is required to obtain on their own a Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV blood test and must present to the commission representative no later than at the weigh-in the results of such test conducted within 365 days of the proposed match.

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

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

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

(d) Violations: Grounds for Suspension. Violation by either party of any written bout agreement or contract may be grounds for suspension of any license issued by the Commission and shall in addition to such suspension result in a fine or other disciplinary action imposed by the Commission. Violations shall be referred to the Commission for disciplinary action.

(9) **Failure to Perform.**

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

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

(c) Violation: Penalties.

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

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

3. Any person or license holder violating on three (3) or more occasions either sub-paragraph (a) or sub-paragraph (b) within this subsection shall have their license suspended indefinitely. Provided however that any action by the Commission to enforce or attempt to enforce the provisions of this sub-paragraph will be taken only after notice and hearing according to the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act.

(10) **Split or Different Styles.**

(a) Cards split between professional and amateur matches, contests, and exhibitions, including mixed professional and amateur kickboxing cards, as well as cross-promotional boxing and kickboxing (professional), and mixed martial arts (professional) and kickboxing (professional). Mixed cards of any type shall be left to 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 kickboxing matches shall be advertised as “Pro-Am,” and shall include a minimum of three (3) professional bouts on the card. Failure to provide the minimum number of professional bouts will result in action against the promoter by the Commission.

1. Cross-promotional cards, consisting of professional boxing with kickboxing (professional only), shall be advertised as "Pro Boxing and Kickboxing," and shall include a minimum of four (4) professional bouts from each combative discipline on the card.

2. Cross-promotional cards, consisting of mixed martial arts (professional only) and kickboxing (professional only), shall be advertised as "Pro MMA and Kickboxing," and shall include a minimum of four (4) professional bouts from each combative discipline on the card.

3. Amateur kickboxing shall only be allowed on a mixed card with professional kickboxing, so long as the card meets the standards listed above in (10)(a).

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165-X-6-.06 Ring And Equipment.

(1) **The Ring.**

(a) Ring Size. The ring must be a square and not less than sixteen feet (16') or more than twenty feet (20') on a side within the ropes. The ring platform (floor) must extend beyond the ropes at least eighteen inches (18") on all sides (apron).

1. A ring size greater than twenty feet (20') on a side within the ropes shall only be allowed after unanimous agreement of all the kickboxers contracted to appear on the show. For purposes of the subparagraph, the term "all kickboxers" shall be limited to those boxers contracted to compete in bouts of three (3) rounds or more.

(b) Safety Padding. The ring floor shall be padded with one-inch (1") thick slow recovery foam matting, or other soft material approved by the Commission or its authorized representative, and shall extend over the edge of the ring platform with a top covering of canvas, duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Padding material that tends to gather in lumps may not be used.

(c) Ring Mat. The mat and covering shall be kept clean and free from odors at all times. The corners must be covered by a pad long enough to cover all the rope joints.

(d) Platform Height. The ring platform shall not be taller than fifty-four inches (54″) from the floor of the building and shall be provided with suitable steps for use by the contestants.

(e) Ringside Tables. Each promoter shall be responsible for employing a safety plan to protect kickboxers who might fall outside of elevated rings. Except where deemed impractical, the floor of those sides not so protected shall be covered with protective matting.

(f) Ring Posts. Ring posts shall be made of some strong material, preferably metal pipe, three inches (3″) in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a height of at least fifty-eight inches (58″) above the ring floor.

(g) Ring Certification. Rings used in professional kickboxing matches in Alabama must be certified by the chief referee and/or the Commission representative in attendance at the show.

1. Any ring judged unsafe by the chief referee and/or the Commission representative or not otherwise meeting basic standards as defined in Commission rules, or which is deemed by the chief referee or Commission representative to be improperly stabilized will not be certified.

2. Failure to obtain certification will result in immediate and summary suspension of the match permit.

(h) Cage. Cross promotional events held in a cage shall meet the cage standards established in 165-X-2-.06 or 165-X-3-.06.

(2) Ring Ropes.

(a) Rope Dimensions. Ring ropes shall be four (4) in number, at least one inch (1″) in diameter, the lower rope eighteen inches (18″) above the ring floor and the top rope fifty-two inches (52″) from the ring floor. The two remaining ropes will be evenly spread between the top and bottom ropes. All four ropes shall be wrapped in soft material.

(b) Rope Lanyards. Each ring rope on each side of the ring shall be connected with two (2) rope lanyards.

(c) Ring Lighting. The ring shall be amply illuminated by the overhead lights, which shall be so arranged that shadow shall be eliminated and discomfort from heat and glare minimized for persons in and near the rings.

(3) Bell.

(a) There will be a bell at the ring, no higher than the floor level of the ring. The bell will be clear in tone so that the fighters and referee may easily hear it when it is sounded.

(4) Ring Equipment.

(a) The promoter shall provide a sufficient number of water buckets for the use of all contestants. Each bucket shall be sterilized before being used. Additionally, the promoter shall provide resin, stools, and such other articles as are required for the conduct of each bout.

(5) Scales.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. A “Ceremonial” scale may be used during a Ceremonial Weigh-in. The Ceremonial Scale shall not be used to

record official weights and are strictly to be used for ceremonial purposes.

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165-X-6-.07 Officials: Chief Inspector, Corner Inspectors, Referees, Judges, And Timekeepers.

(1) **General Provisions.**

(a) The Commission shall appoint to each contest, match, or exhibition, at minimum, one (1) chief inspector, two (2) referees, three (3) judges, two (2) door wardens, and two (2) timekeepers.

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

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

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

(e) All kickboxing events must have, at minimum, two referees.

(2) **Officials' Fees.**

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

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

2. When assigned by the Commission or the Executive Director, the fee for a Chief Inspector who will perform the duties of the Commission-appointed representative shall be a minimum of $425.00.

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

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

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

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

7. When the gross aggregate purse of the match, contest, or exhibition is between $100,000 and $300,000, the fee for each judge shall be $250.00 and the fee for each referee shall be $4.00.

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

9. Except as provided in the 7(c) below, [sanctioned championship bouts], payment for the timekeeper and countdown person shall be the same as payment for each assigned judge. 10 ravel expenses for officials required to travel a distance of fifty (50) miles or greater to the site of a match, contest, or exhibition shall be set by the Commission-appointed supervisor, provided that such amount shall not exceed the usual and customary amount allowed by state guidelines for state employees. Hotel rooms may be required, but only when the distance traveled on way exceeds one hundred (100) miles.

(b) In the event one or more of the referees assigned to a kickboxing match, contest, or exhibition become incapacitated, or in an emergency situation where he or she becomes unavailable, the remaining referee(s) shall officiate the remaining matches, contests, or exhibitions of the program, and may be compensated in a greater amount not to exceed the total amount originally intended for the unavailable referees(s). In such a situation, the compensation to be paid to the incapacitated or unavailable referee shall be reduced accordingly.

(c) The compensation schedule set forth in (a) above shall not apply in sanctioned championship bouts. The Commission shall

set compensation to be paid to the Chief Inspector, referees, judges, and timekeepers officiating at sanctioned championship bouts. In making this determination, the Commission may consider any standards or recommendations made by a recognized kickboxing association or organization. Nevertheless, the Commission shall retain full authority to set the compensation schedule for referees and judges in championship bouts regardless of a recommendation by such an association or organization.

(3) **Chief Inspector.**

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

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

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

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

(4) **Corner Inspectors.**

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

(b) Locker Room Inspectors and Door Wardens.

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

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

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

4. Corner Inspectors may also be Door Wardens, provided that an additional Corner Inspector is in the respective red and blue locker rooms performing the duties of the Corner Inspector listed above in (1.).

(5) **Referee.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. A referee must pass an examination administered by the Commission, the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports, and/or another recognized commission to be licensed as a referee.

(6) **Judges.**

(a) Judge's Authority. Each judge shall determine the outcome of each contest, match, or exhibition in this state that does

not end in a knockout, technical knockout, or disqualification.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. A judge must pass an examination administered by the Commission, the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports, and/or another recognized commission to be licensed as a judge.

(7) **Timekeepers.**

(a) Timekeeper's Authority. At kickboxing matches, there shall be appointed to each contest, match, or exhibition two (2) timekeepers: a clock timekeeper who keeps the official time and a countdown timekeeper who starts the official count once a kickboxer is knocked down.

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

(c) Countdown Timekeeper's Duties. The Countdown Timekeeper keeps the official count when a kickboxer is knocked down, until the referee picks up the count.

(d) Timekeeper's License. Timekeepers applying for licensure shall meet the following requirements:

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

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

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165-X-6-.08 Officials: Conduct Of Match.

(1) **Professional Kickboxers**

(a) False Name. No kickboxer shall enter any agreement or contract with a promoter, compete in any match, or otherwise participate in any capacity in a kickboxing program under any name which does not appear on his or her photo ID.

(b) Prohibition if Under Suspension. No kickboxer shall enter any agreement or contract with a promoter, compete, or attempt to compete in any match in this state when the kickboxer knows that his or her kickboxing license, issued by this commission is under suspension.

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

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

(e) Weigh-In.

1. In all contests and exhibitions, contestants shall weigh-in in the presence of the chief official appointed to preside over the contest or exhibition. The weigh-in shall not take place less than six (6) hours nor more than thirty-six (36) hours prior to the contest or exhibition.

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

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

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

(f) Weight Classes. Weight Classes for Professional kickboxing shall be:

1. ATOMWEIGHT (108 LBS/49.1 KG & BELOW) - 8 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

2. SUPERATOMWEIGHT (108.1 – 111 LBS 49.2 –50.5 KGS) - 8 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

3. FLYWEIGHT (111.1 – 114 LBS/50.6-51.8 KGS) - 8 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

4. SUPERFLYWEIGHT (114.1-117 LBS/51.9-53.2 KGS) - 8 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

5. BANTAMWEIGHT (117.1-120 LBS/53.3-54.5 KG) - 8 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

6. SUPERBANTAMWEIGHT (120-124 LBS/54.6-56.4 KG) - 8 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

7. FEATHERWEIGHT (124.1-128 LBS/56.5-58.2 KG) - 10 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

8. LIGHTWEIGHT (128.1-132 LBS/58.3-60.0 KG) - 10 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

9. SUPERLIGHTWEIGHT (132.1-137 LBS/60.1-62.3 KG) - 10 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

10. LIGHT WELTERWEIGHT (137.1-142 LBS/62.4-64.5 KG) - 10 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

11. WELTERWEIGHT (142.1-147 LBS/64.6-66.8 KG) - 15 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

12. SUPERWELTERWEIGHT (147.1-153 LBS/66.9-69.5 KG) - 15 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

13. LIGHT MIDDLEWEIGHT (153.1-159 LBS/69.6-72.3 KG) - 15 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

14. MIDDLEWEIGHT (159.1-165 LBS/72.4-75.0 KG) - 15 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

15. SUPERMIDDLEWEIGHT (165.1-172 LBS/75.1-78.1 KG) - 15 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

16. LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT (172.1-179 LBS/78.2-81.4 KG) - 20 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

17. LIGHT CRUISERWEIGHT (179.1-186 LBS/81.5-84.6 KG) - 20 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

18. CRUISERWEIGHT (186.1-194 LBS/84.7-88.2 KG) - 20 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

19. SUPERCRUISERWEIGHT (194.1-207 LBS/88.3-94.1 KG) - 20 lbs. maximum allowable weight spread.

20. HEAVYWEIGHT (207.1-223 LBS/94.2-101.4 KG) – in div. or spread of lighter div. maximum allowable weight spread.

21. SUPERHEAVYWEIGHT (224 LBS/101.55 KG & ABOVE) – in div. or spread of lighter div. maximum allowable weight spread.

(i) No professional kickboxing contest or exhibition may be scheduled, and no kickboxer may engage in a contest or exhibition without the approval of the Commission or the Commission’s representative if the difference in weight between the kickboxer exceeds the allowances set out above.

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

(g) Weighing of Kickboxers. Weighing of all kickboxers shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements for professional kickboxers in these rules.

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

(i) Making Weight for Non-Title Bouts. In non-title professional bouts, if a fighter fails to make the weight specified in their contract, they will be allowed to reweigh no more than two (2) hours after the time they originally tried to make weight.

(j) Making Weight for Title Bouts. In title bouts, if a fighter fails to make the weight specified in their contract, they will be allowed to reweigh no more than two (2) hours after the time they originally tried to make weight. If a fighter cannot make weight at the final "official" weigh-in opportunity and that fighter is the champion, the title will be declared vacant. The bout may ensue if the fighters are within the allowable weight spread. Should the challenger win the bout, he will become champion. In the event the former champion wins the bout, the title will be declared vacant. In either case, the fighter who cannot make weight will also be subject to purse penalties as specified by either the contract or the regulations established by the Commission.

(k) Maximum Allowable Weight Spreads. There is a maximum allowable weight spread for each weight division. The maximum allowable weight spread, as defined by the Commission, is the difference in weight between two fighters outside of which they will not be able to compete against each other.

1. (135/2) No over-contract-weight contestant appearing at the initial weigh-in and weighing 135 pounds or less will be allowed to lose in excess of two (2) pounds in order to make contract weight unless such kickboxer is re-examined by the ringside physician and receive clearance from the ringside physician prior to entering the ring.

2. (160/3) No over-contract-weight contestant appearing at the initial weigh-in and weighing 135.1 pounds but less than 160 pounds will be allowed to lose in excess of three (3) pounds in order to make contract weight unless such kickboxer is reexamined by the ringside physician and receives clearance from the ringside physician prior to entering the ring.

3. (190/4) No over-contract-weight contestants appearing at the initial weigh-in and weighing 160.1 pounds but less than 190 pounds will be allowed to lose in excess of

four (4) pounds in order to make contract weight unless such kickboxer is reexamined by the ringside physician and receive clearance from the ringside physician prior to entering the ring.

(2) **Hand and Foot Wrapping: Gauze and Tape.**

(a) Contestants desiring to stabilize the metacarpal bones may use no more than six inches (6”) of adhesive tape, not more than two inches (2”) in width, across the back of each hand, provided however that the Commission inspector or representative must sign each piece of tape prior to placing gauze over such tape.

(b) Stabilization tape may not extend beyond a line one inch on the posterior side of the knuckle.

(c) Gauze shall be of soft surgical-type gauze not more than two inches (2”) in width, held in place by surgeon’s tape for each hand. All contestants will have their hands wrapped in the dressing room [or some other suitable place in the general vicinity of the dressing room] under the examination of a representative from the Commission. Whenever requested by any party, hand wrapping shall take place only in the presence of one or more representatives from the opposing contestant’s camp.

(1) In all weight classes, the bandages on each hand shall be restricted to soft gauze cloth not more than 13 yards (13 yds.) in length and two inches (2”) in width, held in place by not more than 10 feet (10’) of surgeon's tape, one inch (1”) in width, for each hand. Any Commission inspector or representative must sign each hand prior to placing a glove on the hand.

(d) Under no condition will any adhesive tape be allowed to extend a position within one inch (1”) 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.

(e) Stacking the process of layering on top of the kickboxer’s wrapped hand additional layers of gauze and tape is prohibited.

(f) Foot Wrapping

1. Kickboxers shall not wear shoes in the ring.

2. 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, must not have rubber gripping, and must not have seams that could

injure the fighter or his/her opponent. Tape of any kind is prohibited.

(3) Mouth Pieces.

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

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

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

(4) **Protective Equipment and Attire.**

(a) All kickboxers will be required to wear such protective gear as deemed necessary by the Commission.

1. Male and female kickboxers shall wear the appropriate trunks, groin cup, mouthpiece, and gloves.

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

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

4. Kickboxers in the same match shall wear different color trunks.

5. No rings, jewelry, or items other than those authorized may be worn. Hair ties must be of a soft nature. Fighters shall not apply temporary tattoos or make-up prior to the bout.

6. Elbow pads and forearm pads shall not be worn.

(5) **Gloves.**

(a) Gloves. All fighters will wear regulation, approved boxing/kickboxing gloves colored to be coordinated with (*NOTE the corner out of which the fighters will be appearing that a neutral color gloves may be used in which case the fighters*

will be distinguished by colored tape covering the wrists of the gloves).

1. No breaking, roughing, or twisting of gloves shall be permitted. The gloves shall not be placed on the hands until after the Corner Inspector or Commission Representative has signed off on the fighter's hand wraps.

2. The gloves shall be put on the hands under the supervision of an inspector who will then endorse the gloves by signature, initials or emblem written on the tape holding the glove closure in place.

3. All gloves must be of a professional quality and must be approved Commission. In certain instances, multiple pairs of gloves may be required for use in matches, bouts, and exhibitions.

4. If both fighters weigh 147lbs./66.8 kg. or lighter, then the bout may be contested wearing 8 oz. gloves or heavier.

5. If one or more of the fighters weigh more than 147lbs./66.8 kg. then both fighters shall contest the bout wearing 10 oz. gloves or heavier.

6. All fighters must use the gloves provided by the promotion and approved by the Commission.

7. Brand-Name Certification Required. The commission is authorized to certify boxing gloved by brand-name or manufacturer and gloves not so certified may not be used. Each promoter desiring to use for the first time in Alabama a brand of gloves or gloves manufactured by a company not previously certified for use in Alabama are advised to seek prior certification.

8. Glove Approval. Gloves shall be examined by the referee and/or the Commission representative prior to the start of the matches.

9. Glove Style. Only gloves of the "thumb-attached" or thumbless variety will be used, and all gloves must be laced with the knot on the top [or exterior] side of the wrist. Thumbless gloves may be worn only if both kickboxers in a particular match agree.

10. New Gloves: Main Event Bouts. The promoter shall furnish new gloves for all main events.

11. Skinning of Gloves. "Skinning" (the practice of tying gloves in such a manner as to force a portion of the

padding back from the fist area to over the contestant's wrist) is prohibited. Any glove tied in such a manner will be required to be re-tied.

12. Taping of Gloves. Unless otherwise permitted by the Commission appointed supervisor, glove laces shall not be covered by tape except under the direct supervision of a commission approved inspector or official.

(6) **Fighter Conduct.**

(a) Use of profanity by all kickboxers, managers, trainers, or seconds is prohibited. Any use of profanity after a warning by the referee or Chief Inspector may result in disqualification of the contestant, or ejection from the facility and a penalty point may be deducted from the contestant. Profanity in a competitor's ring entry music is prohibited.

(b) Entering the Ring. All contestants must be ready to enter the ring immediately following the conclusion of the preceding match on a scheduled fight card.

1. Failure to enter the ring when requested and, after warning by the Corner Inspector or Chief Inspector of the program, may result in disciplinary action by the Commission.

(c) Demeanor during the Round. All kickboxers shall take care to avoid fouling their opponent or illegally striking their opponent.

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

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

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

(d) Under-Conditioned Fighter. A contestant deemed under-conditioned by the referee, Commission, or any designated representative of the Commission shall be suspended for ninety (90) days.

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

(e) Penalty for Disqualification. Any kickboxer who is disqualified for any reason by the referee or Chief Inspector will be subject to disciplinary action by the Commission.

1. Any kickboxer disciplined by the Commission because of a loss by disqualification has a right to a hearing and must request a hearing in writing to the Commission within fifteen (15) days of the disqualification.

(f) Fines. Any kickboxer can be fined, have his or her license suspended, or have his or her license revoked in the event that a majority of the Commission determines that the kickboxer did not utilize his or her best efforts in a match.

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

(h) Recuperation Time. Any contestant struck by a low blow may, at the discretion of the referee and after consultation with the ringside physician, be given up to five (5) minutes to recuperate.

1. During such recuperation time, the injured kickboxer may sit on a stool inside the ring, or in a neutral corner, by may not rest in his or her assigned corner.

2. Only the referee is allowed to assist the injured kickboxer during the five (5) minute rest period.

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

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

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

(7) **Seconds.**

(a) Number Allowed. Each kickboxer must have two (2) seconds, unless the Commission permits otherwise. Each contestant shall have one (1) chief second and each chief second must have a complete first aid kit. The seconds must be neatly attired.

Persons holding a manager's or trainer's license in this state may participate in a contest as a second without applying for or obtaining a second's license.

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

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

(d) Throwing Towels. Seconds are prohibited from tossing a towel into the ring. The chief second may declare the defeat of his principal by notifying the Corner Inspector. The Corner Inspector shall then climb up onto the ring apron to notify the referee of the chief second's desire to stop the bout, contest, or exhibition.

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

(8) **Between Round Care.** Between rounds care of a kickboxer will be strictly enforced by the Commission.

(a) Licensees Allowed in Ring between Rounds. One

(1) Licensee shall be allowed in the ring with the kickboxer during the rest period between rounds and no more than two (2) licensees, exclusive to the corner inspector and approved media personnel, will be allowed on the apron during that time.

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

(c) Corner Kit. The use of an unapproved preparation during the match is prohibited. The only substances and materials allowed in the corner are limited to the following:

1. Ice;

2. Water;

3. Cotton swabs;

4. Gauze pads;

5. Clean towels;

6. Vaseline or surgical lubricant approved by the commission;

7. Enswell;

8. Avitine or Adrenalene;

9. Athletic tape approved by the Commission.

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

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

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

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

(f) Throwing Water Prohibited. Any excessive or undue spraying of water on any fighter between rounds is prohibited. Seconds will wipe dry the ring canvas in their corner before the start of each round. Fighters will spit only in the pails, and not on the ring canvas.

(9) **Referees.**

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

(b) Pre-Fight Instructions. Referees shall meet with the contestants and each chief second appointed by the contestants prior to the beginning of the match and during that meeting shall inform each party of the rules applicable to each fight, as well as the in-ring conduct expected from each contestant and second assisting in the corner of each contestant.

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

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

(e) Count. The referee shall have sole determination of whether a kickboxer has been knocked out. There will be no knockout count if the referee deems the contestant to be knocked out.

(f) Count for Dazed Contestant. Should a contestant who is downed rise before the count of ten (10) and again goes down without being struck, the referee shall resume the count where he or she stopped.

(g) Kickboxers Knocked Out of the Ring.

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

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

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

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

(i) Knockout. Knockouts are instantly called by the referee in kickboxing matches, contests, and exhibitions. There shall be no ten (10) count.

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

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

(10) **Fouls.**

(a) The referee may caution, warn, penalize or disqualify a fighter for fouling behavior based on his perception as to the severity, repetitive nature or intent of the fighter committing the foul and the result of the foul. If the referee will be deducting points for a foul infraction, he will stop time, indicate whether he is classifying the foul as accidental or intentional and the number of points that will be deducted. Fouls include but are not limited to:

1. Head butting

2. Biting

3. Striking with the elbow, forearm or the unpadded part of the glove

4. Striking or kicking to the groin.

5. Intentional striking or kicking to the back of the head, back of the torso or the spine.

6. Linear or thrusting kicks directed at the knee joint.

7. Any effort to “down” a fighter other than by way of legal strikes; this includes sweeps, reaps, throws and take downs of any kind. However, during a legal clinch, a fighter may reposition or temporarily off-balance their opponent in order to effectively continue their knee attack.

8. Punching or kicking a fighter when they are “down”. A fighter is considered down when any part of their body other than their feet touches the canvas. If a fighter is on his way to the floor, their opponent may continue to attack until they have touched the floor with any part of his body other than their feet.

9. Intentionally pushing, shoving or wrestling an opponent out of the ring with any part of the body.

10. Attacking on the break when both fighters have been instructed to take a step back by the referee.

11. Attacking after the bell has sounded to end the round.

12. Holding the ropes with one or more hands while striking.

13. Hitting or flicking with an open glove or thumb, or striking with the inside, bottom or hammer-fist part of the glove.

14. Pushing or pushing-off an opponent without striking; (NOTE: a fighter may push or push-off an opponent only in an effort to create space in order to strike).

15. Grabbing or holding onto an opponent's foot or leg without an immediate, single, legal strike which may be accompanied by a single step, followed by immediately releasing the foot or leg (NOTE: It is a foul to grab or hold the leg without an immediate single, legal strike attack, to try to off-balance the opponent while holding the leg by any method including sweeping the supporting leg, to take multiple steps while holding the foot/ leg, or to fail to release the foot/leg after the single strike attack).

16. Holding; The definition of which includes but is not limited to: Grabbing or clinching without immediately launching a knee attack. Failing to release a legal clinch when the knee attack is completed. Grabbing or clinching an opponent in an effort to stop the opponent from attacking or merely to rest. (NOTE: A fighter may legally clinch; which is defined as grabbing an opponent and immediately launching a credible knee attack. If in the referee's estimation the attack and/or counter knee attack is consistent and effective than he may allow it to continue in his estimation for up to five seconds. Once the knee attack/counter attack wanes the fighters must release their clinch and continue fighting).

17. Delaying or Stalling the Contest by either excessive passivity, repetitive falling, or intentionally delaying through either, improper equipment, seconds remaining in the ring after the start of the round, beginning a round without a mouthpiece or by intentionally dropping or spitting out the mouthpiece, etc.

18. Unsportsmanlike, unprofessional or undisciplined conduct of any kind including but not limited to spitting, cursing, talking, making rude sounds or obscene gestures or the use of abusive language in the ring or corner as determined by the referee.

19. Refusing to obey the commands of the referee

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

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

(c) Fouls will result in a point being deducted by the official scorekeeper from the offending kickboxer's score.

(d) Only a referee can assess a foul. If the referee does not call the foul, judges shall not make that assessment on their own and cannot factor such into their scoring calculations.

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

(f) If a foul is committed, the referee shall:

1. Call time;

2. Check the fouled kickboxer's condition and safety; and

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

(g) Injuries Sustained during Competition.

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

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

3. If an injury is sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul and the bout is allowed to continue, at the referee's discretion, the referee may notify the scorekeeper to automatically deduct two (2) points from the contestant who committed the foul.

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

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

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

7. If an injury sustained during competition as a result of an accidental foul is severe enough for the referee to stop the bout immediately, the bout shall result in a technical decision awarded to the contestant who is ahead on the score cards at the time the bout is stopped, only when the bout is stopped after two (2) rounds of a three (3) round bout, or three (3) rounds of a five (5) round bout have been completed.

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

(h) Authorized Offensive Techniques.

1. Punches: striking with the padded part of the glove to a legal target; including spinning back-fist.

2. Kicks: striking with the foot or lower leg to a legal target.

3. Knees: striking with the knee to a legal target.

(6) Warnings.

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

1. Hitting below the belt;

2. Failure to break when instructed by the referee;

3. Intentionally spitting ones mouthpiece;

4. Unintentionally butting with the head or shoulder.

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

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

(11) **Types of Bout Results.**

(a) Decisions via Score Cards:

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

2. Split: When two judges score the bout for one contestant and one judge scores for the opponent.

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

(b) Draws:

1. Unanimous Draw: When all three judges score the bout a draw.

2. Split Draw: When all three judges score differently and the total results in a draw. One judge scores the bout for one contestant; One judge scores the bout for the other contestant; The third judge scores the bout a draw.

3. Majority Draw: When two judges score the bout a draw and one judge scores the bout for the opponent.

(c) Decision from Strikes:

1. Technical Knockout. When the referee stops the bout, the ringside physician instructs the referee to stop the bout, or an injury resulting from a legal strike is severe enough to terminate a bout.

2. Knockout. When the referee stops a bout for failure to rise from the canvas.

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

(e) Forfeit: When a contestant fails to begin competition or prematurely ends the contest for reasons other than injury or by indicating unwillingness to continue.

(f) 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.

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

(12) **Judging.**

(a) All bouts will be evaluated and scored by three (3) judges who will each select the winner of each round.

(b) The 10-point-system must be the standard system of scoring a bout. Under the 10-Point Must Scoring System, ten (10) points must be awarded to the winner of the round with nine (9) points or less must be awarded to the loser, except for a rare even round, which is scored (10-10).

(c) Judges shall evaluate kickboxing number and quality of knockdowns, cumulative impact of strikes, number of clean scoring strikes, and ring generalship.

(d) An advantage in points will be awarded according to the following priority:

1. Number or Quality of Knockdowns,

2. Cumulative Impact on the Opponent,

3. Number of Clean Scoring Strikes,

4. Ring Generalship

(e) The following objective scoring criteria shall be utilized by the judges when scoring a round:

1. 10-10 Indicates and even round. Neither fighter distinguished themselves as being more effective in consideration of the four criterion points by which the judges must evaluate each fighter’s performance. This score should be used very rarely if at all since the judge has a responsibility to issue a judgment and an advantage in ring generalship is enough to earn a 10-9 score.

2. 10-9 Indicates a round in which one fighter distinguished themselves as the more effective fighter according to the established criteria - usually without scoring a knockdown. This score is used most often.

3. 10-8 Indicates a round in which one fighter distinguished themselves as the more effective fighter according to the established criteria - usually including

having scored a knockdown - or having demonstrated dominance and/or overwhelming impact on the opponent for the vast majority of the round.

4. 10-7 Indicates a round in which one fighter distinguished themselves as the more effective fighter according to the established criteria - usually including having scored two knockdowns - or having scored one knockdown and demonstrated dominance and/or overwhelming impact on the opponent for the vast majority of the round.

5. 10-6 This score is almost never used as it would indicate a round in which one fighter must have been so completely dominated as to have been knocked down at least three times, and never to have really been in the fight at all.

6. Points shall be totaled on each scoring judge's scorecard to determine that judge's selection of a winner. Each judge's selection will count as one vote towards determining the overall winner of the bout. If a judge's scorecard, when totaled, reflects an equal number of points for both fighters, that judge will have voted for a draw. If two judges' have an equal number of points for both fighters, the bout will be declared a majority draw. If one judge has an equal number of points for both fighters and the other judges' scores each favor a different fighter, the match shall be declared a split decision draw. If two judges' scores favor one fighter, and the other judge votes for a draw, the fighter receiving two votes shall be declared the winner by majority decision. If one judge votes for a fighter, and the other two judges vote for the other fighter, the fighter receiving the two votes shall be declared the winner by split decision. If all three judges' scores favor one fighter, that fighter will be declared the winner by unanimous decision.

(f) Sudden Victory Round. Based on the approval of the Commission, three round bouts may not end in a draw. If the judge’s scores reflect a draw, the fighters will contest one additional “sudden victory” round. The scoring previous to the sudden victory round will no longer be relevant in regard to the result of the match. The scoring of the sudden victory round will determine the winner of the match. Judges may not score a sudden victory round even (10-10). If a bout is extended to a sudden victory round and one of the fighters is unable to continue to compete that fighter will lose by TKO and his opponent will be declared the winner.

(g) Three (3) Knockdown Rule. There will be no "three knockdown rule" in effect in any bout unless otherwise

approved by the Commission. The referee will in all circumstances have the authority to stop a contest or allow it to continue, regardless of the number of knock downs.

(13) **Announcement Responsibilities.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

(14) **After the Contest, Match, or Exhibition.**

(a) Contestants to Leave the Ring. When the decision of the referee or judges has been announced, both contestants and their seconds shall at once leave the ring and retire to their dressing room. Contestants shall report to the post-fight medical evaluation before retiring to the locker room.

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

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

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

2. The compilation of the scorecards of the judges reveals a clerical or mathematical error which caused the decision to be given to the wrong kickboxer.

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

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

5. Video Instant-Replay. When available, video instant-replay may be used to ensure the accuracy of a fight ending sequence and at no other point in the bout. Once video instant-replay is employed match 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 Decisions.

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

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

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

(15) **Tournament Regulations.**

(a) All rules and regulations related to either the single-day or grand-prix style tournament format presentation of bouts shall be determined separately and are subject to the approval of the Commission.

1. Proposed tournament rules shall be submitted in writing to the Commission no fewer than thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled event.

2. The Commission shall meet in advance of an event where either single-day or grand-prix style tournament rules and regulations are requested, to vote on the use of the proposed alternate rules. A majority vote shall be required for approval of alternate rules.

(16) **Request for Alternate Rules.**

(a) The rules in 165-X-6 shall be the governing rules for professional kickboxing for the State of Alabama.

(b) If a promotion and/or sanctioning organization desires to use rules specific to their organization, promotion, and/or kickboxing style, the promotion and/or sanctioning body shall submit a written request, petitioning the Commission to adopt their rules format on a one (1) event duration. The written request shall be submitted to the Commission no fewer than fourteen (14) days prior to the event. Approval of the submitted alternate rules shall be at the discretion of the Commission.

1. The request for alternate rules shall be in writing.

2. The request for alternate rules shall outline specific distinctions from 165-X-6 from the proposed rules and why each proposed rule should be used in place of the approved Commission rules.

3. The Commission shall meet in advance of an event where alternate rules are requested, to vote on the use of the proposed alternate rules. A majority vote shall be required for approval of alternate rules.

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