

1 AN ACT relating to the Boxing and Wrestling Commission.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 229.011 is amended to read as follows:

4 As used in this chapter unless the context clearly indicates otherwise the following
5 definitions shall apply:

6 (1) "Advertise" means the use of handbills, placards, posters, billboards, pictures,
7 printed or written material or newspapers or other publications, or radio, television,
8 Internet, and other communication media;

9 (2) "Boxing" means a contest or exhibition in which a person delivers blows with the
10 fist that may be reasonably expected to disable or inflict injury and in which boxers
11 compete for money, a prize, or other pecuniary gain, or for which admission is
12 charged to spectators;

13 (3) "Commission" means the Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission;

14 (4) "Exhibition" means an event or engagement:

15 (a) In which the participants show or display their skills without necessarily
16 striving to win;~~or~~

17 (b) That involves amateurs not under the jurisdiction of the Kentucky High
18 School Athletic Association, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the
19 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, the Amateur Athletic Union,
20 Golden Gloves, USA Boxing, or USA Wrestling~~or a public show to which~~
21 ~~an admission ticket is required, or other charge is made, or invitation]; or~~

22 **(c) A public show to which an admission ticket is required, or other charge is**
23 **made, that is not sanctioned by one (1) of the sanctioning bodies listed in**
24 **paragraph (b) of this subsection.**

25 (5) "Kickboxing" means a boxing contest or exhibition where the participants are
26 allowed to throw kicks or foot blows at the opponent in addition to punching with
27 the hands and in which kickboxers compete for money, a prize, or other pecuniary

1 gain, or for which admission is charged to spectators;

2 (6) "Mixed martial arts" means any form of unarmed contest or exhibition in which
3 participants compete for money, a prize, or other pecuniary gain, or for which
4 admission is charged to spectators. Mixed martial arts may include any element or
5 combination of elements of boxing, kickboxing, wrestling, or other martial arts.
6 Exhibitions where participants are judged on form and style and where punches and
7 kicks are pulled shall not be included in this definition;

8 (7) "Muay thai" means a boxing contest or exhibition where the participants are
9 allowed combined use of clinches, elbows, knees, and shins in addition to punching
10 with the hands and in which participants compete for money, a prize, or other
11 pecuniary gain, or for which admission is charged to spectators;

12 (8) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or club;

13 (9) "Show" means any boxing, kickboxing, mixed martial arts, muay thai, or wrestling
14 match, contest, or exhibition coming under the jurisdiction of the Kentucky Boxing
15 and Wrestling Commission;

16 (10) "Unarmed combat" means boxing, kickboxing, sparring, wrestling, mixed martial
17 arts, or muay thai under the jurisdiction of the commission; and

18 (11) "Wrestling" means an activity or performance of athletic and wrestling skill
19 between individuals who are not under the jurisdiction of the Kentucky High
20 School Athletic Association, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the
21 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, or USA Wrestling in which the
22 participants struggle hand-to-hand primarily for the purpose of providing
23 entertainment to spectators rather than conducting a bona fide athletic contest. The
24 outcome of these matches may be predetermined. Participating wrestlers may not be
25 required to use their best efforts in order to win.

26 ➔Section 2. KRS 229.045 is amended to read as follows:

27 (1) USA Boxing is the only sanctioning body recognized to conduct combat sports not

1 covered under this chapter.

2 (2) All other sanctioning bodies shall be nonprofit and submit a request to the
3 commission to be recognized as a sanctioning body according to the requirements
4 the commission establishes through the promulgation of an administrative
5 regulation.

6 **(3) Sanctioning bodies shall provide notice to the commission of all combat sports**
7 **exhibitions not otherwise covered under this chapter for publication in a calendar**
8 **of events by the commission pursuant to Section 3 of this Act.**

9 ➔Section 3. KRS 229.171 is amended to read as follows:

10 (1) The commission is vested with the sole direction, management, control, and
11 jurisdiction over all unarmed combat shows to be conducted, held, or given within
12 the Commonwealth. The commission is hereby given the sole control, authority,
13 and jurisdiction over all licenses to:

14 (a) Hold unarmed combat shows for prizes or purses or where an admission fee
15 or donation is received, or a ticket or invitation is required to attend; and

16 (b) Participate in the unarmed combat shows.

17 (2) The commission may promulgate administrative regulations it considers necessary
18 or expedient for the performance of its functions provided in this chapter, **including**
19 **establishing a calendar of events that describes combat exhibitions taking place**
20 **in the Commonwealth.** In recognition of the fact that more supervision is desirable
21 in this area, it is the intention of the General Assembly to confer upon the
22 commission wider discretion than that ordinarily possessed by administrative
23 agencies.

24 (3) The commission shall be responsible for the following:

25 (a) Developing programs and procedures that will aggressively fulfill its
26 oversight and regulatory role, with full accountability and internal controls to
27 protect athletes in the ring;

- 1 (b) Adhering to the best regulatory practices and due process procedures to
2 protect the regulated community and the interests of the Commonwealth, and
3 ensuring that all education and training requirements for hearing officers and
4 members serving as hearing officers under KRS Chapter 13B are met;
- 5 (c) Developing the Commonwealth's goals of providing the professional staff
6 necessary to ensure that events are effectively regulated, while allowing
7 commission members to provide the policy oversight necessary to protect the
8 integrity of the regulatory program; and
- 9 (d) Recommending changes to statutory and regulatory authorities to best protect
10 athletes, while Promoting Kentucky as a world-class market for major events.