

**PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET**  
**Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission**  
**(Amended at ARRS Committee)**

**201 KAR 27:016. General requirements for mixed martial arts matches, shows, or exhibitions.**

RELATES TO: KRS 229.025, 229.031, 229.055, 229.111, 229.131, 229.155, 229.171,  
STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 229.025, 229.031, 229.111, 229.131, 229.171,  
NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 229.171(1) authorizes the Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission to exercise sole direction, management, control, and jurisdiction over all unarmed combat shows in the ~~Commonwealth~~~~commonwealth~~. KRS 229.171(2) authorizes the commission to promulgate administrative regulations it considers necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions provided in KRS Chapter 229. KRS 229.025 requires every licensee to be subject to administrative regulations promulgated by the commission. This administrative regulation establishes the requirements for mixed martial arts shows and for participants in mixed martial arts shows.

Section 1. Show Date.

- (1) A promoter shall request a show date by completing and submitting to the commission the Mixed Martial Arts Show Notice Form, which is incorporated by reference in 201 KAR 27:011, Section 23(1)(a).
- (2) The Mixed Martial Arts Show Notice Form shall be submitted for approval no less than thirty (30) calendar days before the requested show date.
- (3) A promoter shall not advertise a show until the date has been approved by the commission. Approval is effective upon the commission:
  - (a) Placing the event on the Calendar of Events available on the commission's Web site at [https://kbwc.ky.gov/ppc\\_boxing/Ecal.aspx](https://kbwc.ky.gov/ppc_boxing/Ecal.aspx)~~[http://ins.kbwa.ky.gov/ecal.asp]~~; or
  - (b) Providing written notice that the event is approved.

Section 2. Program and Changes.

- (1) If a contestant is unable to participate in a show for which the contestant has a contract, the contestant shall immediately notify the promoter and the commission. A contestant with repeated and unexcused absences or ~~cancelation~~~~a cancellation~~ shall ~~be assessed~~~~result in~~ a violation.
- (2) The proposed card for a show shall be filed with the commission at least five (5) business days prior to the show date. Notice of a change in a program or substitution in a show shall be immediately filed with the commission.
- (3) If the commission determines that a proposed bout may not be reasonably competitive, the bout may be denied. Bout approval does not exempt ~~contestants~~~~contestant~~ from individual physical approval as required by 201 KAR 27:008, Section 3. The commission's determination shall be based upon the contestants' previous fighting experience, including:
  - (a) The number of bouts the contestants have competed in;
  - (b) The number of rounds the contestants have competed in;
  - (c) The date of the contestants' bouts;
  - (d) The contestants' performance in previous bouts, including the contestants' won-loss record;
  - (e) The level of competition the contestants have faced; and
  - (f) The contestants' medical histories.
- (4) The final approved card for a show shall comprise a minimum of five (5) complete bouts, no later than two (2) business days prior to the show date.

### Section 3. Compensation.

(1) If a show or exhibition is cancelled with less than twenty-four (24) hours' notice to the commission, ring officials shall be paid one-half (1/2) the compensation agreed upon prior to the bout.

(2) Before the commencement of a show or exhibition, the promoter shall tender to the inspector payment to each ring official. The schedule of compensation for a ring official shall be at least as established in this section. If a ring official serves both as a referee and as a judge under Section 13(2)(a) of this administrative regulation, the official shall receive pay for both referee and judge services as established in this section. If a referee also serves as a judge other than as an in-ring judge, the referee shall only receive compensation as a referee as established in this section.

(a) A judge shall be paid at least the amount established in subparagraphs 1. and 2. of this subsection and set by the following schedule based on the number of bouts on the show card: ~~[\$150 unless the show card has twelve (12) or fewer bouts, in which case each judge's pay shall be \$100;]~~

1. One (1) to eleven (11) bouts, \$125; and
2. Twelve (12) or more bouts, \$175.

(b) A timekeeper shall be paid at least the amount established in subparagraphs 1. and 2. of this subsection and set by the following schedule based on the number of bouts on the show card: ~~[\$100 unless the show card has twelve (12) or fewer bouts, in which case the timekeeper's pay shall be seventy-five (75) dollars;]~~

1. One (1) to eleven (11) bouts, \$100; and
2. Twelve (12) or more bouts, \$125.

(c) A physician shall be paid at least the amount established in subparagraphs 1. and 2. of this subsection and set by the following schedule based on the number of bouts on the show card: ~~[\$350;]~~

1. One (1) to eleven (11) bouts, \$400; and
2. Twelve (12) or more bouts, \$500.

(d) A referee shall be paid at least the amount established in subparagraphs 1. and 2. of this subsection and set by the following schedule based on the number of bouts on the show card: ~~[\$150; and]~~

1. One (1) to eleven (11) bouts, \$175; and
2. Twelve (12) or more bouts, \$225.

(e) A bout assistant shall be paid at least the amount established in subparagraphs 1. and 2. of this subsection and set by the following schedule based on the number of bouts on the show card: ~~[seventy-five (75) dollars.]~~

1. One (1) to eleven (11) bouts, seventy-five dollars (\$75); and
2. Twelve (12) or more bouts, \$100.

(3) Each contestant's compensation agreement shall be in writing and submitted to the commission for approval not less than two (2) calendar days prior to the date of the proposed show.

### Section 4. Pre-Fight.

(1) A contestant shall weigh in stripped at a time set by the commission, which shall not be more than thirty-six (36) hours before the first scheduled bout of the show.

(a) A contestant shall produce to the inspector one (1) form of picture identification at the weigh-in.

(b) The inspector and the promoter or a representative of the promoter conducting the show shall be in attendance to record the official weights.

(2) A contestant shall check in with the commission at least one (1) hour prior to the event start time. A contestant shall produce one (1) form of picture identification at check-in.

- (3) A contestant shall attend a pre-fight meeting as directed by the commission.
- (4)
  - (a) A contestant shall remain in the locker room area until it is time to compete unless approved by the inspector.
  - (b) The promoter shall supply a separate locker room for males and females.
- (5) A contestant shall submit an original or certified copy of his or her HIV Antibody, Hepatitis B Antigen, and Hepatitis C Antibody test results to the commission at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the event.
  - (a) The results of these tests shall be no more than 365 days old.
  - (b) A person with a positive test result shall not compete.
- (6) A contestant shall undergo a pre-fight physical conducted by a physician within eight (8) hours of the show. Prior to undergoing the physical, a contestant shall submit a completed Mixed Martial Arts Pre-Fight Medical Questionnaire, which is incorporated by reference in 201 KAR 27:011, Section 23(1)(b), under penalty of perjury.
- (7) A contestant shall not assume or use the name of another and shall not change his or her ring name nor be announced by any name other than that appearing on his or her license, except upon approval of the inspector.
- (8) A contestant shall report to and be under the general supervision of the inspector in attendance at the show and shall be subject to instructions given by the inspector.

#### Section 5. The Cage.

- (1) The area between the cage and the first row of spectators on all sides and the locker room shall be under the exclusive control of the commission.
- (2) Commission staff and licensees shall be the only people allowed inside the areas under the control of the commission.
- (3) There shall be an area of at least six (6) feet between the edge of the cage floor and the first row of spectator seats on all sides of the cage. A partition, barricade, or similar divider shall be placed:
  - (a) Between the first row of the spectator seats and the six (6) foot area surrounding the cage; and
  - (b) Along the sides of the entry lane for contestants to enter the cage and the spectator area.
- (4) A bout or exhibition of mixed martial arts shall be held in a fenced area meeting the requirements established in this subsection.
  - (a) The fenced area shall be circular or have equal sides and shall be no smaller than twenty (20) feet wide and no larger than thirty-two (32) feet wide.
  - (b) The floor of the fenced area shall be padded with closed-cell foam, with at least a one (1) inch layer of foam padding, with a top covering of a single canvas or a synthetic material stretched tightly and laced to the platform of the fenced area, unless the event is held outdoors, in which case only canvas shall be used.
  - (c) The platform of the fenced area shall not be more than six (6) feet above the floor of the building and shall have steps suitable for the use of the contestants.
  - (d) Fence posts shall be made of metal, shall not be more than six (6) inches in diameter, and shall extend from the floor of the building to between five (5) and seven (7) feet above the floor of the fenced area, and shall be properly padded.
  - (e) The fencing used to enclose the fenced area shall be made of a material that shall prevent a contestant from falling out of the fenced area or breaking through the fenced area onto the floor of the building or onto the spectators, and the fencing shall be coated with vinyl or a similar covering to minimize injuries to a contestant.
  - (f) Any metal portion of the fenced area shall be properly covered and padded and shall not be abrasive to the unarmed combatants.
  - (g) The fenced area shall have at least one (1) entrance.

- (h) There shall not be a protrusion or obstruction on any part of the fence surrounding the area in which the contestants are to be competing.
- (i) Any event held outdoors while the heat index is or exceeds 100 degrees Fahrenheit shall be conducted under a roof or cover that casts shade over the entire cage.
- (j) A cage shall have a canvas mat or a synthetic material, unless the event is held outdoors, in which case only canvas shall be used.

Section 6. Equipment.

- (1) A bell or horn shall be used by the timekeeper to indicate the time.
- (2) In addition to the cage and cage equipment, the promoter shall supply:
  - (a) A public address system in good working order;
  - (b) Chairs for judges and timekeepers elevated sufficiently to provide an unobstructed view of the cage and the cage floor;
  - (c) Items for each contestant's corner, to include:
    - 1. A stool or chair;
    - 2. A clean bucket;
    - 3. Towels;
    - 4. Rubber gloves; and
  - (d) A complete set of numbered round-cards, if needed.
- (3) A scale used for any weigh-in shall be approved as accurate in advance by the inspector.

Section 7. Contestant Equipment and Attire.

- (1) A contestant shall be clean and neatly clothed in proper ring attire, and the trunks of opponents shall be of distinguishing colors.
- (2) A contestant shall not use a belt that contains a metal substance during a bout. The belt shall not extend above the waistline of the contestant.
- (3) A contestant shall not wear shoes or any padding on his or her feet during the bout.
- (4) A contestant shall wear a properly fitted:
  - (a) Groin protector; and
  - (b) Double-arch mouthpiece.
- (5) If a contestant has long hair, the hair shall be secured by a soft, non-abrasive material so that the hair does not interfere with the vision or safety of either contestant.
- (6) If cosmetics are used, a contestant shall use a minimum of cosmetics.

Section 8. Weight Classes.

- (1) The classes for contestants competing in bouts or exhibitions of mixed martial arts and the weights for each class shall be as established in the following schedule:

CLASS	WEIGHT
<u>Strawweight</u>	<u>Up to and including 115 lbs.</u>
Flyweight	<u>Over 115 lbs. up to and including</u> <del>Up to</del> 125 lbs.
Bantamweight	<u>Over 125 lbs. up to and including</u> <del>Up to</del> 135 lbs.
Featherweight	<u>Over 135 lbs. up to and including</u> <del>Up to</del> 145 lbs.
Lightweight	<u>Over 145 lbs. up to and including</u> <del>Up to</del> 155 lbs.
<u>Super Lightweight</u>	<u>Over 155 lbs. up to and including 165 lbs.</u>
Welterweight	<u>Over 165 lbs. up to and including</u> <del>Up to</del> 170 lbs.
<u>Super Welterweight</u>	<u>Over 170 lbs. up to and including 175 lbs.</u>
Middleweight	<u>Over 175 lbs. up to and including</u> <del>Up to</del> 185 lbs.

<u>Super Middleweight</u>	<u>Over 185 lbs. up to and including 195 lbs.</u>
Light Heavyweight	<u>Over 195 lbs. up to and including 205 lbs.</u> [ <del>Up to 195 lbs.</del> ]
<u>Cruiserweight</u>	<u>Over 205 lbs. up to and including 225 lbs.</u>
Heavyweight	<u>Over 225 lbs. up to and including 265 lbs.</u> [ <del>Up to 230 lbs.</del> ]
Super Heavyweight	Over <u>265</u> [ <del>230</del> ] lbs.

(2) After the weigh-in, a contestant shall not change weight in excess of eight (8) percent prior to the bout.

(3) After the weigh-in, a contestant shall not re-hydrate by the use of intravenous fluids unless approved by the inspector for medical purposes. A contestant may be subject to a random urine specific gravity test to determine compliance with this subsection.

Section 9. Fight Length. Unless the commission approves an exception upon finding that the health and safety of the contestants will not be compromised:

- (1) A non-championship bout or exhibition of mixed martial arts shall not exceed three (3) rounds in duration;
- (2) A championship bout of mixed martial arts shall not exceed five (5) rounds in duration;
- (3) The length of a round in a professional bout or exhibition of mixed martial arts shall be a maximum of five (5) minutes in duration, and a period of rest following a round shall be one (1) minute in duration; and
- (4) The length of a round in an amateur bout or exhibition of mixed martial arts shall be a maximum of three (3) minutes in duration, and a rest period following a round shall be ninety (90) seconds in duration.

Section 10. Judging and Scoring.

- (1) Each judge of a bout or exhibition of mixed martial arts shall score the bout or exhibition and determine the winner through the use of the system established in this section.
  - (a) The better contestant of a round shall receive ten (10) points, and the opponent shall receive proportionately less.
  - (b) If the round is even, each contestant shall receive ten (10) points.
  - (c) Fraction of points shall not be given.
  - (d) Points for each round shall be awarded immediately after the end of the period of unarmed combat in the round.
- (2) After the end of the bout or exhibition, the announcer shall pick up the scores of the judges from the commission's representative.
- (3) The majority opinion shall be conclusive and, if there is no majority, the decision shall be a draw.
- (4)
  - (a) Once the commission's representative has checked the scores, he or she shall inform the announcer of the decision.
  - (b) The announcer shall then inform the audience of the decision.
- (5) Unjudged exhibitions shall be permitted with the prior approval of the commission.
- (6) A bout of mixed martial arts shall end in:
  - (a) Submission by:
    1. Physical tap out; or
    2. Verbal tap out;

- (b) Technical knockout by the referee or physician stopping the bout;
- (c) Decision via the scorecards, including:
  - 1. Unanimous decision;
  - 2. Split decision;
  - 3. Majority decision; or
  - 4. Draw, including:
    - a. Unanimous draw;
    - b. Majority draw; or
    - c. Split draw;
- (d) Technical decision;
- (e) Technical draw;
- (f) Disqualification;
- (g) Forfeit; or
- (h) No contest.

#### Section 11. Fouls.

- (1) The following acts shall constitute fouls in mixed martial arts:
  - (a) Butting with the head;
  - (b) Eye gouging;
  - (c) Biting;
  - (d) Hair pulling;
  - (e) Fishhooking;
  - (f) Groin attacks;
  - (g) Putting a finger into any orifice or into any cut or laceration on an opponent;
  - (h) Small joint manipulation;
  - (i) Striking to the spine or the back of the head;
  - (j) Striking downward using the point of the elbow;
  - (k) Throat strikes including grabbing the trachea;
  - (l) Clawing, pinching, or twisting the flesh;
  - (m) Grabbing the clavicle;
  - (n) Kicking the head of a grounded opponent;
  - (o) Kneeing the head of a grounded opponent;
  - (p) Stomping the head of a grounded opponent;
  - (q) Kicking to the kidney with the heel;
  - (r) Spiking an opponent to the canvas on his or her head or neck;
  - (s) Throwing an opponent out of the fenced area;
  - (t) Holding the shorts of an opponent;
  - (u) Spitting at an opponent;
  - (v) Engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct;
  - (w) Holding the fence;
  - (x) Using abusive language in the fenced area;
  - (y) Attacking an opponent on or during the break;
  - (z) Attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee;
  - (aa) Attacking an opponent after the bell has sounded the end of the period of unarmed combat;
  - (bb) Intentionally disregarding the instructions of the referee;
  - (cc) Timidity, such as intentionally or consistently dropping the mouthpiece or faking an injury;
  - (dd) Interference by a contestant's corner staff; and
  - (ee) The throwing by a contestant's corner staff of objects into the cage during competition.

(2) If a contestant fouls his or her opponent during a bout or exhibition of mixed martial arts, the referee may penalize the contestant by deducting points from his or her score, regardless of whether or not the foul was intentional. The referee shall determine the number of points to be deducted in each instance and shall base his or her determination on the severity of the foul and its effect upon the opponent.

(3) If the referee determines that it is necessary to deduct a point or points because of a foul, he or she shall warn the offender of the penalty to be assessed.

(4) The referee shall, as soon as is practical after the foul, notify the judges and both contestants of the number of points, if any, to be deducted from the score of the offender.

(5) Any point or points to be deducted for any foul shall be deducted in the round in which the foul occurred and shall not be deducted from the score of any subsequent round.

(6)

(a) If a bout or exhibition of mixed martial arts is stopped because of an accidental foul, the referee shall determine if the contestant who has been fouled is able to continue.

(b) If the contestant's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of the foul, and if the foul does not involve a concussive impact to the head of the contestant who has been fouled, the referee may order the bout or exhibition continued after a recuperative interval of not more than five (5) minutes.

(c) Immediately after separating the contestants, the referee shall inform the commission's representative of his or her determination that the foul was or was not accidental.

(7) If the referee determines that a bout or exhibition of mixed martial arts shall not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an accidental foul, the bout or exhibition shall be declared a no bout if the foul occurs during:

(a) The first two (2) rounds of a bout or exhibition that is scheduled for three (3) rounds or less; or

(b) The first three (3) rounds of a bout or exhibition that is scheduled for more than three (3) rounds.

(8) If an accidental foul renders a contestant unable to continue the bout or exhibition, the outcome shall be determined by scoring the completed rounds, including the round in which the foul occurs, if the foul occurs after:

(a) The completed second round of a bout or exhibition that is scheduled for three (3) rounds or less; or

(b) The completed third round of a bout or exhibition that is scheduled for more than three (3) rounds.

(9) If an injury inflicted by an accidental foul later becomes aggravated by fair blows and the referee orders the bout or exhibition stopped because of the injury, the outcome shall be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops the bout or exhibition.

(10) A contestant committing an intentional foul may be issued a violation by an inspector.

Section 12. Prohibitions. The following shall be prohibited:

(1) Battle royal type events; and

(2) Use of excessive grease or other substance that may handicap an opponent.

Section 13. Non-Contestant Participants.

(1) A promoter shall provide a minimum of two (2) security guards on the premises for each show.

(2) Judges, physicians, referees, and timekeepers shall be selected, licensed, and assigned to each show by the commission. The following shall be required:

- (a) Three (3) judges, or two (2) judges if a referee also serves as a judge;
- (b) One (1) timekeeper;
- (c) One (1) physician, unless more than eighteen (18) bouts are scheduled, in which case a minimum of two (2) physicians shall be required; and
- (d) One (1) referee, unless more than eight (8)~~eighteen (18)~~ bouts are scheduled, in which case a minimum of two (2) referees shall be required.

#### Section 14. Judges.

- (1) A judge shall arrive at least one (1) hour prior to the start of a show.
- (2) At the beginning of a bout, the judges shall locate themselves on opposite sides of the ring and shall carefully observe the performance of the contestants.
- (3) At the conclusion of the bout, the judges shall render their decision based on the requirements of Section 10 of this administrative regulation.
- (4) Upon request of the referee, the judges shall assist in determining whether or not:
  - (a) A foul has been committed;
  - (b) Each contestant is competing in earnest; and
  - (c) There is collusion affecting the result of the bout.

#### Section 15. Timekeeper.

- (1) The timekeeper shall be seated outside the ring near the bell and shall take the cue to commence or take time out from the referee.
- (2) The timekeeper shall be equipped with a whistle and a stop watch. Prior to the first bout, the inspector shall ensure that the whistle and stopwatch function properly.
- (3) Ten (10) seconds before the start of each round, the timekeeper shall give notice by sounding the whistle.
- (4) The timekeeper shall indicate the starting and ending of each round by sounding a horn or striking the bell with a metal hammer.
- (5) If a bout terminates before the scheduled limit, the timekeeper shall inform the announcer of the exact duration of the bout.
- (6) Ten (10) seconds prior to the end of each round, the timekeeper shall give warning by striking a gavel three (3) times.

#### Section 16. Physicians and Healthcare Requirements.

- (1) There shall be at least one (1) physician licensed by the commission at ringside at all times during a bout. A bout shall not begin or continue if a physician is not at ringside.
- (2) The physician shall have general supervision over the physical condition of each contestant at all times while on the premises of a show or exhibition.
- (3) The physician's pre-bout duties:
  - (a) A physician shall make a thorough physical examination of each contestant within eight (8) hours prior to a bout.
    - 1. The physician's examination shall include a review of the Mixed Martial Arts Pre-Fight Medical Questionnaire of each contestant.
    - 2. The physician shall deliver to the inspector the form Mixed Martial Arts Pre-Fight Examination, ~~which is incorporated by reference in 201 KAR 27:011, Section 23(1) (e),~~ that documents the results of the examination prior to the contestant entering the ring.
  - (b) The physician shall ensure that all equipment required by subsection (5) of this section is present before the start of the first bout or exhibition.
  - (c) The physician shall prohibit a contestant from competing if the physician believes the contestant is physically unfit for competition or impaired by alcohol or a controlled substance.
- (4) The physician's duties during the bout or exhibition:

- (a) The physician shall remain at ringside during the progress of any bout or exhibition unless attending to a person.
- (b) The physician shall observe the physical condition of each contestant during a bout or match.
- (c) The physician shall administer medical aid if needed or requested.
- (d) The physician shall order the referee to pause or end a bout or exhibition if necessary to prevent serious physical injury to a contestant.
- (5) The physician shall have at ringside medical supplies necessary to provide medical assistance for the type of injuries reasonably anticipated to occur in a mixed martial arts show. The physician shall not permit a referee to begin a bout if the medical supplies are not present. At a minimum, these medical supplies shall include:
  - (a) A clean stretcher and blanket, placed under or adjacent to the ring throughout each bout;
  - (b) Spine board;
  - (c) Cervical collar;
  - (d) Oxygen apparatus or equipment; and
  - (e) First aid kit.
- (6) The promoter shall ensure that a certified ambulance with an emergency medical technician is on the premises of a show at all times. A show shall not begin or continue if the ambulance and emergency medical technician are not on the premises.
- (7) The physician shall make a thorough physical examination of each contestant after each bout. The physician shall deliver the form Mixed Martial Arts Post-Fight Examination, ~~which is incorporated by reference in 201 KAR 27:011, Section 23(1)(d)]~~ that documents the results of the examination.

#### Section 17. Announcers.

- (1) The announcer shall have general supervision over all announcements made to spectators.
  - (a) The announcer shall announce the name of contestants, their weight, decisions at the end of each match or bout, and any other matters as are necessary.
  - (b) A person other than the official announcer shall not make an announcement, unless deemed necessary by an inspector.
- (2) If a match or bout is stopped before its scheduled termination, the announcer shall immediately confer with the referee and judges and then shall immediately announce the decision.
- (3) The announcer shall not enter the ring during the actual progress of a match or bout.

#### Section 18. Referees.

- (1) The referee shall be the chief official of the show, be present in the ring at all times, and have general supervision over each contestant, manager, and second during the entire event.
- (2)
  - (a) The referee shall have the authority to disqualify a contestant who commits a foul and award the decision to the opponent.
  - (b) The referee shall immediately disqualify a contestant who commits an intentional or deliberate foul that causes serious physical injury to an opponent.
- (3) The referee's duties and responsibilities shall be as established in this subsection.
  - (a) The referee shall, before starting a bout or match, ascertain from each contestant the name of the contestant's chief second. The referee shall hold the chief second responsible for the conduct of the chief second's assistants during the progress of the bout or match.
  - (b) The referee shall call the contestants together in the ring immediately preceding a bout or match for final instructions. During the instructional meeting, each contestant

shall be accompanied in the ring by the contestant's chief second only.

(c) The referee shall inspect the person, attire, and equipment of each contestant and make certain that no foreign substances that are prohibited by KRS Chapter 229 or 201 KAR Chapter 27 have been applied on a contestant's body or equipment or used by a contestant.

(d) The referee shall stop a bout or match at any time if the referee has reasonable grounds to believe either contestant is:

1. Unable to protect himself or herself from possible injury;
2. Not competing in earnest; or
3. Colluding with another person to affect the results of the bout.

(e) The referee may take one (1) or more points away from a contestant who commits an accidental foul, and the referee may permit a rest period not exceeding five (5) minutes for the contestant who was fouled.

(f) The referee shall not touch a contestant during the bout or match except upon failure of a contestant to obey the referee's instructions or to protect a contestant.

(g) The referee shall decide all questions arising during a bout or match that are not otherwise specifically covered by KRS Chapter 229 or 201 KAR Chapter 27.

(h) Events scheduled to include more than eight (8) bouts shall require the presence of at least two (2) referees. One (1) referee shall be designated to oversee each bout.

#### Section 19. Trainers and Seconds.

(1) A trainer or second shall be equipped with a first aid kit and the necessary supplies for proper medical attendance upon the contestant.

(2) There shall be no more than three (3) persons total serving as a trainer or second in any bout and only two (2) shall be allowed in the ring at the same time.

(3) A trainer and a second shall leave the ring at the timekeeper's ten (10) seconds whistle before the beginning of each round and shall remove all equipment from the ring. Equipment shall not be placed on the ring floor until after the bell has sounded at the end of the round or period.

(4) A trainer and a second shall wear surgical gloves at all times while carrying out their duties.

#### Section 20. Medical Prohibitions.

(1) The executive director, the executive director's designee, or a commission representative may issue an order for a medical suspension of a contestant's license *as established in paragraphs (a) through (f) of this subsection. [under the following circumstances:]*

(a) A contestant who has been repeatedly knocked out and severely beaten shall be retired and not permitted to compete again if, after subjecting the contestant to a thorough examination by a physician licensed by the commission, the medical advisory panel determines action is necessary to protect the health and welfare of the contestant.

(b) If a contestant receives an injury to the head or body, the contestant's license may be suspended indefinitely *based on increased risk for probably injury*. The ringside physician may require that a contestant suspended pursuant to this paragraph undergo a physical or neurological examination and submit a completed Medical Release Form or the Neurological Release Form as a condition of reinstatement.

(c) ~~(2)~~ A contestant who has suffered five (5) consecutive defeats by knockout or medical stoppage shall not be allowed to compete again until the contestant has been evaluated and subsequently cleared for further competition by the medical advisory panel.

(d) ~~(3)~~ A contestant who has been knocked out shall be prohibited from all competition for a minimum of sixty (60) days.

(e) ~~[(4)]~~ Any contestant who has suffered a technical knockout may be prohibited from competition for up to thirty (30) days if the contestant's health or safety would be jeopardized without the prohibition.

(f) A contestant subject to an order levying a medical suspension may appeal the medical suspension. An appellant shall submit ~~by submitting~~ a written notice of appeal to the Commission within twenty (20) days of the Commission's order. The provisions of KRS Chapter 13B shall govern the proceedings.

(2) ~~[(5)]~~

(a) A female mixed martial artist shall submit proof she is not pregnant prior to her bout. The proof may be either:

1. An original or certified copy of the result of a medical test taken no more than one (1) week before the day of the match that shows she is not pregnant; or
2. From an over-the-counter home pregnancy test taken while on the premises of the show that tests for human chorionic gonadotropin.

(b) A female mixed martial artist shall be prohibited from competing if:

1. She is pregnant; or
2. She fails to comply with this subsection.

#### Section 21. Insurance.

(1) A promoter shall provide insurance for a contestant for any injuries sustained in the mixed martial arts event.

(2) The minimum amount of coverage per contestant shall be \$5,000 health and \$5,000 accidental death benefits.

(3) A certificate of insurance coverage shall be provided to the commission no less than two (2) business days before the event.

(4)

(a) The deductible expense under the policy for a professional mixed martial artist shall not exceed \$1,000.

(b) The deductible expense for an amateur mixed martial artist shall not exceed \$500.

#### Section 22. Other Provisions.

(1) A contestant shall not compete against a member of the opposite gender.

(2) Each show shall be video recorded and retained by the promoter for at least one (1) year. Upon request of the commission, the promoter shall provide the video recording of a show to the commission.

(3) A promoter shall maintain an account with the recognized national database as identified by the commission and shall submit contestants~~[contestants]~~ names to that database upon approval of the show date. The promoter shall be responsible for the costs associated with the use of this service.

(4) A bout or exhibition of mixed martial arts shall be conducted pursuant to the official rules for the particular art unless the official rules conflict with KRS Chapter 229 or 201 KAR Chapter 27.

(a) If an official rule conflicts with KRS Chapter 229 or a requirement in 201 KAR Chapter 27, the statute or administrative regulation shall prevail.

(b) The sponsoring organization or promoter shall file a copy of the rules that shall apply at the show with the commission along with the thirty (30) day show notice required in Section 1 of this administrative regulation.

(5) A contestant shall report to and be under the general supervision of an inspector in attendance at the show and shall be subject to instructions given by an inspector.

(6) More than two (2) fifteen (15) minute intermissions shall not be allowed at any show.

#### Section 23. Prohibitions and Restrictions.

(1) The following shall be prohibited:

- (a) Battle royal type events;
  - (b) Use of excessive grease or other substance that may handicap an opponent; and
  - (c) Elbow strikes to the head if the bout is an amateur bout.
- (2) Knees to the head shall be permitted, but shall only be used and delivered from a standing position.
- (3) A professional mixed martial arts contestant found to be competing during an amateur mixed martial arts show shall have his or her license suspended for a period of not less than one (1) year.
- (4) A promoter who allows a professional to compete against an amateur shall have his or her license suspended for a period of not less than one (1) year.
- (5) Smoking shall be prohibited inside the gymnasium, room, or hall in which the ring is located.
- (6) Alcohol shall be prohibited inside the six (6) foot area alongside the ring.

Section 24. Incorporation by Reference.

(1) The following material is incorporated by reference:

- (a) "Mixed Martial Arts Show Notice Form", June 2023;
- (b) "Mixed Martial Arts Pre-Fight Medical Questionnaire", June 2023;
- (c) "Mixed Martial Arts Pre-Fight ~~Medical~~ Examination", June 2023;
- (d) "Mixed Martial Arts Post-Fight Examination", June 2023;
- (e) "Mixed Martial Arts Medical Release Form", June 2023;
- (f) "Mixed Martial Arts Neurological Evaluation Form", June 2023.

(2) This material may be inspected, copied, or obtained, subject to applicable copyright law, at the Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission office at 500 Mero St, 218NC, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and is available online at [https://kbwc.ky.gov/New\\_Docs.aspx?cat=29&menuid=27](https://kbwc.ky.gov/New_Docs.aspx?cat=29&menuid=27).

(32 Ky.R. 1840; 2023; 2255; eff. 7-7-2006; 38 Ky.R. 1200; 1576; 1710; eff. 5-4-2012; 43 Ky.R. 294, 727, 965; eff. 1-6-2017; 45 Ky.R. 2425, 2871; eff. 5-3-2019; 50 Ky.R. 128, 811; eff. 1-2-2024.)

FILED WITH LRC: September 12, 2023

CONTACT PERSON: Doug Hardin, Staff Attorney, Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 500 Mero Street 218 NC, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, phone (502) 782-8204, fax (502) 573-6625, email [doug.hardin@ky.gov](mailto:doug.hardin@ky.gov).