

229.011 Definitions for chapter.

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

- (1) "Advertise" means the use of handbills, placards, posters, billboards, pictures, printed or written material or newspapers or other publications, or radio, television, Internet, and other communication media;
- (2) "Boxing" means a contest or exhibition in which a person delivers blows with the fist that may be reasonably expected to disable or inflict injury and in which boxers compete for money, a prize, or other pecuniary gain, or for which admission is charged to spectators;
- (3) "Commission" means the Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission;
- (4) "Exhibition" means an event or engagement:
 - (a) In which the participants show or display their skills without necessarily striving to win;
 - (b) That involves amateurs not under the jurisdiction of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, the Amateur Athletic Union, Golden Gloves, USA Boxing, or USA Wrestling; or
 - (c) That involves a public show in which an admission ticket is required, or other charge is made, that is not sanctioned by one (1) of the sanctioning bodies listed in paragraph (b) of this subsection;
- (5) "Kickboxing" means a boxing contest or exhibition where the participants are allowed to throw kicks or foot blows at the opponent in addition to punching with the hands and in which kickboxers compete for money, a prize, or other pecuniary gain, or for which admission is charged to spectators;
- (6) "Mixed martial arts" means any form of unarmed contest or exhibition in which participants compete for money, a prize, or other pecuniary gain, or for which admission is charged to spectators. Mixed martial arts may include any element or combination of elements of boxing, kickboxing, wrestling, or other martial arts. Exhibitions where participants are judged on form and style and where punches and kicks are pulled shall not be included in this definition;
- (7) "Muay thai" means a boxing contest or exhibition where the participants are allowed combined use of clinches, elbows, knees, and shins in addition to punching with the hands and in which participants compete for money, a prize, or other pecuniary gain, or for which admission is charged to spectators;
- (8) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or club;
- (9) "Show" means any boxing, kickboxing, mixed martial arts, muay thai, or wrestling match, contest, or exhibition coming under the jurisdiction of the Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission;
- (10) "Unarmed combat" means boxing, kickboxing, sparring, wrestling, mixed martial arts, or muay thai under the jurisdiction of the commission; and
- (11) "Wrestling" means an activity or performance of athletic and wrestling skill between individuals who are not under the jurisdiction of the Kentucky High

School Athletic Association, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, or USA Wrestling in which the participants struggle hand-to-hand primarily for the purpose of providing entertainment to spectators rather than conducting a bona fide athletic contest. The outcome of these matches may be predetermined. Participating wrestlers may not be required to use their best efforts in order to win.

Effective: June 27, 2025

History: Amended 2025 Ky. Acts ch. 69, sec. 1, effective June 27, 2025. -- Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 6, effective June 29, 2017. -- Amended 2008 Ky. Acts ch. 91, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2008. -- Amended 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 11, sec. 2, effective June 20, 2005. -- Created 1964 Ky. Acts ch. 170, sec. 1.

229.025 Administrative regulations -- License requirement -- License fees -- License age requirement.

- (1) Every licensee shall be subject to the administrative regulations promulgated by the commission.
- (2) No person shall participate in an unarmed combat show in any capacity without holding a license issued by the commission.
- (3) The commission shall establish through the promulgation of administrative regulations:
 - (a) All license types, the eligibility requirements for each license type, and the expiration date of each license type;
 - (b) The annual license fee, which shall be no greater than:
 1. Five hundred dollars (\$500) for promoter licenses; and
 2. Fifty dollars (\$50) for all other licenses; and
 - (c) The method for submitting all applications for licensure.
- (4) No contestant under eighteen (18) years of age shall be knowingly issued a license or allowed to participate in any unarmed combat shows, nor shall any person obtain, or cause to be obtained, a license for any person under eighteen (18) years of age to participate in any unarmed combat show, except through a sanctioning body authorized by KRS 229.045.

Effective: June 29, 2017

History: Created 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 1, effective June 29, 2017.

229.031 Report as to tickets sold and receipts -- Tax on gross receipts -- Notification when supplying broadcast facilities -- Examination of books and records.

- (1) Every person conducting an unarmed combat show, other than those holding a permit under subsection (1) of KRS 229.061, shall furnish to the commission a written report, verified by the person, if an individual, or by some officer, if a corporation or association, showing the number of tickets sold for the show, the amount of the gross receipts from this sale, and any other matters prescribed by the commission. He or she shall also pay to the commission a tax of twenty-five dollars (\$25) or five percent (5%) of the gross receipts from the sale of all tickets to the show, whichever is greater.
- (2) Any person supplying radio, television, or cable facilities for the broadcast or televising of any show shall, prior to the show, notify the commission.
- (3) All taxes required to be paid by this section shall be computed on the gross receipts without any deduction for commissions, brokerage, distribution fees, advertising, or other related expenses, charges, or recoupments, except that federal excise taxes may be deducted.
- (4) Whenever a person fails to make the report within the time prescribed by the commission, or whenever the report is incomplete or patently inaccurate, the commission may examine or cause to be examined the books and records of that person to ascertain the total amount of its gross receipts for any show to determine the amount of tax due.

Effective: June 29, 2017

History: Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 7, effective June 29, 2017. -- Amended 2008 Ky. Acts ch. 91, sec. 3, effective July 15, 2008. -- Amended 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 11, sec. 17, effective June 20, 2005; and ch. 168, sec. 155, effective March 18, 2005. -- Created 1964 Ky. Acts ch. 170, sec. 15.

229.035 Promoter license requirement -- Approval of show dates -- Bond.

- (1) No person shall conduct or advertise a show without a promoter license issued by the commission to conduct the show. Show dates shall be approved as determined through the promulgation of an administrative regulation.
- (2) Any person applying for a promoter license shall file with the commission a bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), to be approved as to form and the sufficiency of the sureties by the commission, conditioned for the payment of:
 - (a) Taxes;
 - (b) Fines;
 - (c) Fees imposed by the commission;
 - (d) Purses and money owed to contestants; and
 - (e) Money owed to judges, physicians, referees, timekeepers, or other contracted event service providers.
- (3) If the promoter's bond expires or is cancelled, the commission shall immediately terminate that promoter's license.

Effective: June 29, 2017

History: Created 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 2, effective June 29, 2017.

229.045 Sanctioning bodies -- Requirements -- Administrative regulations.

- (1) USA Boxing is the only sanctioning body recognized to conduct combat sports not covered under this chapter.
- (2) All other sanctioning bodies shall be nonprofit and submit a request to the commission to be recognized as a sanctioning body according to the requirements the commission establishes through the promulgation of an administrative regulation.
- (3) Sanctioning bodies shall provide notice to the commission of all combat sports exhibitions not otherwise covered under this chapter for publication in a calendar of events according to the requirements the commission establishes through the promulgation of an administrative regulation in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A.

Effective: June 27, 2025

History: Amended 2025 Ky. Acts ch. 69, sec. 2, effective June 27, 2025. -- Created 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 3, effective June 29, 2017.

229.055 Rounds limitation of boxing, kickboxing, or muay thai contest or exhibition -- Boxing show contracts to be filed with commission before show.

- (1) A boxing, kickboxing, or muay thai contest or exhibition shall not consist of more than twelve (12) rounds. The duration of the rounds shall be determined by the commission through the promulgation of an administrative regulation.
- (2) Prior to any boxing show, the promoter shall file with the commission a copy of each contract involving compensation of the contestants and a copy of each contract under which he or she will receive, directly or indirectly, compensation from any source. Any person making payments under any of these contracts shall promptly report to the commission the amount of these payments.

Effective: June 29, 2017

History: Created 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 4, effective June 29, 2017.

229.061 Permits for schools and charitable organizations.

- (1) The commission may issue a permit, without the payment of any taxes or license fee, to any accredited college, university, school, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Men's Hebrew Association, or organization that in the judgment of the commission is of like character, to hold an unarmed combat show upon a sufficient showing that the matches or exhibitions are to be held by and between bona fide students or members of the accredited colleges, universities, schools, Young Men's Christian Associations, Young Men's Hebrew Associations, or organizations that in the judgment of the commission are of like character.
- (2) Any regularly organized post of the American Legion, and any organization operating solely for charitable purposes from which no individual, partnership, or corporation derives any monetary gain, may hold an unarmed combat show without the payment of the license fee prescribed by KRS 229.025. Any post of the American Legion or other organization holding shows under this section shall be subject to KRS 229.031.
- (3) No show authorized by subsection (1) or (2) of this section may be conducted without a permit to hold the specific match and accompanying program of events at a specified location on a specified date.

Effective: June 29, 2017

History: Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 8, effective June 29, 2017. -- Amended 2008 Ky. Acts ch. 91, sec. 6, effective July 15, 2008. -- Amended 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 11, sec. 9, effective June 20, 2005. -- Amended 1992 Ky. Acts ch. 286, sec. 1, effective July 14, 1992. -- Created 1964 Ky. Acts ch. 170, sec. 13.

229.065 Licenses required for wrestling training.

- (1) No person shall provide training or instruction for any wrestling show without holding a promoter license granted by the commission.
- (2) No person shall train as a wrestler without being licensed by the commission.

Effective: June 29, 2017

History: Created 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 5, effective June 29, 2017.

229.111 Health examination of contestants.

Contestants in a boxing, kickboxing, muay thai, or mixed martial arts show shall be examined by a reputable licensed physician appointed by the commission, and shall meet the health and fitness requirements as established in administrative regulations promulgated by the commission before participating in a boxing, kickboxing, muay thai, or mixed martial arts show.

Effective: June 29, 2017

History: Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 9, effective June 29, 2017. -- Amended 2008 Ky. Acts ch. 91, sec. 10, effective July 15, 2008. -- Amended 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 11, sec. 20, effective June 20, 2005. -- Amended 2000 Ky. Acts ch. 106, sec. 4, effective July 14, 2000. -- Amended 1992 Ky. Acts ch. 286, sec. 5, effective July 14, 1992. -- Created 1964 Ky. Acts ch. 170, sec. 18.

229.131 Decisions rendered, how -- Administrative regulations.

Decisions may be rendered in any unarmed combat show permitted by this chapter in the discretion of the commission and by any method it prescribes through the promulgation of administrative regulations.

Effective: June 29, 2017

History: Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 10, effective June 29, 2017. -- Amended 2008 Ky. Acts ch. 91, sec. 12, effective July 15, 2008. -- Amended 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 11, sec. 21, effective June 20, 2005. -- Created 1964 Ky. Acts ch. 170, sec. 19.

229.141 Structures used for unarmed combat shows, requirements.

All structures or parts of structures used, or intended to be used, for an unarmed combat show shall conform to any building codes, safety codes, and local laws that apply to the structure or the location and use of the structure.

Effective: June 29, 2017

History: Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 11, effective June 29, 2017. -- Amended 2008 Ky. Acts ch. 91, sec. 13, effective July 15, 2008. -- Created 1964 Ky. Acts ch. 170, sec. 20.

229.151 Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission -- Membership -- Officers -- Compensation -- Expenses -- Quorum.

- (1) The Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission is hereby created and established as an agency of state government charged with the responsibility for regulatory oversight and the establishment of sound policies and procedures governing the conduct of unarmed combat within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The commission shall be organized within the Public Protection Cabinet.
- (2) The commission shall consist of the following five (5) members:
 - (a) The secretary of the Public Protection Cabinet, or the secretary's designee, who shall serve as an ex officio, voting member; and
 - (b) Four (4) members who shall be appointed by the Governor as follows:
 1. One (1) member shall be a physician licensed to practice medicine in Kentucky;
 2. One (1) member shall be an attorney licensed to practice law in Kentucky;
 3. One (1) member shall have experience in sports marketing or promotion; and
 4. At least one (1) member shall have no financial interest in the business or industry regulated.
- (3) The Governor shall designate one (1) member to serve as the commission's chairperson. The Governor shall further designate a second member to serve as vice chairperson with authority to act in the absence of the chairperson or if the office of the chairperson is vacant.
- (4) A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- (5) The appointed members of the commission shall serve for a term of three (3) years. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be appointed for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- (6) Members of the commission shall receive one hundred dollars (\$100) per day for each meeting attended and shall be reimbursed for all expenses paid or incurred in the discharge of official business.

Effective: June 29, 2017

History: Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 12, effective June 29, 2017. -- Amended 2010 Ky. Acts ch. 24, sec. 441, effective July 15, 2010. -- Amended 2008 Ky. Acts ch. 91, sec. 14, effective July 15, 2008. -- Amended 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 11, sec. 3, effective June 20, 2005. -- Amended 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 194, sec. 6, effective July 15, 1998. -- Amended 1992 Ky. Acts ch. 286, sec. 6, effective July 14, 1992. -- Amended 1978 Ky. Acts ch. 154, sec. 22, effective June 17, 1978. -- Created 1964 Ky. Acts ch. 170, sec. 2.

Legislative Research Commission Note (6/29/2017). 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 24, states, "Of the initial commission appointments made by the Governor under subsection (2)(b) of Section 12 of this Act [this statute], one member shall serve a term of one year, one member shall serve a term of two years, and two members shall each serve a term of three years."

229.155 Executive director -- Duties -- Interagency agreements.

- (1) To carry out the functions relating to the commission's duties and responsibilities and to afford the full experience and resources of the Public Protection Cabinet, the secretary of the Public Protection Cabinet may appoint an executive director pursuant to KRS 12.050. The secretary of the Public Protection Cabinet or the secretary's designee shall act as executive director in the absence of the executive director.
- (2) The executive director shall employ sufficient regulatory staff for the commission that shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the commission, including but not limited to the following:
 - (a) Complying with administrative regulations;
 - (b) Issuing licenses and permits;
 - (c) Establishing appropriate organizational structures;
 - (d) Carrying out policy and program directives of the commission; and
 - (e) Performing all other duties and responsibilities as assigned.
- (3) With approval of the commission, the executive director and regulatory staff may enter into agreements with any state agency or political subdivision of the state, any postsecondary education institution, or any other person or entity to enlist assistance to implement the duties and responsibilities of the commission.

Effective: June 29, 2017

History: Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 13, effective June 29, 2017. -- Amended 2010 Ky. Acts ch. 24, sec. 442, effective July 15, 2010. -- Amended 2008 Ky. Acts ch. 91, sec. 16, effective July 15, 2008. -- Created 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 11, sec. 5, effective June 20, 2005.

229.171 Commission to control and manage unarmed combat shows -- Administrative regulations -- Development of regulatory programs and procedures.

- (1) The commission is vested with the sole direction, management, control, and jurisdiction over all unarmed combat shows to be conducted, held, or given within the Commonwealth. The commission is hereby given the sole control, authority, and jurisdiction over all licenses to:
 - (a) Hold unarmed combat shows for prizes or purses or where an admission fee or donation is received, or a ticket or invitation is required to attend; and
 - (b) Participate in the unarmed combat shows.
- (2) The commission may promulgate administrative regulations it considers necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions provided in this chapter. In recognition of the fact that more supervision is desirable in this area, it is the intention of the General Assembly to confer upon the commission wider discretion than that ordinarily possessed by administrative agencies.
- (3) The commission shall be responsible for the following:
 - (a) Developing programs and procedures that will aggressively fulfill its oversight and regulatory role, with full accountability and internal controls to protect athletes in the ring;
 - (b) Adhering to the best regulatory practices and due process procedures to protect the regulated community and the interests of the Commonwealth, and ensuring that all education and training requirements for hearing officers and members serving as hearing officers under KRS Chapter 13B are met;
 - (c) Developing the Commonwealth's goals of providing the professional staff necessary to ensure that events are effectively regulated, while allowing commission members to provide the policy oversight necessary to protect the integrity of the regulatory program; and
 - (d) Recommending changes to statutory and regulatory authorities to best protect athletes, while Promoting Kentucky as a world-class market for major events.

Effective: June 29, 2017

History: Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 14, effective June 29, 2017. -- Amended 2008 Ky. Acts ch. 91, sec. 17, effective July 15, 2008. -- Amended 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 11, sec. 6, effective June 20, 2005. -- Amended 1992 Ky. Acts ch. 286, sec. 8, effective July 14, 1992. -- Created 1964 Ky. Acts ch. 170, sec. 5.

**229.200 Suspension, reprimand, revocation, probation, or refusal of licenses
-- Grounds -- Penalties for violation of chapter.**

- (1) The commission may suspend, reprimand, revoke, probate, or refuse to renew or issue a license if it has reason to believe the licensee or applicant has:
 - (a) Violated any provision of this chapter;
 - (b) Violated any administrative regulation promulgated by the commission pursuant to this chapter;
 - (c) Been found guilty of, entered a plea of guilty or no contest to, or entered an Alford plea to a crime, other than a traffic violation, that is detrimental to the interests of unarmed combat or to the public interest, convenience, or necessity in any jurisdiction;
 - (d) Been found liable in a civil action for any claim that involves fraud or dishonesty in any jurisdiction if the person is a licensed promoter, manager, referee, or judge;
 - (e) Violated a law related to boxing, kickboxing, sparring, mixed martial arts, muay thai, or wrestling in any jurisdiction;
 - (f) Placed a bet or wager on any bout or match in which the person participates or works;
 - (g) Served as, or consorted or associated with any person who is, a bookmaker or illegal gambler;
 - (h) Participated in an unlicensed event;
 - (i) Declared bankruptcy if the person is a licensed promoter, manager, referee, or judge; or
 - (j) An injury or health condition that makes it unsafe for the person to participate.
- (2) If the commission has reason to believe that a person has committed a violation of this chapter or administrative regulations promulgated thereunder, the commission may impose one (1) or more of the following penalties:
 - (a) Issue a cease and desist order;
 - (b) Declare a contestant ineligible to compete or disqualify the contestant;
 - (c) Eject the person from the premises at which the show or exhibition is taking place;
 - (d) Issue a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000);
 - (e) Suspend, reprimand, revoke, probate, or refuse to renew or issue a license; or
 - (f) Refer the person for criminal prosecution.
- (3) The commission may delegate to its employees the ability to take any of the actions authorized by subsection (2) of this section, subject to the appellate rights granted in KRS 229.190.
- (4) For any act that would justify the suspension of a license, other than a medical suspension, the commission may declare the person who committed the act ineligible to receive a license for a period not to exceed one (1) year.

Effective: June 29, 2017

History: Repealed and reenacted 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 16, effective June 29,

2017; and amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 158, sec. 40, effective June 29, 2017. -- Amended 2008 Ky. Acts ch. 91, sec. 19, effective July 15, 2008. -- Amended 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 11, sec. 13, effective June 20, 2005. -- Amended 1992 Ky. Acts ch. 286, sec. 10, effective July 14, 1992. -- Created 1964 Ky. Acts ch. 170, sec. 11.

Legislative Research Commission Note (6/29/2017). This statute was repealed and reenacted by 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 16 and amended by 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 158, sec. 40. Pursuant to KRS 446.260, the repeal and reenactment in 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 16 prevails..

229.240 Peace officers to prevent unauthorized shows.

All peace officers, who are informed or who have reason to believe that a show in violation of this chapter or administrative regulations promulgated in accordance with this chapter is taking place or will be taking place within their jurisdiction, shall suppress and prevent it. For this purpose any peace officer may enter any place where a show is being or will be held or where there is training or preparation for a wrestling show and may arrest without a warrant any person who does not submit satisfactory proof that he or she has the license or permit required by this chapter.

Effective: June 29, 2017

History: Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 17, effective June 29, 2017. -- Amended 2008 Ky. Acts ch. 91, sec. 21, effective July 15, 2008. -- Amended 2000 Ky. Acts ch. 106, sec. 5, effective July 14, 2000. -- Created 1964 Ky. Acts ch. 170, sec. 22.

229.250 Disbursal of fees and charges collected by Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission.

- (1) The fees and charges collected by the Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission shall be paid into the State Treasury and credited to a separate revolving or trust and agency fund account established for the purpose of administrating this chapter. The cost and expenses of administering this chapter, including compensation to members of the commission, its officers, and employees shall be paid out of the State Treasury upon warrants of the secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet according to law. The total expense of administering this chapter shall not exceed the fees and other charges collected by the commission and available in the revolving or trust and agency fund account.
- (2) All fees and charges collected by the Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission shall be available for the administration of this chapter, and for no other purpose.

Effective: June 29, 2017

History: Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 18, effective June 29, 2017. -- Amended 2008 Ky. Acts ch. 91, sec. 22, effective July 15, 2008. -- Amended 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 11, sec. 19, effective June 20, 2005. -- Created 1984 Ky. Acts ch. 404, sec. 31, effective July 13, 1984.

**229.260 Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission Medical Advisory Panel
-- Membership -- Compensation -- Duties -- Conduct of meetings.**

- (1) The Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission Medical Advisory Panel is hereby created and established as an agency of state government.
- (2)
 - (a) The panel shall consist of three (3) to five (5) physicians appointed by the secretary of the Public Protection Cabinet.
 - (b) At least one (1) of the panel members shall be a neurologist.
 - (c) In addition to the physicians appointed to the panel under this subsection, the licensed physician appointed to the commission by the Governor under KRS 229.151 shall be an ex officio voting member of the panel and shall serve as the panel's chairperson.
- (3) Each physician shall be:
 - (a) Licensed to practice medicine in Kentucky; and
 - (b) Knowledgeable regarding one (1) or more medical fields related to the kinds and types of injuries or conditions likely to be the result of unarmed combat.
- (4) Each member of the panel shall receive one hundred dollars (\$100) per day for each meeting of the panel and for each day that the member is engaged in carrying out the duties of the panel.
- (5) The panel shall advise the Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission regarding:
 - (a) Health and safety issues and policy relating to the sports regulated by the commission;
 - (b) The fitness of an individual referred to the panel for review to compete in the regulated sports; and
 - (c) The length of a medical suspension of an injured person.
- (6) Meetings of the Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Medical Advisory Panel held for the purpose of discussing an individual's fitness to obtain a license or to compete shall be exempt from the Kentucky Open Meetings Law established in KRS Chapter 61.
- (7) Meetings of the Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Medical Advisory Panel for the purpose of discussing individual fitness to obtain a license or to compete may be held in the form of written, video, telephonic, or electronic communications between members. The members shall not be compensated for these meetings.

Effective: June 29, 2017

History: Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 19, effective June 29, 2017. --
Created 2008 Ky. Acts ch. 91, sec. 15, effective July 15, 2008.