

1 PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET

2 Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission

3 (Amendment)

4 201 KAR 27:016. General requirements for mixed martial arts matches, shows, or
5 exhibitions.

6 RELATES TO: KRS 229.025, 229.031, 229.055, 229.111, 229.131, 229.155, 229.171,

7 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 229.025, 229.031, 229.111, 229.131, 229.171,

8 NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 229.171(1) authorizes the
9 Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission to exercise sole direction, management, control, and
10 jurisdiction over all unarmed combat shows in the Commonwealth [~~commonwealth~~]. KRS
11 229.171(2) authorizes the commission to promulgate administrative regulations it considers
12 necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions provided in KRS Chapter 229. KRS
13 229.025 requires every licensee to be subject to administrative regulations promulgated by the
14 commission. This administrative regulation establishes the requirements for mixed martial arts
15 shows and for participants in mixed martial arts shows.

16 Section 1. Show Date.

17 (1) A promoter shall request a show date by completing and submitting to the commission
18 the Mixed Martial Arts Show Notice Form, which is incorporated by reference in 201 KAR 27:011,
19 Section 23(1)(a).

20 (2) The Mixed Martial Arts Show Notice Form shall be submitted for approval no less than
21 thirty (30) calendar days before the requested show date.

1 (3) A promoter shall not advertise a show until the date has been approved by the
2 commission. Approval is effective upon the commission:

3 (a) Placing the event on the Calendar of Events available on the commission's Web site at
4 https://kbwc.ky.gov/ppc_boxing/Ecal.aspx [~~http://ins.kbwa.ky.gov/ecal.asp~~]; or

5 (b) Providing written notice that the event is approved.

6 Section 2. Program and Changes.

7 (1) If a contestant is unable to participate in a show for which the contestant has a contract,
8 the contestant shall immediately notify the promoter and the commission. A contestant with
9 repeated and unexcused absences or cancellations [~~a cancellation~~] shall be assessed [~~result in~~] a
10 violation.

11 (2) The proposed card for a show shall be filed with the commission at least five (5)
12 business days prior to the show date. Notice of a change in a program or substitution in a show
13 shall be immediately filed with the commission.

14 (3) If the commission determines that a proposed bout may not be reasonably competitive,
15 the bout may be denied. Bout approval does not exempt contestants from individual physical
16 approval as required by 201 KAR 27:008, Section 3. The commission's determination shall be
17 based upon the contestants' previous fighting experience, including:

18 (a) The number of bouts the contestants have competed in;

19 (b) The number of rounds the contestants have competed in;

20 (c) The date of the contestants' bouts;

21 (d) The contestants' performance in previous bouts, including the contestants' won-loss
22 record;

23 (e) The level of competition the contestants have faced; and

1 (f) The contestants' medical histories.

2 (4) The final approved card for a show shall comprise a minimum of five (5) complete
3 bouts, no later than two (2) business days prior to the show date.

4 Section 3. Compensation.

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

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

14 (a) A judge shall be paid at least the amount set by the following schedule based on the
15 number of bouts on the show card: [\$150 unless the show card has twelve (12) or fewer bouts, in
16 which case each judge's pay shall be \$100;]

17 (i) One (1) to eleven (11) bouts, one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125);

18 (ii) Twelve (12) or more bouts, one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175).

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

22 (i) One (1) to eleven (11) bouts, one hundred dollars (\$100);

23 (ii) Twelve (12) or more bouts, one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125).

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

3 (i) One (1) to eleven (11) bouts, four hundred dollars (\$400); and

4 (ii) Twelve (12) or more bouts, five hundred dollars (\$500).

5 (d) A referee shall be paid at least the amount set by the following schedule based on the
6 number of bouts on the show card: [~~\$150~~]

7 (i) One (1) to eleven (11) bouts, one hundred seventy-five dollars(\$175);

8 (ii) Twelve (12) or more bouts, two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225)

9 (e) A bout assistant shall be paid at least the amount set by the following schedule based
10 on the number of bouts on the show card: [~~seventy five (75) dollars.~~]

11 (i) One (1) to eleven (11) bouts, seventy-five dollars (\$75); and

12 (ii) Twelve (12) or more bouts, one hundred dollars (\$100).

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

15 Section 4. Pre-Fight.

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

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

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

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

1 (3) A contestant shall attend a pre-fight meeting as directed by the commission.

2 (4)

3 (a) A contestant shall remain in the locker room area until it is time to compete unless
4 approved by the inspector.

5 (b) The promoter shall supply a separate locker room for males and females.

6 (5) A contestant shall submit an original or certified copy of his or her HIV Antibody,
7 Hepatitis B Antigen, and Hepatitis C Antibody test results to the commission at least forty-eight
8 (48) hours prior to the event.

9 (a) The results of these tests shall be no more than 365 days old.

10 (b) A person with a positive test result shall not compete.

11 (6) A contestant shall undergo a pre-fight physical conducted by a physician within eight
12 (8) hours of the show. Prior to undergoing the physical, a contestant shall submit a completed
13 Mixed Martial Arts Pre-Fight Medical Questionnaire, which is incorporated by reference in 201
14 KAR 27:011, Section 23(1)(b), under penalty of perjury.

15 (7) A contestant shall not assume or use the name of another and shall not change his or
16 her ring name nor be announced by any name other than that appearing on his or her license, except
17 upon approval of the inspector.

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

20 Section 5. The Cage.

21 (1) The area between the cage and the first row of spectators on all sides and the locker
22 room shall be under the exclusive control of the commission.

1 (2) Commission staff and licensees shall be the only people allowed inside the areas under
2 the control of the commission.

3 (3) There shall be an area of at least six (6) feet between the edge of the cage floor and the
4 first row of spectator seats on all sides of the cage. A partition, barricade, or similar divider shall
5 be placed:

6 (a) Between the first row of the spectator seats and the six (6) foot area surrounding the
7 cage; and

8 (b) Along the sides of the entry lane for contestants to enter the cage and the spectator area.

9 (4) A bout or exhibition of mixed martial arts shall be held in a fenced area meeting the
10 requirements established in this subsection.

11 (a) The fenced area shall be circular or have equal sides and shall be no smaller than twenty
12 (20) feet wide and no larger than thirty-two (32) feet wide.

13 (b) The floor of the fenced area shall be padded with closed-cell foam, with at least a one
14 (1) inch layer of foam padding, with a top covering of a single canvas or a synthetic material
15 stretched tightly and laced to the platform of the fenced area, unless the event is held outdoors, in
16 which case only canvas shall be used.

17 (c) The platform of the fenced area shall not be more than six (6) feet above the floor of
18 the building and shall have steps suitable for the use of the contestants.

19 (d) Fence posts shall be made of metal, shall not be more than six (6) inches in diameter,
20 and shall extend from the floor of the building to between five (5) and seven (7) feet above the
21 floor of the fenced area, and shall be properly padded.

22 (e) The fencing used to enclose the fenced area shall be made of a material that shall prevent
23 a contestant from falling out of the fenced area or breaking through the fenced area onto the floor

1 of the building or onto the spectators, and the fencing shall be coated with vinyl or a similar
2 covering to minimize injuries to a contestant.

3 (f) Any metal portion of the fenced area shall be properly covered and padded and shall
4 not be abrasive to the unarmed combatants.

5 (g) The fenced area shall have at least one (1) entrance.

6 (h) There shall not be a protrusion or obstruction on any part of the fence surrounding the
7 area in which the contestants are to be competing.

8 (i) Any event held outdoors while the heat index is or exceeds 100 degrees Fahrenheit shall
9 be conducted under a roof or cover that casts shade over the entire cage.

10 (j) A cage shall have a canvas mat or a synthetic material, unless the event is held outdoors,
11 in which case only canvas shall be used.

12 Section 6. Equipment.

13 (1) A bell or horn shall be used by the timekeeper to indicate the time.

14 (2) In addition to the cage and cage equipment, the promoter shall supply:

15 (a) A public address system in good working order;

16 (b) Chairs for judges and timekeepers elevated sufficiently to provide an unobstructed view
17 of the cage and the cage floor;

18 (c) Items for each contestant's corner, to include:

19 1. A stool or chair;

20 2. A clean bucket;

21 3. Towels;

22 4. Rubber gloves; and

23 (d) A complete set of numbered round-cards, if needed.

1 (3) A scale used for any weigh-in shall be approved as accurate in advance by the inspector.

2 Section 7. Contestant Equipment and Attire.

3 (1) A contestant shall be clean and neatly clothed in proper ring attire, and the trunks of
4 opponents shall be of distinguishing colors.

5 (2) A contestant shall not use a belt that contains a metal substance during a bout. The belt
6 shall not extend above the waistline of the contestant.

7 (3) A contestant shall not wear shoes or any padding on his or her feet during the bout.

8 (4) A contestant shall wear a properly fitted:

9 (a) Groin protector; and

10 (b) Double-arch mouthpiece.

11 (5) If a contestant has long hair, the hair shall be secured by a soft, non-abrasive material
12 so that the hair does not interfere with the vision or safety of either contestant.

13 (6) If cosmetics are used, a contestant shall use a minimum of cosmetics.

14 Section 8. Weight Classes.

15 (1) The classes for contestants competing in bouts or exhibitions of mixed martial arts and
16 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> [Up to] 125 lbs.
Bantamweight	<u>Over 125 lbs. up to and including</u> [Up to] 135 lbs.
Featherweight	<u>Over 135 lbs. up to and including</u> [Up to] 145 lbs.
Lightweight	<u>Over 145 lbs. up to and including</u> [Up to] 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> [Up to] 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> [Up to] 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> [Up to 195 lbs.]
<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> [Up to 230 lbs.]
Super Heavyweight	Over <u>265</u> [230] lbs.

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

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

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

8 (1) A non-championship bout or exhibition of mixed martial arts shall not exceed three (3)
9 rounds in duration;

10 (2) A championship bout of mixed martial arts shall not exceed five (5) rounds in duration;

11 (3) The length of a round in a professional bout or exhibition of mixed martial arts shall be
12 a maximum of five (5) minutes in duration, and a period of rest following a round shall be one (1)
13 minute in duration; and

1 (4) The length of a round in an amateur bout or exhibition of mixed martial arts shall be a
2 maximum of three (3) minutes in duration, and a rest period following a round shall be ninety (90)
3 seconds in duration.

4 Section 10. Judging and Scoring.

5 (1) Each judge of a bout or exhibition of mixed martial arts shall score the bout or
6 exhibition and determine the winner through the use of the system established in this section.

7 (a) The better contestant of a round shall receive ten (10) points, and the opponent shall
8 receive proportionately less.

9 (b) If the round is even, each contestant shall receive ten (10) points.

10 (c) Fraction of points shall not be given.

11 (d) Points for each round shall be awarded immediately after the end of the period of
12 unarmed combat in the round.

13 (2) After the end of the bout or exhibition, the announcer shall pick up the scores of the
14 judges from the commission's representative.

15 (3) The majority opinion shall be conclusive and, if there is no majority, the decision shall
16 be a draw.

17 (4)

18 (a) Once the commission's representative has checked the scores, he or she shall inform the
19 announcer of the decision.

20 (b) The announcer shall then inform the audience of the decision.

21 (5) Unjudged exhibitions shall be permitted with the prior approval of the commission.

22 (6) A bout of mixed martial arts shall end in:

23 (a) Submission by:

- 1 1. Physical tap out; or
- 2 2. Verbal tap out;
- 3 (b) Technical knockout by the referee or physician stopping the bout;
- 4 (c) Decision via the scorecards, including:
 - 5 1. Unanimous decision;
 - 6 2. Split decision;
 - 7 3. Majority decision; or
 - 8 4. Draw, including:
 - 9 a. Unanimous draw;
 - 10 b. Majority draw; or
 - 11 c. Split draw;
 - 12 (d) Technical decision;
 - 13 (e) Technical draw;
 - 14 (f) Disqualification;
 - 15 (g) Forfeit; or
 - 16 (h) No contest.
- 17 Section 11. Fouls.
 - 18 (1) The following acts shall constitute fouls in mixed martial arts:
 - 19 (a) Butting with the head;
 - 20 (b) Eye gouging;
 - 21 (c) Biting;
 - 22 (d) Hair pulling;
 - 23 (e) Fishhooking;

- 1 (f) Groin attacks;
- 2 (g) Putting a finger into any orifice or into any cut or laceration on an opponent;
- 3 (h) Small joint manipulation;
- 4 (i) Striking to the spine or the back of the head;
- 5 (j) Striking downward using the point of the elbow;
- 6 (k) Throat strikes including grabbing the trachea;
- 7 (l) Clawing, pinching, or twisting the flesh;
- 8 (m) Grabbing the clavicle;
- 9 (n) Kicking the head of a grounded opponent;
- 10 (o) Kneeing the head of a grounded opponent;
- 11 (p) Stomping the head of a grounded opponent;
- 12 (q) Kicking to the kidney with the heel;
- 13 (r) Spiking an opponent to the canvas on his or her head or neck;
- 14 (s) Throwing an opponent out of the fenced area;
- 15 (t) Holding the shorts of an opponent;
- 16 (u) Spitting at an opponent;
- 17 (v) Engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct;
- 18 (w) Holding the fence;
- 19 (x) Using abusive language in the fenced area;
- 20 (y) Attacking an opponent on or during the break;
- 21 (z) Attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee;
- 22 (aa) Attacking an opponent after the bell has sounded the end of the period of unarmed
- 23 combat;

1 (bb) Intentionally disregarding the instructions of the referee;

2 (cc) Timidity, such as intentionally or consistently dropping the mouthpiece or faking an
3 injury;

4 (dd) Interference by a contestant's corner staff; and

5 (ee) The throwing by a contestant's corner staff of objects into the cage during competition.

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

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

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

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

17 (6)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 Section 12. Prohibitions. The following shall be prohibited:

23 (1) Battle royal type events; and

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

2 Section 13. Non-Contestant Participants.

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

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

7 (a) Three (3) judges, or two (2) judges if a referee also serves as a judge;

8 (b) One (1) timekeeper;

9 (c) One (1) physician, unless more than eighteen (18) bouts are scheduled, in which case a
10 minimum of two (2) physicians shall be required; and

11 (d) One (1) referee, unless more than eight (8) bouts are scheduled, in which case a
12 minimum of two (2) referees shall be required.

13 Section 14. Judges.

14 (1) A judge shall arrive at least one (1) hour prior to the start of a show.

15 (2) At the beginning of a bout, the judges shall locate themselves on opposite sides of the
16 ring and shall carefully observe the performance of the contestants.

17 (3) At the conclusion of the bout, the judges shall render their decision based on the
18 requirements of Section 10 of this administrative regulation.

19 (4) Upon request of the referee, the judges shall assist in determining whether or not:

20 (a) A foul has been committed;

21 (b) Each contestant is competing in earnest; and

22 (c) There is collusion affecting the result of the bout.

23 Section 15. Timekeeper.

1 (1) The timekeeper shall be seated outside the ring near the bell and shall take the cue to
2 commence or take time out from the referee.

3 (2) The timekeeper shall be equipped with a whistle and a stop watch. Prior to the first
4 bout, the inspector shall ensure that the whistle and stopwatch function properly.

5 (3) Ten (10) seconds before the start of each round, the timekeeper shall give notice by
6 sounding the whistle.

7 (4) The timekeeper shall indicate the starting and ending of each round by sounding a horn
8 or striking the bell with a metal hammer.

9 (5) If a bout terminates before the scheduled limit, the timekeeper shall inform the
10 announcer of the exact duration of the bout.

11 (6) Ten (10) seconds prior to the end of each round, the timekeeper shall give warning by
12 striking a gavel three (3) times.

13 Section 16. Physicians and Healthcare Requirements.

14 (1) There shall be at least one (1) physician licensed by the commission at ringside at all
15 times during a bout. A bout shall not begin or continue if a physician is not at ringside.

16 (2) The physician shall have general supervision over the physical condition of each
17 contestant at all times while on the premises of a show or exhibition.

18 (3) The physician's pre-bout duties:

19 (a) A physician shall make a thorough physical examination of each contestant within eight
20 (8) hours prior to a bout.

21 1. The physician's examination shall include a review of the Mixed Martial Arts Pre-Fight
22 Medical Questionnaire of each contestant.

1 2. The physician shall deliver to the inspector the form Mixed Martial Arts Pre-Fight
2 Examination, [~~which is incorporated by reference in 201 KAR 27:011, Section 23(1)(c),~~] that
3 documents the results of the examination prior to the contestant entering the ring.

4 (b) The physician shall ensure that all equipment required by subsection (5) of this section
5 is present before the start of the first bout or exhibition.

6 (c) The physician shall prohibit a contestant from competing if the physician believes the
7 contestant is physically unfit for competition or impaired by alcohol or a controlled substance.

8 (4) The physician's duties during the bout or exhibition:

9 (a) The physician shall remain at ringside during the progress of any bout or exhibition
10 unless attending to a person.

11 (b) The physician shall observe the physical condition of each contestant during a bout or
12 match.

13 (c) The physician shall administer medical aid if needed or requested.

14 (d) The physician shall order the referee to pause or end a bout or exhibition if necessary
15 to prevent serious physical injury to a contestant.

16 (5) The physician shall have at ringside medical supplies necessary to provide medical
17 assistance for the type of injuries reasonably anticipated to occur in a mixed martial arts show. The
18 physician shall not permit a referee to begin a bout if the medical supplies are not present. At a
19 minimum, these medical supplies shall include:

20 (a) A clean stretcher and blanket, placed under or adjacent to the ring throughout each bout;

21 (b) Spine board;

22 (c) Cervical collar;

23 (d) Oxygen apparatus or equipment; and

1 (e) First aid kit.

2 (6) The promoter shall ensure that a certified ambulance with an emergency medical
3 technician is on the premises of a show at all times. A show shall not begin or continue if the
4 ambulance and emergency medical technician are not on the premises.

5 (7) The physician shall make a thorough physical examination of each contestant after each
6 bout. The physician shall deliver the form Mixed Martial Arts Post-Fight Examination~~[, which is~~
7 ~~incorporated by reference in 201 KAR 27:011, Section 23(1)(d)]~~ that documents the results of the
8 examination.

9 Section 17. Announcers.

10 (1) The announcer shall have general supervision over all announcements made to
11 spectators.

12 (a) The announcer shall announce the name of contestants, their weight, decisions at the
13 end of each match or bout, and any other matters as are necessary.

14 (b) A person other than the official announcer shall not make an announcement, unless
15 deemed necessary by an inspector.

16 (2) If a match or bout is stopped before its scheduled termination, the announcer shall
17 immediately confer with the referee and judges and then shall immediately announce the decision.

18 (3) The announcer shall not enter the ring during the actual progress of a match or bout.

19 Section 18. Referees.

20 (1) The referee shall be the chief official of the show, be present in the ring at all times,
21 and have general supervision over each contestant, manager, and second during the entire event.

22 (2)

1 (a) The referee shall have the authority to disqualify a contestant who commits a foul and
2 award the decision to the opponent.

3 (b) The referee shall immediately disqualify a contestant who commits an intentional or
4 deliberate foul that causes serious physical injury to an opponent.

5 (3) The referee's duties and responsibilities shall be as established in this subsection.

6 (a) The referee shall, before starting a bout or match, ascertain from each contestant the
7 name of the contestant's chief second. The referee shall hold the chief second responsible for the
8 conduct of the chief second's assistants during the progress of the bout or match.

9 (b) The referee shall call the contestants together in the ring immediately preceding a bout
10 or match for final instructions. During the instructional meeting, each contestant shall be
11 accompanied in the ring by the contestant's chief second only.

12 (c) The referee shall inspect the person, attire, and equipment of each contestant and make
13 certain that no foreign substances that are prohibited by KRS Chapter 229 or 201 KAR Chapter
14 27 have been applied on a contestant's body or equipment or used by a contestant.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 Section 19. Trainers and Seconds.

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

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

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

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

17 Section 20. Medical Prohibitions.

18 (1) The executive director, the executive director's designee, or a commission
19 representative may issue an order for a medical suspension of a contestant's license under the
20 following circumstances:

21 (a) [(1)] A contestant who has been repeatedly knocked out and severely beaten shall be
22 retired and not permitted to compete again if, after subjecting the contestant to a thorough

1 examination by a physician licensed by the commission, the medical advisory panel determines
2 action is necessary to protect the health and welfare of the contestant.

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

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

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

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

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

18 (2) [(5)] (a) A female mixed martial artist shall submit proof she is not pregnant prior to
19 her bout. The proof may be either:

20 1. An original or certified copy of the result of a medical test taken no more than one (1)
21 week before the day of the match that shows she is not pregnant; or

22 2. From an over-the-counter home pregnancy test taken while on the premises of the show
23 that tests for human chorionic gonadotropin.

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

2 1. She is pregnant; or

3 2. She fails to comply with this subsection.

4 Section 21. Insurance.

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

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

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

11 (4)

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

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

15 Section 22. Other Provisions.

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

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

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

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

4 (a) If an official rule conflicts with KRS Chapter 229 or a requirement in 201 KAR Chapter
5 27, the statute or administrative regulation shall prevail.

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

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

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

12 Section 23. Prohibitions and Restrictions.

13 (1) The following shall be prohibited:

14 (a) Battle royal type events;

15 (b) Use of excessive grease or other substance that may handicap an opponent; and

16 (c) Elbow strikes to the head if the bout is an amateur bout.

17 (2) Knees to the head shall be permitted, but shall only be used and delivered from a
18 standing position.

19 (3) A professional mixed martial arts contestant found to be competing during an amateur
20 mixed martial arts show shall have his or her license suspended for a period of not less than one
21 (1) year.

22 (4) A promoter who allows a professional to compete against an amateur shall have his or
23 her license suspended for a period of not less than one (1) year.

1 (5) Smoking shall be prohibited inside the gymnasium, room, or hall in which the ring is
2 located.

3 (6) Alcohol shall be prohibited inside the six (6) foot area alongside the ring.

4 Section 23. Incorporation by Reference.

5 (1) The following material is incorporated by reference:

6 (a) “Mixed Martial Arts Show Notice Form”, June 2023;

7 (b) “Mixed Martial Arts Pre-Fight Medical Questionnaire”, June 2023;

8 (c) “Mixed Martial Arts Pre-Fight Medical Examination”, June 2023;

9 (d) “Mixed Martial Arts Post-Fight Examination”, June 2023;

10 (e) “Mixed Martial Arts Medical Release Form”, June 2023;

11 (f) “Mixed Martial Arts Neurological Evaluation Form”, June 2023.

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

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

This is to certify that the Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission has reviewed and recommended this administrative regulation, as required by KRS 229.025 and KRS 229.171.

Matt Byrd, Executive Director
Kentucky Boxing & Wrestling Commission

Date

Secretary Ray A. Perry
Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet

Date

PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 1:00 PM Eastern Time at the Mayo-Underwood Building, Room 133CE, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Individuals interested in being heard at this hearing shall notify this agency in writing by five workdays prior to the hearing, of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing is received by that date, the hearing may be canceled. This hearing is open to the public. Any person who wishes to be heard will be given an opportunity to comment on the proposed administrative regulation. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments shall be accepted through August 31, 2023. Send written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to the contact person.

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.

REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS AND TIERING STATEMENT

201 KAR 27:016

Contact Person: Doug Hardin, Staff Attorney, Kentucky Boxing & Wrestling Commission

Phone: (502) 782-8204

Email: doug.hardin@ky.gov

(1) Provide a brief summary of:

(a) What this administrative regulation does: This regulation establishes general requirements for mixed martial arts matches, shows, and exhibitions.

(b) The necessity of this administrative regulation:

This regulation is necessary so that the Boxing & Wrestling Commission may establish standards for unarmed combat shows in Kentucky, which are authorized pursuant to KRS 229.025.

(c) How this administrative regulation conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:

KRS 229.025 authorizes and requires the Commission to promulgate administrative regulations for licensing participants, officials, and physicians for unarmed combat shows.

(d) How this administrative regulation currently assists or will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:

The Boxing & Wrestling Commission is charged with the responsibility of licensing and regulating unarmed combat shows. This administrative regulation establishes the process and forms necessary for licensure of participants, officials, and physicians. The regulation further establishes standards for compensation, pre-fight procedures, ring size, equipment and attire, weight classes, fight length, judging and scoring, and insurance.

(2) If this is an amendment to an existing administrative regulation, provide a brief summary of:

(a) How the amendment will change this existing administrative regulation:

This amendment corrects some typographical errors and amends the minimum fee scale for referees, timekeepers, judges, bout assistants, and physicians. It further updates the medical suspension section to establish a process for the Commission to indefinitely suspend injured contestants and for the contestants to appeal those suspensions. The amendment also incorporates medical forms to be used in the evaluation of injured contestants to aid in the Commission's determination of whether to reinstate a suspended contestant's license.

(b) The necessity of the amendment to this administrative regulation:

The adjusted fee schedule is designed to ensure that these officials receive fair compensation for services rendered. The medical suspension provisions and associated forms are necessary to ensure that boxing and kickboxing contestants who are injured undergo a proper examination and only return to competition when it is safe to do so.

(c) How the amendment conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:

These amendments conform to the content of the authorizing statute because this regulation sets forth licensing requirements as permitted by KRS 229.025.

(d) How the amendment will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:

The adjusted fee scheduled is designed to ensure that these officials receive fair compensation for services rendered. The new medical forms are designed to give the Commission and ringside officials adequate information to ensure that a contestant is healthy enough to compete.

(3) List the type and number of individuals, businesses, organizations, or state and local governments affected by this administrative regulation:

As of February 2023, the Boxing & Wrestling Commission licenses and regulates over 900 licensees that will be affected by this administrative regulation, as follows:

- Over 679 licensed contestants (includes boxers, kickboxers, amateur mixed martial artists, professional mixed martial artists, wrestlers, and elimination event contestants);
- Over 185 licensed non-contestants (includes judges, trainers, managers, referees, timekeepers, and seconds) for exempt charitable gaming organizations;
- Over 6 licensed medical providers (includes physicians and healthcare professionals)
- Over 40 licensed promoters

(4) Provide an analysis of how the entities identified in question (3) will be impacted by either the implementation of this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change, if it is an amendment, including:

(a) List the actions that each of the regulated entities identified in question (3) will have to take to comply with this administrative regulation or amendment:

Licensed promoters would be required to provide more compensation for referees, physicians, judges, timekeepers, and bout assistants. Physicians would be required to complete and submit the medical forms to the Commission.

(b) In complying with this administrative regulation or amendment, how much will it cost each of the entities identified in question (3):

The existing administrative regulation contains fees for licensure, which the amendment does not increase. Promoters will be required to increase compensate certain officials consistent with the fee schedule established in Section 3.

(c) As a result of compliance, what benefits will accrue to the entities identified in question (3):

The licensees mentioned in the fee scale will receive additional compensation. Additional compensation may result in higher quality officials and physicians.

(5) Provide an estimate of how much it will cost the administrative body to implement this administrative regulation:

(a) Initially:

There will be no additional cost to the Commission to implement this administrative regulation initially.

(b) On a continuing basis:

There will be no additional cost to the Commission to implement this administrative regulation on a continuing basis.

(6) What is the source of the funding to be used for the implementation and enforcement of this administrative regulation:

There is no additional funding necessary to implement this amendment to the administrative regulation.

(7) Provide an assessment of whether an increase in fees or funding will be necessary to implement this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change if it is an amendment:

The implementation of this administrative regulation requires no increase in fees or funding. The compensation required by this amendment is paid by licensed promoters.

(8) State whether or not this administrative regulation establishes any fees or directly or indirectly increases any fees:

This administrative regulation neither directly nor indirectly increases any fees.

(9) TIERING: Is tiering applied? (Explain why or why not):

The compensation required for the various licensees is tiered based on the number of bouts that the official or physician will oversee.

FISCAL NOTE

201 KAR 27:016

Contact Person: Doug Hardin, Staff Attorney, Kentucky Boxing & Wrestling Commission

Phone: (502) 782-8204

Email: doug.hardin@ky.gov

(1) What units, parts, or divisions of state or local government (including cities, counties, fire departments, or school districts) will be impacted by this administrative regulation?

The Kentucky Boxing & Wrestling Commission is the agency responsible for implementing this regulation.

(2) Identify each state or federal statute or federal regulation that requires or authorizes the action taken by the administrative regulation.

KRS 229.025, 229.031, 229.055, 229.111, 229.131, 229.155, 229.171, 15 U.S.C. 6304, 6305(a),

(b)

(3) Estimate the effect of this administrative regulation on the expenditures and revenues of a state or local government agency (including cities, counties, fire departments, or school districts) for the first full year the administrative regulation is to be in effect.

(a) How much revenue will this administrative regulation generate for the state or local government (including cities, counties, fire departments, or school districts) for the first year?

This administrative regulation is not intended to generate revenue for any state or local government agency.

(b) How much revenue will this administrative regulation generate for the state or local government (including cities, counties, fire departments, or school districts) for subsequent years?

This administrative regulation is not intended to generate revenue for any state or local government agency.

(c) How much will it cost to administer this program for the first year?

There is no cost to administer this administrative regulation for the first year.

(d) How much will it cost to administer this program for subsequent years?

There is no cost to administer this administrative regulation for subsequent years.

Note: If specific dollar estimates cannot be determined, provide a brief narrative to explain the fiscal impact of the administrative regulation.

Revenues (+/-): None

Expenditures (+/-): None

Other Explanation: None

(4) Estimate the effect of this administrative regulation on the expenditures and cost savings of regulated entities for the first full year the administrative regulation is to be in effect.

(a) How much cost savings will this administrative regulation generate for the regulated entities for the first year?

This administrative regulation is not intended to generate cost savings for regulated entities in the first year, except that certain licensed charitable gaming facilities will have a reduced annual fee if they do not host regularly scheduled bingo sessions.

(b) How much cost savings will this administrative regulation generate for the regulated entities for subsequent years?

This administrative regulation is not intended to generate cost savings for regulated entities in the first year.

(c) How much will it cost the regulated entities for the first year?

This administrative regulation is not intended to generate costs for regulated entities in the first year.

(d) How much will it cost the regulated entities for subsequent years?

Note: If specific dollar estimates cannot be determined, provide a brief narrative to explain the fiscal impact of the administrative regulation.

Cost Savings (+/-): None

Expenditures (+/-): None

Other Explanation: None

(5) Explain whether this administrative regulation will have a major economic impact, as defined below. "Major economic impact" means an overall negative or adverse economic impact from an administrative regulation of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) or more on state or local government or regulated entities, in aggregate, as determined by the promulgating administrative bodies. [KRS 13A.010(13)].

This administrative regulation is not intended or anticipated to have a major economic impact as defined by KRS 13A.010(13).

SUMMARY OF MATERIAL INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN 201 KAR 27:016

The following material is incorporated by reference in 201 KAR 27:016:

- (1) “Mixed Martial Arts Show Notice Form”, June 2023. This is a 1-page form used by promoters to provide the Commission with notice of a mixed martial arts show.
- (2) “Mixed Martial Arts Pre-Fight Medical Questionnaire”, 2023. This is a 2-page form completed by the contestant and reviewed by the ringside physician that gathers basic medical history about each contestant.
- (3) “Mixed Martial Arts Pre-Fight Medical Examination”, June 2023. This is a 1-page form completed by the ringside physician to indicate that the physician has conducted an examination of the contestant before the bout to ensure that it safe for the contestant to compete.
- (4) “Mixed Martial Arts Post-Fight Examination”, May 2023. This is a 1-page form completed by the ringside physician to report findings of the examination conducted of the conducted following the bout.
- (5) “Mixed Martial Arts Medical Release Form”, May 2023. This is a 1-page form completed by a licensed physician and submitted to the Commission recommending whether a fighter is fit to return to competition.
- (6) “Mixed Martial Arts Neurological Evaluation Form”, May 2023. This is a 6-page form completed by a licensed neurologist or neurosurgeon and submitted to the Commission to report the results of a neurological evaluation of a contestant who has sustained a head, neck, or spinal injury.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO MATERIAL INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

- (1) “Mixed Martial Arts Show Notice Form”, June 2023; this is a one (1) page form that the Commission is authorized to develop pursuant to KRS 229.025 and 229.171. This form removes information needed for kickboxing, boxing, and wrestling shows since those events will now have a separate show notice form. This form also updates the logo and includes the Commission’s contact information in the header.
- (2) “Mixed Martial Arts Pre-Fight Medical Questionnaire”, June 2023; this is a two (2) page form that the Commission is authorized to develop pursuant to KRS 229.025 and 229.171. This form updates the logo and includes the Commission’s contact information in the header, and the heading now includes “Mixed Martial Arts,” since other types of contests will now have their own pre-fight medical questionnaire forms.
- (3) “Mixed Martial Arts Pre-Fight Medical Examination”, June 2023; this is a one (1) page form that the Commission is authorized to develop pursuant to KRS 229.025 and 229.171. This form updates the logo and includes the Commission’s contact information in the header, and the heading now includes “Mixed Martial Arts,” since other types of contests will now have their own pre-fight examination forms.
- (4) “Mixed Martial Arts Post-Fight Examination”, June 2023; this is a one (1) page form that the Commission is authorized to develop pursuant to KRS 229.025 and 229.171. This form updates the logo and includes the Commission’s contact information in the header, and the heading now includes “Mixed Martial Arts,” since other types of contests will now have their own post-fight examination forms.

- (5) “Mixed Martial Arts Medical Release Form”, June 2023; this is a one (1) page form that the Commission is authorized to develop pursuant to KRS 229.025 and 229.171. This form updates the logo and includes the Commission’s contact information in the header, and the heading now includes “Boxing and Kickboxing,” since other types of contests will now have their own post-fight examination forms; and
- (6) “Mixed Martial Arts Neurological Evaluation Form”, June 2023; This is a one (1) page form that the Commission is authorized to develop pursuant to KRS 229.025 and 229.171. This is a new form.