

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOXING AND WRESTLING COMMISSION**NOTICE OF FINAL RULEMAKING**

The District of Columbia Boxing and Wrestling Commission ("Commission"), at its regular meeting held June 12, 2007, took final action to adopt new rules amending certain definitions within 19 DCMR Chapter 20 (Boxing and Wrestling: General Rules), creating a new section 2053 (Mixed Martial Arts License), and creating a new Chapter 24 (Mixed Martial Arts Uniform Rules). Notice of Emergency and Proposed Rulemaking was published in the Register on April 20, 2007, at 54 DCR 3611.

19 DCMR Chapter 20 (Boxing and Wrestling: General Rules) is amended as follows:

A new section 2053 is added to read as follows:

2053 MIXED MARTIAL ARTS LICENSE

2053.1 No person shall compete in a professional or amateur mixed martial arts event without a mixed martial arts license issued pursuant to this chapter.

2053.2 An applicant for a mixed martial arts license shall prove to the satisfaction of the Commission that the applicant is at least eighteen (18) years old. However, the Commission may waive this requirement with the written consent of the parents or legal guardian of the applicant.

2053.3 An applicant for a license under this section shall pass a physical examination conducted by a physician approved by the Commission who is licensed to practice medicine in the District. The physical examination consists of any tests and procedures that the Commission deems necessary to protect the health and safety of contestants, including a basic physical examination, an electroencephalogram (EEG), a computerized axial tomography (CAT) scan, and an ophthalmological examination. The Commission shall include the results of the examination on the licensee's passport.

The following definitions located within 19 DCMR section 2099.1 are amended to read as follows:

Contestant - a boxer, wrestler, kickboxer, or mixed martial artist as the context requires.

Event - a boxing, wrestling, kickboxing, or mixed martial arts contest, match, exhibition, or showing, as the context requires.

A new 19 DCMR Chapter 24, Mixed Martial Arts Uniform Rules, is added as follows:

CHAPTER 24 MIXED MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORM RULES

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2400 APPLICABILITY

- 2400.1 This chapter applies to mixed martial arts events, both professional and amateur, in the District of Columbia and to the participants in and promoters of these events.
- 2400.2 Chapter 20 of this title (Boxing and Wrestling General Rules and Procedures) shall supplement this chapter.

2401 WEIGHT CLASSES OF MIXED MARTIAL ARTISTS

- 2401.1 Mixed martial artists shall be divided into the following classes:
- (a) Flyweight: under 125.9 pounds;
 - (b) Bantamweight: 126 pounds to 134.9 pounds;

- (c) Featherweight: 135 pounds to 144.9 pounds;
- (d) Lightweight: 145 pounds to 154.9 pounds;
- (e) Welterweight: 155 pounds to 169.9 pounds;
- (f) Middleweight: 170 pounds to 184.9 pounds;
- (g) Light Heavyweight: 185 pounds to 204.9 pounds;
- (h) Heavyweight: 204 pounds to 264.9 pounds; and
- (i) Super Heavyweight: over 265 pounds.

2402 FIGHTING AREA

- 2402.1 The fighting area canvas shall be no smaller than 18 feet by 18 feet and no larger than 32 feet by 32 feet. The fighting area canvas shall be padded in a manner as approved by the Commissioner, with at least one-inch layer of foam padding. Padding shall extend beyond the fighting area and over the edge of the platform. No vinyl or other plastic rubberized covering shall be permitted.
- 2402.2 The fighting area canvas shall not be more than four feet above the floor of the building and shall have suitable steps or ramp for use by the participants. Posts shall be made of metal not more than six inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a minimum height of 58 inches above the fighting area canvas and shall be properly padded in a manner approved by the Commissioner.
- 2402.3 The fighting area canvas area shall be enclosed by a fence made of such material as will not allow a fighter to fall out or break through it onto the floor or spectators, including, but not limited to, vinyl coated chain link fencing. All metal parts shall be covered and padded in a manner approved by the Commissioner and shall not be abrasive to the contestants.
- 2402.4 The fence shall provide two separate entries onto the fighting area canvas.

2403 STOOLS

- 2403.1 A ring stool of a type approved by the Commissioner shall be available for each contestant.
- 2403.2 An appropriate number of stools or chairs, of a type approved by the Commissioner, shall be available for each contestant's seconds. Such stools or chairs shall be located near each contestant's corner.
- 2403.3 All stools and chairs used must be thoroughly cleaned or replaced after the conclusion of each bout.

2404 EQUIPMENT

2404.1 For each bout, the promoter shall provide a clean water bucket and a clean plastic water bottle in each corner.

2405 SPECIFICATIONS FOR BANDAGES ON MIXED MARTIAL ARTIST'S HANDS

2405.1 In all weight classes, the bandages on each contestant's hand shall be restricted to soft gauze cloth not more than 13 yards in length and two inches in width, held in place by not more than 10 feet of surgeon's tape, one inch in width, for each hand.

2405.2 Surgeon's adhesive tape shall be placed directly on each hand for protection near the wrist. The tape may cross the back of the hand twice and extend to cover and protect the knuckles when the hand is clenched to make a fist.

2405.3 The bandages shall be evenly distributed across the hand.

2405.4 Bandages and tape shall be placed on the contestant's hands in the dressing room in the presence of the inspector and in the presence of the manager or chief second of his or her opponent.

2405.5 Under no circumstances are gloves to be placed on the hands of a contestant until the approval of the inspector is received.

2406 MOUTH PIECES

2406.1 All contestants are required to wear a mouthpiece during competition. The mouthpiece shall be subject to examination and approval by the attending physician.

2406.2 The round cannot begin without the mouthpiece in place.

2406.3 If the mouthpiece is involuntarily dislodged during competition, the referee shall call time, clean the mouthpiece, and reinsert the mouthpiece at the first opportune moment, without interfering with the immediate action.

2407 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

2407.1 Male mixed martial artists shall wear a groin protector of their own selection, of a type approved by the Commissioner.

2407.2 Female mixed martial artists are prohibited from wearing groin protectors.

2407.3 Female mixed martial artists shall wear a chest protector during competition. The chest protector shall be subject to approval of the Commissioner.

2408 GLOVES

2408.1 The gloves shall be new for all events and in good condition or they shall be replaced.

- 2408.2 All contestants shall wear gloves weighing one of the following weights; four ounces, five ounces, or six ounces,
- 2408.3 All gloves worn by contestants shall be supplied by the promoter and approved by the Commission.
- 2408.4 No contestant shall supply his or her own gloves for participation.
- 2408.5 Contestants shall not wear damaged gloves during a match. Only new gloves that are of the same weight and in good condition shall replace damaged gloves.

2409 APPAREL

- 2409.1 Each contestant shall wear mixed martial arts shorts, biking shorts, or kickboxing shorts.
- 2409.2 Gi's or shirts are prohibited during competition.
- 2409.3 Shoes are prohibited during competition.

2410 APPEARANCE

- 2410.1 All contestants shall be cleanly shaven immediately prior to competition, except that a contestant may wear a closely cropped mustache.
- 2410.2 Hair shall be trimmed or tied back in such a manner as not to interfere with the vision of either contestant or cover any part of a contestant's face.
- 2410.3 Jewelry or piercing accessories are prohibited during competition.

2411 ROUND LENGTH

- 2411.1 Each non-championship mixed martial arts contest shall be three rounds, of five minutes duration, with a one-minute rest period between each round.
- 2411.2 Each championship mixed martial arts contest shall be five rounds, of five minutes duration, with a one-minute rest period between each round.

2412 STOPPING A CONTEST

- 2412.1 The referee and ringside physician are the sole arbiters of a bout and are the only individuals authorized to enter the fighting area at any time during competition and authorized to stop a contest.

2413 JUDGING

- 2413.1 All bouts will be evaluated and scored by three judges.
- 2413.2 The 10-Point Must Scoring System will be the standard system of scoring a bout. Under the 10-Point Must Scoring System, 10 points must be awarded to the winner of the round and nine points or less must be awarded to the loser, except for a rare even round, which is scored (10-10).

- 2413.3 Judges shall evaluate mixed martial arts techniques, such as effective striking, effective grappling, control of the fighting area, effective aggressiveness and defense.
- 2413.4 Evaluation shall be made in the order in which the techniques appear in section 2413.3 above, giving the most weight in scoring to effective striking, effecting grappling, control of the fighting area and effective aggressiveness and defense.
- 2413.5 Effective striking is judged by determining the total number of legal heavy strikes landed by a contestant.
- 2413.6 Effective grappling is judged by considering the amount of successful executions of a legal takedown and reversals. Examples of factors to consider are take downs from standing position to mount position, passing the guard to mount position, and bottom position fighters using an active, threatening guard.
- 2413.7 Fighting area control is judged by determining who is dictating the pace, location and position of the bout. Examples of factors to consider are countering a grappler's attempt at takedown by remaining standing and legally striking; taking down an opponent to force a ground fight; creating threatening submission attempts; passing the guard to achieve mount; and creating striking opportunities.
- 2413.8 Effective aggressiveness means moving forward and landing a legal strike.
- 2413.9 Effective defense means avoiding being struck, taken down or reversed while countering with offensive attacks.
- 2413.10 Judges shall utilize the following objective scoring criteria when scoring a round:
- (a) A round is to be scored as a 10-10 round when both contestants appear to be fighting evenly and neither contestant shows clear dominance in a round;
 - (b) A round is to be scored as a 10-9 round when a contestant wins by a close margin, landing the greater number of effective legal strikes, grappling and other maneuvers;
 - (c) A round is to be scored as a 10-8 round when a contestant overwhelmingly dominates by striking or grappling in a round; or
 - (d) A round is to be scored as a 10-7 round when a contestant totally dominates by striking or grappling in a round.
- 2413.11 Judges shall use a sliding scale and recognize the length of time the fighters are either standing or on the ground, as follows:
- (a) If the mixed martial artists spent a majority of a round on the canvas, then:
 - 1. Effective grappling is weighed first; and
 - 2. Effective striking is then weighed.
 - (b) If the mixed martial artists spent a majority of a round standing, then:
 - 1. Effective striking is weighed first; and
 - 2. Effective grappling is then weighed.

- (c) If a round ends with a relatively even amount of standing and canvas fighting, striking and grappling are weighed equally.

2414 WARNINGS

2414.1 The referee shall issue a single warning for the following infractions. After the initial warning, if the prohibited conduct persists, a penalty will be issued. The penalty may result in a deduction of points or disqualification:

- (a) Holding or grabbing the fence;
- (b) Holding opponent's shorts or gloves; or
- (c) The presence of more than one second on the fighting area perimeter.

2415 FOULS

2415.1 The following are fouls and will result in penalties if committed:

- (a) Butting with the head;
- (b) Eye gouging of any kind;
- (c) Biting or spitting at an opponent;
- (d) Hair pulling;
- (e) Fish hooking;
- (f) Groin attacks of any kind;
- (g) Intentionally placing a finger in any opponent's orifice;
- (h) Downward pointing of elbow strikes;
- (i) Small joint manipulation;
- (j) Strikes to the spine or back of the head;
- (k) Heel kicks to the kidney;
- (l) Throat strikes of any kind;
- (m) Clawing, pinching, twisting the flesh or grabbing the clavicle;
- (n) Kicking the head of a grounded fighter;
- (o) Kneeing the head of a grounded fighter;
- (p) Stomping of a grounded fighter;
- (q) The use of abusive language in fighting area;
- (r) Any unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to opponent;
- (s) Attacking an opponent on or during the break;
- (t) Attacking an opponent who is under the referee's care at the time;

- (u) Timidity (avoiding contact, or consistent dropping of mouthpiece, or faking an injury);
 - (v) Interference from a mixed martial artist's seconds;
 - (w) Throwing an opponent out of the fighting area;
 - (x) Flagrant disregard of the referee's instructions; and
 - (y) Spiking an opponent to the canvas on his or her head or neck.
- 2415.2 Disqualification occurs after any combination of three of the fouls listed in section 2415.1 or after a referee determines that a foul was intentional and flagrant.
- 2415.3 Fouls will result in a point being deducted by the official scorekeeper from the offending mixed martial artist's score.
- 2415.4 Only a referee can assess a foul. If the referee does not call the foul, judges shall not make that assessment on his or her own and cannot factor such into their scoring calculations.
- 2415.5 A fouled fighter has up to five minutes to recuperate.
- 2415.6 If a foul is committed, the referee shall:
- (a) Call time;
 - (b) Check the fouled mixed martial artist's condition and safety; and
 - (c) Assess the foul to the offending contestant, deduct points, and notify each corner's seconds, the judges, and the official scorekeeper.
- 2415.7 If a bottom contestant commits a foul, unless the top contestant is injured, the fight shall continue, so as not to jeopardize the top contestant's superior positioning at the time. In such scenarios, the referee shall act as follows:
- (a) The referee shall verbally notify the bottom contestant of the foul;
 - (b) When the round is over, the referee shall assess the foul and notify both corners' seconds, the judges and the official scorekeeper; and
 - (c) The referee may terminate a bout based on the severity of a foul. For such a flagrant foul, a contestant shall lose by disqualification.
- 2416 INJURIES SUSTAINED DURING COMPETITION**
- 2416.1 If an injury sustained during competition as a result of a legal maneuver is severe enough to terminate a bout, the injured contestant loses by technical knockout.
- 2416.2 If an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul is severe enough to terminate a bout, the contestant causing the injury loses by disqualification.
- 2416.3 If an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul and the bout is allowed to continue, the referee shall notify the scorekeeper to automatically deduct two points from the contestant who committed the foul.

- 2416.4 If an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul causes the injured contestant to be unable to continue at a subsequent point in the contest, the injured contestant shall win by technical decision, if he or she is ahead on the scorecards. If the injured contestant is even or behind on the score cards at the time of stoppage, the outcome of the bout shall be declared a technical draw.
- 2416.5 If a contestant injures himself or herself while attempting to foul his or her opponent, the referee shall not take any action in his or her favor, and the injury shall be treated in the same manner as an injury produced by a fair blow.
- 2416.6 If an injury sustained during competition as a result of an accidental foul is severe enough for the referee to stop the bout immediately, the bout shall result in a no contest if stopped before two rounds have been completed in a three-round bout or if stopped before three rounds have been completed in a five-round bout.
- 2416.7 If an injury sustained during competition as a result of an accidental foul is severe enough for the referee to stop the bout immediately, the bout shall result in a technical decision awarded to the contestant who is ahead on the score cards at the time the bout is stopped only when the bout is stopped after two rounds of a three-round bout, or three rounds of a five-round bout have been completed.
- 2416.8 There will be no scoring of an incomplete round. However, if the referee penalizes either contestant, then the appropriate points shall be deducted when the scorekeeper calculates the final score.

2417 BOUT RESULTS

- 2417.1 Judges designated by the Commission shall make the final decision in each event, unless the referee first stops the contest. Types of decisions are as follows;
- (a) Submission by Tap Out or Verbal Tap Out;
 - (b) Technical knockout;
 - (c) Knockout;
 - (d) Decision via scorecards;
 - (e) Draw;
 - (f) Disqualification;
 - (g) Forfeit;
 - (h) Technical draw;
 - (i) Technical decision; and
 - (j) No contest.
- 2417.2 The referee shall officially designate the winner of each event by raising the right hand of the winner.

2417.3 Notwithstanding section 2317.1, the Commission may overrule the referee or the judges concerning any decision in a contest.

2418 [RESERVED]

2419 LICENSING

2419.1 All mixed martial arts events shall be subject to the licensing requirements of 19 DCMR Chapter 20.

2419.2 The fee for a mixed martial artist license shall be as set forth in 17 DCMR Chapter 35.

2420 BOND PROCEDURE

2420.1 All mixed martial arts events shall be subject to the bond procedure requirements of D.C. Official Code § 3-606(d).

2421 INSPECTORS

2421.1 All mixed martial arts events shall be subject to inspection by the Commission and its inspectors pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 3-606(e), § 3-606(g), and 19 DCMR 2023.

2422 HEALTH AND SAFETY RULES

2422.1 All mixed martial arts events shall comply with the health and safety requirements of 19 DCMR 2126 regarding the protection of contestants during an event.

2422.2 All mixed martial arts events shall comply with the health and safety requirements of 19 DCMR 2127 regarding the protection of contestants after an event.

2422.3 All promoters of mixed martial arts events shall provide medical information, facilities and equipment, including but not limited to a stretcher and emergency oxygen, adequate for emergency occasions, and an ambulance for each mixed martial arts event, and all such medical facilities and equipment shall be approved in advance by the Commission.

2422.4 All mixed martial arts events shall comply with the insurance requirements of 19 DCMR 2026.

2423 WEIGH-IN OF MIXED MARTIAL ARTS CONTESTANTS

2423.1 Contestants shall be weighed in the presence of each other and of an official of the Commission at such time prior to the contest as deemed appropriate by the Commission.

2423.2 If a contest is postponed for more than twenty-four (24) hours, each contestant shall weigh in again on the actual date of the contest.

2423.3 A contestant shall appear at the time designated by the Commission for weighing in unless the contestant gives timely notice with a sufficient explanation and the Commission excuses the absence.

2423.4 A contestant shall present the contestant's license and passport at the weigh-in. If the contestant fails to present the license or passport, the Commission may impose a fine of a minimum of twenty-five dollars (\$ 25.00) and a maximum of one hundred dollars (\$ 100.00) or bar participation by the contestant in the scheduled contest, or both.

2499 DEFINITIONS

2499.1 As used in this chapter, the following terms and phrases have the meanings ascribed:

Decision via scorecards - A decision made based upon the scores recorded by the judges on the scorecard during the bout. Decisions may be unanimous, split, or majority as defined below:

1. Unanimous decision: When all three judges score the bout for the same contestant;
2. Split decision: When two judges score the bout for one contestant and one judge scores for the opponent; or
3. Majority decision: When two judges score the bout for the same contestant and one judge scores a draw.

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

Draw: When the bout is scored a tie by the judges unanimously, by a majority, or by a split as defined below:

1. Unanimous decision - When all three judges score the bout a draw;
2. Majority decision - When two judges score the bout a draw; or
3. Split decision - When all three judges score differently and the score total results in a draw.

Forfeit - When a contestant fails to begin competition or prematurely ends the contest for reasons other than injury or by indicating a tap out.

Knockout - The failure of a contestant to rise from the canvas.

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

No contest - When a contest is prematurely stopped due to accidental injury and a sufficient number of rounds have not been completed to render a decision via the scorecards.

Split decision - When two judges score the bout for one contestant and one judge scores for the opponent.

Tap out - When a contestant physically uses his hand to indicate that he or she no longer wishes to continue.

Technical decision - When the bout is prematurely stopped due to injury and a contestant is leading on the scorecards.

Technical draw - When an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul causes the injured contestant to be unable to continue and the injured contestant is even or behind on the score cards at the time of stoppage.

Technical knockout - When a referee stops bout, a ringside physician stops bout, or when an injury as a result of a legal maneuver is severe enough to terminate a bout.

Unanimous Decision - When all three judges score the bout the same for each contestant.

Verbal tap out - When a contestant verbally announces to the referee that he or she does not wish to continue.

2424.2 The definitions in § 2099 of Chapter 20 of this title are incorporated by reference into and are applicable to this chapter.

All persons desiring to comment on these proposed regulations should submit comments in writing to Paul Waters, Legislative Liaison, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Suite 9400, 941 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, not later than thirty (30) days after publication of this notice in the D.C. Register. Copies of the proposed rules can be obtained from the address listed above. A copy fee of one dollar (\$1.00) will be charged for each copy of the proposed rulemaking requested.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY

NOTICE OF FINAL RULEMAKING

The Director of the Child and Family Services Agency ("CFSA"), acting pursuant to § 2(o) of the Child and Family Services Agency Establishment Amendment Act of 2000, effective April 4, 2001, D.C. Law 13-277, D.C. Official Code § 4-1303.03(a-1), (10), (12) (2001) and § 4 of the Youth Residential Facilities Licensure Act of 1986, effective August 13, 1986, D.C. Law 6-139, D.C. Official Code § 7-2103 (2001), hereby gives notice of the adoption of final rulemaking amending Chapter 60 of Title 29 DCMR, "Foster Homes", by adding a new § 6000.5. The Notice of Emergency and Proposed Rulemaking was published on May 4, 2007 at 54 DCR 4208. These final rules will be effective upon publication of this notice in the D.C. Register.

29 DCMR Ch. 60 is amended as follows.

A new § 6000.5 is added as follows:

6000.5 The Director of Child and Family Services Agency, upon written application and for good cause, may waive any provision of 29 DCMR § 6027 for temporary licensing of kin that does not adversely affect child safety.