

# DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, LABOR AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

## DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

### UNARMED COMBAT

(By authority conferred on the department of energy, labor and economic growth by 2004 PA 403, MCL 338.3601 to MCL 338.3633, and ERO 2008-004, MCL 445.2025 )

#### PART 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### **R 339.101 Definitions.**

Rule 101. (1) As used in these rules:

(a) "Act" means 2004 PA 403, MCL 338.3601, known as the unarmed combat regulatory act.

(b) "Boxer" is a person licensed to engage in a martial arts event in which the sole martial art employed is that of "boxing" as that term is commonly and historically understood.

(c) "Boxing event, contest, or show" means a contest or contests between 2 persons who have agreed to engage in unarmed combat in which only the martial art of boxing is employed.

(d) "Contest" means an individual bout between 2 boxers or 2 mixed martial artists.

(e) "Contestant" means a person who competes in a boxing or mixed martial arts event, contest, or show.

(f) "Department representative" means an individual employed by or under contract with the department who is assigned to assure compliance with the law and rules at a boxing or mixed martial arts event.

(g) "Down" means when any part of a boxer's body, except his or her feet, touches the ring floor, or when the boxer is hanging helplessly over the ropes as a result of a legal blow as ruled by the referee.

(h) "Drug" means a controlled substance as regulated under sections 7101 to 7231 of 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.7101 to 333.7231.

(i) "Gong" means a bell, horn, buzzer, or other audible device approved by the department that has a clear tone loud enough for the contestants and referee to hear.

(j) "License" means the document issued to a person under the act which will enable that person to participate in a boxing or mixed martial arts event, contest, or show as a contestant, official, or promoter which participation would otherwise be prohibited by the act. License includes a permit or approval.

(k) "Mixed martial artist" means a person who is licensed to compete in a mixed martial arts event or contest.

(l) "Mixed martial arts event, contest, or show" means a contest or contests between 2 persons who have agreed to engage in unarmed combat in which mixed martial arts, as defined in the act, are employed.

(m) "Mandatory count of 8" means a required count of 8 that is given by a referee to a boxer who has been knocked down.

- (n) "No contest" means that neither contestant wins the contest.
  - (o) "Passport" means identification issued by the department.
  - (p) "Reinstatement" means the granting of a license to a person whose license has been revoked or suspended as a result of discipline.
  - (q) "Relicensure" means the granting of a license to a person whose license has lapsed for failure to renew the license within 60 days after the expiration date.
  - (r) "Ring" means the enclosure in which the event, contest, or show take place.
  - (s) "Show" means the program of boxing or mixed martial arts planned for a specific date by the promoter and includes 1 or more individual contests.
  - (t) "Stalling and faking" means that a contestant is pulling his or her punches or holding an opponent or deliberately maintaining a clinch.
  - (u) "Standing mandatory count of 8" means a count of 8 that is given at the discretion of a referee to a boxer who has been dazed by a blow and is unable to defend himself or herself.
- (2) The terms defined in section 10 of the act have the same meanings when used in these rules.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.102 Commission meetings.**

Rule 102 Commission meetings shall be conducted in accordance with 1975 PA 267, MCL 15.261, the Open Meetings Act, and are open to the public.

History: 2005 AACCS.

**R 339.103 Amendment; New Jersey rules.**

Rule 103. New Jersey Rule 13:46-24A and 13:46-24B, adopted under the act and by authority of the act, are altered, supplemented, updated, and amended, as set forth in these rules.

History: 2009 AACCS.

**PART 2. PROFESSIONAL BOXING AND MIXED MARTIAL ARTS**

**R 339.201 Weight classifications for professional boxers and professional mixed martial artists.**

Rule 201. (1) Boxing contestants shall be divided into the following classes and there shall be not more than a 7-pound weight differential for contestants weighing 126 to 199 pounds, and not more than a 5-pound weight differential for contestants weighing up to 126 pounds. The weight differential applicable to the lowest weight contestant applies.

- (a) Jr. Flyweight    Up to 108 lbs.
- (b) Flyweight    Between 108.1 lbs. and 112 lbs.
- (c) Bantamweight                                        Between 112.1 lbs. and 118 lbs.

- (d) Jr. Featherweight                      Between 118.1 lbs. and 122 lbs.
- (e) Featherweight                         Between 122.1 lbs. and 126 lbs.
- (f) Jr. Lightweight                        Between 126.1 lbs. and 130 lbs.
- (g) Lightweight                            Between 130.1 lbs. and 135 lbs.
- (h) Jr. Welterweight                      Between 135.1 lbs. and 140 lbs.
- (i) Welterweight                          Between 140.1 lbs. and 147 lbs.
- (j) Jr. Middleweight                      Between 147.1 lbs. and 154 lbs.
- (k) Middleweight                         Between 154.1 lbs. and 160 lbs.
- (l) Super Middleweight                  Between 160.1 lbs. and 168 lbs.
- (m) Lt. Heavyweight                     Between 168.1 lbs. and 175 lbs.
- (n) Cruiserweight                        Between 175.1 lbs. and 199 lbs.
- (o) Heavyweight                         Over 199 lbs.

(2) Mixed martial artists shall be divided into the following classes and there shall be not more than a 3-pound weight differential for contestants weighing up to 155 pounds and not more than a 5-pound weight differential for contestants weighing 155.1 pounds up to 205 pounds. The weight differential applicable to the lowest weight contestant applies.

- (a) Flyweight:                              Up to 125.9 pounds.
- (b) Bantamweight:                        Between 126 lbs. and 135 lbs.
- (c) Featherweight:                        Between 135.1 lbs. and 145 lbs.
- (d) Lightweight:                          Between 145.1 lbs. and 155 lbs.
- (e) Welterweight:                         Between 155.1 lbs. and 170 lbs.
- (f) Middleweight:                         Between 170.1 lbs. and 185 lbs.
- (g) Light Heavyweight:                  Between 185.1 lbs. and 205 lbs.
- (h) Heavyweight:                         Between 205.1 lbs and 265 lbs.
- (i) Super Heavyweight:                  over 265 pounds.

(3) The department may refuse to permit a contest in which the contestants are not fairly matched. In determining if contestants are fairly matched, the department shall consider all of the following factors:

- (a) The win-loss record of the contestants.
- (b) The weight differential.
- (c) The caliber of opponents.
- (d) Each contestant's number of contests.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.202 Weighing in.**

Rule 202. (1) Not earlier than the day before the start of an event, or within 48 hours before the start of an event for the heavyweight class, the department representative shall weigh in each contestant in the presence of his or her opponent, unless the opponent is properly excused from appearing.

(2) Contestants shall appear at the time designated for weighing in unless properly excused from appearing.

(3) Only those contestants who have been previously approved for the event shall be permitted to weigh in.

(4) If the weigh-in is held on the day of the event, a contestant who loses more than 2 pounds to make weight and be reweighed shall not compete without the approval of either the physician or the department representative in consultation with the physician.

(5) Male contestants may weigh in wearing only boxers, trunks, or briefs.

(6) Female contestants may weigh in wearing only shorts and a sports bra.

(7) The promoter shall provide a privacy sheet or towel to shield the contestant if necessary.

(8) The date and time of the weigh-in shall be approved by the department.

History: 2005 AACS; 2009 AACS.

### **R 339.202a Substitute contestants.**

Rule 202a All substitutions shall be approved by the department and shall occur not later than either of the following:

(a) 2 p.m. on the day of the event.

(b) If an event is held on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, then 2 p.m. on the regular business day before the event.

History: 2009 AACS.

### **R 339.203 Licensing requirements; boxers and mixed martial artists.**

Rule 203 (1) A boxer or mixed martial artist may be licensed as a manager or a second, but shall not be licensed as a timekeeper, judge, referee, or matchmaker.

(2) Contestants shall be licensed at the time of the contest.

(3) A boxer or mixed martial artist shall not act as his or her own promoter.

(4) A boxing or mixed martial arts event or show shall not be promoted, held, or conducted without proper licensure of the event or show and all participants who are required to be licensed under the act or these rules.

History: 2005 AACS; 2009 AACS.

### **R 339.203a Licensing requirements; mixed martial arts referee.**

Rule 203a. (1) An applicant for a license as a referee of mixed martial arts events shall be at least 21 years of age and shall submit the results of a medical examination on forms provided by the department with the application for licensure.

(2) The department may require an applicant for licensure as a mixed martial arts referee to complete an examination approved by the department.

(3) The department may require an applicant for licensure as a mixed martial arts referee to obtain amateur experience, training, or other qualifications satisfactory to the department.

(4) An individual may apply for a reciprocal license as a mixed martial arts referee if both of the following apply:

(a) The applicant is actively licensed in good standing as a mixed martial arts referee in another state.

(b) The licensing requirements in the state where the applicant is licensed are substantially equivalent to this state's licensing requirements.

History: 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.203b Licensing requirements; mixed martial arts judge.**

Rule 203b. (1) An applicant for a license as a judge of mixed martial arts events shall be at least 21 years of age.

(2) The department may require an applicant for licensure as a mixed martial arts judge to complete an examination approved by the department.

(3) The department may require an applicant for licensure as a mixed martial arts judge to obtain amateur experience, training, or other qualifications satisfactory to the department.

(4) An individual may apply for a reciprocal license as a mixed martial arts judge if both of the following apply:

(a) The applicant is actively licensed in good standing as a mixed martial arts judge in another state.

(b) The licensing requirements in the state where the applicant is licensed are substantially equivalent to this state's licensing requirements.

History: 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.203c Licensing requirements; mixed martial arts timekeeper.**

Rule 203c. (1) An applicant for a license as a timekeeper of mixed martial arts events shall be at least 21 years of age.

(2) The department may require an applicant for licensure as a mixed martial arts timekeeper to complete an examination approved by the department.

(3) The department may require an applicant for licensure as a mixed martial arts timekeeper to obtain amateur experience, training, or other qualifications satisfactory to the department.

History: 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.203d Applications for licensure.**

Rule 203d. An application for licensure shall be made on a form provided by the department and accompanied by the appropriate fees prescribed in R 339.303.

History: 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.204 Number of rounds.**

Rule 204. (1) A professional boxing contest shall consist of not less than 4 and not more than 12 scheduled rounds. Three minutes of boxing shall constitute a round for

men, and t2 minutes of boxing shall constitute a round for women. There shall be a rest period of 1 minute between the rounds.

(2) A boxing promoter shall contract with a sufficient number of contestants to provide a program that consists of not less than 30, and not more than 56, rounds of professional boxing, unless otherwise approved by the department.

(3) When a professional program is held in conjunction with a USA Boxing sanctioned Pro-Am program, the minimum number of required professional rounds may be reduced to 12, provided the total number of scheduled rounds (professional and amateur) is not less than 30.

(4) A mixed martial arts contest shall consist of 3 rounds, of 5 minutes duration, with a 1-minute rest period between each round.

(5) Each championship mixed martial arts contest shall be 5 rounds, of 5 minutes duration, with a 1-minute rest period between each round.

(6) A mixed martial arts promoter shall contract with a sufficient number of contestants to provide a program that consists of not less than 30, and not more than 54, rounds of professional mixed martial arts, unless otherwise approved by the department.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.205 Boxing ring; dimensions and construction.**

Rule 205. (1) The boxing ring shall be square and be not less than 16 feet nor more than 24 feet on a side, measured within the ropes. The boxing ring floor shall extend not less than 18 inches beyond the ropes. There shall be padding over the boxing ring post if the ring posts are nearer than 18 inches to the ring ropes.

(2) Two sides of the boxing ring opposite of each other shall have a designated color. One side shall be blue; the opposite side shall be red.

(3) The floor of the boxing ring shall be padded with ensolite or another similar closed-cell foam, with at least a 1-inch layer of foam padding, with a top covering of canvas, duck, or similar material tightly stretched and laced securely in place under the apron. The corners of the ring shall be padded. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges shall not be used.

(4) Boxing ring posts shall be not less than 3, nor more than 4, inches in diameter extending from the floor to a height of 58 inches above the floor of the ring. The ropes shall be connected to posts with the extension not shorter than 18 inches.

(5) The boxing ring shall be not more than 4 feet high. Steps shall be provided for use by the contestants and officials.

(6) The boxing ring shall not have less than 4 ropes which may be tightened and which are not less than 1 inch in diameter. The ropes shall be evenly spaced, securely tied halfway between the ring posts, and wrapped in a soft material.

(7) There shall not be any obstruction or object, including, without limitation, a triangular border on any part of the ring floor.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.205a Mixed martial arts ring; dimensions and construction.**

Rule 205a. (1) The ring canvas shall be no smaller than 18 feet wide and no larger than 32 feet across.

(2) Two sides opposite of each other shall have a designated color. One side shall be blue; the opposite side shall be red.

(3) The floor of the ring area shall be padded with ensolite or another similar closed-cell foam, with at least a 1-inch layer of foam padding, with a top covering of canvas, duck, or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the platform of the ring. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges shall not be used.

(4) The platform of the ring shall not be more than 4 feet above the floor of the building and shall have suitable steps for use by the contestants and officials.

(5) Ring posts shall be made of metal, not more than 6 inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to 5 to 7 feet above the floor of the ring, and shall be properly padded in a manner approved by the department.

(6) The fencing used to enclose the ring shall be made of a material that will prevent a contestant from falling out or breaking through the ring onto the floor of the building or onto spectators.

(7) Any metal portion on the interior of the ring shall be covered and padded in a manner approved by the department and shall not be abrasive to the contestants.

(8) The ring shall have 2 entrances unless otherwise approved by the department. The entrance shall be padded or covered so that there is not exposed metal on the interior of the ring.

(9) There shall not be any obstruction on any part of the ring surrounding the area in which the contestants are competing.

(10) Any metal parts used to enforce the ring wall shall be positioned as to not interfere with the safety of the contestants.

(11) There shall be an area of at least 4 feet between the ring and the first row of public seating that allows freedom of movement of contest officials and department personnel.

(12) The area immediately surrounding the ring is subject to the control of the department. Access shall be effectively controlled by event security staff. The seating around the apron of the ring cannot be sold. An area for credentialed media personnel may be allowed with the approval of the department.

(13) There shall be adequate space provided in each contestant's corner for licensed seconds to sit during a round.

(14) The department may request a promoter of a mixed martial arts event, contest, or show to place at least 2 video screens which meet the approval of the department, which will allow patrons to view action inside the ring.

History: 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.206 Gloves; boxing.**

Rule 206. (1) A boxing contestant's gloves shall be examined before a contest by the referee. If gloves are broken or unclean or if the padding is found to be misplaced or lumpy, they shall be changed before the contest begins and shall be retained by the department representative who shall check them for tampering.

(2) A boxing promoter shall have on hand an extra set of gloves to be used if a boxing contestant's gloves are broken or damaged during the course of a contest.

(3) Boxing gloves for a main event may be put on in the ring after the referee has inspected the hand wraps of both boxing contestants.

(4) During a boxing contest, male contestants shall wear gloves weighing not less than 8 ounces each. Female contestants shall wear gloves weighing not less than 10 ounces each. The weight of the gloves may be changed at the discretion of the department.

(5) Boxing gloves shall be thumb-attached and of the promoter's choice.

(6) Boxing glove laces shall be tied on the outside of the back of the wrist of the gloves and shall be secured with waterproof surgeon's tape. The tips of the laces shall be removed.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.206a Gloves; mixed martial arts.**

Rule 206a. (1) For a professional mixed martial arts contest, each contestant shall wear gloves that weigh not less than 4 ounces and not more than 8 ounces. The gloves shall be supplied by the promoter and examined by the referee before a contest.

(2) Mixed martial arts contestants competing against one another in a contest shall use the same size, brand, and model of gloves for their contest unless approved by the department.

(3) The gloves worn by the contestants during a mixed martial arts event shall be examined by the referee. If padding in any glove is found to be misplaced or lumpy or if any glove is found to be unfit, the glove must be changed before the start of the contest or exhibition. Breaking or roughing of gloves is prohibited.

(4) The gloves for every mixed martial arts contest that is designated as a main event shall be new and made to fit the hands of the competitor.

(5) Each mixed martial arts promoter shall have an extra set of gloves of the appropriate weight available to be used in case a glove is broken or otherwise damaged during the course of a mixed martial arts contest.

History: 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.207 Hand wrap specifications.**

Rule 207. (1) Except as agreed to by the managers of the contestants or as provided in subrule (2) of this rule, a boxing contestant's hand wrap for each hand shall consist of soft gauze that is not more than 10 yards long and not more than 2 inches wide. The gauze shall be held in place by not more than 6 feet of surgeon's tape per hand.

(2) Except as agreed to by the managers of the opposing contestants, light heavyweight, cruiserweight, and heavyweight boxing contestants' hand wraps for each hand shall consist of soft gauze that is not more than 12 yards long and not more than 2 inches wide. Gauze shall be held in place by not more than 8 feet of surgeon's tape per hand.

(3) To protect a boxing contestant's hand, hand wraps may be held in place by winding surgeon's tape not more than 12-inches wide around the hand.



(4) For mixed martial arts contestants in all weight classes, the bandages on each contestant's hand shall consist of soft gauze that is not more than 13 yards long and 2 inches wide, held in place by not more than 10 feet of surgeon's tape, 1 inch wide, for each hand. Both of the following shall apply:

(a) The 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.

(b) The bandages shall be evenly distributed across the hand.

(5) Hand wraps shall be adjusted in the dressing room under the supervision of the department representative.

(6) Water or any other substance other than surgeon's tape on the hand wraps shall not be used.

History: 2005 AACS; 2009 AACS.

### **R 339.209 Mouthpieces.**

Rule 209. A round shall not begin until the contestant's protective mouthpiece is in place. If, during a round, the mouthpiece falls out of the contestant's mouth, the referee shall, as soon as practicable, stop the contest and escort the contestant to his or her corner. The mouthpiece shall be rinsed out and replaced in the contestant's mouth and the contest shall continue.

History: 2005 AACS.

### **R 339.210 Joint supports.**

Rule 210. During a contest, contestants may wear neoprene joint supports that do not contain any hard plastic, stabilizer material, or metal support.

History: 2009 AACS.

### **R 339.211 Contestant use or administration of any substance.**

Rule 211. (1) The use or administration of drugs, stimulants, or nonprescription preparations by or to a contestant during a contest is prohibited, except as provided in this rule.

(2) A substance other than water shall not be given to a contestant during the course of the contest. Water shall only be provided in clear containers.

(3) Petroleum jelly may be allowed around the eyes; however, the use of petroleum jelly, grease, or any other substance on the arms, legs, or body is prohibited.

(4) The use of coagulants, as approved by the ringside physician, may be allowed between rounds to stop the bleeding of minor cuts and lacerations sustained by a contestant. The use of Monsel solution, silver nitrate, New Skin, flex collodion, or substances having an iron base is prohibited, and the use of such substances by a contestant is cause for immediate disqualification.

(5) The ringside physician shall monitor the use and application of any foreign substances administered to a contestant before or during a contest and shall confiscate any suspicious foreign substance for possible laboratory analysis, the results of which shall be forwarded to the department.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.213 Ringside equipment.**

Rule 213. (1) Each promoter shall ensure that all of the following items are provided at each event:

- (a) A sufficient number of buckets for use by the contestants.
- (b) Stools for use by the seconds.
- (c) Bio-protective gloves for use by referees, seconds, ringside physicians, and department representatives.
- (d) Containers for contestants to spit in.
- (e) A portable resuscitator with oxygen.
- (f) An ambulance with emergency medical technicians on site until the last contestant leaves the venue. Arrangements shall be made for a replacement ambulance if the first ambulance is required to transport a contestant for medical treatment. The location of the ambulance and the arrangements for substitute ambulance service shall be communicated to the physician.
- (g) Seats at ringside for assigned officials. The physician shall be seated near the steps into the ring.
- (h) Scales for weigh-ins, which the department may require to be certified. Scales shall be of good quality and capable of registering a weight for participants.
- (i) A gong or other audible device.
- (j) A public address system.
- (k) A separate dressing room for each sex, if contestants of both sexes are participating.
- (l) A separate room for physical examinations.
- (m) A separate dressing room shall be provided for officials, unless the physical arrangements of the site make the provision of an additional dressing room impossible.
- (n) Adequate security personnel.
- (o) High stools for use by the judges.
- (p) Sufficient contest sheets for ring officials and department representatives.
- (q) A cleaning solution used to clean blood and debris in the cage or ring.
- (2) A promoter shall only hold boxing or mixed martial arts contests, events, or shows in premises that conform to the laws, ordinances, and regulations of the city, town, or village where the shows are situated.
- (3) Restrooms shall not be used as dressing rooms, rooms for physical examinations or weigh-ins.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.215 Contest officials.**

Rule 215. (1) Before a contest may be held, the department shall assign not less than the following officials to each contest regulated under these rules:

- (a) One referee.
- (b) Three judges.
- (c) One timekeeper.
- (d) One physician.

(2) A licensed referee, judge, or timekeeper may officiate licensed mixed martial arts events or amateur events that are exempt from the act. A licensed boxing referee, judge, or timekeeper may officiate a USA Boxing sanctioned show.

(3) A referee or judge shall not officiate or accept an assignment to officiate when that assignment may impair the referee's or judge's independence of judgment or action in the performance of the referee's or judge's duties. Violation of this subrule renders the violator subject to the penalties set forth in section 48 of the act.

(4) Officials shall be paid by the licensed promoter.

(5) Where a square ring is used, a judge shall be seated midway between the ring posts of the ring, but not on the same side as another judge, and shall have an unimpaired view of the ring. Where a ring of more than 4 sides is used, the judges shall be as evenly disbursed as practical.

(6) A referee shall not be assigned to officiate more than 32 scheduled rounds in 1 day, except when substituting for another referee who is incapacitated.

(7) A referee shall not wear jewelry that might cause injury to the contestants. Glasses, if worn, shall be protective athletic glasses or goggles with plastic lenses and a secure elastic band around the back of the head.

(8) Referees, seconds working in the corners, department representatives, and physicians shall wear bio-protective gloves in the performance of their duties.

(9) An official shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing his or her duties. The department may request an official to be tested for the presence of alcohol or drugs in the same manner that contestants are tested. Violation of this subrule or refusal to be tested shall subject the official to the penalties set forth in section 48 of the act.

(10) Ring officials shall avoid the appearance of partiality. A ring official shall not be licensed as a matchmaker, manager, second, or promoter. A ring official shall not own all or any portion of a contract of a mixed martial artist or a boxer.

(11) The department has sole authority for assignment of contest officials to an event.

History: 2005 AACS; 2009 AACS.

### **R 339.217 Conduct during shows.**

Rule 217. (1) Beginning 1 minute before the first round begins, only the referee, contestants, and the chief second may be in the ring. The referee shall clear the ring of all other individuals.

(2) Once a contest has begun, only referees, contestants, seconds, department representatives, physicians, and ring card persons shall be allowed in the ring.

(3) The referee may order that the ring and ringside area be cleared, at any time before, during, or after a contest, of any individual who is not authorized to be present

in the ring or ringside area. The department representative may order the clearing of the ringside area.

(4) If any individual refuses to clear the ring or ringside area when ordered to do so by the referee or the department representative, disputes a decision by an official, or encourages spectators to object to a decision either verbally or physically, then the individual is engaged in disruptive conduct. The referee, on his or her own initiative or at the request of the department representative, may stop a contest at any time until the disruptive conduct ceases. If the individual involved in disruptive conduct is the manager or second of a contestant, then the referee may order points deducted from that contestant's score or disqualify the contestant. If the conduct occurred after the decision was announced, then the department representative shall file complaints against any licensed individual involved in the disruptive conduct. A licensee who engages in disruptive conduct shall be subject to the penalties set forth in section 48 of the act.

(5) The referee is the sole arbiter of a contest and is the only individual authorized to enter the ring at any time during competition and authorized to stop a contest. The referee may confer with the ringside physician in determining whether to continue or stop a contest.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.219 Referees.**

Rule 219. (1) The referee is the chief official and sole arbiter of a contest. The referee shall decide all questions arising in the ring during a contest that are not specifically addressed in these rules.

(2) The referee shall, before each contest begins, determine the name and location of the physician assigned to officiate at the contest and each contestant's chief second.

(3) At the beginning of each contest, the referee shall summon the contestants and their chief seconds together for final instructions. After receiving the instructions, the contestants shall retire to their respective corners.

(4) Where difficulties arise concerning language, the referee shall make sure that the contestant understands the final instructions through an interpreter and shall use suitable gestures and signs during the contest.

(5) With the exception of the contestants, the referee, and the physician in the performance of his or her duties, a person shall not enter the ring, including the apron of the ring, during the progress of a round.

(6) If a contestant's manager or second steps into the ring or onto the apron of the ring during a round, then the contest shall be halted and the referee may eject the manager or second from the ringside working area. If the manager or second steps into the ring or onto the apron a second time during the contest, then the contest may be stopped and the decision awarded to the contestant's opponent due to disqualification.

(7) A referee shall inspect a contestant's gloves and the contestant's body to determine if a foreign substance has been applied.

(8) A referee shall not touch a contestant during a contest except when 1 or both contestants fail to obey the break command.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.221 Rescinded.**

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.223 Injuries and cuts; boxing.**

Rule 223. (1) If an injury or cut is produced by a fair blow and because of the severity of the blow the contest cannot continue, then the injured contestant shall be declared the loser by technical knockout.

(2) If a contestant intentionally fouls his or her opponent and an injury or cut is produced, and if, due to the severity of the injury or cut, the contestant cannot continue, then the contestant who commits the foul shall be declared the loser by disqualification.

(3) If a contestant receives an intentional butt or foul and the contest can continue, then the referee shall penalize the contestant who commits the foul by deducting points based upon the severity of the offense. The referee shall notify the judges that the injury or cut has been produced by an intentional unfair blow. If in the subsequent rounds the same injury or cut becomes so severe that the contest has to be suspended, then the decision shall be awarded as follows:

(a) A technical draw if the injured contestant is behind on points or even on a majority of the scorecards.

(b) A technical decision to the injured contestant if the injured contestant is ahead on points on a majority of the scorecards.

(4) If a contestant injures himself or herself trying to foul his or her opponent, then the referee shall not take any action in the contestant's favor, and the injury shall be considered the result of a fair blow from the contestant's opponent.

(5) If a contestant is accidentally butted in a contest and can continue, then the referee shall stop the action to inform the judges and acknowledge the butt. If in subsequent rounds, as a result of legal blows, the accidental butt injury worsens, then the referee shall stop the contest and declare a technical decision. The winner shall be the contestant who is ahead on points on a majority of the scorecards. If a contestant is accidentally butted in a contest and an injury or cut is produced and, due to the severity of the injury or cut, the contestant cannot continue, then the referee shall rule as follows:

(a) If the contest is stopped before 2 of the scheduled rounds have been completed, call the contest a technical draw.

(b) If the contest is stopped after 2 of the scheduled rounds have been completed, declare that the winner is the contestant who has a lead in points on a majority of the scorecards before the round of injury.

(6) If, in the opinion of the referee, a contestant has suffered a dangerous cut or injury, then the referee may stop the contest temporarily to summon the physician. If the physician recommends that the contestant can continue, the referee may order the contest to be continued. If the physician recommends that the contestant should not continue, then the referee shall order the contest to be terminated.

(7) A referee may give a contestant who receives an accidental low blow not more than 5 minutes to recover. Contestants shall be directed to neutral corners. The seconds shall not coach, administer water, or in any other way attend to their contestant. If the contestant cannot continue after 5 minutes he or she shall be declared the loser by technical knockout.

(8) If a contestant in a boxing contest is knocked down or given a standing mandatory 8 count or a combination of either occurs 3 times in 1 round, then the referee shall stop the contest and award a technical knockout to the opponent. The physician shall immediately enter the ring and examine the losing contestant.

(9) A physician shall immediately examine and administer aid to a contestant who is knocked out or injured, if, in the physician's professional judgment, there is a concern for the contestant's safety.

(10) If a contestant is knocked out or incapacitated, the referee or second shall not handle the contestant, except for the removal of a mouthpiece, unless directed by the physician to do so.

(11) A contestant shall not refuse to be examined by a physician.

(12) A contestant who has been knocked out shall not leave the site of the show until 1 hour has elapsed from the time of the examination or until released by the physician.

(13) The attending physician shall file a written report with the department on each contestant who has been knocked out or injured.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.223a Injuries and cuts; mixed martial arts.**

Rule 223a (1) If an injury sustained during competition as a result of a legal maneuver is severe enough to terminate a contest, then the injured contestant loses by technical knockout.

(2) If an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul is severe enough to terminate a contest, then the contestant causing the injury loses by disqualification.

(3) If an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul and the contest is allowed to continue, then the referee shall notify the scorekeeper to automatically deduct two points from the contestant who committed the foul.

(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, then the injured contestant shall win by technical decision, if he or she is ahead on the score cards. If the injured contestant is even or behind on the scorecards at the time of stoppage, then the outcome of the contest shall be declared a technical draw.

(5) If a contestant injures himself or herself while attempting to foul his or her opponent, then 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.

(6) If an injury sustained during competition as a result of an accidental foul is severe enough for the referee to stop the contest immediately, then the contest shall result in a no contest if stopped before 2 rounds have been completed in a 3-round contest or if stopped before 3 rounds have been completed in a 5-round contest.

(7) If an injury sustained during competition as a result of an accidental foul is severe enough for the referee to stop the contest immediately, then the contest shall result in a

technical decision awarded to the contestant who is ahead on the score cards at the time the contest is stopped only when the contest is stopped after 2 rounds of a 3-round contest, or 3 rounds of a 5-round contest have been completed.

(8) There shall 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.

(9) A physician shall immediately examine and administer aid to a contestant who is knocked out or injured, if, in the physician's professional judgment, there is a concern for the contestant's safety.

(10) If a contestant is knocked out or incapacitated, then the referee or second shall not handle the contestant, except for the removal of a mouthpiece, unless directed by the physician to do so.

(11) A contestant shall not refuse to be examined by a physician.

(12) A contestant who has been knocked out shall not leave the site of the show until 1 hour has elapsed from the time of the examination or until released by the physician.

(13) The attending physician shall file a written report with the department on each contestant who has been knocked out or injured.

History: 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.225 Knockouts.**

Rule 225. (1) A contestant in a boxing contest who is knocked down shall take a minimum mandatory count of 8.

(2) If a contestant in a boxing contest is dazed by a blow and, in the referee's opinion, is unable to defend himself or herself, then the referee shall give a standing mandatory count of 8 or stop the contest. If on the count of 8 the contestant, in the referee's opinion, is unable to continue, then the referee may count him or her out on his or her feet or stop the contest on the count of 8.

(3) If there is a knockdown in a boxing contest, then the timekeeper shall immediately start the count loud enough to be heard by the referee, who, after waving the opponent to the farthest neutral corner, shall pick up the count from the timekeeper and proceed from there. The referee shall stop the count if the opponent fails to remain in the corner. The count shall be resumed when the opponent has returned to the corner.

(4) The timekeeper shall signal the count to the referee.

(5) If the contestant taking the count in a boxing contest is still down when the referee calls the count of 10, then the referee shall wave both arms to indicate that the contestant has been knocked out. The referee shall summon the physician and shall then raise the opponent's hand as the winner. The referee's count is the official count.

(6) If at the end of a round a contestant in a boxing contest is down and the referee is in the process of counting, then the gong indicating the end of the round shall not be sounded, except for the last round. The gong shall only be sounded when the referee gives the command to box indicating the continuation of the contest.

(7) In the final round, the timekeeper's gong shall terminate the fight contest.

(8) A referee shall award a technical knockout decision to the opponent if a contestant is unable or refuses to continue when the gong sounds to begin the next round. The decision shall be awarded in the round started by the gong.

(9) The referee and timekeeper shall resume their count at the point it was suspended if a contestant in a boxing contest rises before the count of 10 is reached and falls down immediately without being struck.

(10) If both contestants in a boxing contest go down at the same time, then counting shall continue as long as 1 of them is still down or until the referee or the ringside physician determines that 1 or both of the contestants need immediate medical attention. If both contestants remain down until the count of 10, then the contest shall stop and the decision shall be scored as a double knockout.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.226 Types of contest results for mixed martial arts events.**

Rule 226. The following are the types of contest results for mixed martial arts events:

(a) Submission by either of the following:

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

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

(b) Technical knockout by either of the following:

(i) Referee stops the contest.

(ii) When an injury as a result of a legal maneuver is severe enough to terminate a contest.

(c) Knockout by failure to rise from the canvas.

(d) Decision via score cards includes any of the following:

(i) Unanimous decision: When all 3 judges score the contest for the same contestant.

(ii) Split decision: When 2 judges score the contest for 1 contestant and 1 judge scores for the opponent.

(iii) Majority decision: When 2 judges score the contest for same contestant and only 1 judge scores a draw.

(e) Draw includes any of the following:

(i) Unanimous Draw: When all 3 judges score the contest a draw.

(ii) Majority Draw: When 2 judges score the contest a draw.

(iii) Split Draw: When all 3 judges score differently and the score total results in a draw.

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

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

(h) 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.

(i) Technical decision: When the contest is prematurely stopped due to injury and a contestant is leading on the score cards.



(j) 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 score cards.

History: 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.227 Contestant outside of ring ropes.**

Rule 227. (1) A contestant who has been knocked, wrestled, or pushed, or who has fallen, through the ropes during a contest shall not be helped back into the ring and shall not be hindered in any way by anyone when trying to reenter the ring.

(2) If 1 contestant has fallen through the ropes, the other contestant shall retire to the farthest neutral corner and stay in that corner until ordered to continue the contest by the referee.

(3) The referee shall warn the contestant that the contestant has 20 seconds to return to the ring unassisted. After the warning by the referee, the referee shall begin the count, which shall be loud enough to be heard by the contestant.

(4) If the contestant enters the ring before the count of 20, the contest shall be resumed.

(5) If the contestant fails to enter the ring before the count of 20, the contestant shall be considered knocked out.

History: 2005 AACCS.

**R 339.229 Judging; boxing.**

Rule 229. (1) Officials who score a contest shall use the 10-point must system.

(2) For the purpose of this rule, the "10-point must system" means that the winner of each round receives 10 points as determined by clean hitting, effective aggressiveness, defense, and ring generalship. The loser of the round shall receive less than 10 points. If the round is even, each contestant receives 10 points. Fractions of points shall not be given.

(3) Officials who score the contest shall mark their cards in ink or in indelible pencil at the end of each round.

(4) Officials who score the contest shall sign their scorecards.

(5) Except as provided in subrule (6) of this rule, at the conclusion of each contest, the judges shall total the points for each contestant and indicate the winner by writing the winner's name at the designated area on the scorecard and circle the same name where it appears on the top of the scorecard.

(6) If a contest is scored on individual score sheets for each round, the referee shall, at the end of a round, collect the score sheet for the round from each judge and shall give the score sheets to the department representative for computation.

(7) Referees and judges shall be discreet at all times and shall not discuss their decisions with anyone during a show.

(8) A decision that is rendered at the termination of a boxing contest shall not be changed without a hearing, unless it is determined that a computation of the scorecards shows a clerical or mathematical error giving the decision to the wrong

contestant. If such an error is found, the decision may be changed by the department representative.

(9) The referee shall collect the score sheets from the judges and give them to the department representative for checking. After the sheets have been checked, the referee shall collect them and give them to the announcer, who shall announce the decision to the spectators.

(10) After a contest, the department representative shall collect and maintain the scorecards.

(11) If a referee becomes incapacitated and is unable to complete a boxing contest, then a time-out shall be called and the other referee who is assigned to the show shall assume the duties of the referee.

(12) If a judge becomes incapacitated and is unable to complete the scoring of a contest, then a time-out shall be called and an alternate licensed judge shall immediately be assigned to score the contest from the point at which he or she assumed the duties of a judge. If the incapacity of a judge is not noticed during a round, the referee shall score that round and the substitute judge shall score all subsequent rounds.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.230 Judging; mixed martial arts.**

Rule 230. (1) All mixed martial arts contests shall be evaluated by 3 judges.

(2) The 10-Point Must Scoring System will be the standard system of scoring a contest. Under the 10-Point Must Scoring System, 10 points must be awarded to the winner of the round and 9 points or fewer must be awarded to the loser, except for a rare even round, which is scored (10-10).

(3) Judges shall evaluate mixed martial arts techniques, such as effective striking, effective grappling, control of the ring, effective aggressiveness, and defense.

(4) Evaluation shall be made in the order in which the techniques appear in subrule (2) of this rule, giving the most weight in scoring to effective striking, effective grappling, control of the ring, effective aggressiveness, and defense.

(5) Effective striking is judged by determining the total number of legal heavy strikes landed by a contestant.

(6) Effective grappling is judged by considering the amount of successful executions of a legal takedown and reversals. All of the following are examples of factors to consider:

(a) Take downs from standing position to mount position.

(b) Passing the guard to mount position.

(c) Bottom position ring using an active, threatening guard.

(7) Ring area control is judged by determining who is dictating the pace, location and position of the contest. All of the following are examples of factors to consider:

(a) Countering a grappler's attempt at takedown by remaining standing and legally striking,

(b) Taking down an opponent to force a ground contest.

(c) Creating threatening submission attempts.

(d) Passing the guard to achieve mount.

- (e) Creating striking opportunities.
- (8) Effective aggressiveness means moving forward and landing a legal strike.
- (9) Effective defense means avoiding being struck, taken down, or reversed while countering with offensive attacks.
- (10) The following objective scoring criteria shall be used by the judges when scoring a round:
  - (a) A round is to be scored as a 10-10 round when both contestants appear to be competing 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.
  - (d) A round is to be scored as a 10-7 round when a contestant totally dominates by striking or grappling in a round.
- (11) Judges shall use a sliding scale and recognize the length of time the contestants are either standing or on the ground, as follows:
  - (a) If the mixed martial arts contestant spent a majority of a round on the canvas, then the following apply:
    - (i) Effective grappling is weighed first.
    - (ii) Effective striking is weighed second.
  - (b) If the mixed martial arts contestant spent a majority of a round standing, then the following apply:
    - (i) Effective striking is weighed first.
    - (ii) Effective grappling is weighed second.
  - (c) If a round ends with a relatively even amount of standing and canvas competition, striking and grappling are weighed equally.
- (12) Officials who score the contest shall mark their cards in ink or in indelible pencil at the end of each round.
- (13) Officials who score the contest shall sign their scorecards.
- (14) Except as provided in subrule (15) of this rule, at the conclusion of each contest, the judges shall total the points for each contestant and indicate the winner by writing the winner's name at the designated area on the scorecard and circle the same name where it appears on the top of the scorecard.
- (15) If a contest is scored on individual score sheets for each round, the referee shall, at the end of a round, collect the score sheet for the round from each judge and shall give the score sheets to the department representative for computation.
- (16) Referees and judges shall be discreet at all times and shall not discuss their decisions with anyone during a show.
- (17) A decision that is rendered at the termination of a mixed martial arts contest shall not be changed without a hearing, unless it is determined that a computation of the scorecards shows a clerical or mathematical error giving the decision to the wrong contestant. If such an error is found, the decision may be changed by the department representative.
- (18) The referee shall collect the score sheets from the judges and give them to the department representative for checking. After the sheets have been checked, the referee

shall collect them and give them to the announcer, who shall announce the decision to the spectators.

(19) After a contest, the department representative shall collect and maintain the scorecards.

(20) If a referee becomes incapacitated and is unable to complete a mixed martial arts contest, then a time-out shall be called and the other referee who is assigned to the show shall assume the duties of the referee.

(21) If a judge becomes incapacitated and is unable to complete the scoring of a mixed martial arts contest, then a time-out shall be called and an alternate licensed judge shall immediately be assigned to score the contest from the point at which he or she assumed the duties of a judge. If the incapacity of a judge is not noticed during a round, the referee shall score that round and the substitute judge shall score all subsequent rounds.

History: 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.231 Fouls; boxing.**

Rule 231. A referee of boxing contest may disqualify or penalize a boxing contestant by deducting points from a round for any of the following fouls:

- (a) Holding an opponent or deliberately maintaining a clinch.
- (b) Hitting with the head, shoulder, elbow, wrist, inside or butt of the hand, or the knee.
- (c) Hitting or gouging with an open glove.
- (d) Wrestling, spinning, or roughing at the ropes.
- (e) Gripping at the ropes when avoiding or throwing punches.
- (f) Intentionally striking at the part of the body that is over the kidneys.
- (g) Using a rabbit punch or hitting an opponent at the base of the opponent's skull.
- (h) Hitting on the break or after the gong has sounded.
- (i) Hitting an opponent who is down or rising after being down.
- (j) Hitting below the beltline.
- (k) Holding an opponent with 1 hand and hitting with the other.
- (l) Purposely going down without being hit or to avoid a blow.
- (m) Using abusive language in the ring.
- (n) Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the contestant or a second whether before, during, or after a round.
- (o) Intentionally spitting out a mouthpiece.
- (p) Any backhand blow.
- (q) Stalling and faking.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.232 Fouls-mixed martial arts.**

Rule 232. A referee of a mixed martial arts contest may disqualify or penalize a contestant by deducting points from a round for any of the following fouls:

- (a) Holding or grabbing the fence.
- (b) Holding opponent's shorts or gloves.

- (c) The presence of more than 1 second on the ring area perimeter.
- (d) Butting with the head.
- (e) Eye gouging of any kind.
- (f) Biting or spitting at an opponent.
- (g) Hair pulling.
- (h) Fish hooking.
- (i) Groin attacks of any kind.
- (j) Intentionally placing a finger in any opponent's orifice or into any cut or laceration on an opponent.
- (k) Downward pointing of elbow strikes.
- (l) Small joint manipulation.
- (m) Strikes to the spine or back of the head.
- (n) Heel kicks to the kidney.
- (o) Throat strikes of any kind, including but not limited to, grabbing the trachea.
- (p) Clawing, pinching, twisting the flesh or grabbing the clavicle.
- (q) Kicking the head of a grounded contestant.
- (r) Kneeing the head of a grounded contestant.
- (s) Stomping of a grounded contestant.
- (t) The use of abusive language in competing area.
- (u) Any unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to opponent.
- (v) Attacking an opponent on or during the break.
- (w) Attacking an opponent who is under the referee's care at the time.
- (x) Timidity, for example, avoiding contact, consistent dropping of mouthpiece, or faking an injury.
- (y) Interference from a mixed martial artists second.
- (z) Throwing an opponent out of the ring.
- (aa) Flagrant disregard of the referee's instructions.
- (bb) Spiking an opponent to the canvas on his or her head or neck.
- (cc) Attacking an opponent after the bell has sounded the end of the round.

History: 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.233 Penalties for fouling.**

Rule 233. (1) A referee who penalizes a contestant under these rules shall notify the judges at the time of the infraction to deduct specified points from their scorecards.

(2) A contestant committing a deliberate foul, in addition to the deduction of points, may be subject to the penalties set forth in chapter 4 of the act.

(3) A judge shall not deduct points pursuant to R 339.231 and R 339.232 unless instructed to do so by the referee.

(4) A complaint may be filed by the department against a contestant disqualified on a foul.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.234 Pre-licensure physical examination for mixed martial artists; physician certification required.**

Rule 234. (1) Before a license can be issued or renewed, a mixed martial artist shall undergo a thorough medical examination by a physician or physicians to establish his or her physical fitness for competition.

(2) An examination shall be made not earlier than 30 days, but not later than 1 day before submitting the application, except for the Hepatitis B and C and HIV tests, which shall be conducted not earlier than 180 days before participation in each scheduled competition. The testing for complete blood count, bleeding, and coagulation time shall only be required for initial licensure, unless requested by the department as a condition for renewal.

(3) In addition to the examination required by subrules (1) and (2) of this rule, the department may order additional examinations of a mixed martial artist for determining his or her continued fitness and qualification to engage in a mixed martial arts contest.

(4) No mixed martial artist shall be granted a license unless a physician has certified the mixed martial artist's fitness to engage in a mixed martial arts contest and as approved by the department.

History: 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.234a Medical examination defined.**

Rule 234a. A medical examination required in R 339.234 shall consist of at least all of the following:

- (a) A CT or MRI Brain Scan, without contrast, within the last 3 years.
- (b) An electrocardiogram.
- (c) Ophthalmological dilation.
- (d) An annual gynecological and breast exam for women.
- (e) A comprehensive history and physical examination.
- (f) A complete blood count for bleeding and coagulation time for initial licensure.
- (g) A Hepatitis B and C and HIV test conducted not earlier than 180 days before participation in each scheduled competition.
- (h) A urinalysis.

History: 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.235 Pre-contest physical examination.**

Rule 235. (1) Not more than 8 hours before a show a physician, licensed physician's assistant, or certified nurse practitioner shall certify that each contestant is in proper physical condition to participate in the show by taking a detailed medical history and examining all of the following:

- (a) Eyes.
- (b) Teeth.
- (c) Jaw.
- (d) Neck.

- (e) Chest.
- (f) Ears.
- (g) Nose.
- (h) Throat.
- (i) Skin.
- (j) Scalp.
- (k) Head.
- (l) Abdomen.
- (m) Cardiopulmonary status.
- (n) Neurological, muscular, and skeletal systems.
- (o) Abdomen and breasts, if a female contestant.
- (p) Pelvis.

(2) The physician, licensed physician's assistant, certified nurse practitioner or the department representative may also test for the presence of alcohol or drugs in the body.

(3) The physician, licensed physician's assistant, or certified nurse practitioner shall certify, in writing, those contestants who are in good physical condition to compete.

(4) Before a contest, a female contestant shall provide the department with the results of a pregnancy test performed on the contestant within the previous 7 days. If the results of the pregnancy test are positive, the contestant shall not compete and the department representative shall be notified.

(5) Before a contest, a contestant shall provide the department with the results of HIV and Hepatitis B and C tests performed on the contestant within the previous 180 days. If the results of the tests are positive, not provided, or cannot be verified, then the contestant shall not compete.

(6) A contest shall not begin until a physician and an attended ambulance are present. The physician shall not leave until the decision in the final contest has been announced and all injured contestants have been attended to.

(7) The physician shall sit near the steps into the ring and the contest shall not begin until the physician is seated. The physician shall remain at that location for the entire contest

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.235a Post-contest physical examination.**

Rule 235a (1) Each contestant shall be given a physical examination by a physician appointed by the department immediately following the contest.

(2) The physical examination shall include all of the following:

- (a) Eyes.
- (b) Teeth.
- (c) Jaw.
- (d) Neck.
- (e) Chest.
- (f) Ears.
- (g) Nose.
- (h) Throat.
- (i) Skin.

- (j) Scalp.
  - (k) Head.
  - (l) Abdomen.
  - (m) Cardiopulmonary status.
  - (n) Neurological, muscular, and skeletal systems.
  - (o) Abdomen and breasts, if a female contestant.
  - (p) Pelvis.
- (3) Any contestant refusing to submit a post-contest physical examination shall be immediately suspended for an indefinite period.

History: 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.237 Timekeepers.**

Rule 237. (1) For a boxing contest, a timekeeper shall indicate the beginning and end of each round by gong or other audible device.

(2) For a mixed martial arts contest, a timekeeper shall begin the start of the clock for each round, as initiated by the referee, and shall indicate the end of each round by gong or other audible device.

(3) A timekeeper shall possess a whistle and a stopwatch.

(4) Ten seconds before the beginning of each round, the timekeeper shall warn the contestants' seconds of the time by audible device.

(5) If a contest terminates before the scheduled limit of rounds, the timekeeper shall inform the announcer of the exact duration of the contest.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.239 Seconds.**

Rule 241 (1) A contestant shall not have more than 4 seconds, 1 of whom shall be designated as the chief second. The chief second shall be responsible for the conduct in the corner during the course of a contest. During the rest period, 1 second shall be allowed inside the ring, 2 seconds shall be allowed on the apron, and 1 second shall be allowed on the floor.

(2) A contestant's chief second shall not coach or assist the contestant during a round and shall remain seated during the round.

(3) A second shall not spray or throw water on a contestant during a round.

(4) A contestant's corner shall not heckle or in any manner annoy the opponent of the contestant or the referee or throw any object into the ring.

(5) A second shall not enter the ring until the timekeeper has indicated the end of a round.

(6) A second shall leave the ring at the timekeeper's whistle and shall clear the ring platform of all obstructions at the sound of the gong indicating the beginning of a round. Articles shall not be placed on the ring floor until the round has ended or the contest has terminated.



(7) A referee may eject a second from a ring corner for violations of the provisions of subrules (3) and (4) of this rule and may have judges deduct points from a contestant's score for the actions of the contestant's corner.

(8) A second may indicate to the referee that the second's contestant cannot continue and that the contest should be stopped. Only verbal notification or hand signals may be used. The throwing of a towel into the ring does not indicate the defeat of the second's contestant.

(9) A second shall not administer alcoholic beverages, narcotics, or stimulants to a contestant, pour excessive water on the body of a contestant, or place ice in the trunks or protective cup of a contestant during the progress of a contest.

History: 2005 AACCS.

### **R 339.241 Contests involving opponents of opposite sex prohibited.**

Rule 241. Contests shall not involve opponents of the opposite sex.

History: 2005 AACCS.

### **R 339.243 Identification; passports.**

Rule 243. (1) Each contestant shall provide 2 pieces of identification, 1 of which shall have a photo of the contestant, to the department representative before participation in a contest.

(2) A contestant shall present a passport issued by the department as 1 of the pieces of identification required under subrule (1) of this rule. The passport shall be issued by the department at the time the contestant receives his or her original license.

(3) The passport shall contain all of the following information:

(a) The contestant's federal or national I.D. number issued by an association recognized by the department.

(b) The contestant's license number.

(c) The contestant's name and address.

(d) A photograph of the contestant.

(4) Unless otherwise approved by a department representative, a contestant shall not compete if his or her passport is incomplete or if the contestant fails to present the passport to the department representative before the contest.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.245 Dress and protective equipment for boxing contestants.**

Rule 245. (1) Contestants in a boxing contest shall wear all of the following:

(a) Trunks that are belted at the contestant's waistline. For the purposes of this subrule, the waistline shall be defined as an imaginary horizontal line drawn through the navel to the top of the hips. Trunks shall not have any buckles or other ornaments on them that might injure a contestant or referee.

(b) A foul-proof protector for male contestants, and a pelvic area protector and breast protector for female contestants.

(c) Shoes which are made of soft material and which do not have spikes, cleats, or heels.

(d) A fitted mouthpiece, which shall be examined by the ringside physician.

(e) Gloves meeting the requirements of R 339.206.

(2) In addition to the clothing required under subrule (1) of this rule, a female contestant shall wear a body shirt or blouse that does not have buttons, buckles, or ornaments.

(3) A boxing contestant shall not wear corrective lenses into the ring.

(4) A contestant shall not wear jewelry or piercing accessories during a boxing competition.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

**Rule 339.246 Dress and protective equipment for mixed martial arts contestants.**

Rule 246. (1) Each mixed martial arts contestant shall wear mixed martial arts shorts, biking shorts, or kickboxing shorts.

(2) Each mixed martial arts contestant shall wear a fitted mouthpiece, which shall be examined by the ringside physician.

(3) Gis or shirts are prohibited during a mixed martial arts competition, except for women who shall wear a chest protector and body shirt.

(4) Shoes are prohibited during a mixed martial arts competition.

(5) Male mixed martial arts contestants shall wear a groin protector.

(6) Female mixed martial arts contestants may wear a groin protector.

(7) A contestant shall not wear jewelry or piercing accessories during a mixed martial arts competition.

History: 2009 AACCS.

**Rule 339.246a Appearance.**

Rule 246a. Hair shall be trimmed or tied back so that it does not interfere with the vision of either contestant or cover any part of a contestant's face.

History: 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.247 Failure to compete.**

Rule 247. A contestant's manager shall immediately notify the department if, due to illness or injury, the contestant is unable to compete in a contest for which the contestant has contracted to appear. The department may require that the contestant be examined by a physician.

History: 2005 AACCS.

**R 339.249 Procedure after knockouts or sustained damaging head blows.**

Rule 249. (1) The contestant's manager and seconds shall assure that the contestant complies with this rule and R 339.251. Violations of this rule and/or R 339.251 shall be grounds for disciplinary action under chapter 4 of the act against the contestant, the contestant's manager, or the contestant's seconds.

(2) A contestant who has lost by a technical knockout shall not compete again for a period of 30 calendar days.

(3) The ringside physician shall examine a contestant who has been knocked out in a contest or a contestant whose competition has been stopped by the referee because the contestant received hard blows to the head that made him or her defenseless or incapable of continuing immediately after the knockout or stoppage.

(4) The ringside physician may refer the contestant to a hospital or medical facility for post-contest neurological evaluations to be performed on the contestant immediately after the contestant leaves the location of the show. If such referrals are made, and the results of the examinations are not received by the department within 24 hours of their completion, then the contestant shall be ineligible to compete until such reports are received and until certification is given by a physician that the contestant is fit to compete after an examination.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.251 Eligibility to compete.**

Rule 251(1) All medical reports that are submitted to the department relative to a physical examination or the condition of a contestant shall be confidential and shall be open to examination only by the department, the commission, and the licensed contestant upon the contestant's request to examine the records or upon the order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(2) A contestant who has been knocked out or who received excessive hard blows to the head that made him or her defenseless or incapable of continuing shall be ineligible to compete for a period of not less than 60 days.

(3) A contestant who has lost by a technical knockout shall be suspended for a minimum 30-day period.

(4) A contestant who has lost 6 consecutive contests shall be ineligible to compete again until the department, after reviewing the results of the 6 contests, approves the contestant for further participation and the contestant has submitted to a physical examination by a physician who has certified that the contestant is fit to compete.

(5) A contestant who has had cardiac surgery shall be ineligible to compete until he or she has submitted to a medical examination by a cardiovascular surgeon who has certified his or her fitness to compete.

(6) A contestant who has suffered a detached retina shall be ineligible to compete until he or she has submitted to a medical examination by an ophthalmologist who has certified his or her fitness to compete.

(7) A contestant or applicant for licensure who is prohibited from competing in other states or jurisdictions due to medical reasons may be prohibited from competing

in this state in accordance with these rules. In considering prohibiting a licensee or applicant for licensure from competing in this state, the licensee's or applicant's entire professional record shall be considered, regardless of the state or country in which his or her contests occurred.

(8) A contestant or his or her manager shall report any change in a medical condition that may affect the contestant's ability to compete safely. The department may, at any time, require current medical information on any contestant.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.253 Waiting period.**

Rule 253. Except for elimination contests not subject to the act, 7 days shall elapse before a contestant who has competed anywhere in a contest may participate in another contest.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.255 Boxing championships and international boxing contests; adoption of rules by reference.**

Rule 255. (1) For a championship boxing contest or an international boxing contest that is held in this state, the department adopts by reference in these rules Association of Boxing Commissions (A.B.C.) Regulatory Guidelines, effective July 21, 2004, as applicable to the specific championship or international contest and the fees paid to officials for such championships and contests. Copies of the adopted matter are available for inspection at the office of the Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, MI 48864, mailing address, P.O. Box 30018, Lansing MI 48909. Copies of the rules may be obtained from The Association of Boxing Commissions (A.B.C.), world-wide web, <http://www.abcboxing.com>, by linking to "documents," at no charge.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.257 Managers.**

Rule 257. (1) A manager shall not sign a contract for the appearance of a contestant if the manager does not have the contestant under contract.

(2) A licensed manager may act as a second without a second's license; however, a manager shall not hold a license as a referee, judge, timekeeper, or matchmaker.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.259 Matchmakers and promoters; liability for lack of judgment in arranging matches; contract restrictions.**

Rule 259. (1) The promoter and matchmaker shall be responsible for a match in which 1 of the contestants is disproportionately outclassed. Persistent lack of judgment in arranging matches shall be sufficient grounds for disciplinary action under chapter 4 of the act.

(2) A promoter shall not own a contract or a portion of a contract of, or receive proceeds from a contract with, any contestant who is competing in 1 of the promoter's productions. A matchmaker shall not own a contract or a portion of a contract of, or receive proceeds from a contract with, any contestant for whom the matchmaker arranges matches.

(3) A matchmaker may be licensed as a promoter. A promoter may be licensed as a matchmaker. However, neither a promoter nor a matchmaker shall be licensed as a referee, timekeeper, judge, boxer, mixed martial artist, or manager.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.261 Filing of documents by promoter; publicizing shows; contract requirements; promoter responsible for paying insurance deductible.**

Rule 261. (1) A promoter shall file with the department a written request to hold a show not less than 30 days, or not less than 7 days for televised shows, before the date of the proposed show. The request shall indicate if the show is to be televised. The promoter shall designate a matchmaker who shall be licensed by the department.

(2) Not later than 24 hours following the contests, a promoter shall file with the department true copies of the promoter's contracts with the contestants for all contests.

(3) A matchmaker shall be responsible for verifying the identity, ring record, eligibility, and suspensions of each contestant. A promoter shall be responsible for the accuracy of the names and records of each of the participating contestants in all publicity or promotional material.

(4) A contestant shall use his or her legal name to sign a contract; however, a contestant who is licensed under another name may sign the contract using his or her licensed name if the contestant's legal name appears in the body of the contract as the name under which the contestant is otherwise known.

(5) All contracts shall be between a promoter and a contestant. There shall not be a contract between the promoter and a manager. However, a contract may be signed by a contestant's manager on behalf of the contestant. If a contestant does not have a licensed manager, then the contestant shall sign the contract.

(6) The contract that is filed with the department shall embody all of the agreements between the parties. Secret contracts which contradict the terms of the contracts that are filed with the department are prohibited.

(7) The contract between a promoter and a contestant shall be for the use of the contestant's skills in a contest and shall not require the contestant to sell tickets in order to be paid for his or her services.

(8) If the insurance provided by the promoter to meet the requirements of section 55 of the act has a requirement for a deductible amount to be paid, then the promoter shall be responsible for paying the deductible amount.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.263 Charitable ticket sales.**

Rule 263. A promoter who collects contributions for a charitable organization licensed under the provisions of the charitable organizations and solicitations act, 1975 PA 169, MCL 400.271, shall comply with the provisions of that act and shall promptly transmit funds collected to the charitable organization. A promoter who is found to have violated the provisions of the charitable organizations and solicitations act shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Chapter 4 of the act.

History: 2005 AACCS.

**R 339.265 Compensation.**

Rule 265. Each official assigned to officiate a professional boxing or mixed martial arts contest regulated by the department shall be paid in accordance with the fees listed in table 1 as follows:

Gross Purses Contracted	Referees	Judges	Timekeepers	Physicians	Physician's Assistant	Nurse Practitioner
\$0.00 to \$7,500	\$100	\$75	\$50	\$150	\$100	\$100
\$7,501 to \$20,000	\$150	\$100	\$75	\$200	\$100	\$100
\$20,001 to \$50,000	\$250	\$150	\$100	\$250	\$100	\$100
\$50,001 to \$100,000	\$350	\$250	\$150	\$300	\$100	\$100
Over \$100,000	\$700	\$450	\$200	\$400	\$100	\$100

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.267 Elimination tournaments.**

Rule 267. An elimination tournament is a tournament in which 2 contestants box one another, the loser is eliminated from the tournament, and the tournament continues with winners from the various contests competing until only 1 contestant remain undefeated in the weight division. An elimination tournament shall be in compliance with all of the rules pertaining to professional boxing, except as provided in chapter 5 of the act and R 339.253.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

**R 339.269 Drug testing.**

Rule 269. (1) The department, the department representative, or the ringside physician may request that a contestant take a test or submit to an examination designed to measure the presence of alcohol or drugs before or immediately following a contest. The collection of specimens shall take place at the venue or a facility acceptable to the department. The promoter shall be responsible for the cost of testing contestants, which shall be completed at a laboratory facility acceptable to the department.

(2) The department, the department representative, or the ringside physician may request that an assigned official take a test or submit to an examination designed to measure the presence of alcohol or drugs before or immediately following a contest. The collection of specimens shall take place at the venue or a facility acceptable to the department. An assigned official shall be responsible for the cost of his or her examination which shall be completed at a laboratory facility acceptable to the department.

(3) If such a test or examination results in a finding of the presence of a drug or alcohol or if the contestant or official refuses to submit to a test or refuses or is unable to provide a sample of body fluids for a test, then a complaint shall be filed under the procedures of chapter 4 of the act. If a determination is made that the contestant or official is subject to disciplinary action, then the commission may impose, at a minimum, the following penalties under chapter 4 of the act:

- (a) For a first violation, suspension for 90 days.
- (b) For a second violation, a 1-year suspension.
- (c) For a third violation, revocation of licensure.

(4) At the completion of a suspension ordered by the commission under subrule (3) (a) and (b) of this rule based on a finding of the presence of drugs, a contestant or official may be required to submit to a test for the presence of drugs. The results of the test shall be negative for all drugs tested before a contestant is allowed to compete again or an official is assigned to officiate again.

(5) A contestant who is disciplined under this rule and who was the winner of a contest shall be disqualified and the decision of the contest shall be changed to "no contest."

(6) The results of a contest shall remain unchanged if a contestant who is disciplined under this rule was the loser of the contest.

(7) Contestants who are prohibited, restrained, disqualified, or are otherwise ineligible to compete in other states or jurisdictions due to disciplinary action that involves the use of drugs shall not compete in this state until such time as the period of prohibition, restraint, disqualification, or ineligibility is completed or removed. However, a contestant with a previous suspension in any state or jurisdiction may be required to take and pass a drug test before being allowed to compete in this state.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

### **R 339.271 Suspension notices.**

Rule 271. (1) A contestant who is suspended shall be placed on the suspension list of the sanctioned record-keeping organization and notice shall also be placed on the department's website.

(2) The department , upon placing the contestant on the suspension list under subrule (1) of this rule, shall immediately mail a written suspension notice to the contestant at his or her last known address, specifying the nature of the suspension, the reason, and the length of the suspension, where known.

History: 2009 AACCS.

### **PART 3. FEES**

#### **R 339.301 Administrative fees.**

Rule 301. The department may charge the following fees under the act:

(1) The department shall charge a \$20.00 late renewal fee if a person fails to renew a license or registration on or before the expiration date prescribed by the department.

(2) A fee collected by the department, when paid pursuant to this act, shall not be refunded, except as provided in administrative rules promulgated by the director.

(3) The department may charge a fee for the issuance of a duplicate license or registration. The duplicate shall not be issued unless the person applying for the duplicate signs a statement that the original document has been lost, stolen, or destroyed. The fee for the duplicate shall be \$15.00.

(4) The department may charge a \$5.00 fee for providing written verification that a person is or is not licensed or registered at the time of the request for verification.

(a) If the person requesting written verification seeks specific detailed information beyond the information described in subrule (4) of this rule, then the charge for verification shall be \$15.00.

(5) The department may charge a \$10.00 fee for correcting its records and issuing a new document when a person notifies the department of a change of name and address. If the change does not require the issuance of a new document, then no charge shall be made for correcting the department's records.

History: 2005 AACCS.

#### **R 339.303 License fees.**

Rule 303. Fees for a person licensed or seeking licensure as a professional boxer or mixed martial artist, judge, manager, referee, timekeeper, second, promoter, matchmaker, physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner are as follows:

(a) Application processing fees:

(i) Professional boxer license and passport \$45.00

(ii) Mixed martial artist license and passport \$45.00

(iii) Boxing or mixed martial arts Promoter \$500.00

(iv) Judge, Referee, Timekeeper, Manager, Matchmaker, Second, Physician, Physician's Assistant, Nurse Practitioner: \$30.00

(b) License fee, per year:

(i) Professional boxer or mixed martial artist \$25.00



(ii) Judge	\$70.00
(iii) Referee	\$150.00
(iv) Timekeeper	\$70.00
(v) Manager	\$125.00
(vi) Matchmaker	\$150.00
(vii) Promoter	\$250.00
(viii) Second	\$30.00
(ix) Physician	\$150.00
(x) Physicians Assistant / Nurse Practitioner	\$70.00
(c) Duplicate passport	\$30.00

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.

#### **PART 4.**

##### **R 339.401 Expiration date; late renewal fee; relicensure.**

Rule 401. (1) Licenses shall expire annually on August 31.

(2) A person who fails to renew a license on or before August 31 shall not practice the occupation after the expiration date printed on the license.

A license shall lapse on the day after the expiration.

(3) A person who fails to renew a license on or before August 31 may renew the license by payment of the required license fee and a late renewal fee within 60 days after the expiration date.

(4) A person who fails to renew a license within the time period in subrule

(3) of this rule may be relicensed upon showing that the person meets the current requirements for licensure as established in the act and administrative rules and pays an application processing fee, the late renewal fee, and the per year license fee.

History: 2005 AACCS.

##### **R 339.403 Reinstatement.**

Rule 403. A person who seeks reinstatement of a license shall file an application on a form provided by the department, pay the appropriate application processing fee, and shall file a petition with the department and the commission stating reasons for reinstatement and including evidence that the person can and is likely to serve the public with competence and in conformance will all other requirements prescribed by law, rule, or an order of the commission. Upon consultation with the commission, the department shall grant or deny the application for reinstatement.

History: 2005 AACCS; 2009 AACCS.