

**TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR
NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION**

Control _____ Department or Agency: Alabama ~~Boxing~~ Athletic Commission
Rule No.: 165-X-22

Rule Title: Medical Requirements

X New _____ Amend _____ Repeal _____ Adopt by Reference

Would the absence of the proposed rule significantly
Harm or endanger the public health, welfare, or safety? Yes

Is there a reasonable relationship between the state's
Police power and the protection of the public health,
Safety, or welfare? Yes

Is there another, less restrictive method of regulation
Available that could adequately protect the public? No

Does the proposed rule have the effect of directly or
Indirectly increasing the costs of any goods or services
Involved and, if so, to what degree? No

Is the increase in cost, if any, more harmful to the public
Than the harm that might result from the absence of
The proposed rule? No

Are all facets of the rulemaking process designed solely
For the purpose of, and so they have, as their primary
Effect, the protection of the public? Yes

Does the proposed rule have an economic impact? No

If the proposed rule has an economic impact, the proposed rule is required to be
accompanied by a fiscal note prepared in accordance with subsection (f) of Section 41-
22-23, Code of Alabama, 1975.

Certification of Authorized Official

I certify that the attached proposed rule has been proposed in full compliance with the
requirements of Chapter 22, Title 41, Code of Alabama, 1975, and that it conforms to all
applicable filing requirements of the Administrative Procedure Division of the Legislative
Reference Service.

Signature of certifying officer 

Date: April 13, 2012

(DATE FILED)
(STAMP)

APA-2
11/96

Alabama Athletic Commission

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

AGENCY NAME: Alabama Athletic Commission
RULE NO. & TITLE: 165-X-22 Medical Requirements
INTENDED ACTION: New

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Board proposes to promulgate rules for mixed martial arts additional requirements.

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS: Written comments will be received by the Board until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 4, 2012. Comments should be directed to Keith E. Warren, Executive Director, at 2777 Zelda Road, Montgomery, AL 36106 or via electronic mail at keith@warrenandco.com or via telephone at 334-420-7238.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE:
Monday, June 4, 2012.

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY: Keith E. Warren
Executive Director
2777 Zelda Road
Montgomery, AL 36106
(334) 420-7238

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Keith E. Warren', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Keith E. Warren, *Executive Director*
Alabama Athletic Commission

Chapter 165-X-22 Medical Requirements

<u>165-X-22-.01</u>	<u>Pre-Fight Medical Examinations</u>
<u>165-X-22-.02</u>	<u>Additional Medical Examinations.</u>
<u>165-X-22-.03</u>	<u>Minimum Visual Acuity.</u>
<u>165-X-22-.04</u>	<u>Medical Suspensions by Other Commissions.</u>
<u>165-X-22-.05</u>	<u>Drugs Prohibited.</u>
<u>165-X-22-.06</u>	<u>Post Contest Inactive Period.</u>
<u>165-X-22-.07</u>	<u>Head Injury.</u>
<u>165-X-22-.08</u>	<u>Knock Out and Technical Knock Out.</u>
<u>165-X-22-.09</u>	<u>Under-Conditioned Fighter.</u>
<u>165-X-22-.10</u>	<u>Consecutive Losses.</u>
<u>165-X-22-.11</u>	<u>Verification of Contestant Experience</u>
<u>165-X-22-.12</u>	<u>General Responsibilities and Provisions.</u>
<u>165-X-22-.13</u>	<u>Hepatitis and HIV Testing.</u>
<u>165-X-22-.14</u>	<u>Medical Insurance.</u>
<u>165-X-22-.15</u>	<u>Ambulance, EMT's, and commission designated Ringside Physician</u>

165-X-22-.01 Pre-Fight Medical Examinations

1. Pre-Fight Examination. At the time of weigh-in, or at such other time as is then announced, all contestants must pass a pre-fight medical examination and a commission designated physician must complete a Pre-fight Medical Examination Form. The examining physician shall deliver all Pre-fight Examination Forms to the Athletic Commission or to its authorized representative no more than five (5) days after the weigh-in.

- (a) Each female contestant, during the pre-fight physical, will be required to submit to a pregnancy test administered under the direction of the examining physician, or such physician's authorized assistant.
- (b) Female contestants submitting written documentation acceptable to the examining physician may be waived from the pre-fight physical pregnancy test requirement. Such documentation shall be limited to a copy of a lab report from a recognized clinical laboratory and dated within ten days of the pre-fight physical attesting that the contestant is not pregnant
- (c) A statement from a state licensed physician, on such physician's letterhead stationary, stating that the contestant is medically improbable of bearing children.

2. Failed pre-fight physical. Whenever a contestant's examination indicates that he or she is unfit for competition, because of any weakness or disability discovered by the physician, an immediate

report of such evidence must be made to the sanctioning organization and to the Athletic Commission. In such case, the contestant shall be prohibited from participating in the contest, match, or exhibition.

(a) Any contestant who fails his or her pre-fight physical for medical reasons or for lack of general conditioning shall be placed on immediate medical suspension and reported to the Alabama Athletic Commission.

3. Hydration Testing. At the official weigh-in, all contestants' hydration shall be tested using digital fiber optic refractometers or other hydration testing method as determined by the appointed event physician.

165-X-22-.02 Additional Medical Examinations.

1. Upon recommendation of the examining physician or the medical advisory panel, the Athletic Commission may require a contestant to undergo additional medical examinations performed by a state licensed physician to determine the contestant's medical fitness to compete.

165-X-22-.03 Minimum Visual Acuity.

1. The minimum uncorrected visual acuity to be able to box in Alabama is set at 20/ 200 in both eyes. Any person wishing to compete in a contest, match, or exhibition shall be required to present evidence of their visual acuity to the Commission designated physician at the time of the pre-fight examination.

165-X-22-.04 Medical Suspensions by Other Commissions.

1. Medical suspensions. Other athletic commissions recognized by the Association of Boxing Commissions and which are published by any mixed martial arts registry approved for such purposes by the Association of Boxing Commissions shall be recognized by the commission.
2. Medical examinations after suspensions. An amateur mixed martial artist who is under medical suspension in another state shall submit to any medical examination listed in this chapter as requested by the Athletic Commission prior to competing in a contest or exhibition in this state.

165-X-22-.05 Drugs Prohibited.

The administration or use of any drugs, alcohol, stimulants, or injections in any part of the contestant's body either prior to or

during a match is prohibited unless such drugs are administered by a physician and with the approval of the commission.

- (a)** (a)The commission may order a contestant to undergo a drug screening at any time. A Drug Screen Form must be completed by an approved laboratory and submitted to the Athletic Commission within seven days of the order.

165-X-22-.06 Post Contest Inactive Period.

1.No contestant shall be permitted to engage in another contest or exhibition in this state for a period of seven (7) days after competing in a contest or exhibition.

165-X-22-.07 Head Injury.

Any contestant who suffers a knock out, concussion, or other serious head injury, should be examined by the ringside physician. The Physician shall immediately report to the sanctioning organization representative or commission representative, the condition of such contestant and whether or not additional medical attention is advised.

165-X-22-.08 Knock Out and Technical Knock Out.

1.When a contestant is defeated by knock out, that amateur mixed martial artist shall be placed on an immediate sixty (60) day medical suspension. Upon a contestant's second defeat by knock out, the amateur mixed martial artist shall be placed on an immediate ninety(90) day medical suspension and the amateur mixed martial artist shall submit to a medical examination.

- (a)** A Post-knock out Examination Form shall be completed by a physician and submitted to the sanctioning organization along with request for medical clearance for thirty (30) days prior to participating in a contest or exhibition in this state. Any amateur mixed martial artist losing by knock out in two or more consecutive fights shall be placed on immediate medical suspension for a period of 6 months.
- (b)** Unless otherwise ordered by the attending ringside physician, there shall be a minimum 30 day medical suspension after a technical knockout.

- (c) Technical knock outs caused by a severe cut shall result in either a 45 day or 60 day medical suspension.
- (d) Submissions with injury may also warrant a medical suspension as determined by the ringside physician.
- (e) Completing a suspension may require approved medical evaluations as determined by the ringside physician.

165-X-22-.09 Under-Conditioned Fighter.

1. Under-Conditioned Fighter. A contestant deemed under-conditioned by the referee, Athletic Commission or any designated representative of the commission, shall be immediately disqualified and suspended for 90 days.

- (a) If it should be determined by the referee or any member of the commission present or any designated representative of the commission present that a contestant did not give a good faith effort to display their skills they shall be subject to disciplinary action.
- (b) A disqualified contestant may be disciplined by the Athletic Commission.

165-X-22-.10 Consecutive Losses.

1. **Six or more consecutive losses.** An amateur mixed martial artist who has lost 6 consecutive fights, according to the contestant's official record compiled and maintained by the mixed martial arts registry, shall be summarily suspended. Suspension will be listed as "Indefinite Pending Hearing."
2. **Three or More Consecutive Losses.** An amateur mixed martial artist who has lost 3 consecutive fights by knock-out, technical knock-out, or disqualification, according to the contestant's official ring record compiled and maintained by the mixed martial arts registry, shall be summarily suspended pending a hearing by the Athletic Commission. Suspension will be listed as "Indefinite Pending Hearing."
3. **History of Poor Performance.** Any amateur mixed martial artist whose history of poor performance is evidenced by subparagraphs (a) and/or (b), above, shall not be approved to compete against any other amateur mixed martial artist, except another contestant who has a similar history of poor performance in the same weight class.

165-X-22-.11 Verification of Contestant Experience

1.Verification of Experience. The trainer or manager for a contestant shall submit an affidavit that clearly states his/her contestant is prepared for an amateur mixed martial arts match, contest, or exhibition at the skill division they are to compete.

165-X-22-.12 General Responsibilities and Provisions.

1.General Responsibilities. During the performance of any promotion it shall be the sanctioning organization's responsibility to ensure the compliance with all laws and rules governing amateur mixed martial arts in Alabama.

165-X-22-.13 Hepatitis and HIV Testing.

1.Blood borne pathogen testing. All contestants in all bouts shall be tested for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV by a laboratory approved by the Commission. The initial test for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV detection shall be conducted within 180 days prior to competition.

(a) In addition to the pre-competition test, any contestant shall be re-tested for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV prior to his or her participation in each amateur mixed martial arts match, contest, or exhibition in the state if the match, contest, or exhibition is scheduled to occur more than 180 days after the date of the most recent test. The results must be submitted to the Commission with the show date request prior to the official weigh-in.

2. Positive tests for blood-borne pathogens. Any contestant who tests positive for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or HIV shall appear before the medical advisory panel, which after verifying the results of the test, shall advise the Commission as to whether the applicant's participation in a match, contest, or exhibition would pose a threat to the health and safety of a participant, official, or spectator.

(a) An amateur mixed martial artist that tests positive for Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C or HIV who is scheduled for competition must disclose to his licensed sanctioning organization that he or she has tested positive for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or HIV.

165-X-22-.14 Medical Insurance.

1. Medical Insurance. The sanctioning organization shall insure that each event promoter provides for the participants insurance covering ambulance services, medical, surgical and hospital care with a minimum limit of \$20,000 for injuries sustained while participating in said program and for a \$20,000 death benefit awarded to the estate of any contestant should death occur from injuries received while participating in the contest or exhibition.

165-X-22-.15 Ambulance, EMT's, and commission designated Ringside Physician

1. Physician. A sanctioning organization designated ringside physician shall be present at all events. A commission designated ringside physician must be at ringside or cageside during each bout. A commission designated ringside physician shall be either a M.D. or D.O.

2. Ambulance Service and EMT's. The sanctioning organization shall insure that each event promoter provides continuous ambulance service with a state-certified EMT attendant, who shall provide a resuscitator, stretcher, backboard, oxygen and such other medical equipment reasonably expected for immediate trauma care, and who shall be present before the start of each contest and shall remain on site until the end of the program. All sanctioning organizations must provide an ambulance to be present at all times, from the commencement of the first bout, throughout the duration of the event, and until the last fighter leaves the arena.

3. Emergency Medical Personnel. There shall be at least two Emergency Medical Technicians including one paramedic shall present at all times, from the commencement of the first bout, throughout the duration of the event, and until the last fighter leaves the arena.

(a) For the purposes of this section, a program of amateur mixed martial arts begins with the commencement of the first contest or exhibition and ends when the last contestant leaves the site of the program.

(b) The chief referee shall meet with the paramedic prior to the beginning of the match, contest, or exhibition. During such meeting the chief referee will instruct the EMT concerning the match, contest, or exhibition, placement of the stretcher and any

other information necessary to ensure prompt and appropriate immediate care.

- (c) An ambulance shall be able and available to immediately transport any severely injured Contestant to an appropriate medical facility. No other scheduled contest or exhibition may proceed until there is an ambulance and paramedic at the facility, that has met with the chief referee as proscribed in subparagraph (2), above.

Author: Casey C. Sears

Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 41-9-1020

History: **New Rule:** Filed: March 20, 2012; Effective: April 24, 2012.