

APA1  
07/04

TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR  
NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

Control No. 165 Department or Agency Alabama Athletic Commission  
Rule No. 165-X-1-08  
Rule Title: Conduct of Contest, Match, or Exhibition  
New  Amend  Repeal  Adopt by Reference

Would the absence of the proposed rule significantly harm or endanger the public health, welfare, or safety? No

Is there a reasonable relationship between the state's police power and the protection of the public health, safety, or welfare? No

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

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Does the proposed rule have an economic impact? Yes

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 412223, Code of Alabama 1975.

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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 Joseph B. McCormick, II  
Date 9/19/16

(DATE FILED)  
(STAMP)

APA-2  
07/04

**Alabama Athletic Commission  
NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION**

AGENCY NAME:

Alabama Athletic Commission

RULE NO. & TITLE:

165-X-1-.08 Conduct of Contest, Match or Exhibition

INTENDED ACTION:

Amend the AAC Rules to bring them in line with the national Unified Rules for Professional Boxing.

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Amending of minor words

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS:

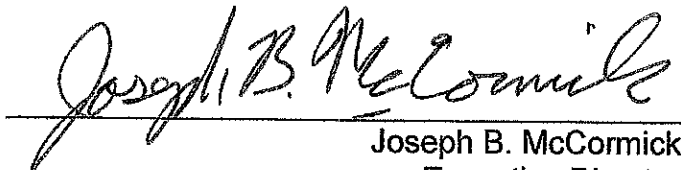
This rules amendment was voted on by the AAC Commissioners at our Regularly Scheduled Meeting on Friday, September 16, 2016. The amendment passed unanimously.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE:

November 14, 2016

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY:

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Joseph B. McCormick  
Executive Director  
Alabama Athletic Commission

## **165-X-1-08 Conduct Of Contest, Match Or Exhibition.**

### (1) Professional Boxers.

(a) False Name. No boxer shall enter any agreement or contract with a promoter, compete in any match, contest, or exhibition, or otherwise participate in any capacity in a boxing program under any name which does not appear on his or her Federal ID card.

(b) Prohibition if Under Suspension. No boxer shall enter any agreement or contract with a promoter, compete, or attempt to compete in any match, contest, or exhibition in this state when the boxer knows that his or her boxing license, issued by this commission is under suspension.

(c) Pregnancy. No boxer shall enter any agreement or contract with a promoter, compete, or attempt to compete in any match, contest, or exhibition in Alabama when such boxer knows that she is pregnant.

(d) Diuretics Prohibited. The use of any herbal, prescription or non-prescription diuretic by any boxer within twelve hours prior to the weigh-in is strictly prohibited.

### (e) Weigh-In.

1. In all contests and exhibitions, contestants shall weigh-in in the presence of the chief official appointed to preside over the contest or exhibition. The weigh-in shall not take place less than six (6) hours nor more than thirty-six (36) hours prior to the contest or exhibition.

(i) All official weigh-ins shall be conducted at a time and place designated by the Commission. Attendance to official weigh-ins is strictly limited to commissioners, licensees and officials scheduled to participate in the contest or exhibition.

(ii) Ceremonial weigh-ins may be conducted in such manner and at such place as agreed to by all parties involved in the promotion or match, contest, or exhibition.

2. (135/2) No over-contract-weight contestant appearing at the initial weigh-in and weighing 135 pounds or less will be allowed to lose in excess of two (2) pounds in order to make contract weight unless such boxer is re-examined by the ringside

physician and receive clearance from the ringside physician prior to entering the ring.

3. (160/3) No over-contract-weight contestant appearing at the initial weigh-in and weighing 135.1 pounds but less than 160 pounds will be allowed to lose in excess of three (3) pounds in order to make contract weight unless such boxer is reexamined by the ringside physician and receives clearance from the ringside physician prior to entering the ring.

4. (190/4) No over-contract-weight contestants appearing at the initial weigh-in and weighing 160.1 pounds but less than 190 pounds will be allowed to lose in excess of four (4) pounds in order to make contract weight unless such boxer is reexamined by the ringside physician and receive clearance from the ringside physician prior to entering the ring.

(f) Weight Classes. Weight classes for professional boxers shall be:

1. Flyweight - 112 lbs. or under
2. Bantamweight - over 112 lbs. - 118 lbs.
3. Featherweight - over 118 lbs. - 126 lbs.
4. Lightweight - over 126 lbs. - 135 lbs.
5. Welterweight - over 135 lbs. - 147 lbs.
6. Middleweight - over 147 lbs. - 160 lbs.
7. Light Heavyweight - over 160 lbs. - 175 lbs.
8. Cruiserweight - over 175 lbs. - 200 lbs.
9. Heavyweight - over 200 lbs.

(g) Weight Spread. No boxing contest or exhibition may be scheduled, and no boxer may engage in a boxing contest or exhibition without the approval of the Athletic Commission or the commission's representative if the difference in weight between the boxers exceeds the following allowances:

1. Up to 118 lbs. - not more than 3 pounds
2. 118 lbs. - 126 lbs. - not more than 5 pounds
3. 126 lbs. - 135 lbs. - not more than 6 pounds
4. 135 lbs. - 147 lbs. - not more than 7 pounds
5. 147 lbs. - 200 lbs. - not more than 9 pounds
6. 200 lbs. and over (Heavyweight) - no limit

(i) Any agreement to proceed with a boxing contest or exhibition where the weight spread exceeds the limit established in this rule shall be entered on each participant's bout contract and shall be initialed or signed by such participant.

(h) Appearance Time. All contestants must be in the officially designated dressing room at least sixty (60) minutes before the event is scheduled to begin.

(i) Ring Attire. Boxers shall appear and compete in proper ring attire.

1. All boxers will be required to wear such protective gear as deemed necessary by the Commission.

(i) Male boxers shall wear a standard kidney protection belt designed for male boxers, which includes a groin protection cup of such construction as to prevent any claim of injury caused by an unintentional blow.

(I) This gear shall be properly adjusted and tied prior to entering the ring.

(II) During the course of the match, contest, or exhibition the upper belt of this gear may not rise above the trunk waist line so as to protect the boxer from normal body blows.

(III) The use of a protective belt commonly referred to as a training protective belt, which incorporates an oversized torso protection shield is prohibited.

(ii) Female boxers may wear a standard kidney protection belt designed for female boxers and which provides the necessary pelvic and ovary protection and shall wear a sports bra with an interior pocket which can, at the option of the boxer, hold an appropriately sized breast protector of a turtle-shell style.

(I) This gear shall be properly adjusted and tied prior to entering the ring.

(II) During the course of the match, contest, or exhibition the upper belt of this gear may not rise above the trunk waist line so as to protect the boxer from normal body blows.

2. The belt-line of the trunks shall not extend above the waistline and the hem may not extend below the knee.

3. Boxers in the same match, contest, or exhibition shall wear different color trunks.

4. Each boxer shall use a mouthpiece and no round may start without a boxer's mouthpiece in place.

(i) If the mouthpiece is dislodged during competition, the referee will call time and have the mouthpiece replaced at the first opportune moment without interfering with immediate action.

(ii) Points may be deducted by the referee, if the referee feels the mouthpiece is purposely spit out.

5. Shoes shall be of soft material and shall not be fitted with spikes, cleats, hard soles, or hard heels. Shoe lace knots will be secured with adhesive tape.

6. When deemed necessary by the referee all boxers shall have their hair secured in a manner that does not interfere with the vision and safety of either contestant.

(i) Provided however that no object can be worn to secure the contestant's hair which may cause injury to either contestant.

7. The wearing of body jewelry will be strictly prohibited during all contests.

8. The wearing of any facial or body cosmetic is strictly prohibited during all contests.

(j) Profanity. Use of profanity by a boxer, manager or second is prohibited. Any use of profanity after a warning by the referee or chief official may result in disqualification of the contestant, or ejection from the facility and a penalty point may be deducted from the contestant.

(k) Entering Ring. All contestants must be ready to enter the ring immediately upon the conclusion of the preceding contest or exhibition on a scheduled fight card.

1. Failure to enter the ring when requested and, after warning by the inspector or chief official of the program, may result in disciplinary action by the Athletic Commission.

(l) Demeanor During the Round. Each boxer shall take care to avoid fouling their opponent or illegally striking their opponent.

1. Regulations against fouls, as defined in these rules will be strictly enforced.

2. Wrestling and/or roughhousing in the ring will not be tolerated. Any boxer who intentionally lifts his or her opponent and then drops such opponent on the ring floor will be subject to immediate disqualification.

3. Boxers are at all times to follow the instructions of the referee. Any call for a break should immediately result in a clean break.

(m) Under-Conditioned Fighter. A contestant deemed under-conditioned by the referee, Commission or any designated representative of the Commission, shall be suspended for ninety (90) days.

1. If it should be determined by the referee that a contestant did not give a good faith effort to display their skills they shall be subject to disciplinary action.

(n) Penalty for Disqualification. Any boxer who is disqualified for any reason by the referee or chief official of the program will be subject to disciplinary action by the Athletic Commission.

1. Any boxer disciplined by the Athletic Commission because of a loss by disqualification has a right to a hearing and must request a hearing in writing to the Athletic Commission within fifteen days of the disqualification.

(o) Fines. Any boxer can be fined, have his or her license suspended or have his or her license revoked in the event that a majority of the commission determines that the boxer did not utilize his or her best efforts in a match, contest, or exhibition.

(2) Seconds.

(a) Number Allowed. Each boxer must have two (2) seconds, unless the commission permits otherwise. Each contestant shall have one (1) chief second and each chief second must have a complete first aid kit. The seconds must be neatly attired. Persons holding a manager's or trainer's license in this state may participate in a contest as a second without applying for or obtaining a second's license.

(b) Leaving the Ring. Seconds shall leave the ring enclosure at the sound of the timekeeper's whistle. They shall leave the ring platform promptly when the bell sounds for the beginning of each round and immediately remove all obstructions, including stools, buckets, and any other corner equipment. None of these articles shall be replaced on the ring floor until the bell has sounded the end of a round.

(c) Assisting Contestant during Bout. During rounds, seconds are prohibited from assisting or interfering with the contestants.

(d) Throwing Towels. Seconds are prohibited from tossing a towel into the ring.

(e) Ejection and Disqualification. Violations of the provisions of this subparagraph may result in ejection of the offender from the ring corner, and may result in the disqualification of his or her contestant by the referee.

(3) Between Round Care. Between rounds care of a boxer will be strictly enforced by the commission.

(a) Licensees Allowed in Ring between Rounds. One

(1) Licensee shall be allowed in the ring with the boxer during the rest period between rounds and no more than two (2) licensees, exclusive to the corner inspector and approved media personnel, will be allowed on the apron during that time.

(b) Swinging Towel. Fans may be used between rounds. Towels may not be used to fan the contestant. Motorized fans must be approved by the Commission, prior to use at a contest or exhibition.

(c) Corner Kit. The use of an unapproved preparation during the match, contest, or exhibition is prohibited. The only substances and materials allowed in the corner are limited to the following:

1. Ice;
2. Water;
3. Cotton swabs;
4. Gauze pads;
5. Clean towels;
6. Vaseline or surgical lubricant approved by the commission;
7. Enswell;



8. Avitine or Adrenalene;
9. Athletic tape approved by the commission.

(i) Any variance to the materials must be approved by the Commission.

(ii) Substances such as Monsell's solution, other iron or bismuth compounds, collodion, silver nitrate, ammonia or smelling salts will not be used and the use of such modalities will result in disqualification, and disciplinary action against the boxer, manager, second and/or trainer.

(d) Excessive Lubricant. The use of excessive lubricant on the body, arms or face of a boxer shall be prohibited. The referee shall determine whether excessive lubricant is on boxer's body, arms or face.

(e) Rehydration of Contestant during Bout. Water shall be used to hydrate a boxer between rounds. Honey, electrolyte glucose, sugar or any other substance mixed with water is prohibited.

(4) Referee.

(a) Stopping a Match. No one other than the referee may stop a fight during or between rounds. The referee shall have the authority to stop a contest at any time if one of the boxers is unable or no longer able to defend himself.

(b) Pre-match Instructions. Referees shall meet with the contestants and with each chief second appointed by the contestants prior to the beginning of the match, contest, or exhibition and during that meeting shall inform each party of the rules applicable to each fight as well as the in-ring conduct expected from each contestant and second assisting in the corner of each contestant.

(c) Pre-Bout Confirmation of Officials and Physician. Prior to calling for the sounding of the bell to begin each bout, the referee in the ring will confirm that the ringside physician as well as each judge assigned to the bout is in place at ringside.

(d) Touching Contestants. The referee shall not touch the competing boxers, unless a contestant fails to obey the break command.

(e) Count. The referee's count is the official count. When a contestant is knocked down, the referee shall order the opponent to retire to the farthest corner of the ring, pointing to that corner. Once the opponent has so retired to the farthest neutral corner the referee will immediately pick up the timekeeper's count. The referee shall then audibly announce the passing of each second, accompanying the count upward with motions of his or her arm, indicating the count with visual finger counts at the end of each second. The referee may cease counting if the opponent fails to remain in the neutral corner until the count is complete. No contestant who is knocked down shall be allowed to resume boxing until the referee has finished counting eight. The contestant may take the count either on the floor or standing.

(f) Count for Dazed Contestant. Should a contestant who is down rise before the count of ten (10) and again go down without being struck then the referee shall resume the count where he or she stopped.

(g) Saved by the Bell. A boxer cannot be saved by the bell in any round including the final round of any boxing contest.

1. When any round ends before a contestant who was knocked down rises, the bell shall not ring and count shall continue. If the contestant rises before the count of ten, the bell shall ring ending the round.

2. The one-minute rest period, delayed by the count in (g)(1) above, shall not begin until the bell has sounded ending the round.

3. A knockdown will not be awarded or scored if the blow was struck after the bell ending the round has sounded.

(h) Boxers Knocked Out of the Ring.

1. Any boxer knocked out of the ring or onto the floor shall receive a twenty (20) second count.

2. During the time that any such boxer is outside the ring, he or she shall not be assisted by any member of their corner, and if such assistance is offered, it shall end the match, contest, or exhibition with that boxer losing by a technical knockout.

3. As a general precaution, to protect the safety of the boxer and to prevent any potential injury, a boxer knocked out of the

ring may have his or her fall stopped or slowed by any person without penalty, provided that such assistance shall only be to prevent injury from the fall and not to assist the boxer in returning to the ring.

(i) Standing Eight Count. There shall be no standing eight count.

(j) Knock-Out. If the contestant fails to rise before the count of ten (10), the referee shall declare said contestant the loser by a knockout.

(k) Failure to Answer Bell. A contestant shall not leave the ring during any one (1) minute rest period between rounds. If any contestant fails or refuses to resume boxing when the bell sounds signaling the commencement of the next round, the referee shall award a decision of technical knockout to his opponent as of the round which has last been finished.

1. If the circumstances indicate to the referee the need for investigation or punitive action, the referee may withhold giving a decision and may recommend the purse or purses of either or both boxers should be withheld pending a commission hearing.

(5) Fouls.

(a) In general, a referee has wide discretion in how to punish an offending boxer who fouls his or her opponent.

1. If the referee determines that a foul is unintentional, he or she may simply caution the offending boxer to be attentive to rules concerning fouls.

2. If the foul is determined to be intentional, the referee may issue a warning to the offending boxer, or may deduct one or more points from the offending boxer.

(b) Fouls, whether intentional or unintentional, are defined as follows:

1. Hitting below the belt;

2. Holding an opponent with one hand while hitting said opponent with the other hand, injuring the opponent;

3. Hitting an opponent who is "down" or who is getting up after being "down";
4. Holding an opponent or deliberately maintaining a clinch;
5. Butting with the head or shoulder or using the knee, injuring the opponent;
6. Hitting with the inside or butt of the hands, the wrists, or the elbows, injuring the opponent;
7. Hitting or "flicking" with open gloves;
8. Wrestling or roughing at the ropes;
9. Purposely going down without being hit;
10. Striking deliberately at that part of the body surrounding the kidneys;
11. The use of abusive or profane language; eyes with the thumb of glove;
13. Rabbit punches (hitting the back of the head or neck);
14. Failure to obey the referee;
15. ~~Any physical action which may injure a contestant other than sportsmanlike boxing~~ If the referee feels that a boxer has conducted himself/herself in an unsportsmanlike manner, the referee may stop the bout and disqualify the boxer.

(c) Intentional Foul. At the referee's discretion, any foul defined in sub-paragraph (b) may be called "intentional."

1. Upon the first occurrence of such intentional foul and during the same round as such intentional foul occurs, the referee may, at his or her discretion and without previous warning, disqualify the offending boxer or deduct one (1) point from the offending boxer.

2. Upon the second occurrence of such intentional foul, the referee may, at his or her discretion and without previous warning disqualify the offending boxer or deduct two (2) points from the offending boxer.

3. If an intentional foul causes an injury and the injury is severe enough to terminate the bout immediately, the boxing causing the injury shall lose by disqualification.

4. If an intentional foul causes an injury and the bout is allowed to continue, the referee will immediately notify the judges of the foul and the injury, and deduct two (2) points from the boxer who caused the foul. Point deduction for an intentional foul that causes injury to a boxer is mandatory.

5. If an intentional foul causes an injury and the injury results in the bout being stopped later in the round, the injured boxer:

(i) If ahead on the score cards, will win by Technical Decision (TW), or

(ii) If behind or even on the score cards, the bout will be judged a Technical Draw (TD).

(d) Unintentional Foul. Except as provided below, no point will be deducted from the score or other disciplinary action taken against either boxer for an unintentional foul unless a previous warning has been given to the offending boxer. For the purposes of this subparagraph, unintentional fouls are actions as described by sub-paragraph (b) above, which in the judgment of the referee were not intentionally caused.

1. If an unintentional foul causes an injury severe enough for the referee to stop the bout immediately, the bout result will be announced in accordance with the Uniform Championship Rules in effect at the time of the bout.

2. If an unintentional foul causes an injury severe enough for the referee to stop the bout after four (4) rounds have been completed, the bout will result in a Technical Decision (TW), awarded to the boxer who is ahead on the score cards at the time the bout is stopped.

(i) Partial or incomplete rounds will be scored. If no action has occurred, the round shall be scored as an even round.

(e) Cuts and Lacerations. A cut or laceration caused by either an intentional or an unintentional foul may only be treated during the one (1) minute break between rounds, provided however that the referee may call a brief time-out and request a physician's evaluation of the cut to determine if the bout shall

be allowed to continue. During such time-out, the cut may not be treated by the physician or any other person.

(6) Scoring.

(a) When Contestant Considered Knocked Down. A contestant shall be deemed down when, after a scoring blow was struck, and:

1. Any part of the downed boxer's body, other than his or her feet, makes contact with the ring floor;
2. He or she is hanging over the ropes in a defenseless manner (a referee can count the boxer out either on the ropes or on the floor);

(b) When Contestant Considered Not Knocked Down. A knockdown will not be scored or counted when:

1. The referee indicated that the boxer fell after slipping or being tripped.
2. The referee or the commission supervisor determines that the blow was struck after the bell sounded ending the round.

(c) Deducting Points for Fouls.

1. A judge shall be careful to correctly deduct any point or points from the scorecard as commanded by the referee.
2. When one or more points is to be deducted from a boxer's score, the judge shall first record his or her actual score for the round (gross points before any points are deducted) and shall then deduct the appropriate number of points from that score to arrive at a net score for the round. The net-score for the round, after points are deducted, may result in neither boxer receiving a 10-point score.

(d) The 10 Point Must System.

1. The 10 Point Must system shall be used as the standard scoring of a bout.

(7) Low Blows: Intentional or Unintentional.

(a) Recuperation Time. Any contestant struck by a low blow may, at the discretion and after consultation with the ring physician, be given up to five (5) minutes to recuperate.

1. During such recuperation the injured boxer may sit on a stool inside the ring, or in a neutral corner, but may not rest in his assigned corner.

2. Only the referee is allowed to assist the injured boxer during the five minute rest period.

3. The uninjured fighter, during any such rest period, may not be assisted and shall remain in the neutral corner furthest from the boxer.

(b) Bout Stopped by Low Blow. Except as provided in subparagraph (5)(b)(15) of this rule, no contestant injured by a low blow may be awarded the contest.

1. If a contestant falls to the ring floor or otherwise indicates an unwillingness to continue because of a claim of a low-blow, he shall be declared the loser by a technical knockout.

(8) Timekeepers.

(a) Number Assigned per Bout. Two (2) licensed timekeepers, assigned by the commission, shall be required at each event; one (1) to keep time and one (1) to count for the knockdowns.

(b) Announcement Responsibilities.

1. The bell shall be sounded at the beginning and at the end of each round. Except as provided in (d) below the timekeeper shall not sound the bell during the process of the round.

(i) Regardless of the sounding of the bell, the referee in the ring is the sole authority to announce when the round begins. Each boxer will remain in their assigned corner. The referee, once he or she is satisfied that each boxer is prepared to begin and that no condition exists which may present a medical hazard to either boxer, will announce "FIGHT."

(ii) The timekeeper will immediately start the clock at the referee's command of "FIGHT."

2. Timekeepers shall alert the referee by striking the table ten (10) seconds prior to the end of each round.

3. Timekeepers shall blow their whistle ten (10) seconds prior to the end of each one (1) minute rest period.

(d) Countdown Responsibilities. When a boxer is down, the timekeeper shall rise and start his or her count, counting by one (1) for each second until ten (10) is reached. After the referee has taken control of the count, the timekeeper shall be seated and cease counting.

(e) Responsibility to Announce in an Emergency Suspension of Round. If the referee is absent from the ring or temporarily incapacitated the timekeeper shall immediately sound the gong for temporary discontinuance of the contest.

(9) After the Contest, Match, or Exhibition.

(a) Contestants to Leave Ring. When the decision of the referee or judges has been announced both contestants and their seconds shall at once leave the ring and retire to their dressing rooms.

(b) Decision Announcement. In all preliminary contests decided by the judges' scorecards, up to and including the semi-main event, the announcer will announce if the decision is "unanimous," "a majority decision," or "a draw." In main events and championship contests decided by the judges' scorecards, the total points given each contestant by the three (3) individual judges will be announced.

(c) Finality of the Decision. A decision rendered at the end of any boxing contest is final and shall not be changed unless the Commission determines that any of the following occurred:

1. There was collusion or fraud affecting the result of any contest, or,
2. The compilation of the score cards of the referee and judges reveals a clerical or mathematical error which caused the decision to be given to the wrong boxer.
3. There was a violation of the laws or rules and regulations governing professional boxing in this state which affected the results of any contest.
4. The chief official may in his or her discretion change a referee's decision if, in his or her judgment, a palpable and self-evident error has been committed.



(d) Appeal of Decision.

1. A petition to change a decision or the ruling of the chief official shall be in writing and filed by a boxer or the boxer's manager within five (5) business days from the date the decision was rendered.

2. The Commission may hold a hearing to change the decision or the ruling of the chief official at any time within fourteen (14) days from the date the decision was written. A majority vote of the Commissioners shall be required prior to holding a hearing.

3. If the Commission determines that any of the above occurred with regards to any contest then the decision rendered shall be changed as the Commission may direct, and shall notify the national registry of the change.

**Authors:** J. Matt Bledsoe, Brandon Owens, Casey Sears, Joseph B. McCormick

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §41-9-1024.

**History: New Rule:** Filed December 27, 2013; effective January 31, 2014.