STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA ATHLETIC COMMISSION
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 165-X-8
PROFESSIONAL BAR-NUCKLE BOXING

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165-X-8-.01 Definitions.

(1) "Applicant" means any persons, corporations, organizations or associations required to be licensed before promoting, holding, organizing, participating in, or competing in a professional boxing match, contest, or exhibition.

(2) "Body jewelry" means any tangible object affixed to, through, or around any portion of the contestant's body.

(3) "Official" unless otherwise indicated is an exclusive term collectively meaning "judge," "referee," "timekeeper," and "inspectors"

(4) "Sanctioning Organization" means a national or international organization generally recognized in the bare-knuckle boxing community and which: ranks bare-knuckle boxers within each weight class; sanctions and approves championship matches in those weight classes; and awards championship status and championship prizes (belts, rings, plaques, etc.) to the winner of those matches.

(5) "Special Event" means a bare-knuckle boxing card or bare-knuckle boxing show, which has among its contests a championship match, a pay-per-view or subscription television

match, a national televised match, or any other match of significance to boxing in this state as designated by the Commission.

(6) "The Commission" is reference for the Alabama Athletic Commission.

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165-X-8-.02 Licenses.

(1) Application Procedures.

(a) Terms and Agreements. Every license issued is subject to the terms, conditions, and agreements set forth in the application as well as those set forth in these rules and the Alabama Boxing, Wrestling, and Mixed Martial Arts Act.

(b) Application Forms. Applications for annual license shall be submitted to the Commission on an application form provided by the Commission.

(c) Incomplete Applications.

1. No license or permit shall be issued until the person seeking the license or permit has submitted a complete application.

2. Applications submitted without proper payment as provided in these rules will not be processed or approved.

(d) License Application Due Date. Except as provided in 165-X-8-.03(1)(a) below, all license applications must be submitted prior to the weigh-in preceding the first professional match, contest, or exhibition in which the applicant intends to participate in this state.

1. No official weigh-in will be conducted for an unlicensed bare-knuckle boxer unless approved by a Commission official.

2. Licenses shall be issued annually and shall expire on December 31 of each calendar year.

(e) Approval and Denial of Participant Licenses. Annual licenses for referees, judges, timekeepers, matchmakers, bare-knuckle boxers, managers, trainers and seconds, may be approved or denied by the Commission.

1. Any individual denied a license by the Commission can appeal the denial of the license to the Commission. The appeal will be heard by the Commission at a hearing set by the Commission. At the conclusion of the hearing, Commission will vote to sustain or overrule the denial.

(f) Background Investigation. The Commission shall request general background information of any applicant for any license.

(g) Denial of License. The Commission may deny issuing a license to any person who has violated the Alabama Boxing, Wrestling, and Mixed Martial Arts Act, or has violated Commission rules and regulations or violated Commission bylaws or who submits an application containing false statements or material omissions.

(h) Expiration Date. Annual licenses are valid until December 31 of the calendar year in which they are issued.

(i) Verbal or physical abuse of official or commission appointed supervisor. Any licensee who verbally or physically abuses an official or member of the Commission, or its appointed supervisor of a match, contest, or exhibition shall be summarily suspended and his or her license may be revoked.

(j) Communication with Commission. Anyone wishing to communicate with members of the Commission must notify the executive director of the Commission two (2) weeks prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting. Timely written notices will be added to the meeting’s agenda. Any person wishing to address the Commission shall be given the opportunity to do so during the new business section of the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

1. Promoters, referees, judges, timekeepers, matchmakers, bare-knuckle boxers, managers, trainers, seconds or their agents, are prohibited from petitioning any individual Commissioner with the intent of affecting the outcome of an application or other issue being actively reviewed or expected to be reviewed by the Commission. Persons who violate this rule shall be subject to disciplinary action.

(k) Documents. All documents submitted to the Commission for the purposes of making application or any other purpose shall be property of the Commission.

(2) License Fees.

(a) Application Fee. All application and renewal fees shall be submitted with the application or renewal. All fees shall be by certified check or money order.

1. Schedule of Fees. Annual fees for participant licenses, promoter's licenses, and match permits are as follow:

(i)	Bare-knuckle boxer	$30.00
(ii)	Judge	$100.00
(iii)	Manager	$75.00
(iv)	Application for Match Permit	$250.00
(v)	Match Permit	$6% of gross
(vi)	Matchmaker	$100.00
(vii)	Promoter	$250.00
(viii)	Referee	$100.00
(ix)	Second	$40.00
(x)	Cutman	$40.00
(xi)	Timekeeper	$100.00
(xii)	Trainer	$40.00
(xiii)	Returned Check	$30.00

2. Application Fees are not refundable. The proposed date of any match, contest, or exhibition disclosed on an open match permit application may be changed without the requirement of an additional fee.

3. All fees shall be paid by cash, certified check, cashier's check, or personal check.

(3) Licenses Issued by the Commission.

(a) made in writing and received by the Commission no less than thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed date for promoting any professional match, contest, or exhibition in this state.

1. Each application for a promoter's license shall be accompanied with cash, certified check, cashier's check, or personal check in the amount of $250.00 and made out to the Alabama Athletic Commission.

2. Each application for a promoter's license shall be accompanied with an appropriate security bond.

3. Applications for a promoter's license shall be signed in the presence of a Commission representative, or shall be signed in the presence of and verified by a notary public.

4. The promoter shall provide the Commission's executive director a video of the matches, contests, or exhibitions within ten (10) days of the match, contest, or exhibition. The video shall be provided in a format acceptable to the Commission or the commission executive director. The Commission reserves the right to change the requested format of the video at any time.

5. Promoters are prohibited from participating in any match, contest, or exhibition that they are promoting without approval from the Commission. Any promoter that is approved to participate in a match, contest, or exhibition must obtain the appropriate participant license from the Commission.

6. Any licensed promoter who partners or joint-ventures with any other person, for the promotion of a bare-knuckle boxing match, contest, or exhibition in this state, shall disclose to the Commission each party's financial responsibility in the partnership or joint-venture. The

promoter licensed by the Commission shall be considered the principal promoter of the show and will be solely responsible for all financial obligations incurred in its production. Contracts shall be filed with the Commission delimiting each party's financial responsibility.

7. Any licensed promoter who partners or joint-ventures with any other person, or the promotion of a boxing match, contest, or exhibition in this state, shall be considered a co-promoter.

8. Co-promoters must obtain a promoter's license prior to promoting any professional match, contest, or exhibition in this state.

9. Agreements between the promoter and any other party or co-promoter for payment of any purse will not be honored by the Commission unless the co-promoter or any other party files with the Commission an approved security bond in the amount of the total deferred obligation.

10. Agreements between the promoter and any other party or co-promoter for payment of any regulatory fees, match permit fees, license fees, and or taxes will not be honored by the Commission without prior approval by the Commission and without the co-promoter or other party filing with the Commission an approved security bond or some combination thereof in the amount of the total deferred obligation.

11. Any co-promoter of bare-knuckle boxing shall obtain a promoter license from the Commission. There shall be no limitation on the number of days prior to a match, contest or exhibition when a co-promoter's application may be submitted to the Commission, however, the application must be submitted thirty (30) days prior to promoting the match, contest or exhibition.

(i) Rules and requirements shall be the same for co-promoters as for promoters, provided however that the Commission may require from each co-promoter, in addition to the promoter's license bond, a suitable match permit bond or such other financial security as defined by these rules or the Alabama Boxing, Wrestling, and Mixed Martial Arts Act.

(ii) Agreements between the co-promoter and the promoter for payment of any purse shall be submitted to the

Commission and approved prior to the start of the match, contest, or exhibition.

(iii) Agreements between the co-promoter and the promoter for payment of any fees, and taxes shall be submitted to the Commission and approved prior to the start of the match, contest, or exhibition.

(b) Match Permit.

1. Applications for a match permit must be made in writing and received by the Commission at least (thirty) 30 days in advance of the date for such professional boxing match, contest, or exhibition. Any licensed promoter who has held a professional bare-knuckle boxing match, contest, or exhibition in the state within the previous twelve months may apply for subsequent match permits no less than 15 days in advance of the proposed date of each subsequent professional boxing match, contest, or exhibition.

2. Each match permit application shall be accompanied by a non-refundable cashier's check or money order in the amount of $250.00 and made out to the Alabama Athletic Commission.

3. A match permit fee will be calculated by the Commission. Match permit fee shall be calculated at five percent (5%) of gross receipts from ticket sales to the professional boxing match, contest, or exhibition. For television and broadcasts, match permit fee shall be calculated at three percent (3%) of gross receipts from television and broadcast revenue for the first one million dollars ($1,000,000) of revenue and one percent (1%) of the next two million ($2,000,000). Match Permit fees and Broadcast fees will cap at fifty thousand dollars ($50,000) total.

(i) Ticket sales include the face value all tickets, orders, and lots sold for the event, and the fair value or face value of any promotional tickets, orders, and lots sold or provided at no cost.

(ii) The promoter must complete and submit to the Commission a Match Permit Fee Form provided by the Commission at the conclusion of the match, contest, or exhibition. The Commission will calculate the Permit Fee and notify the promoter.

(iii) The promoter shall have thirty (30) days to submit the Permit Fee. Permit applications and fees not received within thirty (30) days of the planned event may be subject to an additional match permit application and match permit application fee.

(iv) Two percent (2%) of tickets may be complimentary and exempt from the match permit fee.

4. Each application for a match permit shall be accompanied with an appropriate security bond as provided for in these rules.

5. Each match permit application should be accompanied with copies of all contracts with all participants and officials, and any other contracts which the promoter has entered into for the match, contest, or exhibition.

6. Applicants for a match permit will be notified if the date, time, and place of documents submitted by the applicant will be reviewed by the Commission.

(i) Applicants or their designated and licensed representative(s) may attend the meeting and answer any questions the Commission has concerning the proposed event.

(ii) The Commission shall notify the applicant that his or her application has been approved or denied within seven (7) days of the Commission's decision.

(c) Matches, Contests and Exhibitions Benefiting Charity.

1. A person who wishes to promote a match, contest or exhibition for charitable purposes must file with the Commission a letter of intent to present the match, contest or exhibition as benefiting a charitable organization. The letter of intent must contain the name of the charity, charitable fund, or organization which is to benefit from the match, contest or exhibition and the amount expected to be to be paid to the charity. The letter of intent must be signed by the promoter and co-signed by an authorized representative of the charity to benefit from the match, contest or exhibition. No match permit shall be issued for a charitable match, contest, or exhibition without full financial disclosure of all promoters and charitable organizations involved, including all contracts and

proposals between all licensees, officials, and parties involved.

2. Within three (3) business days after a match, contest, or exhibition benefiting a charitable organization is held, the promoter(s) and benefiting charitable organization(s) shall furnish to the Commission:

(i) A certified copy of the ticket manifest showing the number of tickets sold. The manifest shall give a breakdown disclosing the number of tickets sold in each price range and the number of complimentary tickets given for the match, contest, or exhibition;

(ii) A certified and itemized statement of the match, contest, or exhibition's gross receipts from sponsorships, ticket sales, advertisements, or any other source;

(iii) A statement disclosing the itemized and total gross expenditures in connection with the match, contest, or exhibition;

(iv) A statement co-signed by the promoter and the authorized representative of the Charitable organization, disclosing the net amount paid to the charitable fund or organization.

3. If the promoter or charitable organization fails to file any of these statements within the prescribed time, the Commission:

(i) Shall notify the promoter that his or her license is summarily suspended.

(ii) Shall notify the charity of the suspension.

(iii) Decline to issue a match permit to the promoter for the holding of any match, contest, or exhibition until the statements are provided.

(iv) Decline to issue a match permit to any promoter to hold any future match, contest, or exhibition for the benefit of the charitable organization, until the statements are provided.

(d) Bare-Knuckle Boxers. Bare-Knuckle Boxers applying to be licensed in Alabama shall meet the medical

requirements laid out in 165-X-8-.04 and experience requirements laid out in 165-X-8-.08.

(e) Matchmakers. Matchmakers applying for licensure shall meet the following requirements:

1. A matchmaker shall demonstrate to the Commission that he or she has the necessary background to be a matchmaker, and shall produce a list of all professional fighters that he or she has matched, the promoters who promoted the matches, and the results of the matches.

2. The Commission may contact the persons listed to determine whether the applicant is qualified for licensure.

(f) Trainers. Trainers applying for licensure shall meet the following requirements:

1. An applicant shall demonstrate to the Commission that he or she has experience in training fighters, and shall produce a list of all professional fighters that he or she has trained, the promoters who promoted the matches, and the results of the matches. The applicant may be required to provide a list of amateur fighters that he or she has trained.

2. The Commission may contact the persons listed to determine whether the applicant is qualified for licensure.

(g) Seconds. Seconds applying for licensure shall meet the following requirements:

1. An applicant shall demonstrate to the Commission that he or she has the necessary background to serve as a second, and shall produce a list of all professional fighters that he or she has served as a second, the promoters who promoted the matches, and the results of the matches. The applicant may be required to provide a list of amateur fighters that he or she has served as a second.

2. The Commission may contact the persons listed to determine whether the applicant is qualified for licensure.

(h) Cutmen. Cutmen applying for licensure shall meet the following requirements:

1. An applicant shall demonstrate to the Commission that he or she has the necessary background to serve as a

cutman, and shall produce a list of all professional events they have worked. The applicant may be required to provide a list of amateur events that he or she has served as a cutman.

2. All cutmen applying for licensure shall be members of the International Cutman Association (ICA), Word Cutman Association (WCA), or other professional association deemed acceptable by the Commission.

(i) Disciplinary Action.

1. The Commission may revoke, suspend, place on probation or take other disciplinary action against the license of any licensee who has violated any of its rules or regulations or any of the provisions of Code of Ala. 1975, §41-9-1024 or whose application contains false statements or material omissions.

(i) Any person who has had his or her license revoked by the Commission may not petition for reinstatement or apply for a new license until one (1) year after the revocation.

(ii) Falsifying an Application. Upon a finding by the majority of the Commission that any licensee or applicant has knowingly made a misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representation in regard to a professional match contest or exhibition of boxing or any document connected therewith or practiced fraud or deceit or intentionally made any false statement in obtaining a license to participate or promote a professional match contest or exhibition of boxing or made a false statement or deceptive registration with the Commission then the Commission shall have the authority to refuse to grant a license to an applicant, revoke the license of a person licensed by the Commission, or discipline a person licensed by the Commission.

Authors: Dr. John Marshall, Joel R. Blankenship, Larry Bright, Stan Frierson, Shane Sears

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165-X-8-.03 Bonds.

(1) Promoter's License Surety Bond.

(a) Before any promoter's license is issued authorizing the promotion of professional bare-knuckle boxing matches in Alabama, the applicant shall make and deliver to the commission a security bond executed by a surety corporation authorized to transact business in this state.

(b) Any and all bond applications shall be on a form provided by the Commission, and shall be accompanied by an enforceable power of attorney, naming the Commission or its designee as the Attorney in Fact. The Commission may also require certificate of "good standing" issued by the Commissioner of Insurance.

(c) If any company issuing a bond shall be removed from doing business in this state, it shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Insurance to notify the Alabama Boxing Commission within 30 days.

(d) The bond shall be in such amount as the Commission may determine based upon the payment of officials' fees, fees necessary to secure the proper medical supervision of any bare-knuckle boxing show in Alabama, and/or the estimated potential damages, penalties, taxes or expenses resulting from promotional activities contemplated in Alabama.

(e) Whenever the Commission shall determine that a previously approved bond has for any cause become insufficient, the Commission may require an additional bond or bonds to be given, conforming with the requirements of these rules.

1. Unless the additional promoter's license bond or bonds are given within the time fixed by written demand therefore, or if the promoter's license bond of a licensee is canceled, the license of such person shall be summarily suspended without notice or hearing.

(2) Match Permit Bond.

(a) Before any match permit is issued authorizing the sale of tickets and the ancillary contracting necessary to promote a professional bare-knuckle boxing show in Alabama, the applicant shall make and deliver to the Commission a security bond executed by a surety corporation authorized to transact business in this state. The purpose of the bond is to ensure that each Contestant competing in Alabama is paid their entire

purse, and that full payment of other contractual liabilities is made.

(b) Any and all bond applications shall be on a form provided by the Commission, and shall be accompanied by an enforceable power of attorney, naming the Commission or its designee as the Attorney in Fact. The Commission may also require a certificate of 'good standing' issued by the Commissioner of Insurance.

(c) If any company issuing a bond shall be removed from doing business in this state, it shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Insurance to notify the Alabama Athletic Commission within thirty (30) days.

(d) The bond shall be in such amount as the Commission may determine based upon the estimated contractual liabilities against the licensed promoter for damages and expenses resulting from non-payment of contract liabilities, including but not limited to the total amount of each competing Contestant's purse or other services contracted for or from promotional activities conducted within Alabama.

(e) Whenever the Commission shall determine that a previously approved bond has for any cause become insufficient, the Commission may require additional bond or bonds to be given, conforming with the requirements of these rules.

1. Unless the additional match permit bond or bonds are given within the time fixed by written demand, or if the match permit bond of a licensee is canceled, the match permit of such person shall be summarily suspended and without notice or hearing.

(3) Complaints and Actions to Recover Damages. Complaints shall be categorized and kept on file by the Commission the appropriate action to be taken. Reports of illegal events, contesting of bout results, complaints against a licensee, and claims against a bond shall be categorized as complaints.

(a) Any person claiming that he or she has been damaged by a breach of the conditions of a bond given by a licensee as provided in these rules shall notify the Attorney General.

(b) The Attorney General, after an investigation is conducted, may contact the Commission, its executive director or other duly authorized representative for disciplinary action against the person whom the complaint was filed.

(c) Reports of unsanctioned events shall be logged on a complaint database and given a claim number. The Executive Director or other Commission appointed representative(s) may work with the Attorney General's Office and federal, state, and/or local law enforcement agencies to terminate illegal event.

(d) Complaint against a bout result. See 165-X-8-.08,9., C.

(e) Complaints against a licensee. See 165-X-8-.08,9., C. and D.

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165-X-8-.04 Medical Requirements.

(1) Medical Examinations.

(a) Neurological Examination.

1. All bare-knuckle boxers intended to compete in Alabama who have competed in over two-hundred (200) rounds during their professional career, according to the number of rounds disclosed on the official ring record(s), and prior to competing in Alabama, must submit to the Commission the results of a detailed neurological examination performed within the previous twelve (12) months by a board certified and state licensed neurologist. These two-hundred (200) rounds are cumulative amongst all records, in all combative disciplines.

2. Such examination shall include a careful examination for signs of any trauma-induced neurological damage along with any other specific test or tests requested by the neurologist.

3. Any bare-knuckle boxer not submitting said results prior to the match may be allowed to compete, at the determination of the Chief Inspector, provided however that such bare-knuckle boxer's license will, at the conclusion of the match, be medically suspended until such time as his/her neurological examination requirement is fulfilled.

(b) Eye Examination.

1. All bare-knuckle boxers intending to compete in Alabama who have competed in over two-hundred (200) rounds during their professional career, according to the number of rounds disclosed on the official ring record(s), and prior to competing in Alabama, must submit to the Commission results from a complete ophthalmological or optometric examination performed within the previous twelve (12) months by a state licensed optometrist or board-certified ophthalmologist. These two-hundred (200) rounds are cumulative amongst all records, in all combative disciplines.

2. Such examination shall include a careful dilated examination of the retinal periphery utilizing indirect ophthalmoscope sufficient to identify any sign of previous trauma or retinal damage along with any other specific test or tests requested by said ophthalmologist or optometrist.

3. Any bare-knuckle boxer not submitting said results prior to the match may be allowed to compete, at the determination of the Chief Inspector, provided however that such boxer's license will, at the conclusion of the match, be medically suspended until such time as this ophthalmological or optometric requirement is fulfilled.

(i) The Commission may require updated examinations pursuant to sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of this rule after each successive fifty (50) fought rounds after the previous submission, as disclosed on such boxer's official ring record.

(2) Pre-Fight Examination. At the time of weigh-in, or at such other time as is then announced, all boxers 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 on the day of the weigh-in.

(a) Pregnancy Testing.

1. Each female bare-knuckle boxer, 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. The cost of such test, unless the bare-knuckle boxer's contract or bout agreement states otherwise, shall be the responsibility of the promoter. Pregnant fighters shall not fight.

2. Female bare-knuckle boxers 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:

(i) A copy of a lab report from a recognized clinical laboratory and dated within ten (10) days of the pre-fight physical attesting that the boxer is not pregnant, or

(ii) A statement from a state licensed physician, on such physician's letterhead stationery, stating that the bare-knuckle boxer has undergone certain medical procedures rendering her medically improbable of bearing children.

(b) Failed Pre-Fight Physical.

1. Whenever a bare-knuckle boxer'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 Commission. In such case, the bare-knuckle boxer shall be prohibited from participating in the match.

2. The examining physician shall deliver all pre-fight examination reports to the Commission or to its authorized representative immediately after the weigh-in.

3. 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 Commission.

(c) Hydration Testing.

1. At the official weigh-in, all bare-knuckle boxers' hydration shall be tested using digital fiber optic refractometers or other hydration testing method as determined by the appointed event physician.

(d) Minimum Uncorrected Visual Acuity.

1. A bare-knuckle boxer must have a minimum uncorrected visual acuity of 20/200 in both eyes. Any person who applies for a license or renewal of license to compete as a professional bare-knuckle boxer in Alabama may, upon the request of the Commission, be required to present evidence of his/her visual acuity.

(e) Additional Medical Examinations.

1. Upon recommendation of the examining physician or the medical advisory panel, the Commission may require a bare-knuckle boxer to undergo additional medical examinations performed by a state licensed physician to determine the bare-knuckle boxer’s medical fitness to compete.

(i) The Commission shall require re-examinations submitted after each successive fifty (50) professional rounds after the previous submission, as disclosed on such bare-knuckle boxer’s official ring record(s).

(f) Medical Suspensions by Other Commissions.

1. Medical suspensions. Other athletic commissions recognized by the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports and which are published by any boxing and/or mixed martial arts registry approved for such purposes by the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports, shall be recognized by the Commission.

2. Medical examinations after suspensions. A bare-knuckle boxer who is under medical suspension in another state shall submit to any medical examination listed in this chapter as requested by the Commission prior to competing in a contest or exhibition in this state.

(g) Drugs Prohibited.

1. The administration or use of any drugs, alcohol, stimulants, or injections in any part of the bare-knuckle boxer’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.

(i) The Commission may order a bare-knuckle boxer to undergo a drug screening at any time. A Drug Screen Form must be completed by an approved laboratory and submitted to the Commission within seven (7) days of the order.

(h) Post Contest Inactive Period.

1. No bare-knuckle boxer 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.

(i) Head Injury.

1. Any bare-knuckle boxer who suffers a knockout, concussion, or other serious head injury shall be examined by the Ringside Physician. The Physician shall immediately report to the Commission or its representative, the condition of such boxer and whether or not additional medical attention is advised.

(j) Knock Out and Technical Knock Out.

1. When a bare-knuckle boxer is defeated by knock out, that boxer’s license shall be placed on an immediate sixty (60) day medical suspension.

2. Upon a bare-knuckle boxer’s second defeat by knock out, the competitor’s license shall be placed on an immediate ninety (90) day medical suspension and the boxer shall submit to a medical examination.

3. A Post-Knock Out Examination Form shall be completed by a physician and submitted to the Commission along with request for medical clearance for thirty (30) days prior to participating in a contest or exhibition in this state. Any bare-knuckle boxer losing by knock out in two (2) or more consecutive fights shall be placed on immediate medical suspension for a period of six (6) months.

4. Unless otherwise ordered by the attending ringside physician, there shall be a minimum thirty (30) day medical suspension after a technical knockout.

5. Technical knock outs caused by a severe cut shall result in either a forty-five (45) day or sixty (60) day medical suspension.

6. Stoppages with injury may also warrant a medical suspension as determined by the ringside physician.

7. Completing a suspension may require approved medical evaluations as determined by the ringside physician.

(k) Under-Conditioned Fighter.

1. A bare-knuckle boxer deemed under-conditioned by the referee, the Commission, or any designated representative of the Commission, shall be immediately disqualified and suspended for ninety (90) days.

(i) If it should be determined by the referee, any member of the Commission present, or any designated representative of the Commission present that a bare-knuckle boxer did not give a good faith effort to display his or her skills, then that bare-knuckle boxer shall be subject to disciplinary action.

(ii) A disqualified bare-knuckle boxer may be disciplined by the Commission.

(l) Consecutive Losses.

2. Four or More Consecutive Losses by TKO, KO, or DQ. A bare-knuckle boxer who has lost four (4) consecutive fights by knock-out, technical knock-out, or disqualification, according to their official ring record(s) compiled and maintained by the ABC Registries, shall be summarily suspended pending a hearing by the Commission. Suspension will be listed as "Indefinite Pending Hearing."

3. History of Poor Performance. Any bare-knuckle boxer with a history of poor performance shall not be approved to compete against any other bare-knuckle boxer, except another bare-knuckle boxer who has a similar history of poor performance in the same weight class.

(m) Verification of Contestant Experience.

1. The trainer or manager for a bare-knuckle boxer that meets the following criteria shall submit an affidavit that the boxer is prepared for a professional contest:

(i) Bare-knuckle boxer has competed in a fewer than four (4) professional boxing, professional bare-knuckle boxing, professional mixed martial arts, and/or professional kickboxing bout.

(ii) Bare-knuckle boxer has not competed in the last twelve (12) months.

(iii) Bare-knuckle boxer has lost his or her last six (6) consecutive events.

(iv) Bare-knuckle boxer has lost three (3) consecutive events by TKO, KO, or DQ.

(n) General Responsibilities and Provisions.

1. During the performance of any promotion, it shall be the promoter's responsibility to ensure the compliance with all laws and rules governing professional bare-knuckle boxing in Alabama. Such responsibilities shall include, but will not be limited to the following:

(i) Medical Insurance.

(I) The promoter shall provide for the bare-knuckle boxers' 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 minimum limit of $20,000 death benefit awarded to the estate of any contestant should death occur from injuries received while participating in the contest or exhibition.

(ii) Physician.

(I) A minimum of two (2) physicians shall be present at all events. A Commission designated ringside physician must be at ringside each bout, with the remaining physician(s) available to perform suturing of injured fighters, in a designated medical area. A Commission designated ringside physician shall be either a M.D. or D.O.

I. Physicians not having completed the Ringside Physician Certification shall be licensed as "Non-Ringside Physicians," but may serve at ring or cage side so long as a minimum of one certified Ringside Physician is present.

(II) All "Ringside" physicians serving ring or cage side shall obtain ARP/ACSM Certified Ringside Physician (CRP) certification. All physicians having completed the CPR shall be licensed as a "Ringside Physician."

(iii) Ambulance Service.

(I) The promoter shall provide continuous ambulance service with a state-certified EMT attendant and state-certified paramedic, 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.

(II) For the purposes of this section, a program of Bare-knuckle boxing begins with the commencement of the first contest or exhibition and ends when the last bare-knuckle boxer leaves the site of the program.

(III) The chief inspector and/or Commission appointed supervisor shall meet with the EMT and paramedic prior to the beginning of the match, contest, or exhibition. During such meeting the chief inspector or Commission supervisor will instruct the EMT and paramedic concerning the match, contest, or exhibition, placement of the stretcher and any other information necessary to ensure prompt and appropriate immediate care.

(IV) An ambulance shall be able and available to immediately transport any severely injured bare-knuckle boxer 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 inspector and/or the Commission appointed supervisor as described in subparagraph (III), above.

(V) In addition to the above-mentioned ambulance, a paramedic, licensed by the State of Alabama, shall be present at ringside with the ringside physician. The paramedic shall possess advanced life support equipment necessary to resuscitate a fighter and package them for transport to the hospital. The paramedic is in addition to any EMT's or paramedics that are hired for the safety of the crowd and shall not leave ringside while a fight is taking place and shall be in direct communication with the ringside physician at all times. The ringside paramedic shall only leave ringside to attend to a

spectator or another person in the event of an emergency and when no other paramedic is available.

(iv) A minimum of two (2) licensed cutmen are required for each bare-knuckle boxing event; one for each corner. All cutmen shall be licensed by the Commission.

(v) Hepatitis and HIV Testing.

(I) Blood borne pathogen testing. All bare-knuckle boxers 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 (365) days prior to competition.

I. In addition to the pre-competition test, any bare-knuckle boxer shall be re-tested for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV prior to his or her participation in each boxing match, contest, or exhibition in Alabama if the match, contest, or exhibition is scheduled to occur more than (365) 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.

(II) Positive tests for blood-borne pathogens. Any bare-knuckle boxer 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 bare-knuckle boxer’s participation in a match, contest, or exhibition would pose a threat to the health and safety of a participant, official, or spectator.

I. Any bare-knuckle boxer that tests positive for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or HIV who is scheduled for competition must disclose to the promoter that he or she has tested positive for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or HIV.

Authors: Dr. John Marshall, Joel R. Blankenship, Larry Bright, Stan Frierson, Shane Sears

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

History: New Rule: Published February 28, 2020; effective April 13, 2020. **Amended:** Published August 31, 2022; effective October 15, 2022.

165-X-8-.05 Conduct Of Promotions.

(1) General Safety. It shall be the promoter's responsibility to ensure safety for the Contestants, officials, media and fans and to comply with all safety standards required by the Commission.

(a) Arena Security. Arena security is the responsibility of the promoter and such security measures provided by the promoter shall be sufficient to maintain order. At a minimum, two (2) sworn off duty law enforcement officers shall be retained for security.

(b) Obtain Ring. The promoter will provide a ring for the show and that the ring or cage must pass the certification requirements established by the Commission.

(c) Extra Wraps. Each promoter must have extra hand wrapping materials, of the appropriate specifications, available to be used in case a wrap is rejected by the Commission in advance of a match, contest, or exhibition or otherwise damaged during the course of the match, contest, or exhibition of bare-knuckle boxing.

(d) Fight Surface and Hand Wrap Certification. It is the promoter's responsibility to ensure that the fighting surface and hand wraps selected for use during each show meet the Commission's rules and regulations concerning proper certification.

(e) Advanced Advertising. In addition to the requirements in this Chapter, no contestant or celebrity shall be advertised by any promoter before said promoter has in his or her possession a written commitment from said contestant or celebrity and before said promoter has filed a copy of such written commitment with the Commission.

(f) Suggesting Benefits for Charitable Organization. No promoter may advertise, hold out, or suggest in any fashion that a portion of the proceeds of any proposed bare-knuckle boxing, boxing, or mixed martial arts show will be donated to a charitable organization without first complying with the Commission's rules governing "programs for charity."

(g) Final Bout Start Time. The final bout for all bare-knuckle boxing, boxing, or mixed martial arts events sanctioned by the Alabama Athletic and Entertainment Commission shall start by 11:59pm CST on the date for which the event permit is approved.

(2) Ringside Physician.

(a) Providing a physician. It shall be the responsibility of the Commission representative to assign one or more physicians at ringside during each bare-knuckle boxing, boxing, or mixed martial arts contest.

1. The physicians assigned must be on the roster of physicians authorized to conduct pre-fight physicals and serve as ringside physicians created by the Alabama Athletic Commission. Three (3) physicians shall be required at each bare-knuckle event; only one (1) of which being a licensed ringside physician. The remaining two (2) physicians may be licensed as non-ringside physicians.

2. At least one ringside physician must have in his or her possession any medical supplies and equipment reasonably anticipated to provide first-aid medical assistance for the type of injuries reasonably anticipated to occur in professional bare-knuckle boxing, professional boxing, or professional mixed martial arts matches.

3. The promoter shall compensate assigned ringside physicians in an amount to be mutually agreed upon by the promoter.

(3) Cutmen

(a) Providing the cutmen. It shall be the responsibility of the promotions responsibility to provide the cutmen for all bare-knuckle boxing events.

1. The cutmen assigned must be licensed as cutmen by the Alabama Athletic Commission.

2. At least one cutman must be assigned to each corner and have in his or her possession any medical supplies and equipment reasonably anticipated to provide services in professional bare-knuckle boxing, to include, but not limited to:

- Scissors;
- Ironing;
- Sterile cotton swabs;
- Sterile gauze napkins and cotton wool;

- Vaseline;
- Disposable sterile gloves;
- Means for sterilization and disinfection;
- Adrenaline;
- A towel;
- Ice Bag;
- Tape and bandage.

3. The promoter shall compensate assigned cutmen in an amount to be mutually agreed upon by the promoter.

(4) Arena.

(a) Drinks. No bare-knuckle boxing, boxing, or mixed martial arts match will be allowed to commence or continue, without specific authorization from the Commission, in any arena where concessionaires dispense or serve beverages in containers other than plastic or paper cups.

(b) Arena safety. No bare-knuckle boxing, boxing, or mixed martial arts match will be allowed to commence or continue in any arena which appears to the Commission appointed supervisor to be unsafe or where the Commission appointed supervisor has reason to believe that such building or location does not conform to any applicable laws, ordinances and regulations in the city or unincorporated county area.

(c) Dressing rooms. The only people allowed in the Contestant’s dressing room are the contestants, managers, seconds, Commission representatives including appointed Commissioners and approved physician(s).

1. Promoters shall be required by the Commission appointed supervisor to post a guard or Commission appointed inspector at the entrance to the dressing rooms to aid in enforcement of dressing room security.

2. A separate dressing area shall be provided for all referees and judges and all other Commission appointed representatives.

(4) Media Guidelines.

(a) Promoter Responsibilities for Media Personnel. It shall be the responsibility of the promoter to provide access to any sanctioned event to credentialed media professionals for

print, television, radio and online media. The promoter has a duty to provide unencumbered access to media professionals while ensuring their personal safety at the event.

1. Promoters of bare-knuckle boxing events shall provide media personnel with easily identifiable credentials that are clearly visible to state inspectors.

2. Promoters of bare-knuckle boxing events shall provide a four-foot (4’) wide open buffer zone between credentialed media and the fighting surface apron.

3. Promoters shall ensure the safety of credentialed media professionals by requiring them to remain outside the four-foot (4’) buffer zone at all times.

(i) Promoters shall provide security in the general area of credentialed media to insure they are allowed to perform their job functions with a clear view of the action and without hindrance from ticket holders, fight staff or others.

(b) Media Access to Restricted Areas. Promoters may provide credentialed media inside the fighting surface immediately following a bout.

1. Following an individual bout or at the close of an event, promoters may allow access to credentialed reporters and photographers directly outside the dressing rooms or staging areas restricted for fighters, fight staff and state officials.

2. Promoters shall ensure the personal safety of any credentialed media by providing a police officer in any area designated for interviews, photographs or press conferences.

(5) Violation: Penalties.

(a) Promoters or contestants that violate any section of this chapter shall be referred to the investigations hearing of the Alabama Athletic Commission for further action. Provided however that any action taken as a result of the hearing or by the full Commission to enforce or attempt to enforce the provisions of this chapter will be taken only after notice and hearing according to the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act. Either paragraph (a) or (b) within this subsection shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Commission.

(6) Show.

(a) Marketing Prohibited Without Prior Commission Approval. Commission approval or authorization must be obtained prior to selling tickets, making announcements, or distributing advertisements concerning any show, show date, contestants, or matches of professional bare-knuckle boxing, professional boxing, or professional mixed martial arts. Violations shall be referred to the investigations hearing of the Commission for disciplinary action.

(b) Professional Rounds scheduled.

1. Unless otherwise approved by the Commission, promoters shall schedule no less than twenty (25) rounds of bare-knuckle boxing on one (1) program. An emergency bout must be provided in case any of the scheduled bouts are not held.

2. No bare-knuckle boxing match shall have any rounds lasting less than two (2) minutes, with one (1) minute rest periods between rounds. No contest shall have rounds lasting longer than five (5) minutes.

3. Unless otherwise approved by the Commission, no bare-knuckle boxing contest shall be permitted for less than three (3) rounds duration.

(i) A standard contest shall consist of no more than five (5) rounds duration.

(ii) A Championship contest shall consist of no more than ten (10) rounds duration.

(c) Card Approval. Requests for preliminary approval of bare-knuckle boxing cards should be received by the Executive Director of the Commission or Commission appointed supervisor no less than ten (10) days prior to the start of the event. The names and ABC identification numbers and verification numbers of all competitors must be included and shall be typed. No hand-written requests shall be accepted. The Final card must be received by the Commission appointed supervisor or Chief Inspector no less than three (3) days prior to the date of the contest.

1. Substitutions to the final card will only be allowed after sufficient written evidence documenting the reason why such substitution is required. The information must be written on a form provided by the Commission and the signature

must be witnessed by the Executive Director, Commission appointed supervisor or a state of Alabama notary public. Failure to provide sufficient evidence will result in the cancellation of the scheduled bout and/or disciplinary action by the Commission.

2. No substitution will be allowed during the final twelve hours prior to the beginning of the event.

(i) No bout will be allowed to take place without the prior approval of the Chief Inspector or Commission appointed supervisor for the event.

(7) Purse.

(a) Method of Payment. Except as otherwise stated below, purses shall be paid by check, certified or cashier's check immediately after the contest. No cash shall be accepted. Payments of percentage contracts shall be made as soon as the amount can be determined. If requested by the Commission or by any Contestant, all purse payments shall be made in the presence of the authorized Commission representative.

1. After notification and approval by the Commission, arrangement for the payment of any purse greater than $50,000.00 shall be mutually agreed to by the promoter and the Contestant.

2. Should a promoter default on payments to Contestants, only that amount disclosed on the contract or bout agreement filed with the Commission and in advance of the bout will be covered by any bond on file with the Commission.

(b) Minimum Payment per Contracted Round. All contestants shall be guaranteed a purse equal to or exceeding $100 per contracted round. No "cash equivalent" substitutions for the payment of the minimum contracted amount including tickets in lieu of payment shall be allowed. Contestants shall be paid by check or money order only. Violations shall be referred to an investigative hearing of the Commission for disciplinary action.

(c) Authorized Purse Deductions. Promoters may deduct from any contestant's purse, the total amount of fees or fines owed to the Commission by said Contestant, including but not limited to fees required to issue to such contestant a federal identification card and/or state license, where such fees or

fines have not previously been paid by said contestant. Any such deduction shall immediately be remitted to the Commission.

(8) Contracts.

(a) Contract or Bout Agreement: Unless agreed upon in advance by the Alabama Athletic Commission, all bout agreements must be on the form approved by the Commission.

1. All bout agreements will state the following in bold type:

(i) The amount of guarantee or percentage promised; the number and time limit of rounds; when and where the official weigh-in will be conducted; when and where the Contestants are scheduled to appear; weight; and all other reasonably expected to be an issue of agreement within professional bare-knuckle boxing contracts and agreements.

(I) Weights expressed on bout agreements for all three (3) to five (5) round bouts shall allow no less than a +/-2 pounds variance of the contracted weight.

(II) Weights expressed on bout agreements for all championship matches shall be absolute and shall not allow for any variance.

(ii) Signature of the promoter or his or her designated representative, and the contestant or his or her designated representative.

(iii) Each contestant applying for license is required to obtain on their own a Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV blood test and must present to the Commission representative no later than at the weigh-in the results of such test conducted within 365 days of the proposed match.

(b) Contract or Bout Agreement: Required Form for Submission. All information appearing on any written agreements or contracts shall be typed.

(c) Contract or Bout Agreement: File with Commission. One (1) copy of each signed written agreement or contract, once executed by both parties and within three (3) calendar days of such execution, shall be filed with the Commission or the Commission appointed representative.

1. No bare-knuckle boxing match shall be allowed to commence prior to execution of a signed contract or bout agreement by both parties or before said contract or bout agreement is submitted to the Commission or the Commission appointed representative.

(d) Violations: Grounds for Suspension. Violation by either party of any written bout agreement or contract may be grounds for suspension of any license issued by the Commission and shall in addition to such suspension result in a fine or other disciplinary action imposed by the Commission. Violations shall be referred to the investigations hearing of the Commission for disciplinary action.

(9) Failure to Perform.

(a) Promoter Failure to Perform. The failure of a promoter to perform according to the terms of the contract; to produce contestants or special added attractions as advertised; to pay the contestants their contractual guarantee, or percentage; or the failure of a promoter to live up to his or her agreement with his or her contestants or performers who did perform as scheduled is prohibited and violations shall be referred to an investigative hearing of the Commission for disciplinary action.

(b) Contestant Failure to Perform. The failure of a contestant under contract with a licensed promoter to perform according to the terms of said contract; or the failure of a contestant to live up to his or her agreement with a person to which the contestant is under contractual agreement is prohibited. Violations shall be referred to an investigative hearing of the Commission for disciplinary action.

(c) Violation: Penalties.

(i) Violation of either paragraph (a) or (b) within this subsection may, for the first offense, be grounds for administrative suspension of not less than ninety (90) days and a fine of not more than the contracted purse amount disclosed on the bout agreement or contract. Violations shall be referred to an investigative hearing of the Commission for disciplinary action.

(ii) The second and/or any subsequent violation by any person of either paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) within this subsection may, in addition to any suspension by the Commission,

subject the violator to a fine of not more than the contracted purse amount as disclosed on the bout agreement or contract plus not more than an additional $10,000. Said fine to be imposed by the Commission. Violations shall be referred to an investigative hearing by the Commission for disciplinary action. Additional disciplinary action may be imposed.

(iii) Any person or license holder violating on three (3) or more occasions either sub-paragraph (a) or sub-paragraph (b) within this subsection shall have his or her license suspended indefinitely. Provided however that any action by the Commission to enforce or attempt to enforce the provisions of this sub-paragraph will be taken only after notice and hearing according to the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act.
Authors: Dr. John Marshall, Joel R. Blankenship, Larry Bright, Stan Frierson, Shane Sears
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §41-9-1024.
History: New Rule: Published February 28, 2020; effective April 13, 2020. **Amended:** Published August 31, 2022; effective October 15, 2022.

165-X-8-.06 Ring And Equipment.

(1) General Provisions.

(a) Any dimension in this rule, where the unit of measurement is "inches," shall be considered only as a general and approximate guideline. Where such dimension guidelines are exceeded, the Commission appointed supervisor shall have the authority to allow or disallow any such variance from the established guideline.

(2) The Ring.

(a) Ring Size. The ring must be an even number of sides and not less than sixteen feet (16') or more than thirty-two feet (32') on a side within the ropes. The ring platform (floor) must extend beyond the ropes at least eighteen inches (18") on all sides (apron).

1. A ring size greater than twenty feet (20') on a side within the ropes shall only be allowed after unanimous agreement of all the boxers contracted to appear on the show.

(b) Safety Padding. The ring floor shall be padded with one-inch (1") thick slow recovery foam matting, or other soft material approved by the Commission or its authorized representative, and shall extend over the edge of the ring platform with a top covering of canvas, duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Padding material that tends to gather in lumps may not be used.

(c) Ring Mat. The mat and covering shall be kept clean and free from disagreeable odors at all times. The corners must be covered by a pad long enough to cover all the rope joints.

(i) Scratch Marks. Ring Canvases must have two (2)parallel lines on the canvas no less than three (3)feet in length and each eighteen inches (18") from the center of the mat.

(d) Platform Height. The ring platform shall not be less than thirty-six inches (36") or more than fifty-four inches (54") from the floor of the building and shall be provided with suitable steps for use by the contestants.

(e) Ringside Tables. Each promoter shall be responsible for employing a safety plan to protect boxers who might fall outside of elevated rings. Except where deemed impractical, the floor of those sides not so protected shall be covered with protective matting.

(f) Ring Posts. Ring posts shall be made of some strong material, preferably metal pipe, three inches (3") in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a height of at least fifty-eight inches (58") above the ring floor.

(g) Ring Certification. Rings uses in Bare-Knuckle boxing matches in Alabama must be certified by the chief referee and/or the Commission representative in attendance at the show.

1. Any ring judged unsafe by the chief referee and/or the Commission representative or not otherwise meeting basic standards as defined in Commission rules, or which is deemed by the chief referee or Commission representative to be improperly stabilized will not be certified.

2. Failure to obtain certification will result in immediate and summary suspension of the match permit.

(3) Ring Ropes.

(a) Rope Dimensions. Ring ropes shall be no fewer than four (4) in number, at least one inch (1”) in diameter, the lower rope eighteen inches (18”) above the ring floor and the top rope fifty-two inches (52”) from the ring floor. The two remaining ropes will be evenly spread between the top and bottom ropes. All four ropes shall be wrapped in soft material.

1. Fencing. Alternatively, the fighting area shall be enclosed by fencing with two (2) separate openings and appropriate padding. Said fencing shall be no less than sixty inches (60”) in height.

(b) Rope Lanyards. Each ring rope on each side of the ring shall be connected with two (2) rope lanyards.

(c) Rope Lighting. The ring shall be amply illuminated by the overhead lights, which shall be so arranged that shadow shall be eliminated and discomfort from heat and glare minimized for persons in and near the rings.

(4) All Other Fighting Surfaces may be approved by the Chief Inspector, if such a surface is unique to the promotion and meets the Commission’s standards for safety.

(5) Bell.

(a) The bell shall be provided by the promoter and shall be approved by the Commission and it shall be of sufficient size to enable its sound to be heard by both contestants and the referee.

(7) Ring Equipment.

(a) The promoter shall provide a sufficient number of water buckets for the use of all contestants. Each bucket shall be sterilized before being used. Additionally, the promoter shall provide, resin, stools, and such other articles as are required for the conduct of each bout.

(8) Scales.

(a) Scales shall be furnished by the promoter. The Commission may require that the scales be certified. Residential bathroom scales of the type generally used in private residences

will not meet certification requirements of the Commission and will not be allowed for use at any weigh-in.

(b) Weigh-Ins for Championship and Televised Events.

1. The scale used for the official weigh-in shall be provided by the promoter.

2. The scale used for the weigh-in shall be an NTEP Certified Scale, which shall be registered with the Alabama Department of Agriculture, Weight and Measure Division.

3. The scale used for the official weigh-n shall be certified as being accurate, on the morning of the weigh-in. by the State of Alabama, Department of Agriculture, Weight and Measures Staff.

4. Documentation verifying the scales accuracy shall be submitted to the Executive Director no later than noon (12p) on the due date of the weigh-in is to occur.

5. No one shall be allowed on the scale once it is certified, until the Chief Inspector is present.

6. If a scale is moved after certifications, it shall be recertified before any further weigh-ins can be performed on that scale.

7. Once certified, the promoter shall have a security member watch the scale until the time of weigh-in, to avoid tampering.

8. A ”Ceremonial” scale may be used during a Ceremonial Weigh-In. The Ceremonial Scale shall not be used to record official weights and are strictly to be used for ceremonial purpose.

(9) Hand Wrapping: Gauze and Tape. Hands may be wrapped with gauze and tape that ends no closer than one (1) inch from the fighter’s knuckles. The wrap must include the wrist and may travel up to three inches past the junction of the wrist bone.

(a) Gauze may be applied to the wrist, palm of the hand, back of the hand and thumb. The length of gauze to be utilized may not exceed a length of fifteen (15) feet per hand.

(b) Tape may be applied to the wrist, palm of the hand, back of the hand and thumb. The tape shall not be greater than one inch in width and shall not exceed ten (10) feet in length per hand.

(c) Each bandage of the contestant shall be applied in the presence an inspector.

(d) Each hand wrapping placed on a contestant shall be examined and approved by an inspector. Each approved hand wrap shall be initialed by the inspector who examined it. The opponent or their representative may be present.

(e) Either contestant may witness the bandage and hand wrapping of the contestant. A contestant may waive the witnessing the bandaging or hand wrapping of the opponent's hands.

Authors: Dr. John Marshall, Joel R. Blankenship, Larry Bright, Stan Frierson, Shane Sears

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

History: New Rule: Published February 28, 2020; effective April 13, 2020. **Amended:** Published August 31, 2022; effective October 15, 2022.

165-X-8-.07 Officials: Chief Inspector, Corner Inspectors, Referees, Judges, And Timekeepers.

(1) General Provisions.

(a) The Commission shall appoint to each contest, match, or exhibition a chief inspector, a referee, a minimum of three judges, two corner inspectors, and two timekeepers.

(b) The referee or three judges shall determine the outcome of all contests, matches, or exhibitions. A majority vote of the judges will determine the outcome of a contest that does not result in a knockout, TKO, disqualification, or medical stoppage.

(c) No manager, promoter, matchmaker, trainer, second, or contestant shall be allowed to officiate at any contest.

(d) Officials must be physically fit and mentally sharp.

(e) All bare-knuckle boxing events must have, at minimum, two referees.

(2) Officials' Fees.

(a) All fees and travel expenses shall be paid by the promoter conducting the match, contest, or exhibition and shall be on the following schedule:

1. Payment shall be made to the commission appointed supervisor no later than at the weigh-in, and shall be by cashier's check or money order

2. When assigned by the Commission or the Commission Executive Director, the fee for a chief official who will perform the duties of the Commission representative shall be $425.00

3. When the gross aggregate purse of the match, contest, or exhibition does not exceed $50,000, the fee for each referee shall be $300.00 and the fee for each judge shall be $175.00.

4. When the gross aggregate purse of the match, contest, or exhibition is between $50,000 and $100,000, the fee for each chief official shall be $450.00.

5. When the gross aggregate purse of the match, contest, or exhibition is between $50,000 and $100,000, the fee for each judge shall be $200.00 and the fee for each referee is $350.00.

6. When the gross aggregate purse of the match, contest, or exhibition is between $100,000 and $300,000, the fee for each chief official shall be $500.00.

7. When the gross aggregate purse of the match, contest, or exhibition is between $100,000 and $300,000, the fee for each judge shall be $250.00 and the fee for each referee shall be $450.00.

8. When the gross aggregate purse of the match, contest, or exhibition exceeds $300,000, the fee for the chief official, referees and judges shall not exceed $5,000 for each official.

9. Payments for the timekeeper and countdown person shall be the same as payment for each assigned judge.

10. Travel expenses for officials required to travel a distance of fifty (50) miles or greater to the site of a match, contest, or exhibition shall be set by the commission appointed supervisor, provided that such amount shall not exceed the usual and customary amount allowed by state guidelines for state employees. Hotel rooms may be required, but only when the distance traveled exceeds 100 miles.

(b) In the event one or more of the referees assigned to a boxing match, contest, or exhibition become incapacitated, or in an emergency situation where he or she become unavailable, the remaining referee(s) shall referee the remaining contests of the program and, at the discretion of the Commission assigned supervisor, may be compensated in a greater amount not to exceed the total amount originally intended for the unavailable referee(s). In such a situation, the compensation to be paid to the incapacitated or unavailable referee shall be reduced accordingly.

(c) The compensation schedule set forth in (a) above shall not apply in a sanctioned championship bout. The Commission shall set compensation to be paid to the boxing referees and judges officiating at sanctioned championship bouts. In making this determination, the commission may consider any standards or recommendations made by a recognized bare-knuckle boxing association or organization. Nevertheless, the Commission shall retain full authority to set the compensation schedule for boxing referees and judges in championship bouts regardless of a recommendation by such an association.

(3) Chief Inspector.

(a) Chief Inspector’s Authority. The Chief Inspector shall have complete authority over each professional contest, match, or exhibition in this state.

(b) Chief Inspector’s Duties. The Chief Inspector assigned to a contest, match, or exhibition shall have the following duties:

1. The Chief Inspector shall attend the weigh-in and contest, match, or exhibition.

2. The Chief Inspector shall ensure that all rules and regulations of the Commission and the Alabama Boxing, Wrestling, and Mixed Martial Arts Act are strictly followed and enforced.

(4) Corner Inspectors.

(a) Corner Inspector's Authority. A Corner Inspector shall be assigned to the red corner and a Corner Inspector shall be assigned to the blue corner to observe the fighters assigned to the corresponding corners before, during, and after each match.

(b) Corner Inspector's Duties.

1. Corner inspectors shall observe fighters in dressing room while wrapping hands, securing gloves, and warming up.

2. Corner Inspectors shall observe fighters, trainers, and seconds, before, during and between rounds.

3. Corner Inspectors shall be responsible for identifying and reporting all rules violations to the chief official and referee.

(5) Referee.

(a) Referee's Authority. The referee is the chief official of the contest and has general supervision over the contest, match, or exhibition.

(b) Referee's Duties. The referee assigned to a contest, match, or exhibition shall have the following duties:

1. Before the contest, the referee shall ask the name of each contestant's chief second and shall hold that chief second responsible for the conduct of the contestant during the contest.

2. Before each bout the referee shall call the contestants and their chief second together for final instructions. Referees must then instruct bare-knuckle boxing contestants that wrestling and rough tactics will not be tolerated, and instruct the fighters to protect themselves at all times. The contestants, after receiving final instructions,

shall be given the option to touch gloves and retire to their corners.

3. Any referee or judge assigned to a match who becomes unable to officiate shall notify the chief inspector twelve (12) hours before the start of the contest.

(c) Referee License. Referees applying for licensure shall meet the following requirements:

1. An applicant shall demonstrate to the Commission that he or she has experience in refereeing, and shall produce a list of all professional matches that he or she has served as referee, the judges who scored the matches, and the results of the matches. The applicant may be required to provide a list of amateur matches that he or she has served as referee, the judges who scored the matches, and the results of the matches.

2. The Commission may contact the persons listed to determine whether applicant is qualified for licensure.

(6) Judges.

(a) Judge’s Authority. Each judge shall determine the outcome of each contest, match, or exhibition in this state that does not end in knockout, TKO, disqualification, or medical stoppage.

(b) Judge’s Duties. The judges assigned to a contest, match, or exhibition shall have the following duties:

1. The judges shall score the contest, match, or exhibition according to the rules and regulations of the Commission.

2. The judges shall score the contest, match, or exhibition fairly.

3. The judges shall deduct points as directed by the referee.

(c) Judge License. Judges applying for licensure shall meet the following requirements:

1. An applicant shall demonstrate to the Commission that he or she has experience in judging, and shall produce a list of all professional matches that he or she has served as

official judge, the referees who refereed the matches, and the results of the matches. The applicant may be required to provide a list of amateur matches that he or she has served as official judge, the referees who refereed the matches, and the results of the matches.

2. The Commission may contact the persons listed to determine the whether the applicant is qualified for licensure.

(7) Timekeepers

(a) Timekeepers' Authority. At bare-knuckle boxing matches, there shall be appointed to each contest, match or exhibition two (2) Timekeepers: A Clock Timekeeper who keeps time of the match, and a Countdown Timer who starts the official count once a bare-knuckle boxer is knocked down.

(b) Clock Timekeeper's duties. The timekeeper starts the clock and rings the bell at the beginning of each round. Ten (10) seconds before the end of the round, the Clock Timekeeper shall alert the referee to the impending end of the round.

(c) Countdown Timekeeper's duties. The Countdown Timekeeper keeps official count when a boxer is knocked down until the referee picks up the count.

(d) Timekeepers License. Timekeepers applying for licensure shall meet the following requirements:

1. An applicant shall demonstrate to the Commission that he or she has experience in timekeeping, and shall produce a list of all professional matches that he or she has served as official timekeeper, the referees who refereed the matches, and the results of the matches. The applicant may be required to provide a list of amateur matches that he or she has served as official timekeeper, the referees who refereed the matches, and the results of the matches.

2. The Commission may contact the persons listed to determine whether the applicant is qualified for licensure.

Authors: Dr. John Marshall, Joel R. Blankenship, Larry Bright, Stan Frierson, Shane Sears

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165-X-8-.08 Conduct Of Contest, Match Or Exhibition.

(1) Professional Bare-Knuckle 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 or MMA program under any name which does not appear on his or her ABC Issued 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 fighter 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 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 bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle boxers shall be:

Atomweight	up to and including 105 lbs.
Straw Weight	over 105 to 115 lbs.
Flyweight	over 115 to 125 lbs.
Bantamweight	over 125 to 135 lbs.
Featherweight	over 135 to 145 lbs.
Lightweight	over 145 to 155 lbs.
Super Lightweight	over 155 to 165 lbs.
Welterweight	over 165 to 170 lbs.
Super Welterweight	over 170 to 175 lbs.
Middleweight	over 175 to 185 lbs.
Super Middleweight	over 185 to 195 lbs.
Light Heavyweight	over 195 to 205 lbs.
Cruiserweight	over 205 to 225 lbs.
Heavyweight	over 225 to 265 lbs.
Super Heavyweight	over 265 lbs.

(g) Weight Spread. No bare-knuckle boxing contest or exhibition may be scheduled, and no bare-knuckle boxer may engage in a bare-knuckle boxing contest or exhibition without the approval of the Athletic Commission or the Commission’s representative if the difference in weight between the bare-knuckle boxers exceeds the contracted weight class of each contest.

1. Any agreement to proceed with a bare-knuckle 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. Bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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 waistline so as to protect the bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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 waistline 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. Bare-knuckle boxers in the same match, contest, or exhibition shall wear different color trunks.

4. Each bare-knuckle boxer shall use a mouthpiece and no round may start without a bare-knuckle 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. Shoelace knots will be secured with adhesive tape.

6. When deemed necessary by the referee all bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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. Fighting from a clinch is, however, permitted. Any bare-knuckle boxer who intentionally lifts his or her opponent and then drops such opponent on the floor of the fighting surface will be subject to immediate disqualification.

3. Bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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. The promotion assigned cutman shall not count toward a competitor's number of cornermen.

(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 bare-knuckle boxer will be strictly enforced by the commission.

(a) Licensees Allowed in Ring between Rounds. One (1) licensee and one (1) cutman shall be allowed in the ring with the bare-knuckle 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. Avitene or Adrenaline;

9. Athletic tape approved by the Commission.

1. Any variance to the materials must be approved by the Commission.

2. 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 bare-knuckle 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 the bare-knuckle boxer’s body, arms or face.

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

of the

(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 bare-knuckle boxer is unable or no longer able to defend himself or herself.

(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 bare-knuckle 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 neutral 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 bare-knuckle boxer cannot be saved by the bell in any round, including the final round of any contest.

1. When any round ends before a contestant who was knocked down rises, the bell shall not ring and the 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) Bare-knuckle Boxers Knocked Out of the Ring.

1. Any bare-knuckle boxer knocked out of the fighting surface or onto the floor shall receive a twenty (20) second count.

2. During the time that any such bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle boxer, or may deduct one or more points from the offending bare-knuckle boxer.

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

1. Hitting the opponent below the belt;

2. Hitting an opponent who is down or is getting up after being down;

3. Deliberately maintaining a clinch without other action;

4. Wrestling or kicking the opponent;

5. Putting a finger into any orifice of the opponent or into any cut or laceration on an opponent, including fish-hooking;

6. Pulling the opponents hair;

7. Manipulating the opponent’s fingers;

8. Striking an opponent who is helpless as the result of blows but is supported by the ropes and does not fall;

9. Butting the opponent with the head, shoulder, knee, or elbow;

10. Hitting the opponent with the elbow or forearm;

11. Striking the opponent’s body over the kidneys;

12. Hitting the opponent on the back of the head or neck;

13. Gouging the opponent’s eye in any manner;

14. Using abusive language in the ring;

15. Hitting during a break, which is signaled by the referee’s command or physical act to separate two contestants;

16. Hitting the opponent after the bell has sounded, ending the round;

17. Using the ropes to gain an advantage over the opponent;

18. Pushing the opponent around the ring or into the ropes;

19. Timidity, including intentionally spitting out the mouthpiece;

20. Biting the opponent;

21. Headlocks;

22. Throat punches or strikes directly towards the throat of an opponent;

23. Fingers outstretched toward an opponent’s face or eyes; and

24. Engaging in any other action not described in this subsection that is deemed an intentional foul by the referee on the basis that the action poses a danger to the safety of either contestant, impedes fair and competitive play, or is unsportsmanlike.

25. Taunting a “downed” fighter;

26. Interfering with a fighter under the care of the referee or ringside physician.

(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 bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle boxer 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 bare-knuckle boxer who caused the foul. Point deduction for an intentional foul that causes injury to a bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle boxer for an unintentional foul unless a previous warning has been given to the offending bare-knuckle 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, the bout result will be announced in accordance with the Commission 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 one-half, plus one second of the scheduled rounds has 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. If stoppage due to an unintentional foul occurs prior to the completion of one-half, plus one second of the scheduled rounds, the bout will result in a Technical Draw (TD).

(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 a 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 bare-knuckle boxer’s body, other than his or her feet or a single hand, makes contact with the fighting surface floor;

2. He or she is hanging over the ropes or falling on the cage 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 fighter 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 bare-knuckle 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 fighter 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 fighter 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 fighter 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 fighter.

(b) Bout Stopped by Low Blow. Except as provided in sub-paragraph (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 bare-knuckle 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 bare-knuckle 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.

5. Video Instant-Replay. When available, video instant-replay may be used to ensure the accuracy of a fight ending sequence and at no other point in the bout. Once video instant-replay is employed, the bout, match, or exhibition is over. When used, the Chief Inspector shall review whether the cause of the bouts end was by means of legal or illegal striking. Bouts ending due to illegal (intentional or unintentional foul) shall be settled in the manner listed in the chapter above. The secondary referee, outside the ring, may consult with the Chief Inspector on the correct outcome of the bout, but the decision rests solely with the Chief Inspector.

(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: Dr. John Marshall, Joel R. Blankenship, Larry Bright, Stan Frierson, Shane Sears

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