

CHAPTER 20

Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation— State Athletic Commission

(Statutory Authority: 1976 Code § 40-81-70(A)(6))

Editor's Note

The following regulations, unless noted otherwise, became effective May 24, 1985.

SUBCHAPTER 1

Definitions, Boxing Weights and Classes

20-1.1. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in the Chapter shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) "Administrator" means the person appointed by the Director of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation to administer the affairs of the State Athletic Commission.

(2) "Admissions" means the amount paid for seats to witness an event or exhibition or any fee charged for presenting an event or exhibition including, but not limited to, complimentary tickets given in exchange for services. This term does not include admission for contestants, officials, representatives of the commission, and the media.

(3) "Announcer" means any person who is licensed by the commission and is designated by the promoter to introduce the participants and provide information to the public at the event or exhibition.

(4) "Bout" means the individual contest between two contestants for a scheduled number of rounds.

(5) "Boxer" means a person who competes for a purse or compensation in boxing matches, contests, or exhibitions.

(6) "Boxing" means any form of event or exhibition in which a person delivers blows to another, with any part of the arm below the shoulder, including the hand, which may be reasonably expected to disable or inflict injury.

(7) "Chief Ring Official" means the referee designated by the Commission Representative as being responsible for the directing of event officiating, presentation and explanation of competition rules, and the evaluation of combatants for sufficient skills to safely compete in Commission sanctioned bouts.

(8) "Commission" means the State Athletic Commission.

(9) "Commission Designee" means the person(s) granted and delegated specific authority to review and approve fight cards, bout pairings, non-routine applications or age waiver petitions on behalf of the Commission.

(10) "Commission Representative" means that individual designated by the Administrator to supervise a particular match, contest, exhibition or event in this state.

(11) "Contestant" means anyone who competes in an event or participates in an exhibition regulated by the State Athletic Commission.

(12) "Department" means the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

(13) "Director" means the Director of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation or the director's official designee.

(14) "Emergency medical technician" means a person who is certified by the Department of Health and Environmental Control pursuant to the Emergency Medical Services Act.

(15) "Event" means an occurrence, bout, show, or contest regulated by the State Athletic Commission in which any contestant displays or exhibits athletic skills in competition.

(16) "Exhibition" means an occurrence in which the participant shows, displays, or performs without striving to win. Exhibitions are not allowed within the confines of an event sanctioned by the SC Athletic Commission, with the exception of professional wrestling.

(17) "License" means the written approval given, upon application, by the Commission to a person, club, corporation, organization, or association to participate in or promote events or exhibitions regulated by the State Athletic Commission.

(18) "Manager" means a person who does any of the following:

(a) by contract with a person undertakes or has undertaken to represent in any way the interest in which a contestant is to participate and receive monetary or other compensation for his/her services without regard to the source of the compensation; except that the term "Manager" shall not be construed to mean any attorney licensed to practice in this state, whose participation in such activities is restricted solely to his/her representing the interests of a contestant as his/her client.

(b) directs or controls the professional activities of a contestant;

(c) receives or is entitled to receive a share of the gross purse or gross income of an event.

(19) "Matchmaker" means a person who undertakes to obtain agreements between managers or contestants, or both, for the purpose of securing contestants for a professional boxing, professional kickboxing, or mixed martial arts event regulated by the State Athletic Commission.

(20) "Off The Street Boxing" means a competition in which contestants who have no professional experience as boxers compete in a series of boxing matches. The term does not include an amateur contest or exhibition that complies with the provisions of Section 40-81-500.

(21) "Official" means the judges, referees, timekeepers, and other persons assigned by the administrator and necessary to conduct an event or exhibition.

(22) "Participant" means a person who acts as a promoter, boxer, wrestler, judge, referee, manager, contestant, trainer, second, timekeeper, announcer, matchmaker, security, or medical personnel in connection with an event or exhibition regulated by the State Athletic Commission.

(23) "Passport" means a boxer's official fight record.

(24) "Permit" means the written approval given, upon application, by the commission to a promoter to hold and conduct an event or exhibition regulated by the State Athletic Commission at a specific time, date, and location.

(25) "Person" means an individual, group of individuals, business, corporation, partnership, association, or collective entity.

(26) "Physician" means a person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy in this State.

(27) "Promoter" means a person, club, corporation, organization, or association which promotes, advertises, presents, conducts, holds, or gives a professional boxing, professional kickboxing, mixed martial arts, or wrestling event or exhibition in this State.

(28) "Promoter's representative" means a person who is designated in writing by the promoter to ensure compliance with this chapter and who has binding authority for all promoters.

(29) "Purse" means the total amount paid by a promoter to the contestants and officials for participating in an event.

(30) "Ringside physician" is the physician responsible for examining the contestant before, during, and after each event and who is present at ringside for the entire event or exhibition.

(31) "Second" means a person who is licensed by the Commission to serve in the corner of a contestant during the bout.

(32) “Technical knockout” means a victory with immediate termination of the bout or match, ordered by the referee, when it appears that one contestant is unable to continue.

(33) “Trainer” means any person who is licensed by the commission and trains individuals to compete in professional boxing, professional kickboxing, or mixed martial arts events.

(34) “Weapon” means anything that is not a part of the human body, excluding boxing gloves and other commission-approved equipment used in combative sports.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–1.2. Classes of Boxers.

1. Boxers shall be divided into the following classes:

a. Mini Flyweight	up to 105 pounds
b. Light Flyweight	over 105 to 108 pounds
c. Flyweight	over 108 to 112 pounds
d. Super Flyweight	over 112 to 115 pounds
e. Bantam Weight	over 115 to 118 pounds
f. Super Bantam Weight	over 118 to 122 pounds
g. Featherweight	over 122 to 126 pounds
h. Super Featherweight	over 126 to 130 pounds
i. Lightweight	over 130 to 135 pounds
j. Super Lightweight	over 135 to 140 pounds
k. Welterweight	over 140 to 147 pounds
l. Super Welterweight	over 147 to 154 pounds
m. Middleweight	over 154 to 160 pounds
n. Super Middleweight	over 160 to 168 pounds
o. Light Heavyweight	over 168 to 175 pounds
p. Cruiserweight	over 175 to 200 pounds
q. Heavyweight	over 200 pounds

NOTE: Women’s weight classes shall be the same as male boxers.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–1.3. Weigh-In Procedures.

Weigh-ins within 24 hours

When weigh-ins occur within twenty-four (24) hours, but not less than twelve (12) hours prior to an event’s scheduled start time, the boxer shall not exceed the weight specified on the boxer/promoter contract. If a boxer exceeds the weight specified in the boxer/promoter contract, the supervising commission shall cancel the contest unless the boxer:

1. Loses the weight exceeded in the boxer/promoter contract at least twelve (12) hours prior to the event’s scheduled start time;
2. Loses all but two (2) pounds of the weight exceeded in the boxer/promoter contract at least twelve (12) hours prior to the event’s scheduled start time and loses the final two (2) pounds at least six (6) hours prior to the event’s scheduled start time; or,
3. Renegotiates the boxer/promoter contract.

Weigh-ins within 12-Hours

Boxers who weigh-in twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled event shall be required to re-weigh two (2) hours prior to the scheduled event start time and will not be allowed to exceed the weight specified in the boxer/promoter contract by more than ten (10) pounds.

When weigh-ins occur less than twelve (12) hours prior to an event’s scheduled start time, the boxer shall not exceed the weight specified in the boxer/promoter contract. For safety purposes, no boxer shall be permitted to lose MORE THAN two (2) pounds within twelve (12) hours of a contest. If a boxer weighs more than two (2) pounds over the weight specified in the boxer/promoter contract, the Commission Representative shall cancel the contest unless the boxer:

1. Loses up to two (2) pounds at least six (6) hours prior to an event's scheduled start time and renegotiates the boxer/promoter contract; or,
2. Renegotiates the boxer/promoter contract.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-1.4. Weighing of Boxers.

1. Weighing of all boxers for all shows must take place at a time and place designated by the Commission. This would normally be on the same day that the event is to be held.
2. Weights must be determined by the Commission Representative.
3. Opponents should be weighed in the presence of each other.
4. Members of the press, in addition to the responsible handlers of the boxers, shall be permitted to attend the weigh-in.
5. All boxers must weigh-in wearing shorts only, or for female boxers, shorts and a Commission Representative approved athletic tee shirt or sports bra which will be permitted to be worn during the bout.
6. Any boxer who fails to appear for the official weigh-in, within the time stipulated on the club contract, shall be subject to disciplinary action as provided for by statute or these regulations.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

SUBCHAPTER 2

Ring Equipment

20-2.1. Ring Dimensions; Floor Coverings.

1. The boxing ring shall not be less than sixteen (16) feet or more than twenty-four (24) feet on each side square within the ring ropes.
2. The platform must extend beyond the ropes for a distance of at least eighteen (18) inches.
3. The ring posts shall be at least eighteen (18) inches away from the ring ropes.
4. The ring floor, both within and outside the ropes, must be padded to a thickness approved by the Commission's Representative. Padding must be felt matting or other soft material that will not lump and must be approved by the Commission's Representative.
5. There must be a top covering of canvas, duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform.
6. On the floor there must be a layer of Celotex Building Board Number 2 or a similar material approved by the Commission's Representative.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-2.2. Height of Ring.

The ring shall not be more than four (4) feet above the floor of the building and shall be provided with suitable steps for the use of contestants and approved ringside officials.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-2.3. Ring Posts.

1. Ring posts shall not be less than three inches in diameter and may extend from the floor of the ring to a height of no more than fifty-eight (58) inches and shall be properly padded.
2. Nothing shall be attached to the ring post without approval from the Commission Representative.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-2.4. Ring Ropes.

1. There shall be at least four (4) ropes, not less than one (1) inch in diameter, which shall be well padded at all times.
2. The lower rope shall be not more than eighteen (18) inches above the ring floor and the top rope fifty-two (52) inches above the ring floor.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-2.5. Gong or Bell.

1. The gong or bell must not be higher than floor level of the ring platform.
2. The bell or gong must have a clear tone so that the contestants can easily hear the bell or gong.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-2.6. Timekeeper's Chair.

The timekeeper's chair must be sufficiently elevated to give him/her a clear view of the ring.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-2.7. Stopwatch.

The licensed timekeeper at every boxing show shall have an approved and accurate stopwatch.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-2.8. Gloves; Additional Articles.

1. An ample supply of boxing gloves must be kept on hand by every promoter.
2. Each glove must weigh at least eight (8) ounces.
3. All gloves must be in good condition or they must be discarded.
4. The Commission may require a brand new set of gloves for any event. Thumbless gloves may be used with consent of both contestants and at the discretion of the Commission Representative.
5. All gloves must pass the inspection of the referee and/or the Commission's Representative.
6. The promoter shall provide a sufficient number of water buckets for the use of all contestants.
7. Promoters shall also provide powdered resin for canvas, stools, water bottles and such other articles that are required for conducting the contests.
8. A bucket or water bottle used by a contestant shall not be used again by another contestant.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-2.9. Scales.

Scales used for weighing-in boxers shall be provided by or otherwise approved by the Commission's Representative.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-2.10. Ring to Be Clear of Obstructions.

1. The entire ring platform shall be cleared of all obstructions, including such articles as buckets and stools at the beginning of a round, as indicated by the gong. None of these articles shall be placed on the ring floor until the gong has ended the round.
2. Nothing shall be placed on the ring apron, unless approved by the Commission Representative.
3. No one shall be seated within six (6) feet of the ring unless approved by the Commission Representative.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-2.11. Tape and Bandages.

1. The bandage on a boxer's hand or wrist shall be soft surgical bandage of gauze quality not over two (2) inches wide and twenty (20) yards in length for each hand. It shall be wrapped on each hand smoothly and evenly and without zigzagging, lumping or curling.

2. The bandage shall be held in place by eight (8) feet of surgeon's adhesive tape in a width of one and one half (1.5) inches, which shall be wrapped smoothly and evenly, without zigzagging, lumping or curling.

3. Bandage and tape shall be placed on the hands of a boxer in the presence of the Commission Representative.

4. The application of a greater amount of bandage or tape must be approved by the Commission Representative. In such case, the opponent shall have the same consideration.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 22, Issue No. 6, Part 3, eff June 26, 1998; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-2.12. Adhesive Tape for Protection of Hands.

If both boxers agree, the Commission Representative may authorize small strips of tape between the fingers of a boxer to be placed directly on each hand for protection near the wrist. Said tape may cross the back of the hand twice but shall not extend within one (1) inch of the knuckles when the hand is clenched in a fist.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-2.13. Adjustment of Bandages and Tape.

All bandages and tape shall be adjusted in the dressing room in the presence of the Commission's Representative who shall initial such wrappings. Under no condition are bandages to be placed on the hands of the contestants until authorized by the Commission's Representative.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-2.14. Round Cards.

Each promoter may provide a sufficient supply of white, square shaped round cards, numbered on both sides from 1 to 15. These shall be visible to all spectators from the ring.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-2.15. Steps to Boxing Ring.

In addition to the set of steps installed in each boxer's corner, a third set of steps leading to the boxing ring may be required by the Commission Representative for use exclusively by the attending physician, referee, ring announcer, round card carriers, and such other persons approved by the Commission's representative for introductions. All steps must be operational and clear of any and all obstructions.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-2.16. Mouth Pieces.

The promoter must have--at ringside--an adequate supply (not less than six) sterilized mouth pieces that can be formed to fit.

No boxer shall be permitted to perform in any contest without wearing a form fitting mouth piece. It is suggested that each boxer have a spare mouth piece in the event the one he/she is wearing breaks. Boxers are not allowed to share mouthpieces.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

SUBCHAPTER 3

Ring Safety

20-3.1. Ring Floor Material.

Every ring used for boxing shall be equipped with a one (1) inch layer of Celotex Building Board Number 2 or a similar approved substance. Said application shall be between the floor of the ring and the canvas-covered padding.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-3.2. Ring Padding.

Ring padding shall be at a thickness approved by the Commission Representative and shall be covered by a clean, unbroken canvas. Padding shall be periodically checked to guard against loss of effectiveness through constant use.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-3.3. Ring Aprons.

Ring aprons which extend beyond the ropes must be properly padded and shall have Celotex Building Board Number 2 or similar substance approved by the Commission Representative between the padding and the floor.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-3.4. Ropes, Tops of Ring Posts.

1. Steps leading into the ring shall be in diagonally opposite corners of the ring.
2. A ring stool shall be made available for each corner.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-3.5. Emergency Equipment and Medical Personnel.

The promoter shall arrange for and provide, in addition to a ring side physician, emergency medical equipment and a certified EMT attendant to be present at ringside prior to the start of and throughout each contest. The physician must be present a minimum of two (2) hours prior to the start of the event. The ambulance and a minimum of one (1) EMT personnel must be onsite when the venue is open to the public. Ringside seating shall be provided for medical personnel by the promoter.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-3.6. Participation of Suspended Boxer.

Any boxer suspended or serving a rest period must not participate in any event without commission approval.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-3.7. Compulsory and Discretionary Eight Count; Three Knockdowns in One Round.

1. A compulsory count of eight (8) must be taken by every boxer who is knocked down by a punch and he/she must take the count whether reclining or standing.
2. The referee may declare a standing eight (8) count at any time.
3. In the interest of safeguarding the health and welfare of a boxer engaged in ring combat, three (3) knockdowns in any one round shall be regarded as a technical knockout and the referee shall halt a contest. The referee is counseled that a man's condition may justify stopping a contest in less than three (3) knockdowns. The referee will exercise his/her judgment to determine whether or not any one of all such knockdowns shall be the results of decisive blows by the opponent. If in the

referee's judgment the knockdowns have been indecisive and clearly with no injurious effect upon the boxer, the contest may be continued with the boxer's welfare always paramount.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-3.8. Use of Drugs and Stimulants.

The Commission has the authority to require any participant to submit to tests for the presence of unauthorized substances, as listed, including but not limited to, the most recent prohibited list maintained by the World Anti-Doping Agency. The use of any drugs, alcohol or stimulants, or injections in any part of the body, either before or during a match, by or in behalf of any boxer is adequate grounds for revoking his/her license, as well as the license of the person administering the same.

Classification of substances shall be as follows:

(A) Class A: Cannabinoids (marijuana) or any pharmacological substance not addressed that is not currently approved by any governmental regulatory health authority for human therapeutic use (i.e. illegal recreational drugs).

(B) Class B: Tested positive for or used or injected stimulants, narcotics, erythropoietin, human growth hormones, anabolic agents, peptide hormones, glucocorticosteroids, Beta-2 agonists, hormone and metabolic modulators, diuretics and other masking agents, anti-estrogenic agents, or other drugs identified on the WADA Anti-Doping Code Prohibited List.

Disciplinary action against licensees shall be as follows:

1. First offense: Administrative suspension of 90 days and a fine of one thousand (\$1,000) dollars.
2. Second offense: Administrative suspension of 180 days and a fine of three thousand (\$3,000) dollars.
3. Third offense: Administrative suspension of 365 days and a fine of five thousand (\$5,000) dollars.
4. Fourth offense: Indefinite administrative suspension with permanent sanctions issued by the Commission, up to and including revocation.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015; SCSR 49-5 Doc. No. 5351, eff May 23, 2025.

20-3.9. Other Substances.

1. Substances such as Monsel's solution and other iron or bismouth compounds, collodion, silver nitrate, ammonia or smelling salts are prohibited. The use of such modalities will result in disqualification, suspension or fine of the boxer, manager and/or trainer. The Commission or the ringside physician may specify which substances may be used.
2. The use of excessive lubricant on the body, arms or face of a boxer is prohibited.
3. Only water shall be administered by seconds to a boxer between rounds. Honey, electrolyte solutions, glucose, sugar or any other substance mixed with water is prohibited.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-3.10. Vision.

No license shall be issued to any applicant for a boxer's license whose vision is so poor as to cause any examining physician to recommend that no license be granted.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-3.11. Head Injury.

A boxer's license may be denied to a boxer who has suffered cerebral hemorrhage or any other serious head or jaw injury.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–3.12. Abdominal Guard.

All boxers must wear a foul-proof abdominal guard and cup which shall be examined and approved before all bouts by the Commission Representative.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; Formerly 20–3.11; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor’s Note

Former 20–3.12, titled **Mouth Pieces**, with the following history: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996, was omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–3.13. Submission of Boxer’s Record.

A boxer is required to submit to the Commission a true record of his/her performances.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–3.14. Refreshment Containers.

Refreshments, drinks and food may be sold at any regulated event. It is at the discretion and mutual understanding between the promoter and the venue owner to regulate the distribution of such refreshments.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015; SCSR 49–5 Doc. No. 5351, eff May 23, 2025.

20–3.15. Examinations.

The Commission or Commission Representative may order an examination of boxers at any time for the purpose of determining whether such boxers are fit and qualified to engage in future matches or exhibitions.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–3.16. Maintaining Order.

Every promoter holding a permit to conduct a boxing match shall provide for suitable security, with at least one (1) commissioned police officer and based on the seating capacity for that particular event.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–3.17. Boxer’s Record; Suspension.

1. A boxer who sustains a succession of six (6) defeats or a series of knockouts or technical knockouts in any state or jurisdiction may be subject to licensure denial or suspension.
2. If a boxer is medically suspended in any other state, such suspension shall be in effect in this state.
3. The promoter shall be responsible for providing the Commission with full details of the boxer’s record.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015; SCSR 49–5 Doc. No. 5351, eff May 23, 2025.

20–3.18. Determination of Physical Circumstances.

The Commission’s policy is that a referee’s competency is accepted, but the referee shall, at all times, avail himself/herself of the trained and expert judgment of a physician’s greater knowledge of a boxer’s well-being; and he/she should, at all times, feel free to call upon the physician to counsel him/her as to the advisability of permitting a boxer to continue or terminate a contest because of physical

circumstances. The ringside physician may examine a boxer at any time he/she feels it necessary and may direct the referee to halt a contest if in his/her opinion the boxer is unable to continue.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–3.19. Physician’s Recommendations.

Physicians approved by the Commission are required to file recommendations on all boxers who reveal inadequate ability for further competition due to medically related concerns.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–3.20. Examination and Suspension after Knockout.

(A) Sixty (60) day suspension for a knockout “KO”.

(B) Thirty (30) day suspension for a technical knockout “TKO”.

(C) The Commission may require the contestant to submit a neurological examination by a neurologist, a CAT scan (CT), or MRI examination of the area(s) of injury to the Commission at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to being licensed as a contestant, when the contestant:

- (1) Has lost three (3) bouts in a row by KO or TKO; or
- (2) Has lost six (6) bouts in a row; or
- (3) Has an extensive losing record.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

SUBCHAPTER 4

Licenses and Permits for Boxing

20–4.1. General Requirement.

1. No person, club, corporation or association may be a participant in boxing bouts in the State of South Carolina without first having obtained a license from the State Athletic Commission.

2. Additionally, no promoter may hold or conduct boxing bouts without first having obtained a permit for the specific event.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–4.2. Application.

1. Applications for licenses and permits as required herein shall be made under oath and upon forms prescribed by the Commission. The license application must include a photograph showing a frontal view of the applicant’s head and shoulders. The license application must be made at least one (1) week before a scheduled event, except as authorized by the Commission Designee.

2. Boxers who apply for a license shall include a statement of experience and medical history and a valid boxing federal identification (ID).

3. Every application made by a club, association, or corporation shall include the names and addresses of all officers, and/or partners.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 13, Issue No. 6, eff June 23, 1989; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–4.3. Period of Validity.

Licenses for boxing are valid for one year, not to exceed one year, and will expire on December 31st of each calendar year.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-4.4. Documents.

All papers and documents filed with the Commission shall be the property of the Commission.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-4.5. Suspensions.

Promoters shall not permit any person under suspension to take part whatsoever as a participant or in arranging or conducting matches, or work during the period of suspension; however, a contestant who has been suspended because of a cut or knockout may serve as a second if he/she is properly licensed, or a promoter or matchmaker may arrange a bout which includes a suspended contestant if the contestant's term of suspension ends before the bout's scheduled date.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 13, Issue No. 6, eff June 23, 1989; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-4.6. Sale or Transfer of License.

No license or permit may be sold or transferred.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-4.7. Promoter Responsibility.

All promoters holding licenses and permits shall be absolutely responsible to the Commission for all matches held, given or conducted under such license and permit.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-4.8. Permit Application and Fee.

1. Every promoter must have a current license to conduct, hold or give boxing matches and must apply to the Commission for a permit. The application for such permit must be in the Commission office at least fourteen (14) days before the scheduled date of the event. If the promoter does not meet the deadline, the Commission will not issue a permit until the promoter pays the mandatory fine of twenty-five (\$25) dollars each day exceeded.

2. No permit may be issued unless the application includes:

- a. The names of all participants.
- b. Evidence that a policy of medical and hospital insurance satisfactory to the Commission covers every boxer.
- c. Proof acceptable to the Commission Representative of a surety bond in an amount not less than five-thousand dollars or certified funds sufficient to cover the total purse or fee for each scheduled contestant and official.
- d. Pays the required permit fee, which shall be nonrefundable.

3. Additionally, upon the request of the Commission or Commission Representative, each promoter shall provide the Commission with copies of every contract between boxers, managers and with the promoter covering all contestants in the match for which permit is made.

4. Promoters must pay to the Commission the higher amount of either five percent (5%) of the total gross admissions received at the event or a twenty-five (\$25.00) dollar minimum gate fee within thirty (30) days after the event. Failure to pay the required gate fee within the time specified herein will result in the promoter being assessed a two hundred fifty (\$250.00) dollar administrative fine, and an additional two hundred fifty (\$250.00) dollar fine every thirty (30) days thereafter up to a maximum amount of one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars. An event permit shall not be issued to a promoter with an outstanding unpaid gate fee or fine. Promoters will be subject to disciplinary action by the Commission for any attempt to circumvent payment of the gate fee.

5. Promoters must pay to the Commission a sanctioning fee as determined by the Commission to cover the cost of inspections in the enforcement of compliance with this chapter and South Carolina Code of Laws Title 40 Chapter 81.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 13, Issue No. 6, eff June 23, 1989; State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015; SCSR 49-5 Doc. No. 5351, eff May 23, 2025.

20–4.9. Passport (Boxers Fight Record).

The Commission may require all boxers to register for passports (Boxers Fight Record).

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–4.10. License Fees.

The Commission may charge fees as shown in South Carolina Code of Regulations Chapter 10–4 and on the South Carolina State Athletic Commission website at <http://lcr.sc.gov/POL/Athletic/>.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4500, eff June 26, 2015.

20–4.11. Lost License; Duplicate.

If a license is lost, its owner may obtain a duplicate for \$2.00 by written application to the State Athletic Commission.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986.

20–4.12. Refunds for License and Permit Fees.

Fees paid for licenses and permits shall not be refundable.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

SUBCHAPTER 5

Boxers

20–5.1. Physical Examination.

1. The Commission may require any boxer applying for a license to be examined by a physician or physicians.

2. The Commission may order examinations of boxers at any time for the purpose of determining whether such boxers are fit and qualified to engage in future events.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–5.2. Age.

1. The minimum and maximum ages for professional boxing in South Carolina are eighteen to thirty-five (18–35) years old, unless otherwise set by statute. The maximum age may be waived by the Commission designee for a specific contestant. A professional boxer petitioning for an age waiver must submit a complete application along with all medical records, official fight records and any other documentation required by the Commission to the Administrator at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled bout. A waiver to participate as an over-age contestant shall be valid for the duration of the current licensure period.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 13, Issue No. 6, eff June 23, 1989; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015; SCSR 49–5 Doc. No. 5351, eff May 23, 2025.

20–5.3. Boxer as Self-Manager.

Any boxer who has attained his/her eighteenth (18th) birthday and is not under contract to a manager can make his/her own matches, sign contracts, and handle his/her own affairs.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–5.4. First Appearance; Proof of Age.

1. Any boxer making application for his/her first South Carolina license must provide positive proof of his/her age.

2. Unless positive proof of age is provided, the Commission shall not issue a license to the applicant.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-5.5. Boxer-Manager Contract Forms.

All boxers with managers must have boxer-manager contract forms and their managers must be licensed with the Commission. One (1) copy of a completed, executed contract form shall be given to the manager, one to the boxer, and one copy shall be furnished to Commission upon its request.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-5.6. Release from Contract.

Release of a boxer by a manager from a boxer-manager contract shall be in writing and shall be furnished to Commission upon its request.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-5.7. Parties to Contract to be Licensed.

1. Both parties to a boxer-manager contract must be licensed by the State Athletic Commission or the contract shall not become effective.

2. The Commission may recognize contracts on file in cooperating states.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-5.8. Club Contract.

No boxer shall participate in any bout without signing a promoter or club contract. If the boxer has a manager, the signatures of both the boxer and manager should appear on the club contract. A copy of such contract must be furnished to the Commission upon request.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-5.9; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former 20-5.8 titled **Minors** was omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-5.9. Payment to Boxer as Exclusive Signer of Club Contract.

When a boxer exclusively signs the club contract for a bout, the promoter shall pay to him/her the full purse specified in the contract.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-5.10; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-5.10. Failure to Appear for Weigh-In.

Any boxer who fails to appear for the official weigh-in within the time specified by the Commission shall be subject to disciplinary action as provided for by statute or these regulations.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-5.11; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-5.11. Failure to Appear for Bout.

Any boxer who fails to appear for a bout shall be subject to disciplinary action as provided for by statute or these regulations.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-5.12; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–5.12. Failure to Give Satisfactory Performance.

If a boxer, in the judgment of a Commission Representative and the Chief Ring Official, fails to give a satisfactory performance or demonstrates insufficient skills to safely compete as a professional boxer, the boxer may be suspended.

A boxer suspended for failure to give a satisfactory performance or insufficient skills may petition to the Commission for reinstatement.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–5.14; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–5.13. Boxer with Suspended Manager.

1. A boxer whose manager has been suspended may continue boxing independently during the term of such suspension, signing all contracts for matches.

2. No payment of a boxer's earnings may be made by any licensed club to a manager under suspension but the purse in full shall be paid to the boxer.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–5.16; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former 20–5.13, titled **Rest Period; Reinstatement After Knockout** and with the following history: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988, was omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–5.14. Number of Rounds.

Boxers can be matched at four (4), six (6), eight (8), ten (10), or twelve (12) rounds. The Commission may limit the number of rounds at its discretion.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 22, Issue No. 6, Part 3, eff June 26, 1998; Formerly 20–5.17; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–5.15. Foul.

1. The following are fouls in boxing, and boxers committing any of these infractions are subject to penalty as the referee sees fit:

- a. Hitting below the belt;
- b. Hitting an opponent who is down or who is getting up after being down;
- c. Holding an opponent with one hand and hitting with the other;
- d. Holding or deliberately maintaining a clinch;
- e. Wrestling or kicking;
- f. Any unsportsmanlike trick or action causing injury to an opponent;
- g. Butting with the head or shoulder or using the knee;
- h. Hitting with the open glove, or with the butt of the hand, the wrist, or the elbow; all backhand blows;
- i. Roughing at the ropes;
- j. Use of the kidney punch, which consists of punching in the back or kidney area;
- k. Use of the rabbit punch, which is defined as punching to the back of the head or neck;
- l. Jabbing opponent's eyes with the thumb of the glove;
- m. The use of abusive language in the ring;
- n. Hitting on the break;
- o. Hitting after the bell has sounded ending the round;
- p. Intentionally spitting at an opponent or spectators.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–5.18; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former 20-5.15, titled **Forfeit Fees**, was omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-5.16. Time Between Bouts.

For boxers there shall be an interval of seven (7) days between the dates of the bouts or for such time as shall be determined at the discretion of the Commission. There shall be a mandatory interval of thirty (30) days between bouts after a boxer's participation in any bout lasting ten or more rounds.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-5.19; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-5.17. Inability to Perform Contract Due to Injuries or Illness.

Whenever a licensed contestant, because of injuries or illness, is unable to take part in a contest for which he/she is under a contract or bout agreement, he/she (or his/her manager) must immediately report the specific injury or illness to a Commission Representative. Contestants with an injury or illness which prevents participation in a contest shall serve a medical suspension. The contestant shall submit to an examination and receive written clearance for the specific injury or illness by a physician prior to the suspension being lifted.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; Formerly 20-5.20; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-5.18. Facial Hair and Jewelry; contact lenses prohibited.

All boxers must be clean and neat when they participate in ring contests. Facial hair shall be at the discretion of the Commission. All jewelry and/or piercing accessories are prohibited during competition. Boxers must not have corrective/contact lenses when they participate in competition.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-5.21; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015; SCSR 49-5 Doc. No. 5351, eff May 23, 2025.

20-5.19. Boxers from the Same Stable.

Any contest between two (2) boxers from the same stable may be held only with the approval of the Commission.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-5.22; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-5.20. Disqualification of Boxer.

If a boxer persists in fouling, despite a referee's warning of clean sportsmanship, the referee shall have the right to disqualify said boxer.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-5.23; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-5.21. Contest Stopped Prematurely.

When a boxing contest is stopped because of rain or other unavoidable circumstances and less than half of the scheduled number of rounds have been finished, the judges shall score the bout a draw. If, under the same circumstances, half or more of the scheduled number of rounds have been completed, the judges shall render a decision.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-5.24; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-5.22. Resident License.

No professional boxer who is a legal resident of a State other than South Carolina may appear in any boxing contest unless such boxer has in his/her possession a current South Carolina boxing license and a current boxing license from his/her state of residence unless waived by the Commission. The Commission may also require such boxer to hold a Passport from the state of residence.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988. Formerly 20-5.25. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–5.23. Examination Prior to Bout.

Any contestant scheduled to appear in any boxing contest, must be physically examined and cleared by a physician immediately prior to taking part in any bout.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–5.26; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–5.24. Grounds for Suspension of License.

Any boxer holding a license may be suspended for arrest or conviction on a charge involving moral turpitude or for unbecoming conduct at any time or place reflecting discredit to boxing. Under similar circumstances, an application for a license or renewal thereof may be summarily rejected.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 13, Issue No. 6, eff June 23, 1989; Formerly 20–5.27; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–5.25. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor’s Note

Former R. 20–5.25 was titled **Resident License**, see now S.C. Code Regs. 20–5.22.

20–5.26. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor’s Note

Former R. 20–5.26 was titled **Examination Prior to Licensing and Boxing**, see now S.C. Code Regs. 20–5.23.

20–5.27. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor’s Note

Former R. 20–5.27 was titled **Grounds for Suspension of License**, see now S.C. Code Regs. 20–5.24.

SUBCHAPTER 6

Managers

20–6.1. General Qualifications.

1. A person with intent to be a manager must apply for a license.
2. A licensed manager must be of legal age to sign the required boxer-manager and/or club contract.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–6.2. Working in Boxer’s Corner.

Any licensed manager or trainer who works in the corner of a boxer with whom he/she has a contract need not obtain a second’s license.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–6.3. Signatory to Boxer-Manager Contract.

Any manager who signs a boxer-manager contract must renew his/her manager’s license annually, and no later than within one month of the expiration date.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–6.4. Manager’s Percentage of Ring Earnings.

The manager shall be entitled to no more than thirty-three and one-third (33 1/3%) percent of the ring earnings of any boxer with whom he/she has a properly filed boxer-manager contract.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-6.5. Failure to Sign Club Contract.

Any manager who fails, by reason of neglect or indifference, to execute a club contract shall be subject to disciplinary action as provided for by statute or these regulations and such dereliction shall be grounds to void a boxer/manager contract.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-6.6. Manager Under Suspension.

A manager under suspension shall not work in any boxer's corner or negotiate with any promoter or matchmaker for any boxer's services.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-6.7. Number of Boxers in One Show; Limitation on Manager.

No manager shall be encouraged to have more than two (2) boxers engaged on the card of any boxing show.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-6.8. Signatories to Club Contract.

The club contract must be signed personally by the manager or by the boxer if he/she has no manager.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-6.9. Acceptance by Manager.

Any manager who agrees to accept a match for the services of a boxer through the medium of any written or telegraphic means of communication shall be held accountable for his/her actions as if accomplished in person by a club contract.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-6.10. License for Promoter Deals.

An unlicensed manager shall not contract with any promoter or matchmaker.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-6.11. License to Schedule Match.

An unlicensed person shall not contract to receive a portion of a contestant's bout earnings until issued a manager's license.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-6.12. Manager Representing Manager.

If a licensed manager desired to represent another licensed manager in securing contests for a boxer, such manager must have in his/her possession a written agreement executed by both the manager and boxer whom he/she represents. This agreement must be filed with the Commission, which shall approve or disapprove recognition of such agreement.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-6.13. Number of Managers Per Boxer.

1. A boxer cannot have more than one (1) manager without the expressed written approval of the Commission.

2. If a boxer has more than one (1) manager, all such managers should be on record with the Commission and the promoter must deal only with the licensed manager or managers so recorded.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-6.14. Manager Attempting to Take Another Manager's Boxer.

Any licensed manager who wrongfully takes another licensed manager's boxer, as determined by the Commission, shall be subject to disciplinary action as provided for by statute or these regulations.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-6.15. Transfer of Manager-Boxer Contract.

Contracts between a licensed manager and boxer are not transferable without filing a proper notice thereof with the Commission attested to by all of the principals.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-6.16. Aid for Injured Boxer.

No manager or second shall attempt to render aid to a disabled boxer before the physician has had an opportunity to examine the boxer.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-6.17. Grounds for Suspension of License.

Any manager holding a license may be suspended if arrested or convicted for a charge involving moral turpitude or for unbecoming conduct at any time or place reflecting discredit to boxing. Under similar circumstances, application for a license or a renewal may be summarily rejected.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 13, Issue No. 6, eff June 23, 1989; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-6.18. Application for Boxing Manager's License.

1. Applications for a boxing manager's license shall contain a true and complete statement of all persons connected with the management. Any manager who gives incorrect information on any application may be suspended by the Commission.

2. Subsequent to the granting of any such license, an applicant shall submit any change at any time in the persons connected with the management to the Commission for written approval.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-6.19; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-6.19. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former R. 20-6.19 was titled **Application for Boxing Manager's License**. See, now S.C. Code Regs. 20-6.18.

SUBCHAPTER 7

Seconds

20-7.1. General Qualifications.

[Reserved]

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-7.2. Number Limitation.

Two (2) seconds and no more than three (3) shall work in any boxer's corner, of which, only two (2) may be in the ring at any one time. Four (4) corners may be allowed in the corner for title fights, while only two (2) may enter the ring.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 13, Issue No. 6, eff June 23, 1989; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015; SCSR 49-5 Doc. No. 5351, eff May 23, 2025.

20-7.3. Attire.

Seconds must wear clean, neat clothing.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-7.4. Second Under Suspension.

A second under suspension shall not work in any boxer's corner.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-7.5. Second Acting as Manager.

A second holding a second's license must obtain a manager's license to act as manager, or assist in any way in obtaining matches. If found guilty of such actions, he/she shall be suspended for a period of time as determined by the Commission.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-7.6. Second Disruption During Event Prohibited.

Seconds, trainers, and managers must not attempt to heckle, hinder, disrupt or otherwise annoy his/her contestant's opponent, officials, Commission Representatives, or other seconds during an event.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-7.7. Grounds for Suspension of License.

Any second holding a license may be suspended if arrested or convicted for a charge involving moral turpitude or for unbecoming conduct at any time or place reflecting discredit to boxing. Under similar circumstances, application for a license or a renewal thereof may be summarily rejected.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-7.8. Giving Incorrect Information on Application.

Any second who gives incorrect information on any application may be suspended by the Commission.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-7.9. Aid to Injured or Disabled Boxer.

No second or manager shall attempt to render aid to a disabled boxer before the physician has had an opportunity to examine the boxer. In case of an open cut, a medical person or "cut person" may also enter the ring.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-7.10. Termination of Boxer's Performance.

Any second may terminate the performance of the boxer he/she is serving either between rounds or during the progress of any boxing contest in which such boxer is a contestant.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

SUBCHAPTER 8

Boxing Referees and Judges

20-8.0. Requirements for License as Referee or Judge: Expiration and Renewal of License.

1. To qualify for a license as a referee or judge of boxing contests an applicant must:
 - a. Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age;
 - b. Not have been convicted of a felony or other crime involving moral turpitude;
 - c. Submit references from three (3) persons of his/her character and ability; and
 - d. Be certified and in good standing with the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC).

2. In lieu of the examination and internship, the Commission may accept satisfactory evidence of equivalent qualifications possessed by an applicant who:

- a. Is currently licensed in another state or country; or
- b. Formerly held a South Carolina license which lapsed in good standing.

3. A person holding a current South Carolina license or who formerly held a South Carolina license which lapsed in good standing may be licensed by the Commission without examination or internship to perform an officiating function other than that for which he/she is or was licensed if the Commission determines that he/she is qualified to perform that function.

4. The Commission will determine when additional ring officials are needed and when licensing examinations for ring officials will be conducted.

5. Each license issued pursuant to this section is valid until December 31st of each year. An application with the proper fee for renewal must be submitted to the Commission by December 1st, of each year accompanied by the appropriate renewal fee. The renewal of a license is not automatic. The applicant's past performance and abilities may be considered in evaluating his/her application for renewal.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-8.1. Selection and Assignment.

The Commission Representative shall select and assign boxing referees and judges. Judges and referees shall be compensated for their work by the promoter as an official in accordance with an official's fee schedule as set by the Commission. In the event of judge or referee travel requiring overnight accommodations, any further negotiations, arrangements, agreements or contracts concerning compensation for travel or lodging shall be the responsibility and concern of the promoter and the referee or judge.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 11, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1987; State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-8.2. Chief Ring Official.

The referee shall be the chief official of every boxing match and shall remain in the ring during the entire time of the contest.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-8.3. Reporting for Duty; Number Per Show; Restrictions.

1. Referees must report for duty at least one (1) hour before the scheduled starting time of the show.
2. At least two (2) referees will be assigned for each show.
3. At least three (3) judges and one (1) alternate will be assigned for each show.
4. Referees must first report to their dressing room or other designated place where their blood pressure and pulse will be checked by the physician, then to ringside. All referees must stay at ringside when not officiating and will avoid conversation except with Commission officials.
5. A referee shall not judge or score any bout in which a participant is from that referee's or judge's camp or school, or is a student of that said referee or judge.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-8.4. Physical Examination.

Referees must submit physicians' statements to the Commission Representative prior to license renewal.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.5. Apparel.

Apparel required for boxing referees shall be a light colored shirt and dark trousers. The person designated as the Commission Representative or as the chief of officials may require specific colors and a bow tie.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.6. Chief Second's Responsibility.

The referee shall, before starting a contest, ascertain from each participant the name of his/her chief second, and shall hold said chief second responsible for the conduct of his assistant seconds during the progress of the contest.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.7. Mid-Ring Instructions.

The referee shall call participants together before each bout for final instructions, covering good sportsmanship and the eight-count, at which time each contestant shall be accompanied by his/her chief second only. The principals, after receiving instructions, shall shake hands and retire to their corners. Participants shall not again shake hands until the beginning of the last round.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.8. Persons in Ring During Round.

No persons other than the participants and the referee may be in the ring during the progress of a round.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.9. Knockdown of Participant; Count.

1. When a participant has been knocked down, the referee shall order the opponent to go to the farthest neutral corner of the ring, pointing to the corner, and promptly pick up the count from timekeeper or other person who may have been designated as the counter for knockdowns.

2. The referee shall audibly announce the passing of time in increments of seconds and accompanying the count with motions of his/her arm, the downward motion indicating the end of each second.

3. Any contestant who is knocked down shall not be allowed to resume boxing until after the referee has finished the eight-count.

4. The participant may take this count either on the floor or standing if he/she has not been struck hard enough to keep him/her down.

5. Should the opponent fail to stay in the farthest neutral corner, the referee may cease counting until he/she has returned to it, and then go on with the count from the point at which it was interrupted.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.10. Knockout of Participant; Count.

1. If the contestant taking the count is still down when the referee calls the count of "ten" the referee shall wave both arms to indicate that the contestant has been knocked out.

2. The referee's count is the official count.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.11. End of Round Knockout.

When a round in any boxing contest, except the last round, terminates before a participant who has been knocked down shall have risen from the floor of the ring, the timekeeper's and referee's count

will be continued, and, if the fallen participant fails to rise before the count of ten, he/she shall be considered to have lost the bout by a knockout in any round.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 22, Issue No. 6, Part 3, eff June 26, 1998; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.12. Touching Boxers; “Break”.

The referee shall not touch the boxers, except on the failure of one or both to obey a command to “break” or when a boxer is tangled in the ropes.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.13. Stopping a Bout.

1. The referee may, in his/her discretion, stop a bout to protect a badly beaten boxer. The referee may stop a contest if he/she considers it too one-sided. In cases where a boxer sustains a cut eye or any other injury which the referee feels may incapacitate the boxer, the referee may, at any time, call the physician into the ring for examination of the boxer. In such cases the referee shall be guided by the physician’s advice.

2. If a boxer loses his/her mouth piece, the referee shall stop the fight and replace it. There shall be no penalty for the first such loss. If the referee determines that subsequent losses of the mouth piece are intentional, he/she may penalize the boxer one (1) point for each such occurrence.

3. If an accidental head-butt disables a boxer before the completion of half of the scheduled rounds, the referee shall declare the bout “no contest”. If such head-butt occurs after completion of half of the scheduled rounds, the referee will award the decision to the boxer with the most points at the end of the preceding round.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015; SCSR 49–5 Doc. No. 5351, eff May 23, 2025.

20–8.14. Failure to Answer Bell.

If any boxer fails to answer the bell between rounds, the referee shall declare his/her opponent the winner by a TKO in the round coming up. The judges shall so indicate on their scorecards.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.15. Inspection of Gloves.

The referee shall inspect the gloves and make sure that no foreign substances have been applied to either the gloves or any part of the boxer’s head or body to the detriment of an opponent.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.16. Knocked Down Construed.

1. A boxer shall be considered by the referee to be knocked down when any part of his/her body other than his/her feet is on the ring floor, he/she is hanging helplessly over the ropes, or rising from a “down” position.

2. A boxer hanging over the ropes is not officially “down” until so pronounced by the referee, who can count the boxer out either on the ropes or on the floor.

3. If a boxer who is down is hit, the offending boxer shall be penalized one (1) point. If such hit causes a knockout, the offending boxer shall be disqualified.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.17. Failure to Compete or Foul.

1. The bout shall be stopped in any case where the referee decides that the participants are not honestly competing or are fouling.

2. A participant earns nothing and shall not be paid for an exhibition or contest in which there is stalling, faking or dishonesty or collusion.

3. The Commission Representative shall determine the merits of any such contest and take whatever action is considered proper.

4. In any such case, the Commission Representative may order the license of the offender suspended and initiate a complaint for investigation and potential further disciplinary action by the Commission.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 22, Issue No. 6, Part 3, eff June 26, 1998; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.18. Ten Point Must Scoring System.

1. The ten point must system of scoring shall govern all decisions.
2. At the conclusion of each round, the judges must give their scorecards to the scorekeeper. The boxer who has the most points on each scorecard is the winner. The scorekeeper shall maintain an accumulative total for each participant. The decision of the majority of the judges shall be final.
 - a. If the boxer is slightly superior to his/her opponent in such round, ten (10) points must be scored for such boxer, and the score of nine (9) points marked down for his/her opponent.
 - b. If a boxer wins a round decisively, ten (10) points should be scored for such boxer, and the score of eight (8) points marked down on his/her opponent.
 - c. If a boxer wins a round decisively with a knockdown or knockdowns, ten (10) points should be scored for such a boxer, and the score of seven (7) points marked down for his/her opponent.
3. If a referee penalizes a boxer for a foul, the referee shall notify the judges; and, the announcer shall announce it to the public at the end of the round.
4. The referee may take points away from a boxer because of improper use of mouth piece.
5. If the tallied scorecards do not establish a winner the decision shall be declared a draw.
6. The referee or other designee shall collect the scorecards at the end of each round and submit them to the scorekeeper. At the end of the contest, the scorekeeper shall determine the total for each judge scoring. The scorekeeper shall give that total to the Commission Representative. After verifying the totals, the Commission Representative shall give the totals to the announcer who shall announce the decision of the judges.
7. Decisions shall be given in all contests.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.19. Boxer Fallen or Knocked Through Ropes; Return Unassisted.

1. If a participant has been knocked out or has fallen out of the ring during a contest, the referee shall order the other boxer to a neutral corner at once. The referee shall inform the timekeeper to suspend time until directed to resume time from the point of interruption for the duration of the round.
2. The participant who has fallen or has been knocked out of the ring must return to the ring unassisted by his/her seconds. If he/she is unable to do so within twenty (20) seconds, the timekeeper shall notify the referee who shall begin the official count.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.20. No Foul Rule.

No participant may be awarded a contest on a claim of a low-blow foul nor may a participant lose by reason of a low-blow foul. Participants are presumed to be properly protected by safety equipment.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.21. Verbal or Physical Abuse of Referee.

Any licensee who verbally or physically abuses a referee may be indefinitely suspended by the Commission.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–8.22; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.22. Low Blow; Referee’s Notice.

Whenever the referee observes a blow delivered below the belt, the referee shall step between the boxers and with his/her free hand make a sweeping motion upwards from the floor as a warning to the offender to raise his/her punches and to refrain from delivering any other low blows.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–8.23; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.23. Knocked Out Boxer; Treatment by Physician.

A boxer who is knocked out must not be touched or moved by anyone except with the approval of the physician. The physician shall determine the methods of resuscitation.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–8.24; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.24. Persistent Fouling.

Persistent fouling by a boxer in spite of the referee’s warnings, and in violation of clean sportsmanship, shall result in disqualification of the offender, suspension, and potential further disciplinary action by the Commission.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 22, Issue No. 6, Part 3, eff June 26, 1998; Formerly 20–8.25; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.25. Review of Referee Error by Commission.

The Commission may in its discretion declare a bout a “no contest”, if in its judgment a noticeable error affecting the outcome of the bout has been committed by the referee.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–8.26; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.26. Judges; Majority Vote.

The Commission Representative shall designate three (3) judges. The judges shall render a decision in any boxing contest by a majority vote. The decision of the judges shall be final.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; Formerly 20–8.27; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.27. Substitution of Referee or Judge.

1. In the event a referee or judge becomes unable to continue his/her duties during a boxing contest, time out shall be called and another official shall be immediately assigned by the Commission Representative or chief of officials.

2. It shall be mandatory for such substituted judge to continue scoring on the scorecard used by the incapacitated judge and such scorecard shall be the official scorecard in the determination of a decision at the conclusion of the boxing contest.

3. The substituted judge must resume the round from the time of his/her substitution for the incapacitated judge.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; Formerly 20–8.28; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–8.28. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor’s Note

Former R. 20–8.28 was titled **Substitution of Referee or Judge**. See, now S.C. Code Regs. 20–8.27.

SUBCHAPTER 9

Commission Representative

20-9.1. General Supervisory Duties.

The Commission Representative shall be in charge of shows for the purpose of:

1. Enforcing regulations issued by the Commission, which include but are not limited to:
 - a. Licensing contestants and all other participants according to the requirements of the rules of this Chapter.
 - b. Collecting unpaid promoter's fees.
 - c. Seeing that contestants and officials are paid.
 - d. Collecting all gate fees and verifying said fees on a Commission-approved Gate Fee Verification Form.
 - e. Completing his/her report and forwarding the report to the Commission within ten (10) days of each event.
 - f. Depositing the collected fees within forty eight (48) hours of receipt, excluding Saturday, Sunday, and bank holidays, into an account established for the Athletic Commission. The Administrator will deposit the collected fees in the South Carolina Athletic Commission bank account.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-9.2. Verbal or Physical Abuse of Commissioner or Commission Representative.

Verbal or physical abuse of any Commissioner, the Commission Representative or any person representing the Commission shall be a violation of the act establishing this Commission and shall be subject to the penalties authorized in Sections 40-1-10 *et. seq.*, 40-81-120, and 40-81-130 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-9.3. Attendance at Weigh-In.

A Commission Representative must attend all weigh-ins, as well as the performances.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-9.2; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-9.4. Receipt Book.

1. If a Commission Representative has been furnished a receipt book, then he/she shall carry it with him/her at all times during an event.
2. Receipts are made out in triplicate; one copy for the person paying the fee, one copy to forward to the Commission office together with his/her report, and the third copy to remain in the book.
3. When each receipt book is completed, the Commission Representative must return it to the office immediately.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; Formerly 20-9.3; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-9.5. Forwarding of Scorecards.

The Commission Representative at boxing shows must obtain the judges' scorecards and forward them to the Commission upon request in addition to the other required reports.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-9.4; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–9.6. Check of Substitute Boxers.

When substitutions occur in any boxing show, the Commission Representative must thoroughly check the substitute's record, including his/her last five (5) bouts, license, suspension status, name of his/her manager, if any, and any other pertinent information. Promoters must submit contestants' names, addresses, and date of birth, and the required information must be submitted no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the start of the event to the Commission Representative. The Commission Representative must then forward any event substitution to the Commission Designee for approval. Any additional administrative cost incurred due to said substitutions will be paid by the promoter.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; Formerly 20–9.5; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former 20–9.6, titled **Special Reports on Performances**, was omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–9.7. Check of Seconds' Compliance with Rules.

The Commission Representative shall see that all seconds present a neat appearance according to the rules of this Chapter.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–9.8. Assure Enforcement of Regulations.

The Commission Representative shall see that all necessary equipment is provided, that all participants are present and ready on time, that the seconds are properly instructed in their duties, and that all regulations pertaining to the proper conduct of the bout are enforced.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–9.9. Report of Injuries.

Commission representatives shall make an inquiry of all boxers after their bouts, in cooperation with the physicians, and shall report any injuries to the Commission within seventy-two (72) hours.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–9.10. Forwarding of Receipts.

Commission representatives shall maintain all receipts from receipt books in their custody promptly after the conduct of any show to which they are assigned.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

SUBCHAPTER 10

Announcers

20–10.1. Designation; Approval; License.

Announcers may be designated by the promoters with the approval of the Commission Representative. Announcers must be licensed by the Commission.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–10.2. Authorization to Announce.

Announcers are forbidden to make any announcement whatsoever except as authorized to do so by the promoter with the consent of the Commission Representative at the ringside.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–10.3. Announcement of Contestants' Names and Weights.

After contestants and their chief seconds are in the ring, the boxing announcer shall announce the names of the contestants, their correct weights, and other matters as may be directed by the Commission Representative.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–10.4. Announcement of Contest Results.

Boxing announcers shall announce the judges' decisions at the end of contests and in the event of knockouts at the time of same and the round of occurrence.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–10.5. Neutrality.

1. Announcers must not in any way by word or action attempt to show any partisanship inside or outside the ring.

2. Announcers must remain seated in place and be silent except when making official announcements.

3. Announcers shall not use foul, abusive, or derogatory language toward a contestant or any person attending the event.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–10.6. Introducing Suspended Person.

1. Boxing announcers must not at any time introduce from any ring any boxer or other person who is under suspension.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

SUBCHAPTER 11

Timekeepers

20–11.1. Approval and License.

Timekeepers shall be approved and licensed by the Commission.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–11.2. Stop-Watch.

A timekeeper shall have an accurate stop-watch approved by the Commission Representative.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–11.3. Time of Round; Rest Period.

1. Each round of boxing shall be three (3) minutes unless approved in advance by the Commission representative. However, in the event of a knockdown near the end of a round, the round shall continue until the official count has ended.

2. Each rest period between rounds shall be one (1) minute.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 22, Issue No. 6, Part 3, June 26, 1998; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–11.4. Warning Signal.

The timekeeper shall give a warning of ten (10) seconds before the beginning of each round by sounding a signal.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–11.5. Termination Before Scheduled Limit.

In the event a boxing contest terminates before the scheduled limit of rounds, the timekeeper shall inform the announcer of the exact duration of the contest.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–11.6. Location Near Bell.

A timekeeper shall be seated close to the bell at ringside. Adequate space must be provided to allow the timekeeper complete freedom of motion.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–11.7. Signals During Rounds.

Except for the official ten-second signal, a timekeeper must not give any signal or information on the duration of any round in progress in any contest.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–11.8. Termination Between Rounds.

1. In the event a boxing bout terminates between rounds by decision of the referee or at the request of a corner, the timekeeper shall sound the bell as a signal for the next round.

2. The contest shall then be considered as having terminated in the round for which the bell was sounded and likewise the referee shall be considered to have counted “ten” (10) as in the case of a knockout.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–11.9. Count for Knockdowns.

The timekeeper may be designated by the referee to initiate the count in the event of a knockdown.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

SUBCHAPTER 12

Physicians

20–12.1. Approval and Assignment.

Physicians shall be arranged for by the promoter from an approved list provided by the Commission. If a promoter requests approval of a physician not on the list, the Commission or its designee may approve said physician on a case-by-case basis.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–12.2. Examination of Boxers.

Physicians assigned to boxing shows must perform thorough pre- and post-fight physicals on the contestants on the day of the event.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–12.3. Position at Ringside.

1. Physicians shall sit at the immediate ringside at all boxing shows.

2. No boxing bout or exhibition shall be allowed to proceed unless the physician is in his/her seat.

3. The physician shall not leave until after the final bout or exhibition.

4. The physician shall be prepared to assist if any serious emergency arises and shall render temporary or emergency treatment for cuts or other injuries sustained by the participants.

5. The ringside physician may examine a boxer at any time he/she feels it necessary and may direct the referee to halt a contest if in his/her opinion either contestant is unable to continue.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–12.4. Completion of Injury Form and Report.

Physicians must fill out and return to the Commission Representative a printed injury form for every contestant immediately after a boxing event. These forms shall be maintained by the Commission Representative.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–12.5. Unfit Participant.

Physicians must rule off the card any boxer who is found physically unfit or who appears to be under the influence of an unauthorized substance at the weigh-in or pre-fight physical.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–12.6; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former 20–12.5, titled **Report to Commission**, was omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015. See, now S.C. Code Regs. 20–12.4.

20–12.6. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former R. 20–12.6 was titled **Unfit Participant**.

SUBCHAPTER 13

Television, Moving Picture, Radio

20–13.1. Commission Fee.

1. Every person, club, corporation, organization or association who shall hold any boxing, wrestling, kick boxing (full contact karate) or sparring exhibition or performance in this State shall pay to the Commission ten percent of the gross receipts received by reason of the lease or sale of television, moving picture or radio rights in connection with any such exhibition or performance.

2. The Commission may by unanimous vote negotiate for a lesser amount.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–13.2. Forms.

Special forms to accompany the payment of the television fee shall be provided by the Commission to promoters whose shows are televised.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–13.3. Copy of Agreement Furnished to Commission.

The Commission must be furnished by the promoter with true copies, properly notarized, of any and all agreements between promoters and television, moving picture or radio sponsors, stations or companies.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–13.4. Time for Payment.

The television fee must be paid the same night of a show unless arrangements are made at least five days before the event. Such arrangements must be in writing.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–13.5. Closed Circuit Television.

1. Any person who charges and receives an admission fee for exhibiting via closed circuit television any boxing or sparring match, including kick boxing (full contact karate), or wrestling exhibitions must obtain from the Athletic Commission an annual license. Application for an annual license must be on a form provided by, or acceptable to, the Commission, and accompanied by a Fifty Dollar (\$50.00) license fee.

2. Additionally, such person must apply to the Commission for a permit for each location at which any such telecast will be shown at least two weeks prior to such event. If the promoter does not meet such deadline, the Commission will not issue a permit until the promoter pays the

mandatory fine required by law. If additional locations for telecast showings are arranged after the permit application has been sent to the Commission there shall be no penalty for such late arrangement provided the Commission is notified within twenty four hours of such arrangement. Each such notification must be accompanied by the permit fee described below:

a. Each application for a permit must be accompanied by Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) in certified funds for each location at which the event will be telecast. Fees for locations that are arranged after the permit has been submitted must be sent to the Commission within twenty four hours after the arrangement has been made.

b. The promoter may elect to pay a permit fee of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) at the time the permit application is filed in lieu of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each location. The promoter must notify the Commission of each location within twenty four hours of the time such location has been contracted to show the telecast or will receive the mandatory fine required by law.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 13, Issue No. 6, eff June 23, 1989; State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

SUBCHAPTER 14

Insurance for Boxers

Editor's Note

This regulation became effective June 27, 1986.

20-14.1. Proof of Insurance.

1. Each licensed promoter shall be required to submit evidence of a policy of medical and hospital insurance satisfactory to the Commission at the time application is made to the Commission for a permit.

2. The promoter must provide proof that premiums have been paid by certified funds.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-14.2. Coverage.

1. Insurance will cover boxers for medical, surgical, and hospital care in amounts to be designated by the Commission.

2. Each licensed promoter must have medical, hospitalization, surgical and life insurance in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) in case of injury and Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) in case of a death.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-14.3. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former R. 20-14.3 was titled **Cost of Insurance**.

SUBCHAPTER 17

Promoters

20-17.1. General Responsibility.

A licensed promoter will be held responsible for any failure in adhering to the rules and regulations of the Commission. The Commission may at its discretion video or require the promoter to furnish videos of the event to the Commission. The promoter is responsible for properly identifying all contestants and for preventing mismatched contests.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-17.2. Intermissions.

All events are limited to one (1) half-time intermission and one (1) additional intermission with the prior approval of the Commission Representative, not including intermissions for medical emergencies. Promoters shall not permit intermissions at boxing shows to exceed fifteen (15) minutes, with the exception of medical emergencies.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-17.3. Persons Unlicensed or Under Suspension.

Promoters and their matchmakers shall not permit any person unlicensed or under suspension to take part in a sanctioned event.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-17.4; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-17.4. Grounds for Suspension of License.

Any promoter holding a license may be suspended for a conviction of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude or for unbecoming conduct at any time or place reflecting discredit to boxing.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-17.5; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-17.5. Maintenance of Order; Responsibility.

1. Promoters will be held responsible for maintaining order. Any person who is intoxicated, abusive or disorderly in conduct, to the annoyance of surrounding spectators, may be ejected.

2. Promoters must supply security with a minimum of one Commissioned police officer based upon the seating capacity for the particular event so that order and security may be maintained and all laws and regulations enforced.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-17.6; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-17.6. Minimum/Maximum Schedule of Rounds per Program.

Promoters shall not schedule less than twenty-one (21) or more than sixty (60) rounds of boxing on one program.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-17.7; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-17.7. Time of Final Bout.

1. The final bout shall not end later than 11:59 P.M., unless approved by the Commission Representative.

2. If the semifinal or other advertised bouts have not been held by 10 P.M., they shall be held after the main event bout.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; Formerly 20-17.8; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-17.8. Filing of Boxing Contracts; Secret Agreements.

1. Upon request of the Commission or Commission Representative copies of all boxing contracts between or among any participants must be filed with the Commission at the designated time before the event.

2. The making of secret agreements contrary to the terms of the filed contracts is prohibited under penalty of suspension of all parties thereto.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-17.9; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–17.9. Nonprofit and Charitable Events.

Events sponsored, promoted or conducted by nonprofit and/or charitable organizations shall be subject to all the provisions of these rules and regulations

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 15, Issue No. 5, eff May 24, 1991; Formerly 20–17.10; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–17.10. Posting of Surety Bond or Certified Check.

Licensed promoters shall post with the Commission a surety bond in a minimum amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or certified funds sufficient to cover the total purse or fee for each scheduled contestant and official.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; Formerly 20–17.11; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–17.11. Promoter Participating as a Contestant.

No promoter shall participate as a contestant in any event in which the promoter is involved as a promoter or a matchmaker.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; Formerly 20–17.12; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–17.12. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former R. 20–17.12 was titled **Promoter Participating as a Contestant**, see, now S.C. Code Regs. 20–17.11.

SUBCHAPTER 18

Matchmakers

20–18.1. Observance of Rules.

Matchmakers must observe all the rules and requirements with respect to weight agreements, weighing-in, and the proper execution and filing of contracts and advance notices. The matchmaker is responsible for properly identifying all contestants.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–18.2. Uneven Matches.

Matchmakers and promoters may be held responsible if they make matches in which one of the principals is outclassed or mismatched.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–18.3. Dealings with Persons Unlicensed or Under Suspension.

Matchmakers shall not permit any person unlicensed or under suspension to take any part whatsoever in any match.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–18.5; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former R. 20–18.3, titled **Dealings with Unlicensed Manager**, was omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff. June 26, 2015.

20–18.4. Grounds for Suspension of License.

Any event participant holding a license may be suspended if arrested or convicted for a charge involving moral turpitude or for unbecoming conduct at any time or place reflecting discredit to boxing. Under similar circumstances, application for a license or a renewal may be denied.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–18.6; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former R. 20-18.4, titled **Dealings with Unlicensed Persons**, was omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff. June 26, 2015.

20-18.5. Submission of Names and Addresses of Contestants.

Contestants names, aliases, addresses, and date of birth must be submitted to the Commission Representative no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the start of the event.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; Formerly 20-18.7; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-18.6. Matchmaker Participating as a Contestant.

No matchmaker shall participate as a contestant in any event in which he/she is involved as a matchmaker.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; Formerly 20-18.9; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-18.7. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former R. 20-18.7 was titled **Submission of Names and Addresses of Contestants**, see, now S.C. Code Regs. 20-18.5.

20-18.8. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former R. 20-18.8 was titled **Matches for One Club Only**.

20-18.9. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former R. 20-18.9 was titled **Matchmaker Participating as a Contestant**, see, now S.C. Code Regs. 20-18.6.

SUBCHAPTER 19

Sparring and Charity Events

20-19.1. Fee.

Charity events shall be subject to all rules and regulations.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

SUBCHAPTER 20

Female Boxers

20-20.1. Female Boxers.

(Same rules as for male boxers plus the following)

1. No applicant shall be contracted for or engage in a contest between male and female.
2. Contests will be scheduled for no more than ten (10) rounds of up to three (3) minutes' duration with any lesser number of rounds or shorter duration at the discretion of the Commission.
3. Breast protection must be used in lieu of a foul proof abdominal guard.
4. Hair must be secured in a manner which will not interfere with the vision or safety of either contestant.

5. Each contestant will provide herself with two (2) uniforms consisting of contrasting color, body shirt, blouse and shorts.

6. Female fighters must submit to a Commission administered pregnancy test reviewed by the ringside physician on the day of the scheduled fight for a mandatory negative result.

7. Promoters will provide adequate separate dressing rooms.

8. No use of cosmetics. Absolutely no body grease, gels, balms or lotions may be applied. Vaseline may be applied to the facial area at cage side or ringside in the presence of an inspector, referee, or a person designated by the Commission.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

SUBCHAPTER 21

Hearings and Subpoena of Witnesses

20–21.1. Investigations and Hearings Held by Commission.

1. A designated representative of the Commission may make investigations. The Commission may hold hearings and issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses.

2. The Commission also may order production of books, papers, reports, or records needed for any hearing.

3. When the hearing takes place, any Commissioner may administer oaths to and examine any witnesses for the purpose of clarifying the questions for which the hearing was called.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 18, Issue No. 5, eff May 27, 1994; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–21.2. Disciplinary Action.

Any person or entity required by law to be licensed by this Commission shall be subject to disciplinary action for any violation of these regulations or order of the Commission. Upon the hearing and its determination of just cause existing, the Commission may, in its discretion, impose civil penalty, suspension or revocation of a license held. Any such violation shall also constitute grounds for the Commission's refusal to renew any license.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

SUBCHAPTER 22

Kick Boxing (Full Contact Karate)

Editor's Note

Former Subchapter 22, titled **County Athletic Commissions**, was omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–22.1. Conduct of Kick Boxing (Full Contact Karate) Events.

1. All kick boxing (full contact karate) events shall be held under the rules and regulations in effect for the Professional Karate Association, the International Sport Karate Association, or such other professional organization as the Commission approves, except where those rules and regulations conflict with South Carolina law, rules or regulations, in which case South Carolina law, rules or regulations shall apply, however, there shall be an interval of at least seven (7) days between bouts or for such time as shall be determined at the discretion of the Commission.

2. The Commission may require a kick boxer or an official to be given a physical examination and may take such disciplinary action as authorized by law.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 13, Issue No. 6, eff June 23, 1989; State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; Formerly 20–23.1; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former 20–22.1, titled **Designation as Commission Representative**, with the following history: Amended by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986; State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996, was omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015

20–22.2. Licenses and Permits--General Requirements.

1. No person, club, corporation or association may be a participant in kick boxing (full contact karate) bouts in the State of South Carolina without first having obtained a license from the State Athletic Commission.

2. No promoter may hold or conduct kick boxing (full contact karate) bouts without first having obtained a permit for the specific event.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; Formerly 20–23.2; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–22.3. Application.

1. Applications for licenses and permits as required herein shall be made upon forms prescribed by the Commission, made under oath, and contain a photograph depicting a frontal view of the applicant's head and shoulders.

2. Kick boxers who apply for a license shall include a statement of experience and medical history and a valid license from the applicant's home state if other than South Carolina.

3. Every application made by a club, association, or corporation shall include the names and addresses of all officers, and/or partners.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; Formerly 20–23.3; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–22.4. Period of Validity.

Licenses are valid for a period not to exceed one year and will expire on December 31st of each calendar year.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–23.4; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–22.5. Documents.

All papers and documents filed with the Commission shall be the property of the Commission.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–23.5; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–22.6. Suspensions.

Promoters shall not permit any person under suspension to take part whatsoever as a participant or in arranging or conducting matches, or work during the period of suspension.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–23.6; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–22.7. Sale or Transfer of License.

No license or permit may be sold or transferred.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–23.7; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–22.8. Promoter Responsibility.

1. All promoters holding licenses and permits shall be absolutely responsible to the Commission for all matches held, given or conducted under such license and permit.

2. No promoter shall participate as a contestant in any show in which he/she is involved as a promoter or matchmaker. The promoter is responsible for properly identifying all contestants. All

promoters holding licenses and permits shall be absolutely responsible to the Commission for all matches or exhibitions held, given or conducted under such license and permit.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; Formerly 20–23.8; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–22.10. Passport.

The Commission may require all kick boxers to register for passports.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–23.10; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–22.11. License Fees.

The Commission may charge fees as shown in South Carolina Code of Regulations Chapter 10–4 and on the South Carolina State Athletic Commission website at <http://lcr.sc.gov/POL/Athletic/>.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4500, eff June 26, 2015; Formerly 20–23.11.

Editor's Note

Due to the renumbering of subchapters in Document No. 4536, which was approved after Document No. 4500, Regulations 20-23.11 and 20-24.10 were renumbered accordingly.

20–22.13. Refunds for License and Permit Fees.

Fees paid for licenses and permits shall not be refundable.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–23.13; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–22.14. Amateur Kick Boxing (Full Contact Karate).

The SC Athletic Commission does not regulate amateur kick boxing. 20–22.15. Amateur Kick Boxing in Conjunction with Professional Contests.

No amateur kick boxing contests shall be conducted in connection with any professional event, and no amateur kick boxer shall appear on a professional card, unless the event or card is held under the jurisdiction of the Professional Karate Association.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 15, Issue No. 5, eff May 24, 1991; Formerly 20–23.14; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–22.15. Amateur Kick Boxing in Conjunction with Professional Contests.

No amateur kick boxing contests shall be conducted in connection with any professional event, and no amateur kick boxer shall appear on a professional card, unless the event or card is held under the jurisdiction of the Professional Karate Association.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–23.15; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–22.16. Non-Profit and Charitable Events.

See Section 20–17.9.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–23.16; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

SUBCHAPTER 23

Wrestling

20–23.1. Professional Wrestling Exhibitions and Entertainment.

All professional wrestling performances are exhibitions and entertainment, and are not contests.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–24.1; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–23.2. Licenses and Permits--General Requirements.

1. No person, club, corporation or association may be a participant in wrestling bouts in the State of South Carolina without first having obtained a license from the State Athletic Commission.

2. Additionally, no promoter may hold or conduct wrestling bouts without first having obtained a permit from the Commission.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-24.2; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-23.3. Application.

1. Applications for licenses and permits as required herein shall be made upon forms prescribed by the Commission, made under oath, and contain a picture ID depicting a frontal view of the applicant's head and shoulders.

2. Wrestlers who apply for a license shall include medical history.

3. Every application made by a club, association, or corporation shall include the names and addresses of all officers and/or partners.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-24.3; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-23.4. Period of Validity.

Licenses are valid for a period not to exceed one year and will expire on December 31st of each calendar year.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-24.4; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-23.5. Documents.

All papers and documents filed with the Commission shall be the property of the Commission.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-24.5; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-23.6. Suspensions.

Promoters shall not permit any person under suspension to take any part whatsoever as a participant or in arranging or conducting matches, or work during the period of suspension.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-24.6; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-23.7. Sale or Transfer of License.

No license or permit may be sold or transferred.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-24.7; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-23.8. Promoter Responsibility.

All promoters holding licenses and permits shall be absolutely responsible to the Commission for all events held, given or conducted under such license and permit.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-24.8; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-23.9. Permit Applications and Fees.

1. Every promoter must have a current license to conduct, hold or give wrestling matches or exhibitions and must apply to the Commission for a permit before conducting any match or exhibition.

2. Permits for Single Events

a. Application for single wrestling event permits must be in the Commission office at least fourteen (14) days before the event. If the promoter does not meet the deadline, the Commission will not issue a permit until the promoter pays the mandatory fine of twenty-five (\$25) dollars each day exceeded. No permit will be issued unless the applicant:

- (1) Provides the names and addresses of all anticipated participants and of the event location;
- (2) Pays the required permit fee.

b. Promoters must pay to the Commission the higher amount of either five percent (5%) of the total admissions to the event or a twenty five (\$25.00) dollar minimum within thirty (30) days after the event. Failure to pay the required gate fees within the time specified herein will result in the promoter being assessed a two hundred fifty (\$250.00) dollar administrative fine, and an additional two hundred fifty (\$250.00) dollar fine every thirty (30) days thereafter up to a maximum amount of one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars. An event permit shall not be issued to a promoter with an outstanding unpaid gate fee or fine. Promoters will be subject to disciplinary action by the Commission for any attempt to circumvent payment of the gate fee.

c. Additionally, the Commission may require:

(1) Evidence that a policy of medical and hospital insurance satisfactory to the Commission covers every wrestler;

(2) The Commission may issue special permits to promoters holding multiple events during a given calendar year, upon the promoter's satisfaction of special permit requirements and fee terms set by the Commission.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 13, Issue No. 6, eff June 23, 1989; State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; Formerly 20-24.9; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015; SCSR 49-5 Doc. No. 5351, eff May 23, 2025.

Editor's Note

Former 20-23.9, titled **Permit Application and Fee**, applicable to kick boxing, with the following history: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992, was omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-23.10. License Fees.

The Commission may charge fees as shown in South Carolina Code of Regulations Chapter 10-4 and on the South Carolina State Athletic Commission website at <http://lir.sc.gov/POL/Athletic/>.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4500, eff June 26, 2015; Formerly 20-24.10.

Editor's Note

Former R. 20-23.10 was titled **Passport**, see, now S.C. Code Regs. 20-22.10.

Due to the renumbering of subchapters in Document No. 4536, which was approved after Document No. 4500, Regulations 20-23.11 and 20-24.10 were renumbered accordingly.

20-23.11. Renumbered by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former 20-23.11, titled **License Fees** (Kick Boxing), See, now S.C. Code Regs 20-22.11.

20-23.12. Refunds for License and Permit Fees.

Fees paid for licenses and permits shall not be refundable.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-24.12; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former 20-23.12, titled **Lost License; Duplicate** (Kick Boxing), was omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-23.13. Additional Rules and Regulations.

1. Promoter's Responsibility. Each promoter of a professional wrestling event shall be responsible to the Commission for its employees and agents and their compliance with the statutes and regulations of the Commission.

2. Duties of Licenses. It shall be the duty of the promoter to comply with all of the statutes and regulations adopted by the Commission. There shall be no abuse of any Commission official at any time. The Commission shall have jurisdiction to hear complaints concerning any licensee. The

Commission's decision may be appealed to a court of competent jurisdiction in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act.

3. Age Limitations. No wrestler's license shall be issued to any person under the age of eighteen (18).

4. Physical examination of Wrestlers. Any wrestler applying for a license or annual renewal thereof shall furnish a certificate of a physician duly licensed to practice medicine in any state on a form approved by the Commission. The Commission may order the examination of any wrestler at any time for the purpose of determining whether such wrestler is fit and qualified to engage in wrestling within the State of South Carolina.

5. Safety. Wrestling events to which the public is admitted shall take place only in such buildings or stadiums as are in compliance with all applicable health, fire and safety regulations. The promoter shall insure that provisions are made for reasonable security arrangements and personnel for the orderly conduct of the matches and spectators.

6. There must be a six (6) foot buffer zone between the wrestling ring and the spectators.

7. Wrestlers must not have any hostile physical or sexual contact with spectators.

8. Wrestlers must not swing or throw objects outside the ring and buffer zone, or at spectators.

9. Wrestlers must not run through the crowd or cross the buffer zone for any purpose except to go to or from the dressing room.

10. Wrestlers must not deliberately cut themselves or others, or otherwise draw blood.

11. Wrestlers must not use profanity or foul language during a match.

12. The referee, Commissioners, or the Commission Representative present may stop the bout immediately for a violation of these rules. The Commission may proceed against violators' licenses or prosecute them as provided for by law.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 13, Issue No. 6, eff June 23, 1989; State Register Volume 16, Issue No. 6, eff June 26, 1992; State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; Formerly 20-24.13; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-23.14. Amateur Wrestling.

The SC Athletic Commission does not regulate amateur wrestling.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 15, Issue No. 5, eff May 24, 1991; Formerly 20-24.14; State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-23.15. Amateur Wrestling in Connection with Professional Events.

No amateur wrestling events may be held in connection with any professional event or exhibit.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-24.15; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-23.16. Nonprofit and Charitable Events.

See Section 20-17.10.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 12, Issue No. 6, eff June 24, 1988; State Register Volume 15, Issue No. 5, eff May 24, 1991; Formerly 20-24.16; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

This regulation was adopted June 24, 1988.

SUBCHAPTER 24

Waiver of Rules

20-24.1. Waiver of Rules.

When a championship event is held under the jurisdiction of a nationally recognized organization, the Commission may, by majority vote of those present at a meeting with a quorum, waive any regulation.

HISTORY: Formerly 20-25.1; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–24.2. Denial of License or Permit.

If an applicant for a license or permit has been convicted on a charge of moral turpitude or for unbecoming conduct at any time or place reflecting discredit to kick-boxing or wrestling, the Commission may decline to issue such license or permit.

HISTORY: Formerly 20–25.2; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–24.3. Athletic Contests with Animals.

The Commission will not sanction events involving animals, other than human beings, nor issue permits for events in which they participate. (See South Carolina Code of Laws Section 16–27–10 *et seq.*, The Animal Fighting and Baiting Act)

HISTORY: Formerly 20–25.3; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–24.4. When No Regulations Exist.

When an application for a permit is received and no regulations exist for that type of event, the Commission may:

1. Deny the permit;
2. Designate that the regulation for a related combative art be used; or
3. Designate the acceptance of rules or regulations as established by the Association of Boxing Commissions' Unified Rules or other promotional rules approved by the Commission, unless they conflict with the State's laws and regulations.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; Formerly 20–25.5; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015; SCSR 49–5 Doc. No. 5351, eff May 23, 2025.

20–24.5. Verbal or Physical Abuse of Commission Representatives or Officials is Forbidden.

Verbal or physical abuse of any Commissioner, the Commission Representative or any person representing the Commission shall be a violation of the act establishing this Commission and shall be subject to the penalties as regulated by the SC Athletic Commission.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; Formerly 20–25.6; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–24.6. Blood Borne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan.

All promoters must comply with Section 29 CFR 1910.1030 of OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standards. The State Athletic Commission may issue minimum guidelines.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; Formerly 20–25.7; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–24.7. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former R. 20–24.7, titled **Sale or Transfer of License**, see, now S.C. Code Regs. 20–23.7.

20–24.8. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former R. 20–24.8, titled **Promoter Responsibility**, see, now S.C. Code Regs. 20–23.8.

20–24.9. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor’s Note

Former R. 20–24.9 was titled **Permit Applications and Fees**, see, now S.C. Code Regs. 20–23.9.

20–24.10. Renumbered by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor’s Note

Former R. 20–24.10, titled **License Fees** (Wrestling). See, now S.C. Code Regs 20–23.10.

20–24.11. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor’s Note

Former R. 20–24.11, titled **Lost License; Duplicate** (Wrestling), was omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–24.12. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor’s Note

Former R. 20–24.12 was titled **Refunds for License and Permit Fees**, see, now S.C. Code Regs. 20–23.12.

20–24.13. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor’s Note

Former R. 20–24.13 was titled **Additional Rules and Regulations**, see, now S.C. Code Regs. 20–23.13.

20–24.14. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor’s Note

Former R. 20–24.14 was titled **Amateur Wrestling**, see, now S.C. Code Regs. 20–23.14.

20–24.15. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor’s Note

Former R. 20–24.15 was titled **Amateur Wrestling in Connection with Professional Events**, see, now S.C. Code Regs. 20–23.15.

20–24.16. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor’s Note

Former R. 20–24.16 was titled **Nonprofit and Charitable Events**, see, now S.C. Code Regs. 20–23.16.

SUBCHAPTER 25

Off the Street Boxing

20–25.1. Off the Street Boxing.

Participants and Officials must comply with the Rules and Regulations for regular boxing events with the following exceptions and/or additional rules:

1. Each bout is limited to three (3) one-minute rounds.

2. The corner men must use clean towels for each bout.
3. No boxer shall be permitted to perform in any contest without wearing a form-fitting mouthpiece. It is suggested that each boxer have a spare mouthpiece.
4. No boxer shall participate in more than four (4) such bouts in the same calendar day, nor on successive calendar days without specific approval of the duly authorized Commission Representative. The ringside physician must check and record a boxer's blood pressure prior to each fight.
5. No person who has participated in more than five (5) Off The Street Boxing events in one calendar year shall participate in an Off The Street Boxing Tournament.
6. No person who has participated in amateur or professional boxing or kick-boxing, including trainers and sparring partners, shall enter an Off The Street Boxing Tournament.
7. Winning a prize in an Off The Street Boxing Event does not, in itself, make the winner a professional within the meaning of these regulations.
8. If a promoter cannot provide entrants' names two (2) weeks before the event, the promoter may submit the participants' names upon receipt. These participants are to apply for licenses upon registering for the contest.
9. Weight classes shall be as follows:
 - A. Class I: 130--152 pounds;
 - B. Class II: 153--175 pounds;
 - C. Class III: 176--199 pounds;
 - D. Class IV: Super heavyweight--over 200 pounds
10. Gloves of minimum weight of sixteen (16) ounces, to be provided by the promoter, are required.
11. Kicking is not permitted in Off The Street Boxing.
12. All equipment must be inspected and approved by the Commission Representative. All contestants must wear Commission-approved headgear.
13. Each licensed promoter must have medical, hospitalization, surgical and life insurance in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) in a case of injury and Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) in case of a death.
14. No Off The Street Boxing Tournament shall be longer than two (2) consecutive twenty-four (24) hour periods.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 20, Issue No. 6, Part 1, eff June 28, 1996; Formerly 20-26.1; Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-25.2. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former R. 20-25.2 was titled **Denial of License or Permit**, see now S.C. Code Regs. 20-24.2.

20-25.3. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former R. 20-25.3 was titled **Athletic Contests with Animals**, see now S.C. Code Regs. 20-24.3.

20-25.5. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor's Note

Former R. 20-25.5 was titled **When No Regulations Exist**, see now S.C. Code Regs. 20-24.4.

20–25.6. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor’s Note

Former R. 20–25.6 was titled **Verbal or Physical Abuse of Commission Representatives or Officials is Forbidden**, see now S.C. Code Regs. 20–24.5.

20–25.7. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor’s Note

Former R. 20–25.7 was titled **Blood Borne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan**, see now S.C. Code Regs. 20–24.6.

SUBCHAPTER 26

[Omitted]

Editor’s Note

Former Subchapter 26, titled **Off the Street Boxing (I.E. Toughman, Badman [Sic])**, was omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–26.1. Omitted by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

Editor’s Note

Former R. 20–26.1 was titled **Off the Street Boxing (e.g. Toughman, Badman, Mad of the Maddest or Bad of the Baddest [sic])**, see, now S.C. Code Regs 20–25.1.

SUBCHAPTER 27

Mixed Martial Arts

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20–27.01. Definitions.

(A) Brazilian jiu-jitsu: Also known as “Gracie Jiu-Jitsu”, is a martial art developed in Brazil by the Gracie family during the mid-20th century. Originally based on the Japanese martial art of judo as it existed before WW II, it has since developed into an independent system with a major emphasis on ground fighting and grappling. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(B) Cage: A fenced enclosure in which some promotional organizations hold mixed martial arts competition. A fenced enclosure may have four (4) but not more than eight (8) sides.

(C) Choke: A submission technique which restricts blood flow in the carotid arteries, resulting in a competitor either tapping-out or losing consciousness. Some of the most frequently employed chokes are the guillotine choke, rear-naked choke, leg triangle choke and the arm triangle choke.

(D) Fish-hooking: The action of hooking (grasping) and pulling the inside of an opponent’s cheek so as to control his/her head movement. This is illegal.

(E) Exhibition: Means an occurrence in which the participant shows, displays, or performs without striving to win. Exhibitions are not allowed within the confines of a mixed martial arts event sanctioned by the SC Athletic Commission.

(F) Freestyle wrestling: An Olympic grappling sport which permits contestants to attack their opponent above and below the waist, these techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(G) Gi: The traditional uniform worn when practicing aikido; jujitsu; judo; and karate, may not be worn in mixed martial arts events.

(H) Grappling: Techniques of throwing, locking, holding, and wrestling, as opposed to kicking and punching. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(I) Greco Roman wrestling: An Olympic grappling sport in which all holds are applied above the waist in an attempt to throw the opponent. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(J) Ground and pound: A MMA term which describes the barrage of strikes delivered by the contestant who is in his/her opponents guard or in the mount position.

(K) Guard: A basic position in which one competitor lies on his/her back with their knees bent and legs open. If their opponent is between their legs, the opponent is in their guard. Depending upon the leg position of the fighter on their back, the guard is refereed to as being an open, closed, half, butterfly, spider, or rubber-band guard.

(L) Hammer-fist: A strike with the small finger side of the fist, as if holding a hammer.

(M) Judo: Meaning gentle way, it is a grappling art created by Jigoro Kano. Based on the techniques of jujitsu. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(N) Judoka: Judo practitioners.

(O) Jiu-Jitsu: Also written as jujitsu, ju-jitsu, and jujutsu. Meaning gentle art, a traditional Japanese self-defense that includes kicking, striking, kneeing, throwing, choking and joint locks. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(P) Kickboxing: Adapted from Muay Thai, it is a striking sport which permits punches, kicks, and knees. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(Q) Mixed martial arts: A general term that describes the convergence of techniques from a variety of combative sports disciplines including boxing, wrestling, judo, jujitsu, kickboxing and others. "MMA" techniques can be broken down into two categories, striking and grappling.

(R) Mount: A basic position in which a competitor gains top position and controls their opponent by sitting on top of them in the full mount position, or from the side of the opponent in the side mount.

(S) Muay Thai: Known as Thai boxing, it is the national sport of Thailand. It is a pure striking art in which blows are delivered with the hands, feet, knees and elbows. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(T) No-holds-barred: An erroneous description and characterization of the sport of mixed martial arts.

(U) Octagon: A fenced enclosure in which some promotional organizations hold MMA competition.

(V) Pankration: Meaning all strength or all power, this is an ancient style of Greek wrestling and boxing in which kicks, throws, and joint locks were used. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(W) Passing the guard: This is a term that describes a fighter's attempt to escape from his/her opponent's guard in order to secure the mount position.

(X) Shoot: A wrestling technique wherein a competitor attempts to capture his/her opponent's legs and takes him/her off his/her feet. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(Y) Spike or Spiking: After lifting and inverting an opponent, attempting to slam him/her headfirst into the canvas. This is an illegal technique.

(Z) Sprawl: A defensive wrestling technique employed to block and counter an opponent's shoot.

(AA) Strikes: A cumulative number of punches administered by a contestant to his/her opponent.

(BB) Submission: A grappling technique which forces a contestant to tap-out. Techniques include chokes, and the hyperextension or over-rotation of a joint.

(CC) Tap-out: The physical act of tapping the opponent, the mat, or one's self to signal a submission. When unable to physically tap-out a submission can be vocal.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.02. Conducting mixed martial arts events.

(A) "MMA" is a general term used to identify a mixed martial arts event that describes the convergence of techniques from a variety of combative sports disciplines including boxing, wrestling, judo, jujitsu, kickboxing and others.

(B) All contests of mixed martial arts must be conducted under the supervision of the South Carolina Athletic Commission, unless otherwise provided in Title 40 Chapter 81 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

(C) This includes all professional and amateur mixed martial arts events.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.03. Requirements for mixed martial arts contestants.

(A) Amateur contestants:

(1) The minimum and maximum ages for amateur contestants in South Carolina are eighteen (18) to thirty-five (35) years old, unless otherwise set by statute. The maximum age may be waived by the Commission designee for a specific contestant. A contestant petitioning for an age waiver must submit a complete application along with all medical records, official fight records and any other documentation required by the Commission to the Administrator at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled bout. A waiver to participate as an over-age contestant shall be valid for the duration of the current licensure period.

(2) Must submit a completed state approved application with the appropriate fee.

(3) Must submit an annual blood test for the detection of Hepatitis B surface antigen, Hepatitis C antibody, and HIV.

(B) Professional contestants:

(1) The minimum and maximum ages for professional MMA contestants in South Carolina are eighteen (18) to thirty-five (35) years old, unless otherwise set by statute. The maximum age may be waived by the Commission designee for a specific contestant. A contestant petitioning for an age waiver must submit a complete application along with all medical records, official fight records and any other documentation required by the Commission to the Administrator at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled bout. A waiver to participate as an over-age contestant shall be valid for the duration of the current licensure period.

(2) Must submit a completed state approved application with the appropriate fee.

(3) Must submit an annual blood test for the detection of Hepatitis B surface antigen, Hepatitis C antibody, and HIV.

(C) Amateur contestants who want to turn professional:

(1) Must be between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty-five (35) years old, unless otherwise set by statute. The maximum age may be waived by the Commission designee for a specific contestant. An Amateur contestant petitioning for an age waiver to turn professional must submit a complete application along with all medical records, official fight records and any other documentation required by the Commission to the Administrator at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled bout. A waiver to participate as an over-age contestant shall be valid for the duration of the current licensure period.

(2) Must submit a completed state approved application with the appropriate fee.

(3) Must have updated within one (1) year of the date of contest blood work for the detection of Hepatitis B surface antigen, Hepatitis C antibody, and HIV.

(4) Must have fought in at least five (5) sanctioned amateur fights and have won a majority of his/her sanctioned fights.

(5) Once a “Pro” designation has been obtained, the contestant may only fight in a “pro” designated event, and is not eligible to fight in any amateur sanctioned events.

(D) Over-age MMA contestants petitioning for an age waiver:

(1) At the discretion of the Commission designee, shall provide a recent video record of his/her last fight, or training bout and copies of his/her clear and precise amateur and professional record.

(2) Must provide an updated EKG or ECG report and a letter from the attending physician clearing them to fight. This does not preclude any other medical test that the Commission may deem important for the safety of the fighter.

(3) Must submit the appropriate application and fee.

(4) Must submit a completed annual physical signed by a medical doctor (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) along with blood work for the detection of Hepatitis B surface antigen,

Hepatitis C antibody, and HIV, and an ophthalmic eye exam report performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015; SCSR 49-5 Doc. No. 5351, eff May 23, 2025.

20-27.04. Weigh in procedures.

(A) The weigh-ins must be conducted by a Commission Representative at a place and time designated by the Commission.

(B) All contestants must weigh in. Contestants are limited to shorts, shirt or sports bra and socks.

(C) The scale used for the official weigh-in must be provided or approved by the South Carolina Athletic Commission representative.

(D) Allowance in weight class is the weight difference permitted between contestants in two (2) different weight classes.

(1) There shall not be a difference of more than three (3) pounds between weight classes from lightweight up to, but not including, the welterweight class.

(2) There shall not be a difference of more than five (5) pounds between weight classes from welterweight up to the heavyweight class.

(3) Example: a fighter weighing one hundred thirty four (134) pounds in the bantamweight class shall not compete against an opponent who weighs more than one hundred thirty-seven (137) pounds in the featherweight class.

(4) Example: a fighter weighing one hundred eighty-four (184) pounds in the middle weight class shall not compete against an opponent who weighs more than one hundred eighty-nine (189) pounds in the light heavyweight class.

(5) Weight classifications, weight allowance between weight classes and glove sizes-

Weight class	Weights
Flyweight	116 to 125 lbs
Bantamweight	126 to 135 lbs
Featherweight	136 to 145 lbs
Lightweight	146 to 155 lbs
Welterweight	156 to 170 lbs
Middleweight	171 to 185 lbs
Light Heavyweight	186 to 205 lbs
Heavyweight	over 206 lbs

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015; SCSR 49-5 Doc. No. 5351, eff May 23, 2025.

20-27.05. Judging and scoring.

(A) All bouts will be scored by three (3) judges.

(B) The “Ten-Point Must System” will be the standard system of scoring a bout. The winner of the round will be awarded ten (10) points and the loser of the round will be awarded nine (9) points or less, except for the rare occasion of an even round, which is scored ten (10) to ten (10).

(C) Judges shall judge mixed martial art techniques, such as effective striking, effective grappling, and control of the opponent, effective aggressiveness and defense.

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

(2) Effective grappling is judged by considering the number of successful executions of a legal takedown and reversal. Factors to consider are take downs from the standing position to a mount position, passing the guard to the mount position, and bottom position fighters using an active threatening guard.

(3) Effective control is judged by determining who is dictating the pace, location and position of the bout. Factors to be considered are countering a grappler’s attempt at a takedown by remaining

standing and legally striking, take down an opponent to force a ground fight, creating threatening submission attempts, passing the guard to achieve a mount, and creating striking opportunities.

(4) Effective aggressiveness means moving forward and landing legal strikes.

(5) Effective defense means avoiding being struck, take down or reversals while countering with offensive strikes.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.06. Fouls - intentional, unintentional, procedures and types of fouls.

(A) Procedures:

(1) Referee shall issue a warning. After the initial warning a penalty will be issued. The penalty may be a deduction of points or disqualification depending on the severity of the foul. Any points deducted for any foul must be deducted in the round which the foul occurred.

(2) The referee as soon as practical after the foul, shall call time and notify which contestant is being penalized and the total points the contestant is being penalized.

(3) If a bottom contestant commits a foul and in the referee's judgment is not in control, unless the top contestant is injured, the bout shall continue, so as not to jeopardize the top contestant's superior positioning at the time.

(a) The referee shall verbally notify the bottom contestant of the foul.

(b) When the round is over, the referee shall notify the judges and the inspector of the foul and the total point deduction.

(4) Only the referee can assess a foul and any point deductions. Judges shall not deduct points for what they interpret is a foul.

(5) Referee shall check the fouled contestant's condition to see if the contestant can still participate in the contest.

(6) Disqualification occurs when after any combination of three (3) fouls or if the referee determines the foul to be flagrant.

(B) Intentional foul:

(1) If an injury results that is severe enough to terminate the bout, the contestant causing the injury loses by disqualification.

(2) If an intentional foul causes an injury and the bout is allowed to continue a mandatory two (2) point penalty shall be assessed to the contestant committing the foul.

(3) If an injury sustained by a contestant as a result of the intentional foul causes the contestant to be unable to continue at a subsequent point, the injured contestant shall win by a technical decision, if said contestant is ahead on the score cards. If the injured contestant is even or behind on the score cards at the time of the stoppage, the bout shall be declared a technical draw.

(C) Unintentional foul:

(1) If a bout is stopped because of an unintentional foul, the referee shall determine whether the contestant who has been fouled can continue or not. If the contestant's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of the foul and if the foul did not involve concussive impact to the head of the contestant who has been fouled, the referee may order the bout continued after a recuperative interval of not more than five (5) minutes. Immediately after stopping the bout or at the end of the round the referee must immediately inform the inspector or Commission representative of their determination that the foul was accidental and unintentional.

(2) If the referee determines either from his/her observation or that of the ringside physician that the bout may not continue because of the injury from the unintentional foul the bout will be declared a no contest if the foul occurred:

(a) During the first two (2) rounds of a non-championship bout, or;

(b) During the first three (3) rounds of a championship bout;

(3) If the unintentional foul renders the contestant unable to continue the bout; or an injury from an intentional foul later becomes aggravated by fair blows and the referee stops bout because of the injury.

(a) After the completion of the second round in a non-championship bout or three (3) round bout;

(b) After the completion of the third round of a championship bout or five (5) round bout;

(c) The outcome shall be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the partial round in which the referee stopped the bout.

(4) A contestant shall not be declared the winner of a bout on the basis of his/her claim that the opponent fouled him/her unintentionally by hitting him/her in the groin. If after a recuperative interval of not more than five (5) minutes, a contestant is unwilling to continue because of the claim of being hit in the groin, the bout will be declared a no contest if the second round has not been completed in a three (3) round bout or the third round has not been completed in a five (5) round bout.

(D) Types of fouls in a mixed martial arts contest (professional and amateur contestants).

(1) Butting with the head.

(2) Eye gouging of any kind.

(3) Biting.

(4) Hair pulling.

(5) Fishhooking.

(6) Groin attacks of any kind.

(7) Putting a finger into any orifice or into any cut or laceration on an opponent.

(8) Small joint manipulation.

(9) Striking to the spine or back of head.

(10) Striking downward using the point of the elbow. (Arcing elbow strikes are permitted).

(11) Throat strikes of any kind, including, without limitation grabbing the trachea.

(12) Clawing, twisting or pinching the flesh.

(13) Grabbing the clavicle.

(14) Kicking the head of a grounded opponent.

(15) Kneeing the head of a grounded opponent.

(16) Stomping on a grounded opponent.

A contestant is considered grounded when his/her torso or three (3) points of his/her body are touching the canvas: example: two (2) legs and a hand are touching the canvas. Applies to paragraphs (D)(14), (D)(15), and (D)(16) of the rule. Note: A downed opponent may kick up to all legal striking points of the body.

(17) Kicking to the kidney with the heel.

(18) Throwing an opponent out of the ring area or caged area.

(19) Holding the shorts or glove of an opponent.

(20) Spitting on an opponent.

(21) Engaging in any unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to an opponent.

(22) Holding the ropes or cage.

(23) Using abusive language or illicit gestures in the ring area or caged area.

(24) Attacking an opponent on or during the break.

(25) Attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee.

(26) Attacking an opponent after the bell has sounded to end the round.

(27) Flagrantly disregarding the instructions of the referee.

(28) Timidity, including, without limitation, avoiding contact with an opponent, intentionally or consistently dropping the mouthpiece or faking an injury.

(29) Interference from anyone working the corner or corner men leaving their area.

(30) Any act in the judgment of the referee that is detrimental and places an opponent at a disadvantage.

(31) Neck cranks.

(32) Spine locks.

(E) Types of fouls in a mixed martial arts contest (Amateur Contestants Only)

(1) Striking with the elbow or forearm.

(2) Knee strikes to the head (grounded or standing).

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.07. Mouthpiece rule.

All contestants are required to wear a mouthpiece during competition. The mouthpiece is subject to examination and approval by the attending physician. The round cannot begin without the mouthpiece. If the mouthpiece is dislodged during competition, the referee will call time and have the mouthpiece cleaned and replaced at the first opportune moment, without interfering with the immediate action. The referee may deduct points if it is judged the mouthpiece is being purposely spit out. It is recommended that each contestant have a spare mouthpiece in the event the one he/she is wearing is broken.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.08. Restarting fighters.

Following any medical time-out, or when a ring is being used and one or both opponents are under the ropes on the apron of the ring or in danger of falling from the apron of the ring, time will be called by the referee and both fighters will be positioned in the middle of the ring and assume the same position as the one prior to the time out.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.09. Appearance, Attire and Protective Equipment.

(A) Groin protectors.

(1) Male fighters must wear a professionally manufactured and Commission approved groin protector, which will protect them against injury from a foul blow. No homemade or non-professionally manufactured protective gear will be approved by the Commission.

(B) Female fighters must submit to a Commission administered pregnancy test reviewed by the ringside physician on the day of the scheduled fight for a mandatory negative result.

(C) Each contestant shall wear mixed martial arts shorts, biking shorts, or kick boxing shorts. Shorts must be approved by the Commission or Commission representative. Swimming suits/trunks are not allowed.

(D) No GI's or shirts permitted. Female fighters must wear a sports bra.

(E) No shoes or protective padding for the feet or other areas of the body are permitted.

(F) No grappling shin guards.

(G) Absolutely "no" body grease, gels, balms or lotions may be applied. Vaseline may be applied to the facial area at cage side or ringside in the presence of an inspector, referee, or a person designated by the Commission. Any contestant applying anything prior to this could be penalized a point or disqualified.

(H) Taping of hands and wrists is permitted.

(I) Neoprene joint supports only. No metal supports or hardened plastic or hardened synthetic device or equipment of any kind can ever be worn anywhere on the body during competition. Supports cannot have Velcro, straps, clips, or zippers.

(J) Finger and toe nails must be trimmed.

(K) The Commission or Commission representative shall determine whether head or facial hair presents any hazard to the safety of the contestant or their opponent or will interfere with the supervision and conduct of the event.

(L) May not wear any equipment that does not pass the Commissions' or Commission Representatives' approval.

(M) No jewelry or body piercings may be worn during an event.

(N) No contacts or corrective lenses may be worn during an event.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015; SCSR 49-5 Doc. No. 5351, eff May 23, 2025.

20-27.10. Glove specifications for Professional and Amateur Contestants.

1. Professional.

(A) For professional mixed martial arts contests each contestant must wear gloves that weigh not less than four (4) ounces and not more than six (6) ounces.

(B) The gloves shall be supplied by the promoter.

(C) Both contestants shall wear the same weight gloves.

(D) Gloves must be inspected and passed by the inspector, referee or Commission representative prior to starting the bout.

(E) The gloves for all main events shall be new or in like new condition or the gloves must be replaced.

2. Amateur.

(A) For amateur mixed martial arts contests each contestant must wear gloves that weigh not less than six (6) ounces and not more than eight (8) ounces.

(B) The gloves shall be supplied by the promoter.

(C) Both contestants shall wear the same weight gloves.

(D) Gloves must be inspected and passed by the inspector, referee or Commission representative prior to starting the bout.

(E) The gloves for all main events shall be new or in like new condition or the gloves must be replaced.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-27.11. Specifications for bandages on hands for mixed martial art contestants.

(A) In all weight classes, the bandages on each contestant's hands shall be restricted to soft gauze type cloth not more than fifteen (15) yards in length and two (2) inches in width, held in place by not more than ten (10) feet of surgeon's tape, one (1) inch in width for each hand.

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

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

(D) Bandages and tapes shall be placed on contestant's hands in the dressing room and must be inspected by the Commission or Commission representative.

(E) The manager or chief second of the opponent may elect to be present when hands are being wrapped.

(F) Under no circumstances are gloves to be placed on the hands of a contestant until checked by the inspector or Commission representative.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.12. Requirements for a ring or caged area.

(A) Mixed martial arts shall be held in a Commission approved ring or caged area.

(B) The ring or caged area specifications for mixed martial arts must meet the following requirements:

- (1) The cage must be of circular type dimensions or have as many as eight (8) equal sides;
- (2) Two (2) sides opposite of each other must each have a designated color, one (1) side blue the opposite red;
- (3) The ring or cage must be no smaller than twenty (20) feet wide or no larger than thirty-two (32) feet across;
- (4) The floor of the ring or caged area must be padded with ensolite or another similar closed-cell foam, with at least a one (1) inch layer of foam padding, with a top covering of canvas, duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the platform of the ring or caged area. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges must not be used;
- (5) The platform of the ring or caged area must not be more than four (4) feet above the floor of the building and must have suitable steps for use of the contestants;
- (6) A ring must have five (5) ring ropes, not less than one (1) inch in diameter and wrapped in soft material. The lowest rope must be no higher than twelve (12) inches from the ring floor;
- (7) Ring posts must be eighteen (18) inches away from the ring ropes. Ring posts must be made of metal, not less than three (3) inches in diameter, nor more than six (6) inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to between five (5) and seven (7) feet above the floor of the ring or caged area, and must be properly padded in a manner approved by the Commission or Commission Representative;
- (8) The fencing used to enclose the caged area must be made of a material that will prevent a contestant from falling out or breaking through the caged area onto the floor of the building or onto spectators, including, without limitation, chain link fence coated with vinyl;
- (9) Any metal portion on the interior of the ring or caged area must be covered and padded in a manner approved by the Commission or Commission Representative and must not be abrasive to the contestants;
- (10) The ring or caged area must have two (2) operational entrances that must not be obstructed at any time during an event. The entrance must be padded or covered and padded so that there is no exposed metal on the interior of the ring or caged area;
- (11) There must not be any obstruction on any part of the fencing surrounding the area in which the contestants are competing;
- (12) Any metal parts used to enforce the ring or caged area wall must be positioned as to not interfere with the safety of the contestants;
- (13) A Commission approved ring stool must be placed in each corner. All ring stools must be thoroughly cleaned at the conclusion of each fight;
- (14) A plastic water bottle and a clean bucket must be placed in each corner. All buckets must be thoroughly cleaned at the conclusion of each fight.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.13. Rubber gloves.

When a ring is used all seconds working in the corner must wear rubber gloves. When a caged area is used only the second who enters the caged area must wear rubber gloves.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.14. Types of bout results.

(A) A mixed martial arts contest may end under the following results:

- (1) Submission:
 - (a) Tap out: when a contestant physically uses his/her hand(s) to indicate that he/she no longer wishes to continue.
 - (b) Verbal tap out: when a contestant verbally announces to the referee that he/she does not wish to continue.
- (2) Knockout “(KO)”: failure to rise from the canvas as a result of a strike to the body or head.
- (3) Technical knockout “(TKO)”:
 - (a) Referee stops bout because a contestant can no longer defend himself/herself; or
 - (b) Ringside physician advises referee to stop bout; or
 - (c) When an injury as a result of a legal maneuver is severe enough to terminate the bout.
- (4) Decision via scorecards:
 - (a) Unanimous: when all three (3) judges score the bout for the same contestant.
 - (b) Split decision: when two (2) judges score the bout for the same contestant and one (1) judge scores for the opponent.
 - (c) Majority decision: when two (2) judges score the bout for the same contestant and one (1) judge scores the bout a draw.
- (5) Draws:
 - (a) Unanimous: when all three (3) judges score the bout a draw;
 - (b) Majority: when two (2) judges score the bout a draw;
 - (c) Split when all three (3) judges score it differently and the score total results in a draw.
- (6) Disqualification: when an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul that is severe enough to terminate the contest.
- (7) Forfeit: when a contestant fails to begin competition or prematurely ends the contest for reasons other than injury or indicating a tap out.
- (8) Technical draw:
 - (a) When an injury sustained during competition, as a result of an intentional foul, causes the injured contestant to be unable to continue and the injured contestant is even or behind on the score cards at the time of the stoppage.
 - (b) When an injury sustained during competition, as a result of an unintentional foul, causes the injured contestant to be unable to continue and the sufficient number of rounds have been completed with the results of the scorecards being a draw.
- (9) Technical decision: when the bout is prematurely stopped due to an injury and a contestant is leading on the scorecards.
- (10) No contest: when a contestant is prematurely stopped due to accidental injury and a sufficient number of rounds have not been completed to render a decision via the scorecards.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015; SCSR 49–5 Doc. No. 5351, eff May 23, 2025.

20–27.15. Number of rounds required for mixed martial arts bouts and events.

(A) Professional Bouts:

- (1) Professional bouts will be three (3) rounds of five (5) minutes each with a one (1) minute rest period that includes a ten (10) second warning signal.
- (2) Championship bouts will be five (5) rounds of five (5) minutes each with a one (1) minute rest period that includes a ten (10) second warning signal.

(B) Amateur bouts:

(1) Amateur bouts will be three (3) rounds of three (3) minutes each with a one (1) minute rest period that includes a ten (10) second warning signal.

(2) Championship bouts will be five (5) rounds of three (3) minutes each with a one (1) minute rest period that includes a ten (10) second warning signal.

(C) A minimum number of twenty-four (24) rounds and eight (8) bouts must be scheduled. The Commission Representative may grant a waiver of rounds.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.16. Promoter’s responsibilities.

(A) Bout agreements.

(1) The bout agreement between a promoter and a pro contestant must be executed and submitted to the South Carolina Athletic Commission no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the event.

(2) A bout agreement which provides that a contestant must fight exclusively for one promoter or at the option of the promoter is prohibited.

(B) Must have a permit application for the event with contestant’s name and weight, the opponent’s name and weight, and number of rounds, submitted to the Commission at least fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled event. A contestant will not be permitted to fight unless approved by the Commission or its designee.

(C) Contestants’ names, addresses and date of birth must be submitted to the Commission no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the start of the event.

(D) Must have a separate divider between the ring or caged area and the fans. The divider must be approved by the Commission or Commission Representative.

(E) Must follow all ticket and tax rules as defined in the Code.

(F) Must have event insurance coverage in the amount of ten thousand (\$10,000.00) dollars in case of injury and ten thousand (\$10,000.00) dollars in case of a death.

(G) No event shall start without the presence of a licensed medical doctor or doctor of osteopathic medicine present at ringside or cage side and an ambulance with medical personnel on site. The doctor must be present a minimum of two (2) hours prior to the start of the event. Ambulance and emergency medical (EMT) personnel must be present at the time the event is open to the public.

(H) Must supply the contestants’ gloves to be used at the event. Gloves must be approved by the inspector or Commission representative.

(I) Have disposable garbage bags and biohazard bags in each dressing room and at ringside.

(J) Have cleaning solution used to clean blood and debris in the cage or ring. A solution with a minimum of ten (10%) percent bleach and ninety (90%) percent water is an acceptable solution.

(K) Must provide security with a minimum of one Commissioned police officer based upon the seating capacity for the particular event.

(L) All events must start on the time designated on permit or, after thirty (30) minutes, the promoter will be assessed a fine of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars for each thirty (30) minutes thereafter the event is late, unless said delay is due to a cause beyond the control of the promoter.

(M) New gloves never previously worn must be used for all title bouts. Gloves must be approved by Commission representative or inspector.

(N) Must comply with all rules and regulations relating to promoting events.

(O) Promoters must pay the higher amount of either five (5%) percent of the gross gate receipts or a twenty five (\$25.00) dollar minimum to the Commission within thirty (30) days after the event. Failure to pay the required gate fees within the time specified herein will result in the promoter being assessed a two hundred fifty (\$250.00) dollar administrative fine, and an additional two hundred fifty (\$250.00) dollar fine every thirty (30) days thereafter up to a maximum amount of one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars. An event permit shall not be issued to a promoter with an outstanding

unpaid gate fee or fine. Promoters will be subject to disciplinary action by the Commission for any attempt to circumvent payment of the gate fee.

(P) Promoters must pay to the Commission a sanctioning fee as determined by the Commission to cover the cost of inspections in the enforcement of compliance with this chapter and South Carolina Code of Laws Title 40 Chapter 81.

(Q) The Commission Representative shall select and assign event referees and judges. Judges and referees shall be compensated by the promoter for their work as an official in accordance with an official's fee schedule as set by the Commission. In the event of judge or referee travel requiring overnight accommodations, any further negotiations, arrangements, agreements or contracts concerning compensation for travel or lodging shall be the responsibility and concern of the promoter and the referee or judge.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.17. Licensing.

(A) All participants shall be licensed pursuant to the South Carolina Athletic Commission laws, rules and regulations.

(B) The license application must include a photograph showing a frontal view of the head and shoulders of the applicant.

(C) A contestant's application must be made at least seven (7) days prior to a scheduled event except as authorized by the Commission Designee.

(D) An unlicensed manager shall not contract with any promoter or matchmaker.

(E) An unlicensed person shall not contract to receive a portion of a contestant's bout earnings until issued a manager's license.

(F) Each license issued pursuant to this section is valid from the date of license issuance until December 31st of the calendar year. Licenses do not renew. All applicants who wish to participate in events sanctioned by the Commission must re-apply for licensure and meet the requirements of this Chapter each year.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.18. Seconds' and Managers' duties when working in a corner.

(A) Except for title fights, there may be no more than three (3) licensed seconds positioned in a designated area by the ring or cage or positioned in each corner of the ring. Four (4) corners may be allowed in the corner for title fights.

(B) No person other than the contestants and referee shall enter the ring or cage during a bout.

(C) The referee may, in his/her discretion, stop a contest if an unauthorized person enters the ring or cage during a round.

(D) Only two (2) seconds may enter the cage to tend to a fighter between rounds. In case of an open cut, a medical person, or cut person may also enter the cage.

(E) There shall not be any loud yelling or profanity from anyone working the corner.

(F) Seconds, trainers and managers must not attempt to heckle, hinder, disrupt or otherwise annoy his/her fighter's opponent, officials, Commission Representatives, or other seconds during an event.

(G) If a manager or second leaves the designated area the fighter will be disqualified at the discretion of the Commission.

(H) A fighter getting knocked out of a ring and onto the floor must get back into the ring within twenty (20) seconds without assistance from anyone working his/her corner.

(I) Any person violating any rule working the corner will be disqualified for the remainder of the event and suspended for a minimum of sixty (60) days. An appeal must be submitted in writing to the Athletic Commission office within ten (10) days from the date of said violation.

(J) Any second may terminate the performance of his/her fighter he/she is serving either between rounds or during the progress of any round in which such fighter is a contestant.

(K) No seconds or managers shall attempt to render aid to a disabled fighter before the ringside physician has had an opportunity to examine the fighter.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015; SCSR 49-5 Doc. No. 5351, eff May 23, 2025.

20-27.19. Disciplinary action.

(A) All contestants and participants may be disciplined for any violation of the South Carolina athletic laws, rules and regulations.

(B) The administrator, inspector or a Commission Representative shall suspend a contestant for any violation to include but not be limited to failing any drug test, as established in Regulation 20-3.8.

(C) A contestant will be suspended for a period of not less than one (1) year for participating in any mixed martial arts events in the state of South Carolina not sanctioned and approved by the South Carolina Athletic Commission.

(D) If a licensed professional mixed martial arts contestant competes against an amateur he/she will be suspended for a period of not less than one (1) year or a maximum of two (2) years.

(E) After signing a contestant/promoter contract form, a contestant shall not enter into another contracted bout that is scheduled thirty (30) days prior to the previously signed contract. If the contestant participates in a bout within this thirty (30) day time period and as a result of participating in said event is not able to participate in the originally contracted event, said contestant shall be suspended for up to six (6) months and be assessed a fine of not more than five hundred (\$500.00) dollars at the discretion of the South Carolina Athletic Commission unless all parties agree to a release from the contract. A contestant wishing to appeal a notice of suspension must do so via registered mail to the Commission within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of the notice of suspension.

(F) When the contestant fails to appear in a contest in which he/she signed a bout agreement to appear, he/she shall be suspended for not more than six (6) months. The contestant must produce a valid certificate from a physician and approved by the administrator or Commission representative in the case of any physical disability. Any contestant who files a certificate from a physician stating he/she is unable to fulfill a bout agreement because of physical disability, shall be immediately given a medical suspension for a period of sixty (60) days and must submit a medical clearance or fulfill his/her bout agreement with the same opponent or a suitable substitute within the sixty (60) day suspension period. The administrator or Commission representative may remove any suspension if the contestant is released from the bout agreement by mutual agreement between the contestant and promoter.

(G) A contestant who fails to make the required weight listed on the contestant/promoter contract form, which results in the bout being cancelled, the contestant will be suspended for up to six (6) months and assessed a fine to be determined by the South Carolina Athletic Commission. A contestant wishing to appeal a notice of suspension must do so via registered mail to the Commission within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of the notice of suspension.

(H) If after the weigh-in a contestant fails to honor the contestant/promoter bout contract by not appearing for the bout, or refuses to compete, the contestant shall be suspended for up to twelve (12) months and assessed a fine to be determined by the South Carolina Athletic Commission. A contestant wishing to appeal a notice of suspension must do so via registered mail to the Commission within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of the notice of suspension.

(I) A contestant or promoter will be suspended indefinitely, until payment is made in full of any judgment awarded by a court of law that is presented to the South Carolina Athletic Commission for any violations.

(J) A contestant, manager, trainer, or any representative of the contestant, shall not verbally harass any official representing the South Carolina Athletic Commission, before, during, or after any event regulated by the South Carolina Athletic Commission. This includes, but is not limited to, an inspector, referee, judge, timekeeper, physician, Commission member, or anyone assigned by, or

representing the South Carolina Athletic Commission. Any contestant or person representing the contestant violating this rule will cause them or the contestant to be suspended for a period no longer than one (1) year. The suspension must be appealed within thirty (30) days after receiving notice from the Commission; otherwise, the contestant forfeits his/her right to appeal after said thirty (30) day period.

(K) A contestant, manager, trainer, or any representative of the contestant, shall not verbally or physically abuse any official representing the South Carolina Athletic Commission, before, during or after any event regulated by the South Carolina Athletic Commission. This includes, but is not limited to, an inspector, referee, judge, timekeeper, physician, Commission member, or anyone assigned by, or representing the South Carolina Athletic Commission. Any contestant or person representing the contestant violating this rule will cause them or the contestant to be suspended indefinitely. The suspension must be appealed within thirty (30) days after receiving notice from the Commission; otherwise, the contestant forfeits his/her right to appeal after said thirty (30) day period.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015; SCSR 49-5 Doc. No. 5351, eff May 23, 2025.

20-27.20. Suspensions and mandatory rest period.

(A) Sixty (60) day suspension for a knockout “KO”.

(B) Thirty (30) day suspension for a technical knockout “TKO”.

(1) Referee stoppage from submission or choke hold prior to verbal commitment or tap out.

(2) Referee stoppage from strikes prior to verbal commitment or tap out.

(C) Throwing the mouthpiece into the audience during or after the event will result in a ninety (90) day suspension. This would be in addition to any other suspension that the contestant may have received.

(D) Physician’s suspension:

(1) Whatever length of time the physician designates after the post fight check-up that will allow sufficient time for the contestant to be physically able to compete.

(2) Until any medical requirements issued by a physician are successfully submitted and approved for release by the Commission.

(3) Failure to report or comply with post fight examination by the attending physician or his/her representative will result in a minimum suspension of ninety (90) days.

(E) Without a release from the Commission or Commission Representative a contestant cannot compete until seven (7) days have elapsed from his/her last bout. The seven (7) day period starts the day following the event in which he/she last competed.

(F) If listed on any suspension lists recognized by the South Carolina Athletic Commission.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-27.21. Medical requirements for mixed martial arts contestants.

Professional and amateur mixed martial arts contestants must produce:

(A) Negative HIV

(B) Negative hepatitis B surface antigen

(C) Negative hepatitis C antibody

(D) Procedures to complete when failing hepatitis B surface antigen test:

(1) Must pass a hepatitis B “PCR” quantitative test.

(2) The quantitative limit must be within permissible limits according to the laboratory where test was administered.

The following apply to professional and amateur mixed martial arts contestants:

(E) The contestant must submit a CAT scan (CT) or MRI examination to the Commission at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to being licensed when a contestant:

- (1) Has lost three (3) bouts in a row by KO or TKO.
- (2) Has lost six (6) bouts in a row.
- (3) Has an extensive losing record.

(F) The Commission will not issue a license or renew any applicant's license for a contestant who is found to be blind in one eye or whose vision in one eye is so poor that an ophthalmologist, optometrist, or physician recommends that a license not be granted. This rule is effective regardless of how good the vision of the contestant may be in the other eye. An ophthalmic eye exam report performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist must be submitted to the Commission as part of his/her medical records prior to competing in an event.

(G) The Commission will not issue or renew the license of any applicant who wishes to compete in any sport regulated by the South Carolina Athletic Commission if said applicant has suffered from any type of cerebral hemorrhage.

(H) The Commission may order an examination of the contestant at any time for the purpose of determining whether such contestants are fit and qualified to engage in future matches.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-27.22. Conduct when contestants enter the ring or caged area.

(A) No Contestant or promoter may display any type of entrance theme that includes music, video, or any type of physical display that contains any profanity or any derogatory ethnic remarks. Anyone violating this rule may be suspended for up to six (6) months.

(B) No person other than the contestant and referee may be in the ring or cage during the progress of a round.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-27.23. Fees.

The Commission may charge fees as shown in South Carolina Code of Regulations Chapter 10-4 and on the South Carolina State Athletic Commission website at <http://lsc.gov/POL/Athletic/>.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 36, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2012. Amended by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4500, eff June 26, 2015.

20-27.24. Change of Decision by Commission.

The Commission may in its discretion declare a referee's decision a "no contest", if in its judgment a noticeable error has been committed which affects the outcome of the bout.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-27.25. Judges; Majority Vote.

The Commission Representative shall designate three (3) judges for all events. The judges shall render a decision in any MMA contest by a majority vote. A decision of the judges shall be final.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-27.26. Substitution of Referee or Judge.

(1) In the event a referee or judge becomes unable to continue his/her duties during a mixed martial arts contest, time out shall be called and another official shall be immediately assigned by the Commission Representative or chief of officials.

(2) It shall be mandatory for such substituted judge to continue scoring on the scorecard used by the incapacitated judge and such scorecard shall be the official scorecard in the determination of a decision at the conclusion of the mixed martial arts contest.

(3) The substituted judge must resume the round from the time of his/her substitution, for the incapacitated judge.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

ARTICLE 1
COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES

20–27.27. General Supervisory Duties.

The Commission Representative shall be in charge of shows for the purpose of:

- (1) Enforcing regulations issued by the Commission which include but are not limited to:
 - (a) The Commission Representative shall assign all officials for all mixed martial arts events.
 - (b) Licensing contestants and all other participants according to the requirements and rules of this Chapter.
 - (c) Collecting unpaid promoter's fees.
 - (d) Seeing that contestants and officials are paid.
 - (e) Collecting all gate fees and verifying said fees on a Commission approved Gate Fee Verification Form.
 - (f) Completing his/her report and forwarding the report to the Commission within ten (10) days of each event.
 - (g) Depositing the collected fees within forty eight (48) hours of receipt, excluding Saturday, Sunday, and bank holidays, into an account established for the Athletic Commission. The Administrator will deposit the collected fees in the South Carolina Athletic Commission bank account.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.28. Verbal or Physical Abuse of Commissioner or Commission Representative

Verbal or physical abuse of any Commissioner, the Commission Representative or any person representing the Commission shall be a violation of the act establishing this commission and shall be subject to the penalties authorized in Sections 40–1–10 et seq., 40–81–120, and 40–81–130 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.29. Attendance at Weigh-In.

A Commission Representative must attend all weigh-ins, as well as the performances.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.30. Receipt Book.

- (1) If a Commission Representative has been furnished a receipt book, and he/she shall carry it with him/her at all times during an event.
- (2) Receipts are made out in triplicate; one copy for the person paying the fee, one copy to forward to the Commission office together with his/her report, and the third copy to remain in the book.
- (3) When each receipt book is completed, the Commission Representative must return it to the office immediately.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.31. Forwarding of Scorecards.

The Commission Representative at mixed martial arts shows must obtain the judges scorecards and forward them to the Commission upon request in addition to the other required reports.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.32. Check of Substitute Contestants.

When contestant substitutions occur in any MMA event, the Commission Representative must thoroughly check the substitute's record, including his/her last five (5) bouts, license, suspension status, name of his/her manager, if any, and any other pertinent information. Promoters must submit

contestants' names, addresses, and date of birth must be submitted no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the start of the event to the Commission Representative. The Commission Representative must then forward any event substitution to the Commission Designee for approval. The approval of substitutions inside of seventy-two (72) hours prior to the event will be at the discretion of the Commission Designee. Any additional administrative cost incurred due to said substitutions will be paid by the promoter.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-27.33. Check of Seconds' Compliance with Rules.

The Commission Representative shall see that all seconds present a neat appearance according to the rules of this Chapter.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-27.34. Assure Enforcement of Regulations.

The Commission Representative shall see that all necessary equipment is provided, that the participants are ready on time, that the seconds are properly instructed in their duties and that all regulations pertaining to the proper conduct of the bout are enforced.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-27.35. Report of Injuries.

Commission representatives shall make an inquiry of all fighters after their bouts, in cooperation with the physicians, and shall report any injuries to the Commission within seventy-two (72) hours.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-27.36. Forwarding of Receipts.

Commission representatives shall maintain all receipts from receipt books in their custody promptly after the conduct of any show to which they are assigned.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

**ARTICLE 2
ANNOUNCERS**

20-27.37. Designation; Approval; License.

Announcers may be designated by the promoters with the approval of the Commission Representative. Announcers must be licensed by the Commission.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-27.38. Authorization to Announce.

Announcers are forbidden to make any announcement whatsoever except as authorized to do so by the promoter with the consent of the Commission Representative at the ringside.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-27.39. Announcement of Contestants' Names and Weights.

After contestants and their chief seconds are in the ring, the mixed martial arts announcer shall announce the names of the contestants, their correct weights, and other matters as may be directed by the Commission Representative.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20-27.40. Announcement of Contest Results.

Mixed martial arts announcers shall announce the judges' decisions at the end of contests and in the event of knockouts at the time of same and the round of occurrence.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.41. Neutrality.

(1) Announcers must not in any way by word or action attempt to show any partisanship inside or outside the ring.

(2) Announcers must remain seated in place and be silent except when making official announcements.

(3) Announcers shall not use foul, abusive, or derogatory language toward a contestant or any person attending the event.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.42. Introducing Suspended Person.

(1) Mixed martial arts announcers must not at any time introduce from any ring any contestant or other person who is under suspension.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

**ARTICLE 3
TIMEKEEPERS**

20–27.43. Approval and License.

Timekeepers shall be approved and licensed by the Commission.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.44. Stop-Watch.

A timekeeper shall have an accurate stop-watch approved by the Commission Representative.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.45. Time of Round; Rest Period.

(1) Each round of a mixed martial arts contest shall be three (3) minutes unless approved in advance by the Commission Representative. However, in the event of a knockdown near the end of a round, the round shall continue until the official count has ended.

(2) Each rest period between rounds shall be one (1) minute.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.46. Warning Signal.

Ten (10) seconds before the beginning of each round the timekeeper shall give warning to the seconds of the contestants by sounding a signal.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.47. Termination Before Scheduled Limit.

In the event a mixed martial arts contest terminates before the scheduled limit of rounds, the timekeeper shall inform the announcer of the exact duration of the contest.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.48. Location near Bell.

A timekeeper shall be seated close to the bell at ringside. Adequate space must be provided to allow the timekeeper complete freedom of motion.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.49. Signals during Rounds.

Except for the official ten-second signal, a timekeeper must not give any signal or information on the duration of any round in progress in any contest.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.50. Termination between Rounds.

(1) In the event a mixed martial arts bout terminates between rounds by decision of the referee or at the request of a corner, the timekeeper shall sound the bell as a signal for the next round.

(2) The contest shall then be considered as having terminated in the round for which the bell was sounded and likewise the referee shall be considered to have counted “ten” (10) as in the case of a knockout.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.51. Count for Knockdowns.

The timekeeper may be designated by the referee to initiate the count in the event of a knockdown.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

**ARTICLE 4
PHYSICIANS**

20–27.52. Approval and Assignment.

Physicians shall be arranged for by the promoter from an approved list provided by the Commission. If a promoter requests approval of a physician not on the list, the Commission or its designee may approve said physician on a case-by-case basis.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.53. Examination of Contestants.

Physicians assigned to contestants' shows must perform thorough pre- and post-fight physicals on the contestants on the day of the event.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.54. Position at Ringside.

- (1) Physicians shall sit at the immediate ringside at all mixed martial arts shows.
- (2) No mixed martial arts bout shall be allowed to proceed unless the physician is in his/her seat.
- (3) The physician shall not leave until after the final bout.
- (4) The physician shall be prepared to assist if any serious emergency arises and shall render temporary or emergency treatment for cuts or other injuries sustained by the participants.
- (5) The ringside physician may examine a contestant at any time he/she feels it necessary and may direct the referee to halt a contest if in his/her opinion either contestant is unable to continue.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.55. Completion of Injury Form and Report.

Physicians must fill out and return to the Commission Representative a printed injury form for every contestant immediately after a mixed martial arts event. These forms shall be maintained by the Commission representative.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.56. Unfit Participant.

Physicians must rule off the card any contestant who is found physically unfit at the weigh-in or pre-fight physical.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

**ARTICLE 5
INSURANCE FOR CONTESTANTS**

20–27.57. Proof of Insurance.

(1) Each licensed promoter shall be required to submit evidence of a policy of medical and hospital insurance satisfactory to the Commission at the time application is made to the Commission for a permit.

(2) The promoter must provide proof that premiums have been paid by certified funds.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.58. Coverage.

(1) Insurance will cover contestants for medical, surgical, and hospital care in amounts to be designated by the Commission.

(2) Each licensed promoter must have event insurance in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) in case of injury and ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) in case of a death.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

ARTICLE 6 PROMOTERS

20–27.60. General Responsibility.

A licensed promoter will be held responsible for any failure in adhering to the rules and regulations of the Commission. The Commission may at its discretion video or require the promoter to furnish videos of the event to the Commission. The promoter is responsible for properly identifying all contestants and for preventing mismatched contests.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.61. Intermissions.

All events are limited to one (1) half-time intermission and one (1) additional intermission with the prior approval of the Commission Representative, not including intermissions for medical emergencies. Promoters shall not permit intermissions at mixed martial arts shows to exceed fifteen (15) minutes, with the exception of medical emergencies.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.62. Persons Unlicensed or Under Suspension.

Promoters and their matchmakers shall not permit any person unlicensed or under suspension to take part in a sanctioned event.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.63. Grounds for Suspension of License.

Any promoter holding a license may be suspended for a conviction of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude or for unbecoming conduct at any time or place reflecting discredit to mixed martial arts.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.64. Maintenance of Order; Responsibility.

(1) Promoters will be held responsible for maintaining order. Any person who is intoxicated, abusive or disorderly in conduct, to the annoyance of surrounding spectators, may be ejected.

(2) Promoters must supply security with a minimum of one Commissioned police officer based upon the seating capacity for the particular event so that order and security may be maintained and all laws and regulations enforced.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.65. Minimum/Maximum Schedule of Rounds per Program.

Promoters shall not schedule less than twenty-one (21) or more than sixty (60) rounds of mixed martial arts on one program.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.66. Time of Final Bout.

(1) The final bout shall not end later than 11:59 P.M., unless approved by the Commission Representative.

(2) If the semifinal or other advertised bouts have not been held by 10 PM, they shall be held after the main event bout.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.67. Filing of Mixed Martial Arts Contracts; Secret Agreements.

(1) Upon the request of the Commission, copies of all mixed martial arts contracts between or among any participants must be filed with the Commission at the designated time before the event.

(2) The making of secret agreements contrary to the terms of the filed contracts is prohibited under penalty of suspension of all parties thereto.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.68. Nonprofit and Charitable Events.

Events sponsored, promoted or conducted by nonprofit and/or charitable organizations shall be subject to all the provisions of these rules and regulations.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.69. Posting of Surety Bond or Certified Funds.

Licensed promoters shall post with the Commission a surety bond or certified funds acceptable to the Commission in a minimum amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), but in no case, not less than the amount of the total purse.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.70. Promoter Participating as a Contestant.

No promoter shall participate as a contestant in any event in which the promoter is involved as a promoter or a matchmaker.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

**ARTICLE 7
MATCHMAKERS**

20–27.71. Observance of Rules.

Matchmakers must observe all the rules and requirements with respect to weight agreements, weighing-in, and the proper execution and filing of contracts and advance notices. The matchmaker is responsible for properly identifying all contestants.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.72. Uneven Matches.

Matchmakers and promoters may be held responsible if they make matches in which one of the principals is outclassed or mismatched.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.73. Dealings with Persons Unlicensed or Under Suspension.

Matchmakers shall not permit any person unlicensed or under suspension to take any part whatsoever in any match.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.74. Grounds for Suspension of License.

Any event participant holding a license may be suspended if arrested or convicted for a charge involving moral turpitude or for unbecoming conduct at any time or place reflecting discredit to mixed martial arts. Under similar circumstances, application for a license or a renewal may be denied.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.75. Submission of Names and Addresses of Contestants.

Contestants names, aliases, addresses, and date of birth must be submitted to the Commission Representative no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the start of the event.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.76. Matchmaker Participating as a Contestant.

No matchmaker shall participate as a contestant in any event in which he/she is involved as a matchmaker.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

**ARTICLE 8
FEMALE MMA CONTESTANTS**

20–27.80. Female MMA Contestants.

(Same rules as for male contestants plus the following:)

- (1) No applicant shall be contracted for or engage in a contest between male and female.
- (2) Contests will be limited to three (3) rounds of three (3) minutes duration.
- (3) Breast protection must be used in lieu of a foul proof abdominal guard.
- (4) Hair must be secured in a manner which will not interfere with the vision or safety of either contestant.
- (5) Each contestant will provide herself with two (2) uniforms consisting of contrasting color, body shirt, blouse and shorts.
- (6) Female fighters must submit to a Commission administered pregnancy test reviewed by the ringside physician on the day of the scheduled fight for a mandatory negative result.
- (7) Promoters will provide adequate separate dressing rooms.
- (8) No use of cosmetics. Absolutely no body grease, gels, balms or lotions may be applied. Vaseline may be applied to the facial area at cage side or ringside in the presence of an inspector, referee, or a person designated by the Commission.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

**ARTICLE 9
HEARINGS AND SUBPOENA OF WITNESSES**

20–27.81. Investigations and Hearings Held by Commission.

- (1) Any designated representative of the Commission may make investigations. The Commission may hold hearings and issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses.
- (2) The Commission also may order production of books, papers, reports, or records needed for any hearing.
- (3) When the hearing takes place, any Commissioner may administer oaths to and examine any witnesses for the purpose of clarifying the questions for which the hearing was called.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

20–27.82. Disciplinary Action.

Any person or entity required by law to be licensed by this Commission shall be subject to disciplinary action for any violation of these regulations or order of the Commission. Upon the hearing and its determination of just cause existing, the Commission may, in its discretion, impose civil penalty, suspension or revocation of a license held. Any such violation shall also constitute grounds for the Commission's refusal to renew any license.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 39, Issue No. 6, Doc. No. 4536, eff June 26, 2015.

SUBCHAPTER 28

Code of Professional Ethics

(Statutory Authority: 1976 Code §§ 40-1-70(4) and 40-81-70(A)(3), (6))

20-28.01. Code of Ethics.

A. Contestants in Combative Sports.

1. Contestants will conduct themselves in accordance with commonly accepted standards of decency and social convention.

2. Contestants will strive toward the ideals of ethics and sportsmanship.

3. Contestants will conduct themselves guided by the principles of integrity, honesty, and reliability.

4. Athletes will safeguard health by refraining from illegal substances (recreational or sports enhancement) and ensuring lifestyle and training is conducive toward passing a required physical examination. Athletes shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while participating in any competitions, including all related meetings and weigh-ins.

5. Contestants will not commit any act or become involved in any situation or occurrence that will reflect negatively or bring disrepute, contempt, scandal or disdain to any other participant or the SC State Athletic Commission.

6. The contestant, in all professional relationships, will act with respect for the inherent dignity and worth of all other participants, unrestricted by considerations of social or economic status, gender, ethnicity, religion, or other personal attributes.

7. The contestant owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to preserve integrity and safety, to maintain competence and training within the field, and to comply with statutes and regulations.

8. All contestants must maintain competence and skill in their respective sport and strive to give a satisfactory performance in every event or exhibition in which they compete. If a contestant, in the judgment of a Commission Representative or Ring Official, fails to give a satisfactory performance or demonstrates insufficient skills to safely compete as a contestant in any event or exhibition regulated by the Commission, the contestant may be administratively suspended. A contestant suspended for failure to give a satisfactory performance or insufficient skills may petition to the Commission for reinstatement.

9. The contestant will refrain in appropriate physical, verbal, and online behavior that undermines another participant, a promotion, or the SC State Athletic Commission.

B. Official.

1. No official shall in any manner hint directly or indirectly, or solicit any promoter, manager, trainer, fighter, to be appointed as a ring official in any fight.

2. No official shall hint directly or indirectly, solicit any Commission, Commissioners or member of any boxing organization to be appointed as a ring official in any fight.

3. No official shall accept any gift of significant monetary value from any promoter, manager, trainer, or fighter or solicit from any promoter, manager, trainer or fighter, anything of significant monetary value. "Significant monetary value is defined as \$10 or more."

4. No official shall in any manner publicly criticize the performance of any other official.

5. No official shall in any manner publicly criticize the performance of any combatant.

6. No official shall in any manner publicly criticize the appointment of any other official.

7. No official shall represent or attempt to represent the Commission in any manner other than as an official.

8. After receiving an assignment to work at an event as an official, no official shall, prior to the fight, have any contact, social or otherwise, with any promoter, manager, trainer or fighter involved in the title fight other than contacts made with the promoter or promoter's employees relating to travel and hotel accommodations, except when accompanied by a Commission member. Also, an official shall not communicate via ANY form of media, including and not limited to social media, (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) prior to, during or after the event, without Commission approval.

9. No official shall engage in any conduct that will discredit the sport of unarmed combat.

10. Officials must never place wagers of any type on any event or sport involving boxing or combative sports. Officials should advise the local Commission if they are making bets on "other" sporting events.

11. If an official has any reason to feel or believe that he or she cannot be fair and impartial to both fighters, the official shall decline the appointment.

12. At no time should an official ask a contestant or applicant for an autograph or photograph, or any other type of memorabilia, or engage in any other instance of "fandom" at or near any Commission event, including weigh-ins and press conferences.

13. An official, whether they are working or not, shall not ask any contestant, applicant, or venue for anything of value, including tickets, programs, meals, drinks, gloves, or banners.

14. An official shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while officiating or participating in any competitions, including all related meetings and weigh-ins.

15. Any official violating the terms and provisions of this Code of Ethics may be subject to discipline including removal from the list of certified Officials and could receive no further recommendations for assignments to serve as an official.

HISTORY: Added by SCSR 46-5 Doc. No. 5083, eff May 27, 2022. Amended by SCSR 47-5 Doc. No. 5153, eff May 26, 2023.