



MASSACHUSETTS STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION RULES FOR AMATEUR MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

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1.00: GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.01 Title These Massachusetts State Athletic Commission Rules for Amateur Mixed Martial Arts shall herein be referred to as “the rules” or “these rules.”

1.02 Coordination with 523 CMR In the event that an issue is not addressed in these rules or there is any ambiguity as to the intent of a rule, the issue shall be governed by the parallel rule in 523 CMR, whenever possible.

1.03 Definitions.

As used in these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

“Amateur” defined. “Amateur” means an unarmed combatant who has never accepted money or other remuneration for participating in an unarmed combat competition and has not previously been licensed as a professional in Massachusetts or any other jurisdiction.

“Commission” defined. “Commission” means the Massachusetts State Athletic Commission as established by G.L. c.22, §12.

“Exhibition” defined. “Exhibition” means the demonstration, show, match, or other presentation of unarmed combat between two contestants regardless of whether an admission fee is charged.

“Manager” defined.

(a) “Manager” means a person who for compensation, undertakes to represent the interests of another person, by contract, agreement or other arrangement, for purposes of procuring, arranging or conducting a professional contest or exhibition in which such person is to participate as an unarmed combatant or in directing or controlling the unarmed combat activities of an unarmed combatant.

(b) The term does not include a duly licensed attorney, if their participation in such activities is restricted solely to their legal representation of the interests of an unarmed combatant as their client.

“Match” defined. “Match” means a contest of unarmed combat between two unarmed combatants.

“Medical Board” defined. “Medical Board” means the Medical Advisory Board.

“Mixed martial arts” defined. “Mixed martial arts” means, as defined in G.L. c.147, §32, any form of unarmed combat involving the use of a combination of techniques including, but not limited to, grappling, kicking and striking, commonly associated with boxing, kickboxing, wrestling and various disciplines of the martial arts including, but not limited to, karate, kung fu, tae kwon do, Jiu-Jitsu or any combination thereof.

“Prize” defined. “Prize” means something offered or won as an award in competition such as a belt, trophy, or other tangible award.

“Program” defined. “Program” means an event at which a match or matches of unarmed combat are scheduled which requires licensure pursuant to G.L. c.147, §32.

“Promoter” defined. “Promoter” means any person who produces or stages any professional or amateur match or exhibition.

“Purse” defined. “Purse” means the financial guarantee or any other remuneration for which unarmed combatants are participating in a match or exhibition and includes the unarmed combatant’s share of any payment received for the exploitation of the radio broadcasting, television, pay-per view, motion picture, or other broadcasting rights.

“Respondent” defined. “Respondent” means a person against whom a complaint has been filed pursuant to 523 CMR or these rules.

“Ring official” defined. “Ring official” means any person who performs an official function during the progress of a match or exhibition.

“Trainer” defined. “Trainer” means any person primarily responsible for the teaching, conditioning, and instructing of an unarmed combatant.

“Unarmed combat” defined. “Unarmed combat” means, as defined in G.L. c.147, §32, boxing, mixed martial arts, or any form of competition in which a blow is usually struck which may reasonably be expected to inflict injury and no weapon is used; provided that “unarmed combat” shall not include professional wrestling.

“Unarmed combatant” defined. “Unarmed combatant” means any person who engages in unarmed combat in a match or exhibition, whether or not the person receives remuneration.

1.04 Application of provisions of chapter.

The provisions of these rules shall apply to all matches, exhibitions, and programs of amateur mixed martial arts that require licensure pursuant to G.L. c.147, §32.

1.05 Variances.

The Commission may, at its sole discretion, grant a variance from any provision of these rules for any cause deemed sufficient by the Commission.

2.00: LICENSING AND REGISTRATION

2.01 General licensing requirements: Application; conditions and agreements; false statements; proof of identity; appearance before Commission; fee for issuance or renewal; period of validity.

1. In order to engage in any of the following positions, an individual must be licensed by the Commission for such purposes in accordance with these rules and 523 CMR:

- (a) Promoter;
- (b) Matchmaker;
- (c) Manager;
- (d) Second;
- (e) Trainer;
- (f) Referee;
- (g) Judge;
- (h) Timekeeper; or
- (i) Physician.

With the exception of a fighter, an individual who has been issued a license to perform a position as a professional may perform the corollary act in an amateur capacity under the same license.

2. In order to compete as an amateur mixed martial arts fighter, an individual must be licensed by the Commission. An application for a license must be made in writing on a form supplied by the Commission and signed by the applicant under the pains and penalties of perjury. A license shall not be issued to the applicant until the applicant has submitted a completed application evidencing all requirements of these rules.

3. Any false statement in an application submitted to the Commission shall be deemed grounds for any of the following:

- (a) denial of the application;
- (b) if the license has already been issued, revocation of the license;
- (c) referral of the matter to the appropriate law enforcement authority for prosecution.

4. All applications for licensure shall be accompanied by a government issued identification bearing the applicant's photograph and a birth certificate. Before issuing a license, the Commission or its staff may, when deemed appropriate, require an applicant to provide proof of their identity in addition to that required under the applicable licensing requirements.

5. The Commission may require an applicant to appear before the Commission to answer questions or provide documents in conjunction with an application for a license in addition to those required under the applicable licensing requirements.

6. The fee for issuance or renewal of a license shall be included with the application as provided by G.L. c.7, §3B.

7. A license to compete as an amateur mixed martial arts fighter issued pursuant to these rules shall be valid for 12 months from the date of issuance unless otherwise suspended or revoked by the Commission. The renewal of a license is not automatic. The Commission will consider the applicant's past performance and abilities in evaluating an application for renewal.
8. The license holder shall have the responsibility of reporting any change of mailing address, email address, and/or change of circumstance to the Commission. The information on file at the Commission shall be deemed accurate for purposes of notification unless changed by the license holder.
9. In accordance with G.L. c.147, §35, except as otherwise provided by law, no license shall be issued to any individual under 18 years of age.
10. In accordance with G.L. c.30A, §13A, all applicants for licensure shall provide their social security number on the application.

2.02 Physical and Medical Examinations and Tests

1. Prior to issuance or renewal of a license as an amateur mixed martial arts fighter, an individual shall undergo the physical and medical examinations and tests set forth in rule 2.02(2). In addition, the Commission shall have the discretion at any time to order an unarmed combatant to undergo any physical and medical examination or test that may be advisable to protect the unarmed combatant's physical health and safety. Provided further that any applicant who has reached their thirty-fifth birthday as of the date of the submission of the application may be required to submit evidence that they have undergone a brain CT, brain MRI, or neurological examination performed by a neurologist or neurosurgeon within 5 years of the date of the application. During such examinations and tests, unarmed combatants must reveal all vital facts relating to the unarmed combatant's physical condition to the examining physician. Concealing any vital facts shall be cause for suspension or revocation of the individual's license.

2. License Examinations.

As a prerequisite to licensure or renewal of a license, an unarmed combatant shall provide documentation demonstrating that they have undergone a complete physical examination (including neurological and cardiac testing) within 30 days of the date of the application by a licensed physician. The documentation shall include the record of examination form provided by the Commission. The record of examination form must be completed by the examining physician. The form shall include an acknowledgment from the examining physician that they are aware that the applicant is an unarmed combatant and that they are physically fit to fight.

As part of the physical examination, the examining physician shall review medical documentation satisfying them that the unarmed combatant has:

- (a) undergone an electrocardiogram (EKG) within 30 days of the date of the examination;
- (b) tested negative for HIV, Hepatitis BsAG, and Hepatitis Cab within 30 days of the date of the examination;
- (c) undergone a dilated eye examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist within 30 days of the date of application. No person who has undergone LASIK surgery may be licensed

without medical clearance from an optometrist or ophthalmologist. (A person who has undergone LASEK or PRK (photorefractive keratectomy) may be licensed.)

3. The examining physician shall review the documentation referenced in rules 2.02(2)(a)-(c) to ensure that it meets the time limitations imposed by these rules and that it does not evidence any medical irregularities that would prohibit the individual from competing as an unarmed combatant. The medical documentation reviewed by the examining physician referenced in rules 2.02(2)(a)-(c) shall be attached to the record of examination form and submitted to the Commission.
4. No earlier than one day prior to a scheduled match, all female fighters shall provide satisfactory proof to a Commission approved physician that they are not pregnant.
5. The date of blood testing of an unarmed combatant referenced in rule 2.02(2)(b) may not be more than 6 months prior to the date of a scheduled match. No unarmed combatant may compete until such time as an updated test is performed and record submitted to the Commission.
6. Whenever the Commission feels it is warranted, the Commission may require an unarmed combatant to undergo any medical test to determine his medical or physical fitness to fight. The medical experts conducting these studies, examinations, and tests shall submit their findings, together with their written opinion of whether the individual should continue to fight, to the Commission. The examined fighter shall not participate in any exhibition unless and until the Commission has considered these findings, results and opinions, and expressly approved his or her resumption of fighting.

2.03 Application and renewal of a license as an amateur mixed martial arts combatant

In addition to the licensing requirements set forth in rules 2.01 and 2.02, applications for licensure or renewal of a license as an amateur mixed martial arts fighter shall be made on a form provided by the Commission and accompanied by the record of examination form and all medical documentation required by rule 2.02, and the requisite application fee. Further, for new applications, the applicant shall file an amateur debut in Massachusetts form containing, but not limited to, the following information:

- (a) attestation of competency from two (2) individuals with personal knowledge relative to the applicant's training regimen and fitness to compete, signed under the pains and penalties of perjury, at least one of whom must be the combatant's trainer;
- (b) record as an amateur in contests or exhibitions;
- (c) list of all amateur contests (of any discipline) including date, location, opponent, and result;
- (d) list of amateur combat licenses held in other jurisdictions, and
- (e) name, address, and contact for both attesting individuals required under part (a).

2.04 Application for approval as an amateur referee or judge.

In order to work as a referee or judge of amateur mixed martial arts, an individual must first be approved for such purposes by the Commission. To qualify for approval, a person must demonstrate the following:

- (a) They possess the background and experience necessary to perform the functions of the respective position; and,
- (b) They are either certified to perform their respective duty by either the Commission or other organization approved by the Commission, or that they hold the same license in good standing in another jurisdiction and have a demonstrated track record of competent work;

2.05 Grounds for denial of application for license or approval.

The Commission may deny an application for licensure, approval, or renewal if:

- (a) it finds that the applicant has performed any act which would, if performed by a licensee, subject the licensee to discipline pursuant to these rules;
- (b) the Commission is not satisfied that the applicant possesses the ability to safely and competently compete or execute the duties of the position for which they have applied;
- (c) it is determined that false information was provided on the application;
- (d) the applicant fails to disclose information known to them relative to the medical condition of an unarmed combatant, including themselves;
- (e) (for a fighter) the applicant has suffered cerebral hemorrhage and has not been cleared by a medical practitioner after subsequent testing satisfactory to the Commission.

2.06 Application for new license, approval, or petition for reinstatement of license after denial, revocation or suspension.

1. Any applicant who has been denied a license or approval by the Commission may not file a similar application until six months after denial by the Commission, unless the Commission specifies otherwise at the time of denial.
2. A person who has had their license or approval revoked may not petition for reinstatement or apply for a new license until one (1) year after the revocation. If the petitioner files a petition for reinstatement after the 1 year period required pursuant to this subsection, and the Commission denies the request, the petitioner may not petition again for reinstatement until one (1) year after the denial unless the Commission specifies otherwise at the time of revocation.
3. A person who has had their license or approval suspended for a period of one (1) year or less may not file a petition for reinstatement or an application for a new license until the period of the suspension has expired unless the Commission specifies otherwise at the time of suspension.
4. The Commission may deny a petition or application that is not filed in accordance with these rules without a hearing.

2.07 Effect of expiration of license on jurisdiction of Commission.

The expiration of a license does not deprive the Commission of jurisdiction to:

1. Proceed with an investigation of the licensee;
2. Proceed with an action or disciplinary proceeding against the licensee;
3. Render a decision to suspend or revoke the license; or
4. Otherwise discipline the licensee.

3.00: CONTRACTS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

3.01 Contract between manager and unarmed combatant

No person may enter into a management contract with an amateur fighter.

4.00: ARRANGING AND PROMOTING PROGRAMS OF UNARMED COMBAT

4.01 Surety bond.

In accordance with G.L. c.147, §34, no bond is required to promote a purely amateur event. However, if any professional bouts are scheduled for the event, a bond must be provided in accordance with 523 CMR

4.02 Event license: Submission and approval of program and date; content; payment of fee; cancellation of program.

1. Except as otherwise provided in 523 CMR, a promoter shall not hold a program of unarmed combat required to be licensed pursuant to G.L. c.147, §32 unless 30 days before the program is held:

- (a) The promoter submits to the Commission an application for an event license on a form provided by the Commission; and,
- (b) The Commission approves the application and the date for the program.

2. A written request for an event license must include, without limitation:

- (a) The proposed site for the event;
- (b) The proposed date of the event;
- (c) A copy of the certificate of inspection issued by the municipality for proposed site;
- (d) A copy of the certificate of insurance. In accordance with G.L. c.147, §39B, the promoter of an event shall take out a policy of accident insurance on each contestant participating in the match or exhibition in the amount of \$5,000 to compensate him for medical and hospital expenses incurred as the result of injuries received in such match or exhibition and a policy in the amount of \$50,000 to be paid to the estate of the deceased contestant in the event of death to the contestant resulting from participation in the match or exhibition. The premiums on the policies shall be paid by the licensee. The promoter shall be responsible to pay any deductible for the medical, surgical or hospital care for injuries he sustains while engaged in a contest or exhibition.
- (e) The name of the licensed matchmaker for the event;
- (f) Indication as to whether the program will be televised or otherwise broadcast;
- (g) The event license fee;
- (h) (For pro-am events) A copy of the bond required pursuant to G.L. c.147, §34 and 523 CMR 10.01.

3. If the program is cancelled by the promoter, the application fee shall be forfeited. The fee may be applied to a subsequent event if it is scheduled to be held within 30 days of the originally scheduled event.

4. The promoter of a program of unarmed combat shall submit a completed application for licensure of an event in accordance with rule 4.02 at least 30 days prior to the scheduled date of the event.

4.03 Multiple requests for event license on the same date

If the Commission receives more than one request for an event license submitted pursuant to rule 4.02 or 523 CMR for the same date, the Commission may issue a license for both events provided that all applications are complete and the Commission deems it to be in the best interests of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to

license more than one event. In making this determination, the Commission shall consider, amongst other things, the geographic locations of the proposed events and the availability of Commission staff and officials. In the event that it is deemed contrary to the interests of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to license more than one event on one date, a license will be issued to the first applicant that submits a complete application.

4.04 Arrangement of contest or exhibition; use of licensed matchmaker by promoter.

A contest or exhibition may not be arranged on behalf of any promoter except by a licensed matchmaker or the promoter themselves.

4.05 Minimum number of rounds for program.

Unless otherwise approved by the Commission, a promoter shall not schedule fewer than twenty-four rounds of mixed martial arts on any one program of unarmed combat that consists of contests or exhibitions of mixed martial arts.

4.06 Maximum number of unarmed combatants for program.

A promoter shall not schedule any one program of unarmed combat which utilizes more than 32 unarmed combatants unless a different limit is approved by the Commission.

4.07 Certain persons retained by promoter must have licenses.

A promoter shall not retain a person for any of the following positions unless they are licensed by the Commission:

- (a) Unarmed combatant; or,
- (b) Matchmaker.

4.08 Selection and approval of ring officials.

1. The Commission, or its designee, will select and approve all ring officials. The ring officials are the referee, judges, timekeeper, physicians and Commission's representatives.

2. The promoter may select the announcer for a contest or exhibition.

4.09 Referees: Selection; fee; protest of assignment.

1. The Commission, or its designee, will select the referee for all unarmed combat events.

2. The Commission will set the fee which the referee is entitled to receive for a contest or exhibition.

3. If any licensee of the Commission protests the assignment of a particular referee, the protesting licensee will be given a hearing by the Commission if time permits. If time does not permit, the matter will be heard by two Commissioners or a Commissioner and the Chief Deputy in order to make such disposition of the protest as the facts may justify. Protests not made in a timely manner may be summarily rejected.

4.10 Judges: Selection; protest of assignment; fee; stationing.

1. The Commission, or its designee, will select the judges for all unarmed combat events.

2. If any licensee of the Commission protests the assignment of a particular judge, the protesting licensee will be given a hearing by the Commission if time permits. If time does not permit, the matter will be heard by two Commissioners or a Commissioner and the Chief Deputy in order to make such disposition of the protest as the facts may justify. Protests not made in a timely manner may be summarily rejected.

3. The Commission will set the fee which the judges are entitled to receive for a contest or exhibition.
4. The judges must be stationed ringside at places designated by the Commission or its designee.

4.11 Certain officials deemed independent contractors; payment of fees by promoters to Commission; payment of officials by Commission.

1. For purposes of these rules, referees, judges, timekeepers and ringside physicians (ring officials) shall be deemed to be independent contractors of the Commission.
2. A promoter shall pay to the Commission the total fees set by the Commission for all persons whom the Commission directs to officiate in a contest or exhibition promoted by that promoter.
3. The Commission will pay the money collected pursuant to this section to the ring officials at the conclusion of an event.

4.12 Submission of fight card; change or substitution.

1. The promoter of a program of amateur mixed martial arts shall submit a proposed fight card for a licensed event at least 10 days prior to the scheduled date of the event. The fight card, which shall be subject to the approval of the Commission, shall be submitted on a form provided by the Commission. The promoter or matchmaker shall notify the Commission of any proposed changes or substitutions of unarmed combatants on the approved fight card. Changes and substitutions shall be subject to approval by the Commission. If a change to the fight card is proposed at the weigh in for the event, the change may be approved by agreement of one Commissioner and a Chief Deputy Commissioner. No changes may be made to a fight card after the weigh in. All fighters on a proposed fight card shall either hold an unarmed combatant's license issued by the Commission or submit an application for licensure as an unarmed combatant in accordance with rule 2.03 no later than 7 days prior to the scheduled event.
2. Fights shall be put together by the matchmaker and shall be evenly matched. The fight card shall be signed by the matchmaker attesting that the fights have been as evenly matched as possible to the best of their skill and ability.
3. In accordance with G.L. c.147, §39A, no unarmed combatant who has been knocked out, technically or otherwise, or lost a contest by way of submission, 6 or more times in the preceding 12 months shall take part in a match or exhibition until they have been examined and deemed fit to compete by a physician approved by the Commission.

4.13 Limitations on types of beverage containers, plates used at programs.

1. All drinks at a program of unarmed combat must be dispensed in paper or plastic cups (or other containers that cannot reasonably be used as dangerous projectiles per the discretion of the Commission).
2. Plates provided for patrons at a program of unarmed combat must be paper or plastic.

5.00: TICKETS AND ADMISSIONS

5.01 Tickets: Person sold right of admission must be provided with ticket; promoter must prepare inventory of tickets.

1. The right of admission to a program of unarmed combat must not be sold to a person unless that person is provided with a ticket.

2. The promoter of a program of unarmed combat shall:
 - (a) Prepare an inventory which identifies all tickets that were issued for the program and which accounts for any tickets that are overprints, changes or extras;
 - (b) Sign the inventory under oath, acknowledging that the inventory is true and correct; and
 - (c) Send the inventory to the Commission.
3. No person shall be admitted to an event unless that person is either an unarmed combatant scheduled to compete at the event or provides at the entrance to the venue either a ticket, Commission issued identification, or identification issued by the promoter indicating that the individual is an employee or independent contractor working for the promoter or a member of the media approved by the promoter to attend the program. The Commission shall station a Deputy Commissioner at all entrances to the venue to ensure compliance with 523 CMR 11.00 and rule 5.00.

5.02 Contents of ticket.

Every ticket must have the price, name of the promotion and date of the program of unarmed combat plainly on it.

5.03 Complimentary tickets: Limitation on issuance; exclusion from calculation of license fee.

A promoter may not issue complimentary tickets for more than 15 percent of the capacity of the venue, without the Commission's written authorization. Complimentary tickets shall not be included in the calculation under G.L. c.147, §40.

5.04 Issuance of complimentary and press tickets.

Each promoter shall perform the following duties in relation to the issuance of complimentary tickets or those issued at a reduced price:

- (a) Each complimentary ticket must be clearly marked "COMPLIMENTARY." Failure to do so will result in the full ticket price being used for purposes of computing the fee required to be paid pursuant to G.L. c.147, §§40 and 40A.
- (b) Each ticket issued to a journalist must be clearly marked "PRESS." No more tickets may be issued to journalists than will permit comfortable seating in the press area.
- (c) Seating at the press tables or in the press area must be limited to journalists who are actually covering the contest or exhibition and to other persons designated by the Commission.
- (d) A list of passes issued to journalists must be submitted to the Commission upon request by the Commission.

5.05 Admission of certain ring officials; persons authorized to use commission identification; access to site of program and dressing rooms.

1. The promoter of a program of unarmed combat shall admit to such program any referee, judge, ringside physician, or timekeeper who is assigned by the Commission to work the event and who presents their Commission issued identification evidencing such status.

2. A Commission issued identification may only be used by:

- (a) Commissioners;
- (b) Commission staff;
- (c) Commission legal counsel;

- (d) Deputy Commissioners;
- (e) Ringside physicians;
- (f) Judges;
- (g) Referees;
- (h) Timekeepers; and,
- (i) Guests authorized by the Commission on official business.

3. The promoter of a program and officials of the venue shall allow the Commission, Commission staff, and Deputy Commissioners full access to the site of the event and dressing rooms upon the showing of their Commission issued identification.

5.06 Reservation of area for use by Commission.

- 1. For every program of unarmed combat, the promoter of the program shall reserve an area consisting of at least one whole side of the ring, from the ring apron to a reasonable distance as determined by the Commission back from the ring apron, for use by the Commission during the program.
- 2. If a program of unarmed combat consists of contests or exhibitions of mixed martial arts held in a fenced area, the promoter shall reserve an area equivalent to the area described in rule 5.06(1) for use by the Commission during the program.

5.07 Speculation in tickets prohibited; restrictions on changes in ticket prices.

The promoter may not sell any tickets for a price other than the price printed on the ticket.

5.08 Tickets sold at reduced rate: Actual price charged must be stamped on ticket and stub.

Any ticket for a program of unarmed combat sold for less than the price printed on the ticket must be overstamped with the actual price charged. The overstamp must be placed on the printed face of the ticket as well as the stub retained by the holder of the ticket. Failure to do so will result in the full ticket price being used for purposes of computing the fee required to be paid pursuant to G.L. c.147, §§40 and 40A.

5.09 Tickets: Removal and possession of stub.

- 1. A holder of a ticket for a program of unarmed combat must not be allowed:
 - (a) To pass through the gate of the premises where the program is being held unless his ticket is separated from the stub or otherwise marked or inventoried as having been presented at the gate; or
 - (b) To occupy a seat unless they are in possession of the stub or marked ticket.
- 2. For the purposes of this section:
 - (a) “Stub” means that part of the ticket retained by a person entering the arena after the ticket has been collected.
 - (b) “Ticket” means that part of the ticket, actual or electronically inventoried, retained by the promoter upon a person’s entrance to the arena.

3. If the tickets are of the electronic variety, all tickets must be properly scanned prior to admission into the venue.

5.10 Readmission.

Once an individual gains entry to a venue by way of ticket, the individual may only be readmitted after leaving if the individual presents a ticket stub or other evidence of admission and a notation by way of hand stamp or other similar marking indicating that they have been permitted to re-enter.

6.00: FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES

6.01 Sanitation.

1. Each promoter is responsible for and must correct any violation of the regulations of the Commission or the Department of Public Health regarding the sanitary condition of dressing rooms, showers, water bottles, towels or other equipment.

2. Physicians and representatives of the Commission shall make a particular examination before or during each program of unarmed combat to discover any violation of such regulations, and any such violation must be reported to the Commission immediately.

6.02 Provision of ambulance and medical personnel; alternative medical transport; notice of program to emergency services, facilities and personnel; police officers.

1. A program of unarmed combat must not be held unless an ambulance and two persons certified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as advanced emergency medical technicians are present at the site of the program and able and available to transport an unarmed combatant to a medical facility.

2. If the ambulance or advanced emergency medical technicians leave the site of the program to transport an unarmed combatant to a medical facility, the program of unarmed combat must not continue until another ambulance or replacements for the advanced emergency medical technicians are present and available.

3. The medical personnel described in this section:

(a) Must be designated to render service only to the unarmed combatants in the program.

(b) Shall position themselves and their equipment in a location at or near the ring or, if the program is being held in a fenced area, at or near the fenced area, that they and the ringside physician deem appropriate.

4. For purposes of this section, a program of unarmed combat begins with the commencement of the first bout and ends when the last unarmed combatant leaves the site of the program.

5. The promoter shall arrange for the presence of at least two police officers at the event, or as otherwise directed by the Commission. No event may proceed or continue on once begun without the presence of the police officers.

6.03 Provision of emergency equipment.

Each promoter of a program of unarmed combat shall arrange to have emergency equipment on the premises where the program is to be held. The emergency equipment must include, but is not limited to:

(a) Blankets;

- (b) A stretcher;
- (c) A bottle of smelling salts;
- (d) Bandages;
- (e) Surgical tape;
- (f) Splints;
- (g) A pair of scissors;
- (h) A soft collar and a hard collar;
- (i) An airway; and
- (j) Sterile surgical gloves.

6.04 Dressing rooms: Persons authorized to enter; promoter to provide security.

1. On the day of a contest or exhibition, only the following people are allowed in the dressing room of an unarmed combatant:

- (a) The manager of the unarmed combatant;
- (b) The seconds of the unarmed combatant;
- (c) Any representative of the promoter; and
- (d) Any representative of the Commission.

2. The promoter shall furnish security at the entrance to the dressing rooms to enforce this section.

3. Each fighter shall be allowed a maximum of three authorized individuals in the dressing room at one time.

6.05 Requirements for gloves.

The gloves used in a contest or exhibition must meet the following requirements and be delivered to the Commission one hour prior to the commencement of the first match of the event:

- (a) The gloves must be examined by the representative of the Commission and the referee. If padding in any glove is found to be misplaced or lumpy or if any glove is found to be imperfect, the glove must be changed before the contest or exhibition starts. No breaking, roughing or twisting of gloves is permitted.
- (b) If the gloves to be used have been used before, they must be whole, clean and in sanitary condition. The gloves are subject to inspection by the referee and a representative of the Commission. If a glove is found to be unfit, it must be replaced with a glove that meets the requirements of this section.
- (c) Each promoter must have an extra set of gloves of the appropriate weight available to be used in case a glove is broken or otherwise damaged during the course of a contest or exhibition.
- (d) In accordance with G.L. c.147, §38, for contests or exhibitions of mixed martial arts, each unarmed combatant must wear gloves that weigh not less than 7 ounces.

6.06 Bandages for hands of unarmed combatant.

1. Bandages on the hand of an unarmed combatant may not exceed one winding of surgeon's adhesive tape, not over 2 inches wide, placed directly on the hand to protect the part of the hand near the wrist. The tape may cross the back of the hand twice, but may not extend within three-fourths of an inch of the knuckles when the hand is clenched to make a fist.

2. Each unarmed combatant shall use soft surgical bandage not over 2 inches wide, held in place by not more than 10 feet of surgeon's adhesive tape for each hand. Up to one 15-yard roll of gauze bandage may be used to complete the wrappings for each hand. Strips of tape may be used between the fingers to hold down the

bandages. Additionally, up to one winding of flex tape may be used for each hand to complete the wrappings for each hand.

3. At the completion of the hand wrap, each shall be marked by a Deputy Commissioner indicating that it was performed in compliance with this section.

6.07 Equipment of chief second.

1. The chief second shall equip themselves with:

- (a) Adhesive tape;
- (b) Gauze;
- (c) Scissors; and
- (d) One extra mouthpiece.

2. No ammonia or other smelling salts type agents may be used in the ring.

3. The ringside physician or Commission's representative may, at any time, inspect the contents of the chief second's first-aid kit.

6.08 Requirements for bell or gong.

There must be a bell, gong, or airhorn at the ring or, if the contest or exhibition is held in a fenced area, at the fenced area. The bell, gong, or airhorn must produce a clear tone easily heard by the unarmed combatants.

6.09 Equipment of timekeeper.

Every timekeeper shall have the equipment prescribed by the Commission and shall carry out the duties directed by the representative of the Commission.

7.00: WEIGHT CLASSES, WEIGH-INS, PRE- AND POST-FIGHT PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS, AND MEDICAL CONDITIONS

7.01 Mixed Martial Arts Weight classes; weight loss after weigh-in.

1. The weight classes for amateur mixed martial arts combatants and the weights for each class are shown in the following chart:

WEIGHT CLASS	WEIGHT LIMITS
Flyweight	Up to 125 pounds
Bantamweight	Over 125 to 135 pounds
Featherweight	Over 135 to 145 pounds
Lightweight	Over 145 to 155 pounds

Welterweight	Over 155 to 170 pounds
Middleweight	Over 170 to 185 pounds
Light Heavyweight	Over 185 to 205 pounds
Middle Heavyweight	Over 205 to 225 pounds
Heavyweight	Over 225 to 265 pounds
Super Heavyweight	All over 265 pounds

2. After the weigh-in of an unarmed combatant competing in a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts, weight loss in excess of 2 pounds is not permitted.
3. The weight loss described in this rule must not occur later than 1 hour after the initial weigh-in of the fighter.
4. The Commission may permit a 1 pound allowance in the contract weight except in the case of a title fight.

7.02 Unarmed combatants required to submit to weigh-in and physical examinations. An unarmed combatant scheduled to compete on an amateur mixed martial arts program is subject to an order by the Commission to appear at any time to be:

- (a) Weighed; or
- (b) Examined by any physician whom the Commission may designate.

7.03 Pre-fight Weigh-in and Physical Examination

1. The Commission must personally weigh-in all unarmed combatants within 36 hours of a scheduled contest. The promoter shall schedule the site, date, and time for the weigh-in and physical examinations which shall be subject to the approval of the Commission. The unarmed combatant must have all weights stripped from their body before they are weighed in, but may wear shorts (and top for females).
2. The physician shall examine each unarmed combatant thoroughly before the contest, giving particular attention to the heart, lungs, pulse, blood pressure, eyes, and any indication of hernia. A special in-depth examination shall be made of any symptoms of ill health or physical impairment. The physician shall ask each unarmed combatant about any previous injuries or physical problems and shall note the information obtained on the record. The physician shall certify whether the unarmed combatant's physical condition is sufficient for them to engage in the scheduled match. If the unarmed combatant shows any signs of mental, optical, organic, or other deterioration, the physician shall advise the unarmed combatant of their findings and report the same to the Commission. Once so advised by the Commission physician, the unarmed combatant shall not participate in any exhibition until the Commission approves their resumption of unarmed combat.
3. If an unarmed combatant fails to appear for the required weigh-in and physical examination, the Commission may deem it sufficient cause for suspending the unarmed combatant's license. Further, if an unarmed combatant does not appear on time for a scheduled weigh in, they may be disciplined.

4. The Commission may require unarmed combatants to be weighed more than once for any cause deemed sufficient by the Commission.

7.04 Post-fight Examination.

After every exhibition, a Commission assigned physician shall examine each unarmed combatant as soon as possible following the fight and before they leave the site of the contest. If it appears that a unarmed combatant is injured, the physician shall attend to the injuries. The physician shall also recommend and arrange for immediate hospitalization whenever deemed necessary. The physician shall report all injuries disclosed in the post-fight examination to the Commission.

7.05 Forfeiture for failure to make weight.

1. An unarmed combatant who fails to make the weight agreed upon in his bout agreement may be disciplined and prohibited from engaging in the scheduled bout.

2. Except as otherwise provided, during the 1 hour following the time of weighing in, if a fighter is able to make the weight or weighs 1 pound or less outside the agreed limits, no forfeit may be imposed.

7.06 Duties of promoter concerning physical examination; fees for services of physician; provision of temporary or emergency treatment to unarmed combatant.

1. The promoter shall provide the physician designated by the Commission with a suitable place to examine each unarmed combatant at the weigh in.

2. The physician is entitled to receive a fee for their services at a contest, exhibition and weigh in as determined by the Commission.

3. The physician shall give any injured unarmed combatant temporary or emergency treatment in the arena or dressing room, and no additional fee may be charged. Application of sutures is beyond the scope of duties expected of a ringside physician and is not considered temporary or emergency treatment under the provisions of this section.

7.07 Unarmed combatant must report certain injuries and illnesses; physical examination required; payment of physician.

1. When an unarmed combatant is unable to take part in a contest or exhibition for which he has entered into a bout agreement because of his injury or illness, they shall immediately report the fact to the Commission and shall submit to an examination by a physician designated by the Commission, if requested.

2. The fee for the physician's examination must be paid by the promoter if they requested the examination. Otherwise, the fee must be paid by the unarmed combatant.

7.08 Suspension of licensee for medical reason.

1. A licensee who is determined by a physician to be unfit to compete or officiate must be suspended until it is shown that they are fit for further competition or officiating.

2. An unarmed combatant suspended for their medical protection shall take a medical examination upon the direction of the Commission or the Commission's representative. The examining physician may require any procedures deemed appropriate during the medical examination.

8.00: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AMATEUR MIXED MARTIAL ARTS CONTESTS AND EXHIBITIONS

8.01 Applicability

The provisions of rule 8.00 shall apply to all amateur mixed martial arts matches and exhibitions required to be licensed in accordance with G.L. c.147, §32.

8.02 Unarmed combatants must report before contest or exhibition.

Each unarmed combatant must report to the representative of the Commission in charge of dressing rooms before the scheduled time of the first contest or exhibition of a program of unarmed combat.

8.03 Proper attire and equipment of unarmed combatants.

1. Each unarmed combatant must provide themselves with a costume, including shorts without pockets or openings, which is subject to the approval of the Commission or its representative.
2. Each unarmed combatant must appear in proper attire. The unarmed combatants may not wear the same colors in the ring or, if the contest or exhibition is being held in a fenced area, in the fenced area, without the approval of the Commission's representative.
3. The belt of the shorts must not extend above the waist line.
4. Each unarmed combatant must wear a mouthpiece which has been individually fitted.
5. Mixed Martial Arts combatants may not wear shoes or any padding on their feet during the contest.
6. Soft braces or sleeves on the knees or ankles may be used with the approval of the Commission.
7. All male combatants must wear appropriate groin protections.
8. If both fighters so request, shin guards may be worn during a contest.

8.04 Physical appearance of unarmed combatants.

1. A light layer of grease may be used on a combatant's face, not to extend behind the ears. Grease may not be used anywhere else on the combatant's body. The referees or the Commission's representative in charge shall cause any excessive grease or foreign substance to be removed. Combatants shall be examined by a referee or Deputy Commissioner prior to entering the ring or cage to ensure that improper or excessive amounts of grease are not present.
2. The Commission's representative shall determine whether head or facial hair presents any hazard to the safety of the unarmed combatant or his opponent or will interfere with the supervision and conduct of the contest or exhibition. If the head or facial hair of an unarmed combatant presents such a hazard or will interfere with the supervision and conduct of the contest or exhibition, the unarmed combatant may not compete in the contest or exhibition unless the circumstances creating the hazard or potential interference are corrected to the satisfaction of the Commission's representative.
3. An unarmed combatant may not wear any jewelry or other piercing accessories while competing in the contest or exhibition.
4. Finger nails shall be of a length so as not to be able to inflict injury to an opponent.

8.05 Time required to elapse before unarmed combatant competes in successive contest or exhibition.

With respect to contests or exhibitions of amateur mixed martial arts, without the special permission of the Commission, an amateur mixed martial arts combatant may not compete in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts unless 4 days for each round that their last contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts lasted have elapsed since their last contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts.

8.06 Procedure for use of scorecards.

1. The Commission or Commission's representative in charge at a contest or exhibition shall, before the start of the contest or exhibition, give scorecards to each judge. There shall be one card for each scheduled round of the bout. Each card shall identify the unarmed combatant and the corner they are assigned to.
2. The judges shall score each round of the contest or exhibition on an individual scorecard and sign it. The Commission or its designee shall pick up the scorecard from each judge and turn in the scorecards at the Commission's desk following the completion of each round.
3. Reports of each contest or exhibition will be kept on file in the office of the Commission.

8.07 Conduct of chief second and assistant seconds; instructions to unarmed combatants by referee.

The referee shall, before starting a contest or exhibition, ascertain from each unarmed combatant the name of their chief second, and shall hold the chief second responsible for the conduct of the assistant seconds during the progress of the contest or exhibition. The referee may call unarmed combatants together before each contest or exhibition for final instructions.

8.08 Limitations on seconds.

1. No unarmed combatant may have more than three seconds except that in a contest for a world title or in a special event the Commission may authorize four seconds.
2. Two of the seconds may be inside the ring ropes or fenced area during a period of rest unless the services of a cutman are required during the period of rest. In that case, only one of the seconds may be inside the ring ropes or fenced area during the period of rest.
3. A second may not coach excessively from the corners during a period of unarmed combat and must remain in their assigned corner area during the period of the contest.
4. Any excessive or undue spraying or throwing of water on an unarmed combatant by a second during a period of rest is prohibited.

8.09 Duties of ringside physician.

1. There shall be at least two ringside physicians present at all programs of amateur unarmed combat.
2. The ringside physicians designated by the Commission shall sit at the immediate ringside at every contest or exhibition. A contest or exhibition may not proceed unless one ringside physician is in their seat at ringside. The ringside physician shall not leave until after the decision in the final contest or exhibition. They shall be prepared to assist if any serious emergency arises and shall render temporary or emergency treatments for cuts and minor injuries sustained by the unarmed combatants.
3. If an unarmed combatant appears to have been injured during a period of unarmed combat, their manager or second shall not attempt to render aid to him before the ringside physician has had an opportunity to examine them.

4. An assigned ringside physician shall examine each unarmed combatant contemporaneously with the weigh in for the scheduled match and following the match. An evaluation form provided by the Commission shall be completed for each examination and returned to the Commission.

8.10 Warning before start of round.

Ten seconds before the beginning of each round the timekeeper shall give warning to the seconds of the unarmed combatants by blowing a whistle or by utilizing some other type of audible device approved by the Commission.

8.11 Duration of round.

1. A round of unarmed combat, other than the final round, includes a period of unarmed combat and a period of rest that follows immediately after the period of unarmed combat. The final round of unarmed combat includes only a period of unarmed combat.

2. A period of rest following a period of unarmed combat must be 1 minute in duration, unless a different duration is approved by the Commission.

3. A round of unarmed combat, other than the first round, does not begin until the immediately preceding period of rest has ended and the bell, gong, airhorn or other audible device approved by the Commission sounds signaling commencement of the round. The first round of unarmed combat begins when the bell, gong, airhorn or other audible device approved by the Commission sounds signaling commencement of the contest or exhibition.

4. A round of unarmed combat ends immediately upon the sounding of the bell, gong, airhorn or other audible device approved by the Commission.

5. The following limitations shall apply except as otherwise approved by the Commission:

- (a) A non-championship contest or exhibition of amateur mixed martial arts must not exceed three rounds in duration.
- (b) A championship contest of amateur mixed martial arts may be five rounds in duration.
- (c) A period of unarmed combat in a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts must be 3 minutes in duration.

8.12 Persons allowed in ring.

1. No persons other than the unarmed combatants and the referee may be in the ring or fenced area during the progress of a period of unarmed combat.

2. The referee may, in their discretion, stop a contest or exhibition if an unauthorized person enters the ring or fenced area during a round.

8.13 Fouls: Disqualification.

An unarmed combatant guilty of a foul in a contest or exhibition may be disqualified by the referee.

8.14 Fouls: Intentional.

1. If the referee determines that a contest or exhibition may not continue because of an injury caused by an intentional foul, the unarmed combatant who committed the intentional foul loses by disqualification.

2. If the referee determines that a contest or exhibition may continue despite an injury caused by an intentional foul, the referee shall immediately inform the Commission's representative and the judges and may deduct one point in from the score of the unarmed combatant who committed the intentional foul.

3. If an unarmed combatant injures themselves while attempting to foul his opponent, the referee shall not take any action in their favor and the injury must be treated the same as an injury produced by a fair blow.

8.15 Determination to stop contest or exhibition: Injury to unarmed combatant.

The referee or ringside physician may stop a contest due to injury to an unarmed combatant.

8.16 Determination to stop contest or exhibition: One-sided contest or exhibition; risk of serious injury.

1. The referee may stop a contest or exhibition at any stage if the referee determines that the contest or exhibition is too one-sided or if either unarmed combatant is in such a condition that to continue might subject the unarmed combatant to serious injury.

2. The referee shall stop a contest or exhibition of unarmed combat at any stage if the referee determines that both unarmed combatants are in such a condition that to continue might subject the unarmed combatants to serious injury. If a contest or exhibition is stopped pursuant to this subsection, the decision shall be deemed to be a technical draw.

8.17 Determination to stop contest or exhibition: Unarmed combatant not honestly competing.

If the referee decides that an unarmed combatant is not honestly competing, they may stop the contest or exhibition before its scheduled completion, disqualify the unarmed combatant and recommend the purse of that unarmed combatant be held pending investigation by the Commission.

8.18 Leaving ring during period of rest prohibited; effect of failure to resume competition.

An unarmed combatant shall not leave the ring or, if the contest or exhibition is being held in a fenced area, the fenced area, during any period of rest that follows a period of unarmed combat. If an unarmed combatant fails or refuses to resume competing when the bell sounds signaling the commencement of the next round, the referee shall award a decision of technical knockout to their opponent as of the round which has last been finished, unless the circumstances indicate to the Commission the need for investigation or punitive action, in which event the referee shall not give a decision and shall recommend that the purse or purses of either or both unarmed combatants be withheld.

8.19 Procedure when unarmed combatant has fallen through or been knocked through ropes.

1. A fighter who has been knocked or has fallen through the ropes and over the edge of the ring platform during a contest or exhibition:

- (a) May be helped back by anyone except his seconds or manager; and the referee will stop the clock, assess the combatant's condition, and resume time once the combatant is able to safely re-enter the ring.
- (b) Will be given 20 seconds to return to the ring.

2. A fighter who has been knocked or has fallen on the ring platform outside the ropes, but not over the edge of the ring platform:

- (a) May not be helped back by anyone, including, without limitation, his seconds or manager; and the referee may stop the clock and assess the situation until the combatant is able to return to the ring.
- (b) Will be given 10 seconds to regain his feet and get back into the ring.

3. If the seconds or manager of the unarmed combatant who has been knocked or has fallen pursuant to subsections 1 and 2 helps the unarmed combatant back into the ring, such help may be cause for disqualification.
4. When one unarmed combatant has fallen through the ropes, the other unarmed combatant shall retire to the farthest neutral corner and stay there until ordered to continue the contest or exhibition by the referee.
5. An unarmed combatant who deliberately wrestles or throws an opponent from the ring, or who hits him when he is partly out of the ring and is prevented by the ropes from assuming a position of defense, may be penalized.

8.20 Announcement of winner.

At the termination of each contest or exhibition, the announcer shall announce the winner and the referee shall raise the hand of the winner.

8.21 Change of decision after contest or exhibition: Factors considered by Commission.

The Commission will not change a decision rendered at the end of any contest or exhibition unless:

1. The Commission determines that there was collusion affecting the result of the contest or exhibition;
2. The compilation of the scorecards of the judges discloses an error which shows that the decision was given to the wrong unarmed combatant; or
3. As the result of an error in interpreting a provision of this chapter, the referee has rendered an incorrect decision.

8.22 Physician's report to Commission after contest or exhibition; contents.

The physician designated by the Commission shall conduct a post fight examination of each combatant and file a report after a contest or exhibition. The report must list, at a minimum, each case in which an unarmed combatant:

- (a) Was injured during the contest or exhibition; or
- (b) Applied for medical aid after the contest or exhibition.

9.00: RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

9.01 Applicability

The provisions of rule 9.00 shall apply to all amateur mixed martial arts matches and exhibitions required to be licensed in accordance with G.L. c.147, §32.

9.02 Requirements for ring or fenced area.

1. Mixed martial arts contests and exhibitions may be held in a ring or in a fenced area.
2. A ring used for a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts must meet the following requirements:
 - (a) The ring must be no smaller than 20 feet square and no larger than 32 feet square within the ropes.
 - (b) The ring floor must extend at least 18 inches beyond the ropes. The ring floor must be padded with ensolite or another similar closed-cell foam, with at least a 1-inch layer of foam padding. Padding must extend beyond the ring ropes and over the edge of the platform, with a top covering of canvas, duck or

similar material tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges must not be used.

- (c) The ring platform must not be more than 4 feet above the floor of the building and must have suitable steps for the use of the unarmed combatants.
- (d) Ring posts must be made of metal, not more than 3 inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a minimum height of 58 inches above the ring floor, and must be properly padded in a manner approved by the Commission. Ring posts must be at least 18 inches away from the ring ropes.
- (e) There must be five ring ropes, not less than 1 inch in diameter and wrapped in soft material. The lowest ring rope must be 12 inches above the ring floor. All ropes must be fastened together by three straps per side.
- (f) There must not be any obstruction or object, including, without limitation, a triangular border, on any part of the ring floor.

3. A fenced area used in a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts must meet the following requirements:

- (a) The fenced area must be circular or have at least six equal sides and must be no smaller than 20 feet wide and no larger than 32 feet wide.
- (b) The floor of the fenced area must be padded with ensolite or another similar closed-cell foam, with at least a 1-inch layer of foam padding, with a top covering of canvas, duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the platform of the fenced area. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges must not be used.
- (c) The platform of the fenced area must not be more than 4 feet above the floor of the building and must have suitable steps for the use of the unarmed combatants.
- (d) Fence posts must be made of metal, not more than 6 inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to between 5 and 7 feet above the floor of the fenced area, and must be properly padded in a manner approved by the Commission.
- (e) The fencing used to enclose the fenced area must be made of a material that will prevent an unarmed combatant from falling out of the fenced area or breaking through the fenced area onto the floor of the building or onto the spectators, including, without limitation, chain link fence coated with vinyl.
- (f) Any metal portion of the fenced area must be covered and padded in a manner approved by the Commission and must not be abrasive to the unarmed combatants.
- (g) The fenced area must have at least one entrance.
- (h) There must not be any obstruction on any part of the fence surrounding the area in which the unarmed combatants are to be competing.

9.04 Method of judging.

1. In accordance with G.L. c.147, §36, each bout shall be judged by three judges. Each judge of a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts shall score the contest or exhibition and determine the winner through the use of the *10 Points Must System* as follows:

- (a) The better unarmed combatant of a round receives 10 points and their opponent proportionately less.
- (b) No fraction of points may be given.
- (c) Points for each round must be awarded immediately after the end of the period of unarmed combat in the round.

2. In determining a score, the judges shall consider and give weight to mixed martial arts techniques, in the following order: effective striking, effective grappling, control of the fighting area, effective aggressiveness, and defense. Effective striking is judged by determining the number of legal strikes landed by a combatant and the significance of such legal strikes. Effective grappling is judged by considering the amount of successful executions of a legal takedown and reversals. Fighting area control is judged by determining who is dictating the pace, location, and position of the bout. Effective aggressiveness means moving forward and landing a legal strike or takedown. Effective defense means avoiding being struck, taken down, or reversed while countering with offensive attacks.

3. The majority opinion is conclusive and, if there is no majority, the decision is a draw. Use of an overtime round must be approved by the Commission prior to the event and should be requested contemporaneously upon the filing of the fight card. In order for use of an overtime round to be approved, a provision agreeing to such must be contained in the bout agreement of the combatants.

4. When the Commission's representative has checked the scores, they shall inform the announcer of the decision. The announcer shall inform the audience of the decision over the speaker system.

5. If a fight is stopped due to an injury caused by an accidental foul, or for any other unforeseen circumstance, the round of the stoppage shall be scored and counted using the *10 Point Must System* if the round is at least half way complete. If the referee penalizes either unarmed combatant in an incomplete round, the appropriate points shall be deducted. If such stoppage occurs in the first round, the fight shall be declared a no contest.

9.05 Acts constituting fouls. The following acts constitute fouls in a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts:

- 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 the back of the head.
- 10) Striking downward using the point of the elbow.
- 11) Throat strikes of any kind, including, without limitation, grabbing the trachea.
- 12) Clawing, pinching or twisting the flesh.
- 13) Grabbing the clavicle.
- 14) Kicking the head of a grounded opponent.
- 15) Kneeing the head of a grounded opponent.
- 16) Stomping a grounded opponent.
- 17) Two grounded fighters may not kick each other.
- 18) Spiking an opponent to the canvas on his head or neck.
- 19) Throwing an opponent out of the ring or fenced area.
- 20) Holding the shorts or gloves of an opponent.
- 21) Spitting at an opponent.
- 22) Engaging in any unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to an opponent.
- 23) Holding the ropes or the fence.
- 24) Using abusive language in the ring or fenced area.
- 25) Attacking an opponent on or during the break.

- 26) Attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee.
- 27) Attacking an opponent after the bell has sounded the end of the period of unarmed combat.
- 28) Flagrantly disregarding the instructions of the referee.
- 29) Timidity, including, without limitation, avoiding contact with an opponent, intentionally or consistently dropping the mouthpiece or faking an injury.
- 30) Interference by the corner.
- 31) Elbowing.
- 32) Kneeing to the head while standing.
- 33) Forward thrusting kicks by a grounded opponent to the knee or head.
- 34) Heel hooks.

9.06 Fouls: Deduction of points.

1. If an unarmed combatant fouls their opponent during a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts, the referee may penalize them by deducting points from their score, whether or not the foul was intentional. The referee may determine the number of points to be deducted in each instance and shall base their determination on the severity of the foul and its effect upon the opponent except that in the case of an intentional foul inflicting injury, as determined solely by the referee, one point must be deducted.
2. When the referee determines that it is necessary to deduct a point or points because of a foul, the referee shall warn the offender of the penalty to be assessed.
3. The referee shall, as soon as is practical after the foul, notify the judges and both unarmed combatants of the number of points, if any, to be deducted from the score of the offender.
4. Any point or points to be deducted for any foul must be deducted in the round in which the foul occurred and may not be deducted from the score of any subsequent round.

9.07 Fouls: Accidental.

1. If a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts is stopped because of an accidental foul, the referee shall determine whether the unarmed combatant who has been fouled can continue or not. If the unarmed combatant's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of the foul and if the foul did not involve a concussive impact to the head of the unarmed combatant who has been fouled, the referee may order the contest or exhibition continued after a recuperative interval of not more than 5 minutes. Immediately after separating the unarmed combatants, the referee shall inform the Commission of his determination that the foul was accidental.
2. If the referee determines that a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts may not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an accidental foul, the contest or exhibition must be declared a no decision if the foul occurs during:
 - (a) The first round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for three rounds or less; or
 - (b) The first two rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for more than three rounds.
3. If an accidental foul renders an unarmed combatant unable to continue the contest or exhibition after:
 - (a) The completed first round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for three rounds or less; or
 - (b) The completed second round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for more than three rounds,
 - (c) the outcome must be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops the contest or exhibition if that-round is more than half way complete.

4. If an injury inflicted by an accidental foul later becomes aggravated by fair blows and the referee orders the contest or exhibition stopped because of the injury, the outcome must be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops the contest or exhibition.

9.08 Results of contests. A contest of mixed martial arts may end under the following results:

1. Submission by:
 - (a) Physical tap out.
 - (b) Verbal tap out.
2. Technical knockout by the referee stopping the contest.
3. Decision via the scorecards, including:
 - (a) Unanimous decision.
 - (b) Split decision.
 - (c) Majority decision.
 - (d) Draw, including:
 - (1) Unanimous draw.
 - (2) Majority draw.
 - (3) Split draw.
4. Technical decision.
5. Technical draw.
6. Disqualification.
7. Forfeit.
8. No decision
9. No contest.

10.00: SPECIAL RULES FOR FEMALE UNARMED COMBATANTS

10.01 Applicability

In addition to all the other rules, the provisions of rule 10.00 shall apply to all female unarmed combatants.

10.02 General

1. A female unarmed combatant shall not engage in a contest or exhibition with a male unarmed combatant.
2. In addition to meeting such requirements of 523 CMR and these rules as are applicable to unarmed combatants generally, a female unarmed combatant shall:
 - (a) Use a mouthpiece that has been fitted for her mouth;
 - (b) Have her hair secured in a manner that does not interfere with the vision or safety of either

- unarmed combatant; and,
- (c) Use a minimum of cosmetics.

10.03 Dressing rooms. The promoters of a contest or exhibition between female unarmed combatants shall provide them with adequate dressing rooms separate from the male competitors.

11.00: PROHIBITED ACTS; DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

11.01 Administration or use of alcohol, stimulants, drugs or injections; urinalysis or chemical tests; disciplinary action.

1. The Commission hereby adopts the 2010 *Prohibited List* published by the World Anti-Doping Agency by reference. Use of any substance identified on the 2010 *Prohibited List* by any unarmed combatant licensed or seeking licensure by the Commission is prohibited. (The *Prohibited List* may be obtained by logging on to the World Anti-Doping Agency website: www.wada-ama.org).

2. Preparations to Stop Hemorrhaging. The Commission will periodically review the preparations available to stop hemorrhaging. Only the preparations which are approved by the Commission may be used to stop hemorrhaging in the ring or fenced area. Use of Monsel's solution and silver nitrate are prohibited.

3. Substance Testing. Acting with reasonable cause or through random selection, the Commission or its designee may require, at any time either before or after a match, an unarmed combatant to undergo a test for use of illegal drugs or other performance enhancing substances as identified on the 2010 *Prohibited List* issued by the World Anti-Doping Agency. If any sample of an unarmed combatant tests positive for any such substance, or if any unarmed combatant fails to cooperate in the testing process, it shall be grounds for immediate suspension or revocation of their license and may result in forfeiture of a related match.

11.02 Solicitation to conduct fraudulent contest or exhibition: Duty of licensee to report such solicitation immediately; disciplinary action for failure to report.

When any person who is licensed by the Commission is approached with a request or suggestion that a contest or exhibition not be conducted honestly, that person must immediately report the matter to the Commission. Failure to do so is a ground for disciplinary action.

11.03 Grounds for disciplinary action.

The Commission may suspend or revoke the license of, otherwise discipline or take any combination of such actions against a licensee who has, in the judgment of the Commission:

- (a) Violated the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, except for minor traffic violations;
- (b) Violated any provision of 523 CMR, these rules, or G.L. c.147;
- (c) Provided false or misleading information to the Commission or a representative of the Commission;
- (d) Failed or refused to comply with a valid order of the Commission or a representative of the Commission;
- (e) Conducted themselves at any time or place in a manner which is deemed by the Commission to reflect discredit to unarmed combat;

(f) Knowingly dealt or consorted with any person who:

- 1) Engages in illegal bookmaking;
- 2) Is a reputed underworld character;
- 3) Is under suspension from any other Commission; or

- 4) Engaged in any activity or practice that is detrimental to the best interests of unarmed combat; or
- 5) Had personal knowledge that an unarmed combatant suffered a serious injury during training for a contest or exhibition and failed or refused to inform the Commission about that serious injury.

(g) Failed to execute the duties of their position in a skillful manner generally expected of an individual holding that position.

(h) Sustained injury or abuse during a fight such that suspension of the unarmed combatant's license is necessary in the interest of protecting their physical welfare. Suspension under this provision may be issued without the provision of a hearing. The unarmed combatant may appeal such action at any time during the period of the suspension and request a hearing.

11.04 Licensees prohibited from engaging in activities that bring disrepute to unarmed combat.

A person licensed by the Commission shall not engage in any activity that will bring disrepute to unarmed combat, including, but not limited to, associating with any person or entity if such an association brings disrepute to unarmed combat.

11.05 Suspension of license on ground of moral turpitude.

A license issued by the Commission may be suspended if the holder is arrested or convicted on a charge involving moral turpitude.

11.06 Suspension by another jurisdiction may be honored by Commission.

The Commission shall honor the suspension of a licensee by an agency that regulates unarmed combat in another jurisdiction if the suspension is ordered for:

- (a) Medical safety;

- (b) A violation of a law or regulation governing unarmed combat which also exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; or

- (c) Any other conduct which discredits unarmed combat, as determined by the Commission.

11.07 Effect of suspension or revocation of certain licenses.

1. Every promoter and matchmaker shall take notice of the bulletins of suspension sent out by the Commission and shall not permit any person under suspension to take any part as a participant or in arranging or conducting contests or exhibitions during the period of suspension.

2. A person whose license has been suspended or revoked by the Commission shall refrain from participating in or matchmaking or holding contests or exhibitions during the period of suspension or after the revocation.

3. A person whose license has been suspended or revoked is barred from:
 - (a) The dressing rooms at the premises where any program of unarmed combat is being held;
 - (b) Occupying any seat within six rows of the ring platform or, if the program is being held in a fenced area, within six rows of the platform of the fenced area;
 - (c) Approaching within six rows of seats from the ring platform or, if the program is being held in a fenced area, within six rows of seats of the platform of the fenced area; and
 - (d) Communicating in the arena or near the dressing rooms with any of the principals in the contests or exhibitions, their managers, their seconds or the referee, whether directly or by a messenger, during any program of unarmed combat.

A person who violates a provision of this subsection may be ejected from the arena or building where the program is being held, and the price paid for his ticket refunded to him upon his presentation of the ticket stub at the box office. Thereafter, they are barred entirely from all premises used for contests or exhibitions while the programs are being held.

4. If a license issued by the Commission has been suspended because the holder used dishonest methods to affect the outcome of any contest or exhibition or because of any conduct reflecting serious discredit upon unarmed combat, the Commission will not reinstate the license for at least 6 months in the case of a first offense. In the case of a second offense, the holder's license will be revoked.
5. A manager who is under temporary suspension is considered to have forfeited all rights in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the terms of any contract with an unarmed combatant licensed by the Commission. Any attempt by a suspended manager to exercise those contract rights will result in a permanent suspension of his license. The license of any unarmed combatant, matchmaker or promoter who continues to engage in any contractual relations with a manager whose license has been suspended by the Commission may be indefinitely suspended.
6. An unarmed combatant whose manager has been suspended may continue competing independently during the term of that suspension, signing their own contracts for contests or exhibitions.
7. Revocation of a manager's license automatically cancels all their contract rights in this State under any contracts with unarmed combatants made under the authority of the Commission. If such a revocation occurs, an unarmed combatant may operate independently and enter into contracts for his own contests or exhibitions, or he may enter into contracts with other managers licensed by the Commission.

11.08 Penalties for certain violations.

Pursuant to G.L. c.147, §42, the Commission may assess an administrative penalty not to exceed \$2,000 for each violation of G.L. c.147, §§32 to 45, inclusive, these rules, or 523 CMR committed by an individual required to be licensed under 523 CMR or required to be licensed under these rules.

11.09 Disciplinary action for dishonored check.

The Commission may fine a licensee or deny, suspend or revoke a license if the licensee delivers a check to the Commission that is not honored by the financial institution upon which it is drawn.

11.10. Knockouts

In accordance with G.L. c.147, §39A, an unarmed combatant who has been knocked out in a bout shall be immediately suspended for at least 30 days. The period of suspension may exceed 30 days if deemed appropriate in the interests of the safety of the licensee. Said action may be taken by the Commission without provision of a hearing in accordance with rule 12.00.

12.00: DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

12.01 Complaints.

Any person may file a complaint against a licensee. All complaints relative to a licensee must be in writing on a form provided by the Commission. All complaints must be received by the Board within one year of the date of the alleged wrongdoing. The Commission may itself initiate a complaint at any time.

12.02 Basis of Complaint.

A complaint must allege wrongdoing by a licensee in the form of a violation of 523 CMR, these rules, G.L. c.147, or other act or omission that challenges the integrity of a sport regulated by the Commission.

12.03 Review and Investigation of Complaints.

Every complaint filed shall be reviewed by the Commission or its designee. If the reviewer determines that the complaint alleges a plausible potential violation by the licensee, a hearing shall be convened. The Commission may, if it elects, investigate a complaint prior to scheduling a hearing. Failure of a complainant to cooperate in the investigation shall be grounds for dismissal of a complaint. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Commission or its designee shall send a letter acknowledging receipt to the complainant and the licensee being complained of. A copy of the complaint and all attachments shall be forwarded to the license holder with the acknowledgment letter.

12.04 Notice of Hearing.

If the Commission determines that a hearing shall be held to resolve a complaint, reasonable notice shall be provided to the complainant and the license holder. Mailing of notice to the address on record with the Commission, or emailing the notice to the address provided by the licensee on their application for licensure, shall be deemed satisfactory notice to the license holder. The notice of hearing shall contain.

- (a) The name of the complainant.
- (b) The date, time and place of said hearing.
- (c) The location of the incident giving rise to the complaint.

12.05 Hearing.

Hearings convened pursuant to this chapter shall be conducted pursuant to 801 CMR 1.02 (Informal/fair hearing rules) and G.L. c.30A. Any party may be represented by legal counsel. All parties shall be permitted to present an opening statement, testify on their own behalf, cross-examine all witnesses, present any relevant witness testimony, present any relevant documentary evidence, and offer a closing argument. The Commission may question any witness and include any records kept by the Commission as exhibits. The Commission may conclude the hearing at any time and issue a decision based on the evidence presented.

If a licensee does not appear for the hearing, the Commission may conduct a hearing in their absence and render a decision based upon the evidence presented, but only after making a finding that the licensee was provided notice as required by rule 12.04.

The Commission may designate a hearing officer from the Department of Public Safety to convene a hearing and either make a recommendation or issue a decision on its behalf.

12.06 Subpoenas

The Commission may issue a subpoena in accordance with G.L. c.30A, §12 requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of any evidence, including books, records, correspondence or documents, relating to any matter in question in the proceeding.

12.07 Decisions and Discipline of License Holders.

The Commission shall issue a written decision after the hearing. Decisions shall be issued in a reasonably prompt manner. The Commission may suspend a license for a fixed period of time, revoke a license permanently, or issue a reprimand to the licensee. In conjunction with these disciplinary measures, pursuant to G.L. c.147, §42, the Commission may assess a fine of up to \$2000 per violation. Any license that is suspended or revoked shall be forwarded to the Commission immediately. A person whose license is revoked may apply in writing to the Commission for reinstatement no sooner than two years from the date of the revocation.

12.08 Appeals.

Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Commission may appeal such decision to Superior Court in conformance with G.L. c.30A, §14.