



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Safety

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RE: Unskilled Fighters

The Massachusetts State Athletic Commission has recently been made aware of one or more unskilled fighters who, although properly licensed and medically cleared to fight, are in imminent danger of serious physical harm the next time they engage in unarmed combat. In response, the Commission has determined that immediate suspensions for lack of skill in unarmed combat are necessary to fulfill its statutory obligation to ensure fighter safety embodied in M.G.L. c.147, §42, as well as its general obligation to ensure safety throughout M.G.L. c.147, §§32 – 50A.

This determination is also consistent with the purpose of 523 CMR 6.13(2) (denial of initial license or renewal for lack of ability to safely and competently compete) and 523 CMR 13.10 (immediate suspension without a hearing for medical reason). However, any fighter who is immediately suspended for lack of skill may appeal by requesting a hearing pursuant to 523 CMR 21.