



**Rules of
Department of Insurance,
Financial Institutions and
Professional Registration**

**Division 2040—Office of Athletics
Chapter 8—Mixed Martial Arts**

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**Title 20—DEPARTMENT OF
INSURANCE, FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS AND
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION
Division 2040—Office of Athletics
Chapter 8—Mixed Martial Arts**

20 CSR 2040-8.010 Definitions

PURPOSE: This rule defines various terms used in the rules governing mixed martial arts.

- (1) “Announcer”—a person responsible for announcing the names of the officials, the contestants, the contestants’ weights, and the decisions of the referee and judges during a bout.
- (2) “Bout”—one (1) match involving professional mixed martial arts contestants.
- (3) “Contest”—a group of bouts involving licensed contestants competing in professional mixed martial arts.
- (4) “Contestant”—any human being who enters the fighting area to compete against another human being during a professional mixed martial arts event.
- (5) “Fighting area”—the ring, cage or physical area of the event site where the contestants compete during the mixed martial arts bout or contest.
- (6) “Inspector”—a person employed by the Office of Athletics to attend professional mixed martial arts events to ensure that all laws are adhered to by licensees of the Office of Athletics.
- (7) “Judge”—a person serving as a member of a judging panel for professional mixed martial arts. The panel is responsible for determining a decision in each bout.
- (8) “Manager”—one who, for compensation, directs or controls the professional activities of any contestant.
- (9) “Mixed martial arts”—any bout or contest in which any form of martial arts or self-defense is conducted on a full-contact basis for valuable consideration where weapons are not used and where other combative techniques or tactics are allowed in competition, including, chokeholds, boxing, wrestling, kickboxing, grappling and/or joint manipulation. As defined by section 317.001(12), RSMo mixed martial arts events constitute professional full-contact karate.
- (10) “Matchmaker”—a person responsible for matching the contestants for a bout(s) as to weight and experience.
- (11) “Office”—the Missouri Office of Athletics.
- (12) “Official”—referee(s), judge(s), matchmaker(s), manager(s), second(s), announcer(s), timekeeper(s) and physician(s) involved in professional mixed martial arts contests.
- (13) “Permit”—authorization from the office to hold a professional mixed martial arts event in the state of Missouri.
- (14) “Physician”—a person who is licensed as a doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy under Chapter 334, RSMo and who has received a license as a physician from the office for professional full-contact karate contests.
- (15) “Professional boxing”—the sport of attack and defense which uses the fist protected by gloves or mittens fashioned of leather or similar material where contestants compete for valuable consideration. Such contests take place in a rope-enclosed ring and are fought in timed rounds.
- (16) “Professional full-contact karate”—any form of full-contact martial arts, including but not limited to, kickboxing, kungfu, tae kwan-do or any form of self-defense conducted on a full-contact basis in a bout or contest where weapons are not used and where contestants compete for valuable consideration. Such contests take place in an enclosed fighting area and are fought in timed rounds. As defined by section 317.001(12), RSMo “professional full-contact karate” includes, but is not limited to, mixed martial arts.
- (17) “Professional kickboxing”—any form of boxing in which blows are delivered with any part of the arm below the shoulder, including the hand and any part of the leg below the hip, including the foot, and where contestants compete for valuable consideration. Such contests take place in a rope-enclosed ring and are fought in timed rounds.
- (18) “Professional wrestling”—any performance of wrestling skills and techniques by two (2) or more wrestlers for valuable consideration, to which any admission is charged. Participating wrestlers may not be required to use their best efforts in order to win and the winner may have been selected before the performance commences and the contestants may compete for valuable consideration. Such contests take place in a rope-enclosed ring and are fought in timed rounds.
- (19) “Promoter”—a person, association, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or any form of business entity licensed by the office who arranges, advertises or conducts professional mixed martial arts events and who is responsible for obtaining a permit for each contest and for payment of any state athletic taxes and production right taxes.
- (20) “Purse”—the financial guarantee or any other remuneration which contestants receive for participating in a bout. It includes the contestant’s share of any payment received for radio broadcasting, television or motion picture rights.
- (21) “Referee”—the person in charge of enforcing the rules of the office during any professional mixed martial arts contest.
- (22) “Second”—an individual who attends to the contestant between rounds.
- (23) “Sparring”—boxing for practice or as an exhibition.
- (24) “Timekeeper”—a person responsible for keeping accurate time during each bout and also responsible for the knockdown count for mixed martial arts.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2000. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996.*

20 CSR 2040-8.020 Licensing

PURPOSE: This rule establishes licensing guidelines and criteria for professional mixed martial arts.

- (1) All mixed martial arts contestants, referees, judges, managers, seconds, physicians, timekeepers, promoters, matchmakers, and announcers shall apply for and submit the proper fee to be issued a license. A license must be issued before participating in a contest.
- (2) Each applicant for a license shall complete an application as prescribed by the office, including the proper fee and all information required from the applicant. The office shall not refund license fees.



(3) An applicant for a mixed martial arts event shall submit to any medical and mental health examination or testing ordered by the office.

(4) All licenses expire on June 30 of each even numbered year following the date of issuance.

(5) If a licensee changes his/her name or address, he/she must notify the office in writing within ten (10) days after the change(s) becomes effective, and submit legal documentation approving the name change.

(6) Licensees shall comply with all applicable federal regulations governing professional full-contact karate or mixed martial arts.

(7) The following fees are applicable to initial licensure and license renewals:

(A) Promoter—Professional	\$400
(B) Contestant—Professional	\$ 40
(C) Referee—Professional	\$ 50
(D) Judge—Professional	\$ 50
(E) Matchmaker	\$200
(F) Manager	\$100
(G) Second	\$ 20
(H) Announcer	\$ 20
(I) Timekeeper	\$ 20
(J) Physician	\$ 0

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*

20 CSR 2040-8.030 Event Permits

PURPOSE: This rule establishes guidelines and criteria for obtaining an event permit for a professional mixed martial arts contest in Missouri.

(1) The promoter shall obtain a separate permit for each contest from the office prior to each contest.

(2) Fees for professional mixed martial arts permits are twenty-five dollars (\$25) per contest per day.

(3) The permit request must be received by the office no later than ten (10) business days before the date of the contest with the permit fee.

(4) The office shall not approve permits for:

(A) Bouts between members of the opposite sex;

(B) Bouts between professional and amateur contestants;

(C) Bouts between human contestants and nonhumans; and

(D) Contests with more than two (2) contestants competing in the same bout.

(5) The office may deny an application for a permit or grant a limited, restricted, or conditional permit for any cause deemed sufficient by the office.

(6) No promoter, official, or contestant may serve in any capacity at contests for which the office has denied a permit or for which a permit has not been issued. Such participation may be grounds for discipline.

(7) The promoter must have an approved permit before any advertisement, publicity, or other public announcement is issued for the contest. Violation of this provision may be grounds for discipline.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*

20 CSR 2040-8.040 Tickets and Taxes

PURPOSE: This rule establishes ticketing procedures for professional mixed martial arts and establishes criteria and procedures for the calculation and payment of the taxes established by section 317.006, RSMo.

(1) The right of admission to a professional mixed martial arts contest or the right to view a professional mixed martial arts contest may not be sold or otherwise granted to a person or entity unless that person or entity is provided with a ticket.

(2) The promoter of a contest of professional mixed martial arts shall:

(A) Prepare an inventory that identifies all tickets that were printed for the contest and that accounts for any tickets that are overprints, changes, or extras;

(B) Sign the inventory acknowledging that the inventory is true and correct;

(C) Send the inventory to the office with the permit application; and

(D) Submit with the permit application, a copy of the contract if the event was sold in

part or in whole by means of a contract or other agreement for a contracted or otherwise agreed amount on partial sale and/or a contracted amount.

(3) Every ticket shall have the price, the name of the promoter, and the date of the contest. Unless otherwise authorized by the office, the ticket stub of each ticket shall indicate the price of the ticket.

(4) The promoter shall obtain prior approval from the office for any date changes for the contest.

(5) A notice specifying a change in ticket prices or the dates of a contest or a notice specifying an amendment to the contract value of a contest of professional mixed martial arts shall be in writing to the office within ten (10) business days of the event.

(6) A promoter shall not issue complimentary tickets for more than four percent (4%) of the seats in the house without the office’s written authorization. The promoter pays the athletic tax prescribed in section 317.006.1(3), RSMo, for all complimentary tickets over and above the four percent (4%) maximum cap on complimentary tickets. If the office approves the issuance of complimentary tickets over and above the four percent (4%) cap, the complimentary tickets that are exempt from the athletic tax shall be based on the lowest value complimentary tickets distributed. Unless otherwise authorized by the office, all complimentary tickets shall indicate on the ticket that it is a complimentary ticket and its value had the ticket actually been purchased.

(7) A promoter is assessed the athletic tax prescribed in section 317.006.1(3), RSMo, for any complimentary tickets that the office allows to be distributed over the four percent (4%) maximum cap. The face value of the complimentary tickets over the four percent (4%) maximum cap shall be the same as other like tickets sold in that particular section of the venue.

(8) Each promoter shall provide a ticket and/or credential without charge to:

(A) Licensed contestants, seconds and managers who are engaged in a bout which is part of the professional mixed martial arts contest; and

(B) Journalists who are performing his/her duties as such. Each ticket issued to a journalist shall be clearly marked “PRESS.” No more tickets may be issued to journalists than will permit seating in the press area.



(9) The promoter of a contest and officials of the venue shall allow a person listed in this section full access to the site of the contest and dressing rooms:

(A) The division director, executive director, administrator, and inspectors of the office;

(B) Any authorized firefighters, police officers, security officers, and any other individuals authorized by the office assigned to work the event; and

(C) Any referee, judge, timekeeper, physician, and medical personnel who are independent contractors of the office who are assigned to the event and who presents photo identification and an official badge or other credential evidencing such status.

(10) The inspector supervises the sale of tickets, ticket boxes, entrances, and exits for the purpose of checking admission controls. All ticket stubs collected by a ticket taker should be deposited in a lock box provided by the office or other containers approved by the office. The inspector ensures that all tickets are counted and that the final accounting includes the number of complimentary tickets, the face value of each ticket, and the total number of each ticket price category sold and the gross receipts from all ticket sales.

(11) The final accounting will be completed and include the amount of tax due from the promoter to the office.

(12) Any promoter holding a license and permit under these rules shall pay the office five percent (5%) of its gross receipts, less state, county and city taxes, derived from admission charges. The gross receipts shall be the amount received from the face value of all tickets sold, any complimentary tickets redeemed in excess of the four percent (4%) cap, and the value of any contracted amount, if applicable.

(13) The promoter is liable for payment of the athletic tax prescribed in section 317.006.1(3), RSMo, based upon the gross receipts. Such payment shall be made within ten (10) days of the event or two (2) days prior to the promoter's next scheduled event in Missouri, whichever occurs first.

(14) The office's executive director, administrator, or their designee collects all fees and taxes due.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended:*

Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*

20 CSR 2040-8.050 Contestants

PURPOSE: This rule establishes criteria and licensing guidelines for mixed martial arts contestants.

(1) An applicant applying for a license as a contestant shall—

(A) Complete an application pursuant to 20 CSR 2040-8.010;

(B) Be at least sixteen (16) years of age;

(C) Submit a signed notarized affidavit from their legal guardian approving them to participate in a contest if he/she is under the age of eighteen (18);

(D) Disclose in writing on a form provided by the office a complete medical history including any prior or existing medical conditions;

(E) Within one hundred eighty (180) days of application for licensure, a contestant shall successfully complete a physical examination by a physician with the designation "medical doctor" or "doctor of osteopathy" and submit a written statement from the physician attesting the contestant is in sufficient medical condition to compete as a mixed martial arts contestant. Contestants shall disclose all medical history and conditions to the physician during the physical examination, including, whether the contestant is pregnant. The office may increase the one hundred eighty (180)-day limit under special circumstances approved by the office; and

(F) Submit certified copies of medical tests performed by a laboratory verifying that the applicant is not infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or hepatitis B or C virus. The medical tests shall not be dated more than one hundred and eighty (180) days before the application is submitted. A statement from a physician or doctor of osteopathy indicating that the applicant has successfully completed a full course of vaccinations for hepatitis B may be submitted in lieu of the medical tests pursuant to this rule for hepatitis B.

(2) A contestant applying for renewal of a license shall—

(A) Complete an application pursuant to 20 CSR 2040-8.020. Any person who provides incorrect information on an application for license as a contestant may be disciplined by the office;

(B) Disclose in writing on a form provided

by the office a complete medical history including any prior or existing medical conditions;

(C) Within one hundred eighty (180) days of application for renewal, a contestant shall successfully complete a physical examination by a physician with the designation "medical doctor" or "doctor of osteopathy" and submit a written statement from the physician attesting the contestant is in sufficient physical and mental health to compete as a mixed martial arts contestant. Contestants shall disclose all medical history and conditions to the physician during the physical examination, including, whether the contestant is pregnant. The office may increase the one hundred eighty (180)-day limit under special circumstances approved by the office; and

(D) Submit certified copies of medical tests performed by a laboratory verifying that the applicant is not infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or hepatitis B or C virus. The medical tests shall not be dated more than one hundred eighty (180) days before the application is submitted. A statement from a physician or doctor of osteopathy indicating that the applicant has successfully completed a full course of vaccinations for hepatitis B may be submitted in lieu of the medical tests pursuant to this rule for hepatitis B.

(3) A contestant who is not determined by a physician to be physically fit to compete as a mixed martial arts contestant after the required physical examination or receives positive results for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or hepatitis B or C virus shall be denied the right to fight in a bout. However, a contestant that has tested positive for hepatitis B may participate in a bout if the contestant has successfully completed a full course of vaccinations for hepatitis B as verified by a physician or doctor of osteopathy, provided the contestant does not test positive for HIV or hepatitis C and is otherwise determined to be physically and mentally fit to compete as pursuant to the rules of the office.

(4) All fees involved with medical examinations and/or tests pursuant to sections (1) and (2), in addition to any drug test pursuant to subsection (6)(B) of this rule, will be the responsibility of the promoter, contestant, or applicant.

(5) Within forty-eight (48) hours before competing in any mixed martial arts bout or contest, each contestant shall—

(A) Submit certified copies of medical tests performed by a laboratory verifying that the applicant is not infected with the human



immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or hepatitis B or C virus. The medical tests shall not be dated more than one hundred eighty (180) days before the scheduled bout or contest in which the contestant will compete. A statement from a physician or doctor of osteopathy indicating that the applicant has successfully completed a full course of vaccinations for hepatitis B may be submitted in lieu of the medical tests pursuant to this rule for hepatitis B; and

(B) Female contestants will submit a written affidavit verifying that the contestant has taken a reliable means of pregnancy testing and that the contestant is aware of her pregnancy status and has voluntarily agreed to participate in the bout or contest.

1. For purposes of this rule, a “reliable means of pregnancy testing” shall consist of a pregnancy test administered by a state or local health department or a licensed medical doctor or licensed doctor of osteopathy. A “reliable means of pregnancy testing” may also include a self-administered pregnancy test that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration or that is able to detect or determine the presence of human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG).

2. Affidavits shall be on a form approved by the office.

3. The office strongly cautions against participating in any professional full-contact sport regulated by the office while pregnant.

(C) A contestant who fails to comply with the requirements of this rule will not be allowed to compete as a contestant in any professional boxing, professional kickboxing, professional full-contact karate, or professional wrestling bout or contest. The office may discipline any contestant who fails to provide truthful and accurate information pursuant to this section.

(6) Physical Examinations.

(A) Immediately preceding the contest, at a time designated by the office, all contestants shall pass a physical examination given by a physician licensed and designated by the office, in accordance with the office’s rules and regulations. Contestants shall disclose all medical history and conditions to the physician during the physical examination, including, whether the contestant is pregnant. If the physician finds a contestant is not physically fit to compete as a mixed martial arts contestant, the contestant shall be denied the right to fight for that bout.

(B) A contestant licensed by the office may have to submit to any medical examination or test ordered by the office prior to participation in a bout, including a drug test. All fees involved with drug tests are the responsibility

of the contestant. Failure to submit to a test upon notification and/or failure to pay all applicable testing fees may result in disciplinary action being taken against the contestant’s license and the contestant being disallowed by the office to participate in the bout.

(7) Each contestant should report to the representative of the office in charge of dressing rooms at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled time of the first professional mixed martial arts contest. Failure to do so may result in the contestant being disallowed to participate in the bout.

(8) Contestants shall at all times abide by the statutes and rules of Missouri governing mixed martial arts.

(9) Contestants shall at all times observe the directions and decisions of all officials.

(10) Any professional mixed martial arts contestant who has competed as a professional boxer, professional kickboxer, professional wrestler, professional martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts contestant anywhere in the world will not be allowed to compete as a contestant in any professional mixed martial arts bout in Missouri until seven (7) days have elapsed from the date of the previous bout.

(11) Any person who has competed as a professional boxer, professional kickboxer, professional wrestler, professional martial arts or professional mixed martial arts contestant may not participate as an amateur contestant in a mixed martial arts event in the state of Missouri. The office may discipline the license of any contestant, promoter, manager, matchmaker, or second who violates, or assists or enables another to violate, the provisions of this section.

(12) The office may honor the suspension of a contestant by an agency that regulates professional mixed martial arts in another jurisdiction if the suspension is ordered for:

(A) Medical safety;

(B) A violation of a law or regulation governing professional mixed martial arts, professional boxing, professional kick-boxing, or professional full-contact karate that would constitute a violation of the laws or regulations of this state; or

(C) Any other conduct which discredits professional mixed martial arts, professional boxing, professional kick-boxing, or professional full-contact karate, as determined by the office.

(13) Any contestant who is currently identified as on suspension or revocation in any state or territory, or any other source selected by the office that maintains records of the suspension or revocation of professional mixed martial arts contestants, for any reason specified in section (12) of this rule, shall not participate in any professional mixed martial arts bout in Missouri until the suspension or revocation is lifted.

(14) The office may deny a contestant a license if their license to participate or compete as a professional boxer, wrestler, kickboxer, or full-contact karate participant has been denied, refused, or disciplined for a medical condition by another state, tribal athletic commission, territory, federal agency, or country. The office shall not issue a license to a contestant who has suffered a cerebral hemorrhage of any type.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*

20 CSR 2040-8.060 Inspectors

PURPOSE: This rule defines the duties and responsibilities of inspectors.

(1) The office shall assign inspectors as it deems necessary.

(2) In all contests, contestants, promoters, managers, matchmakers, judges, referees, timekeepers, seconds, announcers, and physicians at all times are under the direction of the office or its inspector(s).

(3) Employees and inspectors of the office cannot have any interest in or connection with, either directly or indirectly, any promotion of either professional boxing, professional wrestling, professional kickboxing, or professional full-contact karate, which includes mixed martial arts, in this state or have any interest, directly or indirectly, in any contest or contestant.

(4) The office and its inspectors shall supervise the sale of tickets, check the counting of receipts, and enforce all rules of the office.

(5) The ticket taker shall immediately deposit every admission ticket, pass, or complimentary ticket in a securely locked box. It may be



opened only in the presence of the office inspector who shall see that all tickets or passes are carefully counted and reported to the office, along with the price of admission charged for each class of tickets and exchanges and the gross receipts of all tickets and exchanges.

(6) Before the start of a contest, an inspector must check all contestants, promoters, managers, matchmakers, announcers, seconds, timekeepers, referees, and physicians for licenses issued by the office. Any of those persons without a current license issued by the office may not participate in the contest, until an application and fee has been received and the application is approved by the office.

(7) An inspector shall be present in the dressing rooms at the designated time for weighing in contestants and inspecting all equipment.

(8) An inspector shall examine and approve all handwrappings being placed on contestants. After approval, all handwraps shall be initialed by the inspector present.

(9) An inspector shall be present when each contestant is being gloved. After approval of the gloving, the tape around the strings shall be initialed by the inspector present.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*

20 CSR 2040-8.070 Judges

PURPOSE: This rule defines the duties and responsibilities for mixed martial arts judges.

(1) Each bout shall have three (3) judges, scored by each judge on a “ten (10) point must system.” The winner of the round is awarded ten (10) points and the loser of the round may be awarded nine (9) points or less, except for rare instances of an even round where each contestant may be awarded ten (10) points. Judges will judge mixed martial arts techniques, such as effective striking, effective grappling and control of the opponent, effective aggressiveness, and effective defense.

(2) The judges reach their decisions without conferring in any manner with any other official or person including the other judges of

the panel. Each judge makes out his/her scorecard in accordance with provisions of the rules governing mixed martial arts. At the end of the round, the score shall be totaled and signed or initialed by each judge. The referee working the bout shall collect the scorecards after each round and hand them to the inspector.

(3) Any erasures or changes on the scorecard shall be approved and initialed by the judge and inspector.

(4) Official scorecards from the office shall be used and retained in the custody of the inspector who shall transmit them to the office for safekeeping.

(5) The judges selected for each bout is at the sole discretion of the office and such determination is final. The promoter is responsible for all compensation for the judges. The office will set the amount of compensation to be provided to the judges.

(6) Before the office issues a judge’s license—

(A) The applicant shall certify that he/she has read and understands Missouri laws and rules. Upon such certification the applicant is deemed to have full knowledge and understanding of said laws and rules; and

(B) The office may require:

1. The applicant take and pass a written test covering mixed martial arts or, at the office’s discretion, professional full-contact karate; and

2. The applicant undergo a physical examination by a licensed physician to determine fitness to perform.

(7) The office may deny an application for licensure as a judge if the applicant fails to meet the qualifications specified herein or fails to pass the written examination if such an examination is offered by the office.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*

20 CSR 2040-8.080 Matchmakers

PURPOSE: This rule defines the duties and responsibilities of matchmakers for mixed martial arts bouts/contests.

(1) A licensed matchmaker is required to be present at all mixed martial arts contests. The promoter and matchmaker may not be the same person.

(2) The duties of the matchmaker include arranging the contest, matching the contestants as to weight and experience, and ensuring that all the required equipment is in place. While the contests are in progress, the matchmaker works with the inspector and is directly liable for the promoter he/she represents.

(3) All professional mixed martial arts bouts are approved or disapproved by the office. The office shall disapprove any bout deemed to be a mismatch based on the record, experience, skill, and condition of the contestants as known or represented to the office at or before the bout or which could expose one (1) or both contestants to serious injury. In addition, all professional mixed martial arts bout contestants shall meet the following criteria to be approved:

(A) Any contestant who has lost their last ten (10) bouts by decision, technical knockout, or knockout shall not be approved to compete in a professional mixed martial arts bout;

(B) Any contestant who has lost their last six (6) bouts by technical knockout or knockout shall not be approved to compete in a professional mixed martial arts bout;

(C) Any person who has competed anywhere as a contestant in five (5) or less professional mixed martial arts bouts may not compete against any contestant in a professional mixed martial arts contest that has participated in six (6) or more professional mixed martial arts bouts.

(4) The office reserves the right to examine any applicant for a matchmaker’s license and, if in its judgment, the applicant does not have sufficient knowledge of the sport or is otherwise not deemed responsible to act, the office may deny the license.

(5) No matchmaker in a specific contest shall act in the capacity of a licensed manager or licensed second for that specific contest either directly or indirectly.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*



20 CSR 2040-8.090 Physicians

PURPOSE: This rule defines the responsibilities of physicians for professional mixed martial arts bouts/contests.

(1) Any physician applying for licensure with the office, shall hold a current license to practice medicine pursuant to Chapter 334, RSMo and shall be actively licensed with the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts.

(2) A physician licensed pursuant to sections 317.001 to 317.021, RSMo shall be in charge of all physical examinations and be located immediately next to the fighting area during all professional mixed martial arts contests and, if called upon, ready to advise the referee.

(3) Within forty-eight (48) hours before a contest, mixed martial arts contestants shall be given a physical examination by a physician appointed and licensed by the office. Contestants shall disclose all medical history and conditions to the physician during the physical examination, including, whether the contestant is pregnant.

(4) The physical examination given to contestants includes, at a minimum, the following: weight, pulse, lungs, blood pressure, heart, and general physical condition.

(5) If, upon physical examination, a contestant is determined by the physician to be unfit for competition, the contestant shall not compete during that specific contest.

(6) The physician shall certify in writing on a form prescribed by the office those contestants who are in good physical condition to compete.

(7) The physician selected for each contest is at the sole discretion of the office and such determination shall be final. The promoter is responsible for all compensation for the physician, in an amount set by the office.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*

20 CSR 2040-8.100 Promoters

PURPOSE: This rule defines the duties and responsibilities of promoters for mixed martial arts bouts/contests.

(1) No person, association, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or any other form of business entity may promote any professional mixed martial arts contest without obtaining a license from the office. All promoters shall comply with the following requirements:

(A) Promoters are liable for all contests held and for meeting all deadlines for permit and license applications;

(B) Promoters shall supervise their agents, employees, and representatives and may be liable for the conduct of those employees and for any violation of Chapter 317, RSMo, or the rules of the office. The office will deem any violation by an agent, employee, or representative of a promoter as a violation of the promoter; and

(C) Licensees shall not allow another to use their promoter's license.

(2) Mandatory Insurance.

(A) Before the office issues a promoter's license, the promoter shall provide the office a surety bond in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or an irrevocable letter of credit in at least the same amount, from a lending institution approved to do business in the United States to guarantee payment of all state athletic taxes and fees to the state. The irrevocable letter of credit may only be released upon written approval by the office. An additional bond or irrevocable letter of credit may be required in the amount specified by the office where it may be reasonably expected that the five thousand dollar (\$5,000) bond or irrevocable letter of credit may not provide sufficient protection to the state. It is the duty of each promoter to maintain all required bonds in a current status.

(B) Before the office issues a permit license, the promoter shall provide the office proof of insurance coverage providing for payment to each contestant in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in the case of injury and ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in case of death. No contestant may waive the insurance coverage. Promoters shall be responsible for deductible payments, if any.

(3) Promoters ensure the maintenance of adequate public safety for all contests. Failure to ensure adequate public safety may result in cancellation of a contest, discipline against a promoter's license, and/or denial of future contest permits.

(4) Promoters shall provide all materials necessary to conduct the contest, such as a ring, stools, water buckets, bell, buzzer or whistle, timer, gloves, gauze, tape for handwraps, and adequate scales.

(5) Promoter shall publicly announce all substitutions for contestants advertised for contests as soon as the substitutions are known.

(6) For adequate public safety, the promoter is responsible for ensuring that no bottled drinks, unless poured into disposable paper cups by vendors at the time of sale, are permitted in any hall or facility where any contest is being held. If the contest is staged out-of-doors disposable paper cups also must be used on the site of the contest.

(7) Promoters and all licensed individuals and organizations associated with the contests shall be deemed to have knowledge of the applicable laws and rules of the state. The promoter sees that all rules promulgated by the office are strictly carried out.

(8) Any promoter that fails to pay a contestant a purse within forty-eight (48) hours may be subject to discipline by the office.

(9) Promoters shall arrange for an ambulance to be on-site at each event with emergency personnel and proper resuscitation equipment. No professional mixed martial arts event may begin without the presence of a licensed medical doctor or doctor of osteopathic medicine approved by the office at ringside as provided in 20 CSR 2040-8.090.

(10) A mixed martial arts promoter may provide and prominently display at least two (2) video screens during any professional mixed martial arts bout or contest which meet the approval of the office and which allow patrons to view the action inside the ring or fighting area.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*

20 CSR 2040-8.110 Referees

PURPOSE: This rule defines the duties and responsibilities of mixed martial arts referees.



(1) The referee is charged with the enforcement of all office rules that apply to the conduct of a mixed martial arts contest and the conduct of the contestants and contestant's second(s) while he/she is in the fighting area, including the ring. Before the office issues a referee's license—

(A) The applicant shall certify that he/she has read and understands Missouri laws and rules relating to the contest. Upon such certification the applicant is deemed to have full knowledge and understanding of said laws and rules; and

(B) The office may require:

1. The applicant take and pass a written test covering professional full-contact karate or, at the discretion of the office, other mixed martial arts; and

2. The applicant undergo a physical examination by a licensed physician to determine fitness to perform.

(2) The office shall have the right to deny a referee's license if, in its judgment, the applicant does not have sufficient knowledge or expertise in mixed martial arts or is otherwise deemed not responsible to act as referee.

(3) Referees shall not wear spectacles while refereeing.

(4) The referee selected for each bout is at the sole discretion of the office and such determination shall be final. The promoter is responsible for all compensation for the referee. The office will set the amount of compensation to be provided to the referee.

(5) Before starting each bout, the referee shall:

(A) Check with each judge and timekeeper to determine if each is ready;

(B) Ascertain the name of the chief second in each corner;

(C) Hold the chief second responsible for all conduct in his/her corner; and

(D) Verify that the physician is present at ringside.

(6) The referee shall inspect the gloves of the contestants in all bouts and make sure that no foreign substances detrimental to an opponent have been applied to the glove or bodies of the contestants. In the event the referee detects a problem with the gloves or other equipment, the problem shall be fixed to the satisfaction of the referee and inspector before the bout continues.

(7) The use of rubber or plastic gloves by the referee is not mandatory but will be left to the discretion of the referee.

(8) The referee may stop or terminate the bout for any of the following reasons:

(A) The referee determines that one (1) of the contestants is clearly less experienced and/or skilled than his/her opponent to the extent that allowing the bout to continue would pose a substantial risk of serious harm or injury to the less-experienced/skilled contestant;

(B) The referee decides that a contestant is not making his/her best effort;

(C) The referee determines that one (1) of the contestants is at substantial risk of serious harm or injury and despite such harm or injury cannot or will not submit;

(D) The referee determines that one (1) contestant has been knocked down. A contestant may be deemed to be knocked down if hanging helplessly on or over the fighting area enclosure or the contestant is physically unable to continue a match or to defend himself/herself; and

(E) For any other reason the referee deems necessary to protect the health, safety, or welfare of any contestant or any member of the public.

(9) If the contestants are in a hold while close to the edge of the fighting area, the referee may stop the bout and require the contestants to resume the action in the center of the fighting area in the same hold the contestants were engaged in at the time the bout was stopped.

(10) In the event of serious cuts or injuries, the referee shall summon the physician who evaluates the injury and may recommend the bout be stopped.

(11) The referee shall warn the second(s) of violations of any rules relating to seconds. If after such a warning the second(s) does not conduct himself/herself in accordance with the rules, the referee shall warn the second(s) that further violations may result in disqualification of his/her contestant and/or removal from the corner.

(12) The referee shall instruct judges to mark their scorecards accordingly when he/she has assessed a foul upon one (1) of the contestants. The referee shall deliver the official scorecards to the inspector. When picking up the scorecards from the judges, the referee shall see to it that the cards are completed and the contestants' and judges' names are recorded. If not, the judges may be instructed to complete scorecards correctly.

(13) The referee shall ensure that a bout moves to its proper completion. Delaying or avoiding tactics, or both, should be avoided

and the contestant who employs these tactics may be penalized in scoring or disqualified.

(14) In assessing fouls, the referee shall weigh the cause as well as the effect. If the referee has seen an unauthorized blow, strike, or attack delivered that has a damaging effect, the referee may permit a rest period to the victim not to exceed five (5) minutes. During the rest period, seconds may not assist or coach the injured contestant. The offending contestant shall go to a neutral corner and shall not be coached during the period.

(A) At the discretion of the referee, the referee must give an official warning or penalty to the offending contestant for the unauthorized blow, strike or attack, and then may give the command to continue after the end of the rest period if the contestant who received the unauthorized blow, strike or attack indicates ability to continue the bout. If the injured contestant refuses to continue after a five- (5-) minute rest period, the opponent may be named the winner.

(B) Additional unauthorized blows, strikes or attacks shall be penalized with deduction of points from the offending contestant or disqualification of the offending contestant.

(C) A mixed martial arts contestant cannot be named the winner of a bout as the result of receiving an unauthorized blow, strike, or attack low blow unless, in the opinion of the referee, the unauthorized blow, strike, or attack was delivered deliberately and of enough force to seriously incapacitate the injured boxer so that he/she could not continue the bout. Under this condition, the offender shall be disqualified immediately.

(15) The referee shall warn or penalize a contestant with a deduction of points who uses the ropes, cage, or any other unfair means to gain advantage.

(16) Whenever a contestant has been injured, knocked out, or technically knocked out, the referee shall immediately summon the attending physician to aid the stricken contestant. Except at the request of the physician, no manager(s) or second(s) may aid the stricken contestant.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*



20 CSR 2040-8.120 Seconds

PURPOSE: This rule defines the duties and responsibilities of seconds for a mixed martial arts contestant.

(1) The office shall not issue a license to any person to act as a second unless the applicant has reached the age of sixteen (16).

(2) Unless special permission is given by the office, there should be no more than three (3) seconds, one (1) of whom shall announce to the referee at the start of the bout that he/she is the chief second. Only one (1) second may be inside the fighting area between rounds, the other two (2) may be on the ring platform outside the fighting area. Licensed managers may be permitted to act as seconds without being licensed as a second. While acting as a second, a licensed manager shall observe all rules pertaining to the conduct of seconds.

(3) Seconds shall not enter the ring or fighting area until the timekeeper indicates the end of the round. Seconds shall leave at the sound of the timekeeper's whistle or buzzer before the beginning of each round. If the chief second or anyone for whom the second is responsible enters the ring or fighting area before the bell ending the round has sounded, his/her license may be subject to discipline and the contestant whom he/she is handling may be disqualified. While the round is in progress, the chief second may mount the apron of the ring or fighting area and attract the referee's attention indicating the retirement of the contestant. A second may not enter the ring or fighting area unless the referee stops the bout and shall not interfere with a count that is in progress.

(4) Seconds may not stand or lean on the ring or fighting area apron during the round.

(5) The second shall be equipped with:

- (A) A clear plastic bottle;
- (B) A bucket containing ice;
- (C) Adhesive tape;
- (D) Gauze;
- (E) Scissors;
- (F) Extra mouthpiece;
- (G) Cotton swabs;
- (H) Vaseline; and
- (I) Pressure plates.

(6) Only the following substances may be used to stop hemorrhaging:

- (A) A solution of adrenaline 1/1000;
- (B) Avintene; and
- (C) Thrombin.

(7) Before leaving the ring or fighting area at the start of each round, the seconds shall remove all obstructions, buckets, stools, bottles, towels and robes from the fighting area.

(8) Seconds violating any provisions of this rule may be immediately ejected from the ring or fighting area corner.

(9) The use of rubber or plastic gloves is not mandatory, but may be left to the discretion of the seconds for their use during the bout.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*

20 CSR 2040-8.130 Timekeepers

PURPOSE: This rule defines the duties and responsibilities of timekeepers.

(1) The timekeeper shall sound the bell at the beginning and end of each round. The timekeeper shall also indicate by pounding the ring or fighting area when there are ten (10) seconds remaining in the round to warn the referee of the end of the round. When there are ten (10) seconds remaining in the rest period between rounds the timekeeper shall sound a whistle or buzzer to warn the referee, contestants, and seconds of the beginning of the next round.

(2) It is the duty of the timekeeper to keep accurate time of all bouts. The timekeeper shall keep an exact record of time taken out at the request of a referee for an examination of a contestant by the physician, or the replacement of a glove or adjustment of any equipment during a round and the timekeeper shall report the exact time of a bout being stopped.

(3) The timekeeper shall be impartial. Any timekeeper who signals interested parties at any time during bouts may be subject to discipline.

(4) The timekeeper is responsible for the knockdown count. The timekeeper shall begin counting each second during the knockdown count. If the knockdown occurs within ten (10) seconds of the end of the round, the timekeeper will not ring the bell until the referee indicates the contestant is ready.

(5) The timekeeper selected for each bout is at the sole discretion of the office and such determination is final. The promoter is responsible for all compensation for the timekeeper. The office will set the amount of compensation to be provided to the timekeeper.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*

20 CSR 2040-8.140 Fouls

PURPOSE: This rule defines prohibited conduct for mixed martial arts bouts/contests and establishes related penalties and/or sanctions.

(1) Fouls. The following actions in a mixed martial arts bout or contest are defined as fouls:

(A) Holding or grabbing the fence—a fighter may put their hands on the fence and push off of it at anytime. A fighter may place their feet onto the cage and have their toes go through the fencing material at any time. When a fighter's fingers or toes go through the cage and grab hold of the fence and start to control either their body position or their opponent's body position it is an illegal action. A fighter may not grab the ropes or wrap their arms over the ring ropes at any time. If a fighter is caught holding the fence, cage, or ring rope material the referee may issue a one- (1-) point deduction from the offending fighters scorecard if the foul caused a substantial change in position such as the avoidance of a takedown. If a point deduction for holding the fence occurs, and because of the infraction, the fouling fighter ends up in a superior position due to the foul, the fighters should be re-started by the referee, standing in a neutral position;

(B) Holding opponent's shorts or gloves—a fighter may not control their opponent's movement by holding onto their opponent's shorts or gloves. A fighter may hold onto or grab their opponent's hand as long as they are not controlling the hand only by using the material of the glove. It is legal to hold onto your own gloves or shorts;

(C) Butting with the head—any use of the head as a striking instrument whether head to head, head to body, or otherwise is illegal;

(D) Eye gouging of any kind—eye gouging by means of fingers, chin, or elbow is illegal.



Legal strikes or punches that contact the fighter's eye socket are not eye gouging and are legal attacks;

(E) Biting or spitting at an opponent—biting in any form is illegal. A fighter should recognize that a referee may not be able to physically observe some actions, and make the referee aware if they are being bitten during an exhibition of unarmed combat;

(F) Hair pulling—pulling of the hair or holding the hair to control an opponent in any fashion is an illegal action;

(G) Fish hooking—any attempt by a fighter to use their fingers in a manner that attacks their opponent's mouth, nose, or ears, stretching the skin to that area, placing of fingers into the mouth of your opponent and pulling your hands in opposing directions while holding onto the skin of your opponent will be considered "fish hooking";

(H) Groin attacks of any kind—any attack to the groin area including, striking, grabbing, pinching, or twisting is illegal;

(I) Intentionally placing a finger into any orifice, or into any cut or laceration of your opponent—a fighter may not place their fingers into an open laceration in an attempt to enlarge the cut or into an opponent's, nose, ears, mouth, or any body cavity;

(J) Downward pointing of elbow strikes—a ceiling to floor or twelve to six (12–6) elbow strikes is prohibited.

(K) Small joint manipulation—fingers and toes are small joints. Wrists, ankles, knees, shoulders, and elbows are all large joints. In order to hold small joints, at least two (2) or more digits must be held;

(L) Strikes to the spine or the back of the head—strikes behind the crown of the head and above the ears within the Mohawk area and below the top of the ear are not permissible and within the nape of the neck area are not permissible;

(M) No intentional direct strikes to the kidney including heel kicks to the kidney;

(N) Throat strikes of any kind, including, without limitation, grabbing the trachea—no directed throat strikes, including, but not limited to, a fighter pulling his opponents head in a way to open the neck area for a striking attack or gouging their fingers or thumb into their opponent's neck or trachea in an attempt to submit their opponent are not allowed;

(O) Clawing, pinching, twisting the flesh, or grabbing the clavicle—any attack that targets the fighter's skin by clawing at the skin or attempting to pull or twist the skin to apply pain is illegal. Any manipulation of the clavicle is a foul;

(P) Kneeing and/or kicking the head of a grounded opponent—a grounded fighter is defined as: any part of the body, other than

the soles of the feet, touching the fighting area floor. Also to be grounded the palm of one (1) hand must be down or posting of the fingers to the fighting area floor. A single knee or arm makes a fighter grounded without having to have any other body part in touch with the fighting area floor. At this time, kicks or knees to the head will not be allowed;

(Q) Stomping of a grounded fighter—stomping is considered any type of striking action with the feet where the fighter lifts their leg up bending their leg at the knee and initiating a striking action with the bottom of their foot or heel. Note: Axe kicks are not stomps. Standing foot stops are legal. As such, this foul does not include stomping the feet of a standing fighter;

(R) The use of abusive language in the fighting area;

(S) Any unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to opponent;

(T) Attacking an opponent on or during the break—a fighter shall not engage their opponent in any fashion during a time-out or break of action in competition;

(U) Attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee;

(V) Timidity (avoiding contact, or consistently dropping the mouthpiece, or faking an injury)—timidity is any fighter who purposefully avoids contact with his opponent, or runs away from the action of the fight. Timidity can also be called by the referee for any attempt by a fighter to receive time by falsely claiming a foul, injury, or purposely dropping or spitting out their mouthpiece or other action designed to stall the fight;

(W) Interference from a mixed martial artists seconds—interference is any action or activity aimed at disrupting the fight or causing an unfair advantage to be given to one (1) combatant. Corners are not allowed to distract the referee or influence the actions of the referee in any fashion;

(X) Throwing an opponent out of the ring or caged area;

(Y) Flagrant disregard of the referee's instructions—a fighter must follow the instructions of the referee at all times. Any deviation or non-compliance may result in the fighter's disqualification;

(Z) Spiking the opponent to the canvas onto the head or neck (pile-driving)—a pile driver is any throw where you control your opponent's body placing his feet straight up in the air with his head straight down and then forcibly drive your opponents head into the canvas or flooring material. It should be noted, when a fighter is placed into a submission hold by their opponent, if that fighter is capable of elevating their opponent they

may bring that opponent down in any fashion they desire because they are not in control of their opponents body. The fighter who is attempting the submission can either adjust their position or let go of their hold before being slammed to the canvas;

(AA) Attacking an opponent after the bell has sounded the end of the round;

(BB) The end of the round shall occur when the bell or horn sounds ending the round; and

(CC) A fighter may not be saved by the bell or horn in any round, including the last round.

(2) Injuries Sustained by Fouls.

(A) Intentional Fouls.

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

2. If an intentional foul causes an injury and the bout is allowed to continue, the referee may notify the authorities and deduct two (2) points from the contestant who caused the foul. Point deductions for intentional fouls are mandatory.

3. If an intentional foul causes an injury and the injury results in the bout being stopped in a later round, the injured contestant shall win by technical decision if he/she is ahead on the scorecards or the bout shall result in a technical draw if the injured contestant is behind or even on the scorecards.

4. If a contestant injures himself/herself while attempting to intentionally foul his/her opponent, the referee shall not take any action in his/her favor, and this injury shall be the same as one produced by a fair blow.

5. If the referee feels that a contestant has conducted himself/herself in an unsportsmanlike manner he/she may stop the bout and disqualify the contestant; and

(B) Accidental Fouls.

1. If an accidental foul causes an injury severe enough for the referee to stop the bout immediately, the bout is a no contest if stopped before half of the scheduled rounds have been completed.

2. If an accidental foul causes an injury severe enough for the referee to stop the bout immediately after half of the scheduled rounds have been completed, the bout may result in a technical decision awarded to the contestant who is ahead on the scorecards at the time the bout is stopped. A partial or incomplete round is scored. If no action has occurred, the round is scored as an even round. This is at the discretion of the judges.

3. A contestant who is hit with an accidental low blow must continue after a reasonable amount of time, but no more than five



(5) minutes, or he/she may lose the bout by technical knockout.

(3) Except as provided herein, any contestant guilty of foul tactics in a round shall be given an immediate warning or points may be deducted from the contestant's total score, or both, as determined by the referee. The use of foul tactics may also result in the disqualification of the contestant.

(4) A contestant who intentionally refuses to engage an opponent for a prolonged period of time may receive an immediate warning from the referee. If the contestant continues these tactics after a warning, a point(s) may be deducted by the referee.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*

20 CSR 2040-8.150 Weight Classes

PURPOSE: This rule establishes weight classes for professional mixed martial arts bouts.

(1) The following weights and classes are hereby established for mixed martial arts bouts/contests:

Weight Class	LBS.
Flyweights	125 lbs. & below
Bantamweight	125.1 to 135 lbs.
Featherweight	135.1 to 145 lbs.
Lightweight	145.1 to 155 lbs.
Welterweight	155.1 to 170 lbs.
Middleweight	170.1 to 185 lbs.
Light Heavyweight	185.1 to 205 lbs.
Heavyweight	205.1 to 265 lbs.
Super Heavyweight	265.1 lbs. & above

(2) Contestants may only fight contestants in their own weight category unless permission is granted by the office.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*

20 CSR 2040-8.160 Attire and Equipment

PURPOSE: This rule establishes minimum

guidelines for the hygiene, attire, and equipment authorized for professional mixed martial arts contestants.

(1) Physical Appearance. All contestants in a professional mixed martial arts bout or contest shall present a clean and tidy appearance and shall comply with the following:

(A) Fingernails and toenails shall be sufficiently trimmed to avoid the risk of cutting or scratching an opponent;

(B) Hair shall be trimmed or tied back so that the hair does not interfere with the vision of the contestant or cover the contestant's eyes. The office's representative determines whether a contestant's head and facial hair presents any safety hazard to the contestant or his/her opponent or would interfere with the supervision and conduct of the bout; and

(C) No substance other than Vaseline and/or a similar petroleum based product may be allowed on the face, arms, or any part of the body. Use of excessive Vaseline and/or similar petroleum based products is prohibited.

(2) Attire and Equipment. All contestants shall comply with the following:

(A) Contestants shall wear athletic shorts that do not extend below the knee, such as, mixed martial arts shorts, grappling/fighting shorts, boxing shorts or kickboxing shorts, as specified in the bout agreement;

(B) No shirts or Gis may be worn by a contestant during a bout or contest, provided that female contestants shall wear an appropriate athletic garment that covers the breasts;

(C) Knee pads, elbow pads, breast protectors, footwear, shoes, or shin guards shall not be allowed;

(D) All contestants shall wear an individually fitted mouthpiece;

(E) Male contestants shall wear a foul-proof groin protector. Female contestants may wear a pelvic protector at the option of the contestant;

(F) Jewelry and/or piercing accessories are prohibited; and

(G) No attire or equipment may be worn that contains any metal substance.

(3) Handwraps. All handwraps shall be in compliance with the following:

(A) The bandages/handwraps shall consist of soft gauze type cloth that is no more than twenty (20) yards in length and two inches (2") in width and held in place by no more than ten feet (10') of surgeon's tape provided that the tape shall be no more than one inch (1") in width for each hand;

(B) The surgeon's 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) Bandages shall be evenly distributed across the hand;

(D) Bandages and tape shall be placed on the contestant's hand in the dressing room prior to the bout and in the presence of the inspector and both contestants. Either contestant may waive the privilege of witnessing the bandaging of the opponent's hands; and

(E) The inspector shall approve all bandages and taping prior to gloves being placed on any contestant. Under no circumstances are gloves to be placed on the hands of a contestant before approval by the inspector.

(4) Gloves.

(A) Mixed martial arts contestants shall wear gloves that are appropriate in weight for the fighter and which shall be no less than four ounces (4 oz.) and no more than ten ounces (10 oz.) in weight. Contestants competing against each other in the same bout shall wear the same sized gloves.

1. Gloves shall be whole, clean, and in good condition. Broken gloves are prohibited during any bout or contest;

2. Gloves that are padded in the palm or fingertip area are prohibited; and

3. All gloves will be approved by the inspector prior to each bout. The inspector or a designee of the office may inspect gloves at any time.

(B) All gloves shall be furnished by the promoter and shall be new or in good condition. Promoters must have extra sets of gloves in each size used during the contest, to be used in case gloves are broken or in any way damaged during the course of a bout.

(5) The inspector may prohibit a contestant from participating in a bout or contest if the contestant has or is wearing any equipment, apparel, hair, or product that presents a safety hazard, or that may interfere with the supervision or conduct of the event. The contestant may not compete in the bout unless the circumstances creating the hazard or potential interference are corrected to the satisfaction of the office's representative.

(6) All equipment worn or used by a mixed martial arts contestant shall be approved by the inspector.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*



**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*

20 CSR 2040-8.170 Weigh-Ins

PURPOSE: This rule establishes mandatory guidelines and criteria for weighing professional mixed martial arts contestants prior to a bout or contest.

(1) The weigh-in shall be conducted by the office within forty-eight (48) hours before the contest. Weigh-ins may be conducted more than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the contest with special permission from the office.

(2) Each contestant for mixed martial arts will be weighed in the presence of his/her opponent, a representative of the office, and/or an official representing the promoter, on scales approved by the office at any place designated by the office. Weigh-ins are open to the public. If a contestant cannot be present at the designated time set by the office, a contestant waives his/her rights under this section.

(A) Contestants shall have all weights stripped from his/her body before he/she is weighed in. Male contestants may wear shorts. Female contestants may wear shorts and a sports bra.

(B) The office may require contestants to be weighed more than once for any cause deemed sufficient by the office.

(3) A contestant who fails to make the weight for their designated weight class shall be given up to two (2) hours to make required weight. Any contestant who fails to make the weight shall be disqualified.

(4) The promoter shall have scales available for use by the office. The office may, in its discretion, use the scales furnished by the promoter or use its own scales. All scales furnished by the promoter shall be thoroughly tested and approved by the inspector prior to being used in connection with any contest.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*

20 CSR 2040-8.180 Rules for Bouts/Contests

PURPOSE: This rule establishes general

rules for conducting mixed martial arts bouts/contests.

(1) The promoter shall have scales available for use by the office. The office may use the scales furnished by the promoter or use its own scales. All scales furnished by the promoter shall be thoroughly tested and approved by the inspector prior to being used in connection with any contest.

(2) The referee has general supervision of the bout. The referee enforces the rules, promotes safety of the contestants, and ensures fair play. Only the inspector may overrule the referee if the referee is not enforcing the rules. Before starting a bout the referee shall ascertain from each contestant the name of his/her chief second who shall be held responsible for the conduct of the assistant seconds during the progress of the bout. The referee shall call contestants together before each bout for final instructions, at which time each contestant shall be accompanied by the chief second only.

(3) The three (3) judges will be stationed at the sides immediately adjacent to the fighting area, each at a separate side. All bouts are scored on a ten- (10-) point must system. The judges shall turn scorecards over to the referee after each round. The referee shall then hand the scorecards to the inspector. A final decision will be made before the judges may leave the area. Any erasures or changes on the card shall be approved and initialed by the judge and inspector.

(4) The promoter shall provide an adequate room for the attending physician to conduct physical examinations. Whenever a contestant, because of illness or injuries, is unable to take part in a contracted bout, the contestant or the manager shall immediately report the fact to the inspector. The contestant shall then submit to an examination by a physician designated by the office.

(5) No professional mixed martial arts bout shall be advertised or promoted as a championship bout unless it has the specific approval of the office.

(6) Rounds.

(A) Non-Championship Bouts. Each non-championship bout shall be no less than three (3) rounds of five (5) minutes in length, with a one (1) minute rest period between rounds.

(B) Championship Bouts. Each championship contest shall be no more than five (5) rounds of five (5) minutes in length, with a one (1) minute rest period between rounds.

(C) In no event may the rest period between any round in any bout be less than one (1) minute.

(7) Contestants who have been knocked out shall be kept lying down until they have recovered. When a contestant is knocked out, no one may touch him/her except the referee who may remove his/her mouthpiece, until the ringside physician enters the ring and personally attends to the contestant and issues necessary instructions to the contestant's second(s).

(8) Submissions. A contestant may submit to an opponent and end a bout by tapping the mat consecutively more than three (3) times. If the contestant is unable to tap the mat, the contestant may yell "quit" to the referee. Upon submission, the referee shall terminate the bout and declare the non-submitting contestant as the winner of the bout by submission.

(9) Injuries.

(A) The referee, at his/her discretion, may request that the attending physician examine a contestant during the bout. Should the examination occur during the course of a round, the clock will be stopped until the examination is completed. The physician may order the referee to stop the bout. The referee will then render the appropriate decision.

(B) In the event of serious cuts or injuries, the referee shall summon the physician who will decide if the bout may be stopped.

(10) If a contestant fails or refuses to resume fighting when the bell sounds starting the next round, the referee may award a technical knockout to his/her opponent as of the last completed round.

(11) All licensed individuals and organizations associated with the contests are deemed to have knowledge of the applicable laws and rules of the state. Any questions or interpretations shall be referred to the office. If an immediate decision is required, it shall be referred to the inspector present. In the event a situation occurs at the contest and there are no regulations in place to cover the situation, the inspector of the event shall make a decision on the matter. The inspector's ruling is final. The authority of the office and the inspectors shall be respected. No one shall interfere with the inspectors' duties, use foul language towards, or make threats of physical harm toward the inspectors.

(12) If amateur bouts and professional mixed martial arts bouts are scheduled during the



same contest or event, the professional mixed martial arts bouts shall only be held after the completion of all amateur bouts.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*

20 CSR 2040-8.190 Facility and Equipment Requirements

PURPOSE: This rule defines the minimum requirements for facilities and equipment used for mixed martial arts bouts/contests.

(1) Requirements. The fighting area shall be constructed in a manner that does not pose a substantial risk to the safety or health of any person. The fighting area shall be no smaller than eighteen by eighteen feet (18' × 18') and no larger than thirty-two by thirty-two feet (32' × 32') and shall meet the following requirements:

(A) Floors. The floor of the fighting area must have a canvas covering that shall be padded with at least a one inch (1")-layer of foam padding extending over the edge of the platform of the fighting area. No vinyl or other plastic rubberized covering is permitted. Materials that may gather in lumps or ridges during the bout or contest may not be used. The platform of the fighting area canvas shall be no more than four feet (4') above the floor of the building and shall have suitable steps or ramps for use by officials and the contestants;

(B) Posts. All posts in or around the fighting area shall be made of metal not more than six inches (6") in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a minimum height of fifty-eight inches (58") above the fighting area floor and shall be properly padded in a manner approved by the office;

(C) Fencing. The fighting area shall be enclosed. The enclosure shall:

1. Be made of materials that will not allow a contestant to easily fall out of the space or break through it onto the floor or spectators, such as vinyl-coated chain link fencing;

2. Provide two (2) separate entries onto the fighting area canvas that are sufficient to allow easy access to the fighting area by officials and emergency personnel;

3. Not obstruct or limit the supervision and regulation of the bout by the officials or office representatives; and

4. Not inhibit the official judging of the bout in any manner;

(D) All metal parts of the enclosure and fighting area shall be covered and padded in a manner approved by the office and shall not be abrasive to the contestants;

(E) Tables immediately surrounding the fighting area shall be no higher than the fighting area platform level; and

(F) The fighting area will be approved by the inspector, including, all padding or enclosures. Fighting areas that are not approved by the inspector may not be used for any professional mixed martial arts bout or contest.

(2) The gong, bell, buzzer, or horn which is used must be sufficiently loud so that the officials and contestants can hear it clearly. The ten- (10-) second warning may be by whistle or buzzer.

(3) Spectator seats shall not be closer than eight feet (8') from the outside edge of the apron of the fighting area platform. A physical barrier shall be placed designating eight feet (8') from the fighting area platform. The space immediately within eight feet (8') of the fighting area shall be under the jurisdiction of the office for the use of designated working officials, contestants, their seconds, judges, referees, physicians, announcer, and medical representatives. Promoters are responsible for seeing that the working area is controlled and free of nonessential individuals. The promoter is also responsible for ensuring that no person is smoking within eight feet (8') of the fighting area.

(4) The promoter may provide and prominently display at least two (2) video screens during any professional mixed martial arts bout or contest which meet the approval of the office and which allow patrons to view the action inside the ring or fighting area.

AUTHORITY: sections 317.001 and 317.006, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed April 3, 2007, effective Oct. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed March 20, 2018, effective Sept. 30, 2018.*

**Original authority: 317.001, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007 and 317.006, RSMo 1983, amended 1996, 2007.*