

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2356

2005 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2356

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2356

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs

Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 10, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		4568-6221
1		x	0-2288
Committee Clerk Signature			

Chairman Krebsbach opens hearing on 2356

Regarding mixed fighting styles

Al Jaeger - Secretary of State - He reviewed the bill, and then provided an amendment.

He said he oversees professional boxing events not amateur. If we have events taking place we must have rules. He gave out general provisions for rules. See attachment and amendment.

This bill sets up a separate advisory committee for mixed martial arts. The boxing advisory board doesn't feel they can do martial arts. If we're going to have mixed fighting then we have to regulate it.

Senator Syverson - Pointed out on the general provisions that was handed out there are no rules that might be prohibited.

Bill/Resolution Number **SB 2356**

Jaeger - Under boxing, they have a rules book, everything is under administrative rules.

(Side B, tape 1, meter #0)

Jaeger - Continues on rules in the book. Said many people train for this and are in really good shape.

Senator Brown- Questions the language, injure, stun, choke.

Jaeger - Said that is why he needs this defined in state law what is prohibited. This bill will ban it completely or pass with rules. If this passes he would have to do rules and it would probably take nine months to one year to come up with. He said do not kill the bill because you don't like the activity. You need to give law enforcement people the basis to stop the activity.

Senator Krebsbach - Asked if there are fights going on now unregulated.

Jaeger - Stated yes, they say they are amateur events.

Senator Lee - She was told before that the referees would stop illegal holds.

Jaeger - Yes, the sport needs to be regulated.

Senator Lee - Asked what neighboring states are doing.

Jaeger - Said that Minnesota and South Dakota do not having boxing commissions. He said we either need to outlaw it or do rules.

Senator Nelson - Asked if he authority goes on the reservation.

Jaeger - No, he has a letter for them to sign inviting him in and they would abide by ND rules.

Senator Krebsbach - Asked if we do not pass this bill, will fighting continue on with out rules.

Senator Brown - Asked if we stop it do we just overstrike line 15 or put in a line that states it is prohibited.

Jaeger- Said we need to make it clear it is prohibited. He then explained it both ways.

Bill/Resolution Number **SB 2356**

John Olson - Lobbyist representing ND Peace Officers Association - He agrees to all of what **Jaeger** said. Law enforcement needs this bill to regulate. They believe this is a very good bill.

Chris Nelson - Dakota Fighting Championship-Martial Arts - Very commonly being regulated in other states. If there is no admission charged they can do what ever they want. Regulating it is the best way to control it. Their events are well received by businesses and a lot of people attend. He said the chokes and holds are the safest part of the sport because that is when the person gives up. It is the only sport that people do submit. They submit and they are done. It is a very popular sport.

Senator Syverson - Asked him if there is weight categories.

Nelson - Said they use a sanction body that nachos up weight classes. They maintain rules. He showed a program for the last show.

Senator Syverson - Asked if they had a lot of people show up .

Nelson - Replied yes, about 2000.

Senator Syverson - Asked if they would have met the criteria Senator Jaeger laid out.

Nelson - Said yes, they have many medical personnel in attendance.

Senator Syverson - Asked how long he had been in the sport.

Nelson - At least 10 years. He gave examples of others who participate, may wrestlers and Olympic athletes.

Senator Krebsbach - Asked if this bill were to pass would all activity cease.

Nelson - It would ban it until there are rules and regulations. It puts the control of it under the athletic commission where it should be. States that have banned it cant', there are ways around it, they will call it something else.

Page 4

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs

Bill/Resolution Number **SB 2356**

Senator Lee - Asked him to define martial arts.

Nelson - Explained the differences in the different types of fighting.

(meter #2260)

Closed the hearing on 2356.

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2356

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs

Conference Committee
Hearing Date February 11, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		3875-4406
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Diane Davis</i>			

Chairman Krebsbach opens committee work on 2356

Regarding mixed fighting styles

(meter # 3875)

Dirk Wilke - Intern- Explained the language of the amendment and why it was written the way it was. He pointed out that when you start mentioning private or public that is when you get in trouble.

Senator Nelson - moved for adoption of the amendment

Senator Syverson - seconded

Senator Lee - Do pass as amended

Senator Nelson - seconded

Senator Syverson will carry

(meter #4406)

FISCAL NOTE
 Requested by Legislative Council
 03/16/2005

Amendment to: Engrossed
 SB 2356

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

2. **Narrative:** *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

The revenues and expenditures are covered under the continuing appropriation authorized in N.D.C.C. 53-01-09, which also covers the expenses of the Athletic (boxing) Advisory Board. The balance in the account ranges from a few hundred dollars to \$5,000. By law it is to cover the expenses of the Boxing Advisory Board and in this case would cover the expenses of the Mixed Fighting style advisory board.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

See narrative.

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

See narrative.

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

See narrative.

Name:	Al Jaeger	Agency:	Secretary of State
Phone Number:	328-2900	Date Prepared:	03/17/2005

FISCAL NOTE
 Requested by Legislative Council
 01/24/2005

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2356

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

2. **Narrative:** *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

The revenues and expenditures are covered under the continuing appropriation authorized in N.D.C.C. 53-01-09, which also covers the expenses of the Athletic (boxing) Advisory Board.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

See narrative.

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

See narrative.

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

See narrative.

Name:	Al Jaeger	Agency:	Secretary of State
Phone Number:	328-2900	Date Prepared:	01/25/2005

#2356
Sec. A. Jaeger

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2356

Page 1, line 3, after "53-01-07," insert "53-01-09,"

Page 2, after line 31, insert:

"SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Section 53-01-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

53-01-09. Fees paid into special fund - Continuing appropriation. All fees collected by the secretary of state pursuant to this chapter must be deposited in a special fund maintained in the state treasury. All money deposited in the fund is appropriated as a continuing appropriation to the secretary of state for administering this chapter and for the compensation and expenses of members of the athletic advisory board and the mixed fighting style advisory board."

Renumber accordingly

#2356
J. A. Jagan

72-02.2-01.1-03. General provisions. These rules govern all boxing matches, exhibitions, or sparring, unless another set of rules is specifically approved in writing for a particular match, exhibition, or sparring as an exception to normal practice by the commissioner. Kickboxing matches will be governed by rules generally recognized and accepted in the kickboxing industry and submitted to the commissioner.

The board and the commissioner have sole direction, management, control, and jurisdiction over all professional boxing or sparring matches to be conducted

or held within the state of North Dakota and over all licenses to any and all persons who participate in boxing or sparring.

The commissioner will not approve the following type of boxing matches:

1. Matches containing both amateur and professional contests on the same card.
2. Matches in which more than two contestants appear in the ring at the same time.
3. Matches in which members of the opposite sex are matched against each other.
4. Any barroom type brawls, "so you think you're tough" type contests, roughneck type matches, or matches of a similar character or nature if any contestant receives remuneration directly or indirectly whether or not a contestant has prior organized amateur or professional training.
5. Matches in which there are no gloves used by the contestants.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2356

Page 1, line 2, remove “; and to amend and reenact sections”

Page 1, remove line 3

Page 1, line 4, remove “regulation of mixed fighting style competitions”

Page 1, line 16, remove “unless and until a mixed”

Page 1, remove line 17

Page 1, line 18, remove “have been adopted by the secretary of state under this chapter”

Page 1, remove lines 19 through 24

Page 2, remove lines 1 through 31

Page 3, remove lines 1 through 7

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2/11/05
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2356

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass on amendments

Motion Made By Senator Nelson Seconded By Senator Syverson

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Karen K. Krebsbach, Chairman	X		Carolyn Nelson	X	
Richard L. Brown, Vice Chairman	X				
Judy Lee	X				
John O. Syverson	X				

Total (Yes) 5 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2/11/05
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2356**

Senate **Government and Veterans Affairs** Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass as amended

Motion Made By Senator Lee Seconded By Senator Nelson

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Karen K. Krebsbach, Chairman	K		Carolyn Nelson	X	
Richard L. Brown, Vice Chairman	K				
Judy Lee	K				
John O. Syverson	X				

Total (Yes) 5 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Syverson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2356: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Krebsbach, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2356 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 2, remove "; and to amend and reenact sections"

Page 1, remove line 3

Page 1, line 4, remove "regulation of mixed fighting style competitions"

Page 1, remove the underscore under lines 8 through 15

Page 1, line 16, remove the underscore under "hold, or participate in any mixed fighting style competition in this state" and replace "unless and until a mixed" with a period

Page 1, remove lines 17 through 24

Page 2, remove lines 1 through 31

Page 3, remove lines 1 through 7

Renumber accordingly

2005 HOUSE JUDICIARY

SB 2356

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2356

House Judiciary Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 3/14/05

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		47.9-end
1		xx	0-end
2	xx		0-10.9
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Dawn Penrose</i>			

Minutes: 12 members present, 2 members absent (Reps. Maragos & Charging).

Chairman DeKrey: We will open the hearing on SB 2356.

Al Jaeger, Secretary of State: Explained the bill (see written testimony). These rules were put in to prevent what was happening at that time, where there were events being held, that were almost like "to the death" type events. Ultimate fighting comes under a variety of different names. This area has developed into something else. It's become more legitimate, if I might use that term. So what we have now, is we have events taking place in ND, that really do not fall under this kind of definition. But they are taking place, and they are taking place without proper regulation. I should mention that under ND law, the Secretary of State is the Athletic Commissioner and the Boxing Commissioner. In boxing, we have very specific rules that are for the health and safety of the boxers and the participants. That also covers kickboxing and only for professional. It does not cover the amateur boxing or golden gloves. We do have rules in place. But now we have a situation where this mixed fighting style has risen above street fighting.

Again, a terminology, and has become where there are individuals that regard it as a sport and they would like to pursue it. Our position is pretty well laid out in the testimony, in that because it has become a gray area, with the mixed fighting styles or the events that are taking place out there now, we want to have rules. The way the bill was originally introduced, it said it was prohibited unless there were rules. The Senate side chose to eliminate that part and prohibit it completely. Our position is that, it either be prohibited or it be allowed with rules. The bill you have in front of you, just plain prohibits it. I think that in a moment, there will be an amendment offered that would restore essentially the bill to what it was when it was introduced, with one minor adjustment, having to do with the funding part of it, which of course, would be rather crucial. Boxing is authorized under a continuing appropriation, and the law makes it clear that it has to be self-supporting. So, we would want the same thing if it were adopted, where it would be regulated with rules that the revenues and fees would come into that continuing appropriation, so that we could cover those particular expenses. What I've attached, because we anticipate the question that's going to come up, what if you do establish rules. I think there was some characterization on the Senate side, that mixed fighting styles includes a lot of gruesome things, like gouging of eyes, and all kinds of unkind things. Well, if we were to establish rules, those rules would certainly not allow that kind of activity, and so what I've done, I've given you a summary of administrative rules that are currently being considered by the State of California. California has had this in place, and this is an amendment to what they've had previously. If you go through the summary, and actually if you would like to see the rules verbatim, I have them; but things like eye gouging and all of the different things are prohibited activity. So the people who see this as a multi-discipline sport and train for it, we know that there are people in ND that

like it and they want it to be regulated. I know at least one of the promoters has taken the position that it either be eliminated completely or that there be rules, because they don't like what is going on at the present time, and that has to do with events that are being held and, whether they are being held with proper safety in mind, like the boxing, we insist that there's an ambulance there, a doctor there, a number of things we require in boxing. That's really where they would like to have it go. Our position is either pass it the way it is, or pass it and give me the authority to do the rules and that's essentially the purpose of the amendments.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you.

Sen. Tim Flakoll: We have three options, I believe, before us. We can leave it as it is, we can go back to how it was originally introduced on the Senate side with some modification improvements, or we can adhere to the changes that were made to ban it. The problem with banning it, as it came over to you, as I believe, it will send it underground to Quonsets and other places across the state. I think it's best if we look at a scenario where under the original bill, we try to make some improvements to that. I really don't have a whole lot of things I want to say, but I did resist the amendments over there, but part of it was that it was inaccurately portrayed, I believe. Sometimes they show things that are going on in Europe or England, and with all due respect, I think that is analogous to comparing our system of government here in ND, or in Washington, to the British Parliament. They just aren't the same at all. I brought this bill on behalf of Mr. Jaeger, and I stand in support of this bill as originally introduced with some improvements. That's kind of the extent of what I think, because I think it's a situation where it will happen, it's just a matter of do we want to regulate it or not.

Representative Delmore: Then you would look at doing something in administrative rules to set up a statewide set of rules to do it. Where would you go with the rulemaking that's been mentioned.

Sen. Tim Flakoll: I think that would be an Al Jaeger kind of question. I was kind of the conduit on this bill to be honest, when the bill deadline came in, but I think they could do it much like they could with the boxing, where they can set up some rules. I think there needs to be some place.

Representative Delmore: Do you have the amendments with you.

Chairman DeKrey: Representative Boehning has them.

Sen. Tim Flakoll: The answer would be no.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you.

Rep. Tom Brusegaard: Support. I come today as behalf of a constituent who enjoys the sport, wants to see the sport safe for ND to watch and available for ND to watch, and I think the way to do that is to give our Secretary of State the ability to regulate it, with all that entails, regarding fees, and the continuing appropriation that he needs. I do enjoy the occasional boxing match. I haven't attended one of these, but I would imagine the two sports are rather similar in that they both include violence, there is no doubt. But the violence is between two willing participants who want to find out who is tougher, who is stronger, who's smarter in the way they go about their sport. I would appreciate amendments that improve the original Senate bill, but ones that obviously do not ban the sport entirely.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you.

Representative Koppelman: As you know, I signed on to this bill and others on behalf of a constituent that had the same viewpoint as Rep. Brusegaard. I'm curious, are there standards for this kind of sport, you talked about the CA example of what they're doing. Are there nationwide standards or is each state kind of doing their own thing.

Al Jaeger: To answer your question, there are several states that have banned it completely. There are also some national organizations that have said that they sanction these events. What we have found is that there are several of them, and if you talk to one, they tell you the other one is so-so and you can talk to this one, and they'll say so-so about the other one. So there is competition between them and so you really don't know who to look for. We do know that there have been rules that have been established in Nevada, and I think if you actually look at that first page of the California rules, in the first summary I think it mentions several other states and it also mentions how Nevada, even based their rules on California. I would not look at the organization, I would look at somebody like California, in other words we would set up the same. Just to carry it a little further, while Congress isn't interested in this, Congress right now, for the last several years has been attempting to pass a bill that would regulate boxing a little bit more on a uniform basis across the nation, and we are following that, because it might impact how we might do some things. I would like to address Representative Delmore's question. When the bill was introduced, it made it very specific that I would do the rules, and that we would take care of that part. The other thing that the bill did, is while Rep. Brusegaard said that they're similar, they're similar in that there is a contest and some beating, but under the law, I can appoint a boxing advisory commission. Those particular individuals are really not interested in being involved in mixed martial arts. So the bill as it was introduced, and the amendments that you

will see shortly, because they've been run by me, will create or allow me to create an advisory committee that is specific to this activity. So that my boxing people, who are boxers, will help with the boxing; then I would appoint another one to help with the regulation of this. When we do a boxing event, for instance, there's no way that I or my staff can handle it. I have two people on staff that generally can go out on boxing. I try to get to most of them; but we also need other individuals, individuals that go into where the boxers get their hands wrapped, to see to the safety, and so I usually have a minimum of 4 or 5 other people who are a member of the advisory board assisting. I would see something similar happening in this particular case as well.

Representative Delmore: Thank you for that information. Are there examples of bad injuries that come out of this type of competition.

Al Jaeger: I would suspect that there are, just like in boxing, you have injuries that do occur. I think the concern right now, is that we do have the activity going on. So that's why it either has to be banned completely, or it has to be regulated. The day that the Senate committee heard this, was a day that I was jumping in and out between different bills so I didn't hear everything, all the testimony, but it kind of goes back to what Sen. Flakoll was saying, is that these events will probably take place someplace. I think law enforcement and everybody would be a lot more comfortable if it were just very clear that it wouldn't be allowed at all, or it's allowed with regulation.

Representative Delmore: Are you comfortable with creating your commission and coming up with the rules, and will that impact this bill with a fiscal note.

Al Jaeger: Well, keep in mind that this is under a continuing appropriation, that's separate from anything else. We would anticipate that the fees and the revenue we would receive would

cover it. In boxing we have a couple of different methods. We do licensing, we also have some provisions in terms of a % of the gate, and some different things to cover the expenses, because if I don't have that revenue, I can't reimburse the commissioners for travel and per diem. That's where that comes out of. And it would have to go through the process. I know that there is at least one member of this Judiciary committee that's involved in administrative rules overview, and at some point it would be coming through that process, wouldn't it Representative Koppelman.

Representative Koppelman: You said some states have banned this, do you know in those states, whether what Sen. Flakoll talked about, is happening, is it being driven underground, does it become a law enforcement problem in those areas.

Al Jaeger: I can't say. I just know that they have taken a very strong position on it. There's different things that are happening in the boxing community, because a lot of times it comes back to the boxing commissioners. We do know of several states that have done the rules. I think we would want to be careful in that regard, to make sure that the rules are like another state, like California. Because I've looked through them and they specifically talk about some things that we would be uncomfortable with. I would put more stock in what they've done versus the organizations that exist, because these organizations and promoters are much more geared to a financial return than we believe, we would have to assert that role of regulator.

Representative Zaiser: How prevalent are these events, or the sport is. Does it occur once a week, once a month.

Al Jaeger: They have, I would say, held four or five events in the last year. Again, it's created some concern in the law enforcement area, because they call us and look at how it's

being promoted and they look at our existing administrative rules and really don't feel that they have a strong enough basis to come in. So that's why we're, I want to make it very clear, asking that you pass the bill the way it is, or pass it with the amendments. One way or the other. The bill needs to be passed. Because right now we are in a gray area. The people that want this to be legitimate, want the rules in place.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you. Further testimony in support of SB 2356.

John Olson, ND Peace Officers Association: They are very concerned about this activity. Probably the activities take place more often than not in the eastern part of the state. I agree with the things that the Secretary of State, Al Jaeger, has said. I think you need to pass the bill or amend it, unregulated it's not good.

Representative Meyer: The Peace Officers, do they want to ban it, or do they want it regulated.

John Olson: That's a good question. If it's not banned, it needs to be closely regulated and I assume that the rules need to be such that law enforcement officers are sufficiently guided in enforcing the law. In other words, I think it is a very serious issue for law enforcement, if there's not sufficient guidance. I'm not saying that it can't be regulated.

Representative Koppelman: If this were to be banned, and if it were to go underground, in Quonsets, would that become an even bigger problem.

John Olson: I don't know the answer to that question.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you. Further testimony in support of SB 2356. Testimony in opposition to SB 2356.

Chris Nelson, Promoter, Dakota Fighting: (see written testimony, spiral notebook).

Representative Delmore asked if there were a lot of injuries in the sport. There's been one recorded death in the sport of mixed martial arts in the last 12 years. It happened in Russia, in an unregulated event. There's never been a documented serious injury or death in the United States, with regulated or unregulated sport. The sport has referees, judges, ring doctors, scorekeepers, all of the officials that other sports like boxing have. Opponents are matched up by weight, experience and skill level. The sport is regulated in more states, than it is banned in by a large majority. The sport is also aired on Pay-per-view, Fox Sports Channel, ESPN, and has a reality show on Spike TV. The reason I mention that, is just to let you know that it is popular and is becoming more and more popular; it's one of the fastest growing sports in the United States, if not the world. If you skip to the page with the map, the red states are states that outright ban the sport. The white states, I was not able to find out any information on. The blue states are not all regulated. Some states, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Carolina I believe, they allow amateur, they don't have commissions. Some states like Texas, they have limited rules - they don't allow punching to the face on the ground. But in some capacity, they allow the sport. As you move on, just so know when we put on fights, we have applications that we have fighters fill out. It asks questions, what is your training, where have you trained, win/loss record (so we have an idea of who to match them up with), we also ask medical questions (have they ever had a concussion, when was the last time you had a concussion), those are questions that the ring doctors specifically asked us to put on our applications. The next page is our medical examination, this is all from our sanctioning body, the IFK/Mixed Martial Arts, and that's based out of California. So this is the medical examination; it is pretty thorough, it's standard, I think it follows along

with the boxing physicals. We have judges, so I've supplied you with an IFK/Mixed Martial Arts judging card. It will be filled out by one of three judges that we have surrounding the fighting arena. Scorekeeper card, that's where all the judges give the scores to a scorekeeper, so the scorekeeper can give that to the announcer, to announce the winner. This is something that we've added to our show, an injury report list. I got the idea from some of the other organizations. It helps us, it will help us to show what injuries there are, or the cause of the injuries, it will help people understand why some things are not allowed, and why other things are. For instance, Nevada outlawed kneeing down an opponent to the head. The reason for that, is not because anyone was dying, it's because it opened a lot of cuts. Fights were stopped because of that reason. Same with elbow strikes, there are no downward elbow strikes. Things such as that, are banned in our sport of mixed martial arts. Here are the rules that we follow with the International Sports Karate Association with Martial Arts Rules Overview. I didn't supply the whole by-laws, but if you look through here, you'll see some of the things that are banned, I guess on the page with lots of rules (no page numbers were available). As you page through the booklet, you will see a page with a list of fouls. I believe I e-mailed the rules to the members of the committee. I know that some had mentioned the reason that they had amended the bill to ban the sport, is because there are no rules. Here's the overview, see how thick it is. There are rules for the sport, they're unified rules. Nevada, New Jersey, Colorado, follow the same standard set of rules. There are, I know of at least, 13 states that do regulate it through the Athletic Director. It's getting bigger all the time. More and more states are accepting it. Alaska is not blue on the map, but I do know that Alaska also allows it. Nebraska has some cities that have banned it, but the state by and large allows it.

Representative Delmore: It certainly seems to be a standard draft of rules, at least for a starting place. Is this the basis for the rules in most states, that you've provided to us, because the fouls are spelled out very clearly, how it can be stopped. I find it interesting that competitors fight until one submits or until a doctor, referee, or designated person stops the fight. Sounds a little brutal.

Chris Nelson: There's always a referee there. The referee is going to stop the fight if a person is not intelligently defending himself. In boxing, they have standing 8 count. If a fighter is knocked down, dazed, stunned. In mixed martial arts, that would be the point where the fight would be stopped. Any time the referee has to step in, the fight is over.

Representative Delmore: Are these the standard rules that have been adopted in other states.

Chris Nelson: They are very close, there are some discrepancies, especially with New Jersey and Las Vegas are different than the rules that we are currently using. For instance, I think they are allowed to lose 7% of their body weight in two days to make weight. The IFK allows 4% body weight. But they are very close. I know that in talking to Mark Rappitt, who is the athletic commissioner of Las Vegas, and he has explained to me how they actually came about some of the rules that they do use, like not allowing knees to the head on the ground. They work with the state of New Jersey, Nevada and New Jersey work together, they tested out the rules. This didn't come about, the sport was banned all over, in every state, just about, and it was kicked off cable, and it was not allowed in a lot of places and it's come a long way. The sport has changed by using protective equipment, by not allowing certain techniques. It's recognized internationally as a sport, recognized by a lot of state athletic commissions.

Representative Delmore: You live where.

Chris Nelson: Fargo.

Representative Delmore: So, did you participate in any events.

Chris Nelson: Yes, I have.

Chairman DeKrey: Do you think you're a victim of your own advertising. I mean I have a dish at home, and they advertise this fighting, and the clips that they show, the guy's jumping off a chair, hit a guy, things like that. You've got to know that's not good for business, if you're trying to get a sport regulated.

Chris Nelson: That might be a different sport.

Representative Bernstein: I notice it talks about the wrapping of hands is prohibited. Why is that, when you don't have much of a glove on.

Chris Nelson: In boxing you can wrap the hands a lot. I've never been involved in boxing, but there's a lot of wrapping. You are allowed to secure the hand, you're not allowed to make a cast out of it. We don't use 16 oz. boxing gloves, we use 4 oz. fingerless gloves.

Representative Bernstein: That's what prompted the question. I knew the gloves were not boxing gloves.

Chris Nelson: Right, they're fingerless gloves; opponents need to be able to grab, take down holds, and do other things with their hands. A fighter doesn't have the dexterity to do that, if his hands are tape up to a great degree. You can tape the wrist, palm and back of hand for support. There is an ISK representative who would probably be able to answer that question.

Representative Koppelman: You said earlier that there are rules that are being followed now. I assume that what you've given us are the rules that apply in the Association, in your

organization and the fights that you sponsor, is that correct. So there are other things going on that may not abide by these rules, but may have others, or may have none, I suppose.

Chris Nelson: In my opinion, if someone is holding an event similar to this, and they're not following the rules, it would fall under the administrative rules of a tough man, or a barroom brawl type of fight. Mixed martial arts has rules. Mixed martial arts follows rules, they follow weight classes, they have ring doctors, that's mixed martial arts. The other stuff is, what I consider, tough man or a barroom brawl type fight and should be stopped.

Representative Koppelman: You said earlier that most states previously, there was a time when this was banned totally, but I'm not hearing that from what the Secretary of State mentioned. In other words, did we have laws on the books of ND that banned it, that we repealed, or never banned.

Chris Nelson: Maybe I was inaccurate in how I said that. The sport wasn't actually a sport when it first came out. It was more of a spectacle, the ultimate fighting championship in the 1990's. Sen. John McCain, from Arizona, he kind of had, he got it kicked off of cable, and it totally went underground. You could watch it on some pay-per-view, but not all. Almost nobody got to see it anymore. A company that bought the ultimate fighting championship, Zufa, Inc. They got together with the Nevada Athletic Commission, and the New Jersey Athletic Commission, and they came up with rules and regulations, they made it acceptable to the cable company, they bend over backwards to change the rules, did what they had to do to make it acceptable, and now it's growing.

Representative Boehning: I'm going to propose an amendment to bring the bill back to its original form and shape. You would be in favor of the amendments to the bill, correct.

Chris Nelson: That's correct.

Representative Boehning: Chris left some tapes on this, from what I've seen on the tapes, maybe Chris can explain a little more, I was watching these guys and they are beating away. I've watched boxing matches where the guys hit and kind of fall a little bit; but what I noticed in these tapes, is when the guy starts falling and hits the floor, then the fight is over. It could only be a matter of a couple of minutes and the fight's over. From what I've seen, maybe Chris could talk a little bit more on that. They're really watching for injuries to the fighters. I think with some good regulation, I know I've got some rules here from California, but if you can explain a little bit about what, in your situation, what happens when you start falling or those sorts of things.

Chris Nelson: Our referees are really in charge of stopping the bout. I guess the rule is that if you cannot, if a fighter is not intelligently defending himself, and if the fighter is out on his feet, he can't intelligently defend himself, if you have him on the ground and you're punching him, and he's just covering, there's no offense, no defense, he's not intelligently defending himself. So if you get him in a position where he can't move, I guess it's self-explanatory. There are several ways to stop the bout.

Representative Delmore: Just for information, on #6 under the procedural part, talks about the referee, the chief handler, the doctor or the fighter may stop the contest. Someone can throw in the towel literally, so there are a number of mechanisms that you can use to stop the fight.

Representative Kingsbury: I don't know anything about this, but in trying to absorb the information about the fighting and what goes on, is there a boxing association and a martial arts association? What do they think of this practice, does the boxing association sanction this, or do the martial arts association, do they sanction this, the mixing of the martial arts.

Chris Nelson: I know of two sanctioning bodies. The ISCF which is a kickboxing organization, the father of the organization is the IKF, a very popular kickboxing sanctioning body. They sanction the ICSF, the International Combat Sports Federation, I believe. That is a division of theirs. Our division is a division of the International Sports Karate Association, also a kickboxing sanctioning body. It's a division under them.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you. Further testimony in opposition to SB 2356.

Bruce Nelson, co-promoter, Dakota Fighting Championships: I just wanted to shed a little background on the evolution of the sport, from when it first started. I've been involved with it, in competition for over 6.5 years and had 39 professional fights. I do the matchmaking for the Dakota Fighting Championships. I'm the one mostly responsible for saying, you will go against him, and so on. The evolution to this, back in 1994, in the United States is when Colorado USC came out. There were no rules to it. There were point elbow strikes, groin strikes were legal, it was pretty vicious stuff. The evolution I've seen the sport come through, in my 6 years of doing this, is quite a bit. I fought in nine different states, including California twice, when it was not allowed in regular cities, it had to be on an Indian Gaming Casino. There were rules to it, a lot of rules that we just handed out were the exact same rules that were used in California, that we've adopted by the ISKA. Again, the evolution of the sport where, it came from no weight classes to 6 or 7 different weight classes now. It's definitely a positive thing, because in the beginning, you had guys 160-170 lbs going up against big wrestler, 250-260 lbs., and even bigger than that. That's definitely a step in the right direction. We need to have it regulated in ND, kind of to stay pace with the rest of the nation. It's growing in popularity, as you've seen on TV. My different experiences with nine different states, I fought in Deadwood, SD, groin strikes were legal back

then. When we got to the event, none of the rules were given out ahead of time or anything like that. So it was kind of a surprise to see that striking the groin of your opponent and, so it was a gentleman's agreement not to do that to another opponent; but the cup, mouth guard, the gloves, they are there for a reason; for safety, so you don't knock your teeth out, groin strikes, etc. The evolution with the matchmaking on my end, is that you can't come up to me on the day of the fight and say, how do I get in there. You have to come with a recommendation from a trainer, a martial arts school or, it's not an exact science as of yet, but somebody that I would know, if he trained with me, or at Jeff Gurringer's school, he'll talk in a minute. Basically, I go off recommendations off other people, to say if it's a first-timer, he's been trained for x amount of months, weeks, etc., is he in shape, is he ready to go; of course, the doctor is going to check him out beforehand to make sure he's physically fit, as least as far as the doctor is concerned. That's kind of my background on this, competing in 9 different states, seeing states with regulated rules, ones that haven't and the evolution. The rules are finally getting more in place. It's definitely a step in the right direction. If ND could put in the regulations, that would certainly help out other states, too, who could look at ND as a model and say that they have the rules here, we should put on fights in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, the neighboring states, where business might be lost too, competitors might go rather than stay in ND to train, things like that.

Representative Delmore: The first question is, have you been in unregulated bouts here in ND, because I would assume though it's allowed, unless they were unofficial rules, we haven't adopted any, so it would not be regulated in ND. Where have those contests taken place.

Bruce Nelson: The unregulated events are taking place in Fargo, Jamestown. On both of our events, and the one we have coming up on April 9th, we've incorporated the rules of the ISKA in

both of our events. We've had ring doctors at both events, we also have a registered nurse assisting the doctor. Again, it's the matchmaking process, we have 16 bouts coming up on this one. All 16 bouts are in place at least a month ahead of time, so you have at least a month to train and get familiar.

Representative Delmore: Of the blue states that allow the events, how many of them have written regulations, through the state legislature whatever, where we've entered into the equation and needed to regulate it.

Bruce Nelson: California would be the only one, and then again at the time when I was competing out in California, they didn't have the statewide rules, it was the events allowed on the Indian Gaming Casinos that were there. But again, the ISKA wasn't the sanctioning body when I was out there to compete; otherwise Wisconsin, Iowa (does have an athletic commission, so they do have doctors at the events). Again they have more than one different organization operating in the state of Iowa, where physicals aren't always given out, doctors aren't always present, EMT's aren't always present. I've seen quite the gamut of the evolution of rules with doctors and no doctors, etc.

Representative Koppelman: You're here testifying against the bill, but I assume from your testimony, that you are in favor of the original bill, if it were regulated.

Bruce Nelson: Correct.

Representative Koppelman: What if the bill, in its current form would have passed, what would happen to the sport in ND.

Bruce Nelson: If we're banned...Minnesota would be the next option for us. I've promoted shows in Minnesota myself, being from there, we've done shows in Ada, MN, where we didn't

have to use doctors, we didn't have to use regulated rules, but we did. We've tried to the best of our ability to incorporate as many rules as we could. Weight classes are the same thing. All it's going to do is transfer events to Minnesota, South Dakota, which already runs them; neighboring states.

Representative Koppelman: Do you think there would be an underground movement, not with your organization, but others, do you think this would go underground.

Bruce Nelson: It's hard to say. I couldn't see an event taking place in a Quonset, like somebody mentioned earlier. Not that somebody wouldn't try, it's always a possibility. I guess I can't see us going into a Quonset, or something like that, but it's possible.

Representative Boehning: How many people attend these fights.

Bruce Nelson: It depends, it depends on the size of the venue. Our event is held at the Fargo Civic Center, the seating capacity is around 3,000/3,500. I've been in places in Wisconsin, Iowa, where you have 30-40 people, they set up fights in bars sometimes, they just put the ring out in the middle of the dance floor and have 30-40 people. I've been on pay-per-view TV, I've been in front of 4,000 people to compete before. It all depends on the size of the venue and things like that.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you. Further testimony in opposition to SB 2356.

Jeff Gumringer, ISKA/MMA Regional Representative: ISKA/MMA stands for International Sports Karate Association/Mixed Martial Arts. My job is to ensure that all ISKA's rules and regulations are followed by the fighters, the promoters, and event personnel at the sanctioned events. These rules also govern other organizations, such as the IFC, the WEC, and for the most part, our standard in most of the states in which the sport regulated. Some of my duties include

doing all the weigh-ins, being present when the doctor is doing the physical, rendering decisions on protests, changes of decisions, suspension of fighters. Others will include the fighters' rule meetings, in which all the fighters are given copies of the rules and regulations, we answer any questions they have on any authorized techniques. Naturally at the end of the matches, they also have to evaluate the officials performance, do an evaluation, report on the referees, and all of the judges. I've been at all of the Dakota Fighting Championship tournaments, and I'll have to say that the events that they put on, not only met the standards of the ISK, but they were just exceptionally good shows. The fighters all appeared to be really evenly matched, and they were well versed in the sport. We've also had classes for the referees and judges, to ensure that all of the regulations are followed, even though most of these officials are either martial arts instructors, or they've fought in them themselves, but we just go over all the rules and regulations. I guess some of the things, I think somebody made the reference earlier, is what happens when one of these fights go to the ground. That's actually where it becomes more of an interesting sport, to somebody that just sees somebody throw somebody to the ground, if you don't have any idea of all of the techniques that can be applied on the ground, this isn't actually anything like a tough man. The things that really distinguish this is, you actually have to be pretty well versed in a lot of the martial arts, whether it's judo, jujitsu, wrestling, boxing, you have to know a little bit about everything. So once it goes to the ground, it's not just a matter of trying to punch somebody, there are so many different submission holds that you can do, a person can be on top of you and just like that, you can submit him. So it's actually a very interesting sport as you become familiar with it. So I guess, the thing that I have about having it regulated and I've known Mr. Nelson, both of them for quite a while and I think it's just their dedication to

the sport. They are actually, they came in and started doing these promotions and there was always one thing in mind, to get this all legalized in ND, to go right by the book and have rules and regulations. They've been working with Mr. Jaeger, and even talked to the boxing commissioners, even things above the ISKA that somebody would recommend, they started implementing that, just trying to make sure that this is the safest sport. As far as my own personal opinion, I would like to have it regulated just for the fact that, I'm against anybody, especially when there's going to be a fight, everybody wants to sign up and do that. We want to make sure that they have training, we want to make sure that they are matched up against people of an equal skill level. The way it is right now, yes there are events happening that aren't sanctioned, in which case a lot of times the weight limits aren't being followed, a lot of the rules and regulations aren't being followed, maybe there's not enough thought to the matching up of the people, these are all things that we feel could be eliminated if this sport is regulated. I, myself, am 51 years old, and I've done martial arts for about 25 years, and I started doing the mixed martial arts like this, back when I was about 48, and I was fighting guys half my age, and I had fun. I'd rather fight in ND, if it were regulated, than to go to some of these other states that Bruce mentioned, where they allowed knees to the head when you're on the ground, things like that. You don't really need that to win won of these contests. Like I said, the biggest thing is, I would actually like to see, even though we've done classes for the referees and judges, I'd like to see all that be mandatory, that they are well versed in the sport. You do have to get right down there, you have to see. It's usually not someone getting knocked out that stops the fight, that's very seldom that that happens. Submission, when you have people that really understand this, if

they put you in an arm bar, you'd know you were in an arm bar, you just slap out, that's the end of the match. Nobody is going to push it any farther.

Representative Koppelman: It sounds like this organization is taking a lot upon itself, to do a lot of good things with regard to the things you talked about, in regard to rules and trying to establish the sport with some credibility. What else is going on in North Dakota, outside of this organization that you're aware of.

Jeff Gumringer: Just for an example, it wasn't in ND, but I was at a fight in MN, and it was actually kind of the barroom type setting, and a couple of fighters didn't show up and they were going into the audience, one guy had about 8 beers and he got up and jumped into the ring. I mean that's an extreme, but without regulating it, even the Dakota Fighting Championships, they've got the doctor, the nurse, we've got them for all day long. It's an expense, probably could have gotten by without; but that wasn't the idea. The idea was to do everything by the book and try to get this as a legalized sport and get it regulated.

Representative Koppelman: Are you worried about the ones that are not following these kinds of guidelines.

Jeff Gumringer: Yes, like I said, I definitely would rather fight in one that is regulated. Even things like weight class, and that again isn't unusual, you could have somebody who is probably 169 lbs going against somebody 200 something. You give away that much weight and they're experienced fighters, or even if they're not equally matched, that's when you have a chance of getting hurt. The more you follow these rules and regulations, the safer it becomes. So again, any organization, and I'm not even saying anything against them, the sanctioning committees, because if it's a sanctioned event and they're actually going by rules and regulations.

As long as the promoters are following it, I think most of the rules would be pretty much the same to start with, even though it's not regulated in ND, anybody that was sanctioned, but it's the ones that aren't sanctioned that you really have to worry about right now.

Representative Zaiser: First of all, you mentioned that most of the participants are well versed in all those different techniques. Now I've never been to one of these, and I think in scanning the TV scene, kickboxing didn't stick around long enough to really watch. Is it predominantly fists, or is it like wrestling.

Jeff Gumringer: It is really a combination of all, because when you first start out, you have to walk out and you never know what your opponent's going to do, if they're a boxer, they might not even try to do anything other than box, or if they're a kickboxers, they'll throw kicks.

Personally, I being an older guy, I'm not quite as fast at punching as I used to be, so I would actually try to take them down to the ground and then do submission type holds on them. It's really up to the person that's fighting. That's why it's so interesting, you never know. One time it might be a boxing match, the next will probably be kickboxing and the next will be like jujitsu wrestling on the ground, and a lot of times you'll have matches, they'll go through the whole works. Start standing up, do some kicks and punches.

Representative Zaiser: Can you kick a person when they're on the ground, like kick in the side.

Jeff Gumringer: They've got the rules, like for a downed opponent, there is no kicking in the head, you actually can kick them in the legs. A lot of times, they'll be trying to keep you from jumping on top of them. There's no kicking to the head of a downed opponent, no kneeling to the head of a downed opponent. None of that.

Representative Zaiser: In boxing they consider a professional boxers, their hands are legal weapons. Now for people who are sanctioned in this sport, are you considered, is your body considered a legal weapon. Can you get in fights outside of your profession and then be subject to criminal action.

Jeff Gumringer: I guess I'm not sure what the legalities are of that. Usually if you had any type of training, and you get in a barroom brawl, and beat the snot out of somebody, you're probably going to be in trouble. You're hands aren't registered as lethal weapons or anything like that. Again, there's even provisions, where if you've fought a professional fight, then you can't go back and fight an amateur fight if you fought within two years.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you. Further testimony in opposition to SB 2356. We will close the hearing.

(Reopened later in the afternoon session).

Chairman DeKrey: What are the committee's wishes in regard to SB 2356. Representative Boehning, please present your amendments on SB 2356.

Representative Boehning: Basically what my amendments will do is to bring the bill back to its original form. There was one added thing in there. It was something that the Secretary of State wanted, I think it was under section 5, Fees paid into special fund, first put a collection of the fees, and so forth that were left out in the first bill.

Chairman DeKrey: I see it also has the rank rules and everything else.

Representative Boehning: Basically it is the identical bill except for maybe section 5, it was for special fees, and so forth. I move the amendments.

Chairman DeKrey: I guess I'm inclined to support the amendment and the bill, if for no other reason than when you come to the legislature, you have an idea that you want presented, I don't think they should turn it around 180 degrees and prohibit your sport.

Representative Zaiser: (to Representative Boehning) Why did the Senate turn around 180 degrees, did they explain.

Representative Boehning: From my understanding, I don't know if they misunderstood what it was, but it was my understanding of it, it was brought up as a blood sport, it was this or that, and not regulated. I guess when I went in and talked to the Secretary, Al Jaeger, he listened to the debate, it's not what happened in the ring. I've got a DVD downstairs on it, it's pretty clean fighting actually, when you get down to the real fight. It's pretty well regulated, the referee stops the fight if something happens. The only problem I did have with it, I've got California rules here too, but if there is blood, somebody gets cut, they didn't stop the fight, when I was watching it on TV, but I am assuming the Secretary of State would stop the fight in order to get that taken care of, I think that would be a health issue, because I was reading some of the rules where they have to clean the ring up. It's actually pretty clean fighting.

Representative Delmore: Do you know what % of fees are paid into that fund. I didn't think to ask the Secretary of State.

Chairman DeKrey: It sounded to me like when he touched on that, that the % of it is what they use to license it and keep it going; a % of the gate is what it sounds like.

Representative Zaiser: What would get it started.

Representative Boehning: I think it's a portion of that, I think that maybe like license of the fighters in order to have something to work with.

Representative Delmore: Second the motion for the Boehning amendments.

Representative Klemin: As I understand the definitions, this is only going to apply if there is an admission fee charged and participants get paid for being there. So, if there is an admission fee charged and the participants don't get paid anything, this would not apply, is that right.

Representative Boehning: Probably. We may want to put some other language in, if it's, we don't want to have them setting up a ring someplace and having a fight and those sorts of things. It has to be regulated some, whether it's amateur, whether it's professional.

Representative Klemin: As I read this, this is not going to regulate the kind of, where there's no admission fee charged, and people don't get paid for it, so I think that amateurs would not be covered under this.

Representative Boehning: That's the way I read it. We may want to put some language in there, that amateurs would not be...

Chairman DeKrey: But in a boxing situation, we don't regulate the amateur boxing, we regulate the professional boxing.

Representative Meyer: In this sport, amateurs and professionals aren't just being by who gets paid.

Representative Klemin: If this amendment is passed, it would be. In the 4th line down, "in which participants who receive remuneration of any type"...

Representative Onstad: On that section 2, the Secretary of State appoints an athletic advisory board, to assist and advise in the regulation of boxing, kickboxing, and sparring. I don't see where it says that, maybe I don't see it, maybe they do it by rule.

Representative Klemin: I wonder if you look at section 1 here on that 4th line, if we just strike out the word "who receives remuneration of any type". If we strike that out, then it would cover any participant, no matter what, except that they still have to charge an admission fee for this to cover. But the promoter isn't going to be doing this for free, I wouldn't think. I move that amendment to the amendment.

Representative Koppelman: I'm just wondering if this is an important enough question that we need to get the Secretary of State's definition on amateur versus professional, especially if he's the one that's going to be writing the rules.

Representative Delmore: Second the amendment to the amendment.

Chairman DeKrey: Do you want to say that one more time, Representative Klemin.

Representative Klemin: Section 1, 4th line down, remove the words after participants, the words "receive remuneration of any type".

Representative Meyer: So it covers anyone that is charged an admission at the event.

Chairman DeKrey: Motion carried. Now we've the amended amendment before us moved by Representative Boehning and seconded by Representative Delmore. Motion carried. We now have the bill before us as amended.

Representative Boehning: I move a Do Pass as amended.

Representative Delmore: Seconded.

11 YES 1 NO 2 ABSENT

DO PASS AS AMENDED CARRIER: Rep. Boehning

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2356

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 53-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to mixed fighting style competitions; and to amend and reenact sections 53-01-02, 53-01-03, 53-01-07, 53-01-09, and 53-01-17 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the regulation of mixed fighting style competitions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 53-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Mixed fighting style competition - Definition - Prohibition. As used in this chapter, "mixed fighting style competition" means an advertised or professionally promoted exhibition or contest for which any type of admission fee is charged and in which participants who receive remuneration of any type inflict or employ kicks, punches, blows, holds, and other techniques to injure, stun, choke, incapacitate, or disable an opponent. The techniques may include a combination of boxing, kickboxing, wrestling, grappling, or other recognized martial arts. Boxing and kickboxing exhibitions or contests without the combination of other techniques do not constitute mixed fighting style competitions. A person may not advertise, promote, sponsor, hold, or participate in any mixed fighting style competition in this state until a mixed fighting style advisory board is authorized and appointed and rules governing the competitions have been adopted by the secretary of state under this chapter.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 53-01-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

53-01-02. Administration by secretary of state - Appointment of athletic advisory board and mixed fighting style advisory board. The secretary of state shall act as state athletic commissioner and administer this chapter. The secretary of state may appoint an athletic advisory board to assist and advise the secretary of state in matters relating to the regulation of boxing, kickboxing, and sparring. The secretary of state also may appoint a mixed fighting style advisory board whose members may include one or more members of the athletic advisory board. The secretary of state shall define the duties of the each board. ~~Members of the board shall serve without~~ Board members are not entitled to compensation, except for reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses at the same rate as allowed state employees incurred in performing their official duties.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 53-01-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

53-01-03. Restrictions. The secretary of state may not promote, directly or indirectly, ~~promote~~ any boxing, kickboxing, mixed fighting style competition, or sparring exhibition, engage in the managing of any boxer ~~or~~ kickboxer, or mixed style fighter, or be interested in any manner in the proceeds from any boxing, kickboxing, mixed fighting style competition, or sparring exhibition.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 53-01-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

53-01-07. Duties of state athletic commissioner. The secretary of state shall supervise all boxing, kickboxing, mixed fighting style competitions, or sparring exhibitions held in the state and may:

1. Adopt rules governing the conduct of boxing, kickboxing, mixed fighting style competitions, and sparring exhibitions.
2. Establish license fees for all boxers, kickboxers, mixed style fighters, boxing ~~and~~, kickboxing, and mixed fighting style competition promoters, managers, judges, timekeepers, cornerpersons, knockdown counters, matchmakers, and referees or other participants.
3. Establish by rule a fee based on the percentage of gross revenues from any boxing, kickboxing, mixed fighting style competition, or sparring exhibition held in this state to pay for the expenses of members of the athletic advisory board or the mixed fighting style advisory board. A fee established under this subsection may not exceed one percent of the gross revenues of the exhibition from any and all sources including cable television and pay-per-view telecasts of the event, exclusive of any federal tax thereon.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Section 53-01-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

53-01-09. Fees paid into special fund - Continuing appropriation. All fees collected by the secretary of state pursuant to this chapter must be deposited in a special fund maintained in the state treasury. All money deposited in the fund is appropriated as a continuing appropriation to the secretary of state for administering this chapter and for the compensation and expenses of members of the athletic advisory board and the mixed fighting style advisory board.

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Section 53-01-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

53-01-17. Exhibitions also governed by local ordinance. Boxing, kickboxing, or sparring exhibitions may not be held in cities in which such contests or exhibitions are declared illegal by ordinance. All boxing, kickboxing, mixed fighting style competitions, or sparring exhibitions held in any city in this state must be held in conformity with the ordinances of the city in addition to the requirements under this chapter."

Renumber accordingly

House Amendments to Engrossed SB 2356 - Judiciary Committee 03/14/2005

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 53-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to mixed fighting style competitions; and to amend and reenact sections 53-01-02, 53-01-03, 53-01-07, 53-01-09, and 53-01-17 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the regulation of mixed fighting style competitions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 53-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Mixed fighting style competition - Definition - Prohibition. As used in this chapter, "mixed fighting style competition" means an advertised or professionally promoted exhibition or contest for which any type of admission fee is charged and in which participants who inflict or employ kicks, punches, blows, holds, and other techniques to injure, stun, choke, incapacitate, or disable an opponent. The techniques may include a combination of boxing, kickboxing, wrestling, grappling, or other recognized martial arts. Boxing and kickboxing exhibitions or contests without the combination of other techniques do not constitute mixed fighting style competitions. A person may not advertise, promote, sponsor, hold, or participate in any mixed fighting style competition in this state until a mixed fighting style advisory board is authorized and appointed and rules governing the competitions have been adopted by the secretary of state under this chapter.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 53-01-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

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Renumber accordingly

Date: 3/14/05
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2356

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass as Amended

Motion Made By Rep. Boehning Seconded By Rep. Delmore

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman DeKrey	✓		Representative Delmore	✓	
Representative Maragos	A		Representative Meyer	✓	
Representative Bernstein	✓		Representative Onstad	✓	
Representative Boehning	✓		Representative Zaiser	✓	
Representative Charging	A				
Representative Galvin	✓				
Representative Kingsbury		✓			
Representative Klemin	✓				
Representative Koppelman	✓				
Representative Kretschmar	✓				

Total (Yes) 11 No 1

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Rep. Boehning

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2356, as engrossed: Judiciary Committee (Rep. DeKrey, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (11 YEAS, 1 NAY, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2356 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 53-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to mixed fighting style competitions; and to amend and reenact sections 53-01-02, 53-01-03, 53-01-07, 53-01-09, and 53-01-17 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the regulation of mixed fighting style competitions.

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Renumber accordingly

2005 TESTIMONY

SB 2356

ALVIN A. JAEGER
SECRETARY OF STATE



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HOME PAGE www.state.nd.us/sec

SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
600 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE DEPT 108
BISMARCK ND 58505-0500

March 14, 2005

TO: Rep. DeKrey, Chairman,
and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FR: Al Jaeger, Secretary of State, State Athletic (Boxing) Commissioner

RE: SB 2356 – Mixed Fighting Styles

Currently, the North Dakota Administrative Code contains the following provision:

72-02.2-01.1-03(4). Any barroom type brawls, "so you think you're tough" type contests, roughneck type matches, or matches of a similar character or nature if any contestant receives remuneration directly or indirectly whether or not a contestant has prior organized amateur or professional training.

However, we now have several events in the state that have advanced beyond that definition and which have been held under the pretext of being amateur. As a result, it is a gray area whether or not these events come under the jurisdiction of the state. Therefore, it is our opinion that the Century Code should be clear in prohibiting Mixed Fighting Style events as defined in Section 1 of this bill.

Or, they should only be allowed as authorized in the introduced original bill. That is, if specific rules are adopted to regulate mixed fighting style events. For your review, I have attached a summary of rule revisions currently being considered by the State of California, which I would use as a guide and foundation for any rules adopted here in North Dakota.

Whether you decide to leave the bill as it is or if you agree with the amendment that I understand is being proposed, I encourage the committee to vote a Do Pass on this bill. It must be made clear that these events are prohibited or if they are allowed, they can only be promoted if rules have been adopted to protect the health and safety of the participants.

CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

HEARING DATE: Thursday, January 27, 2005.

SUBJECT MATTER OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS: Mixed Martial Arts and Kickboxing

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

Amend Sections: 500; 501; 502; 510; 513; 514; 520; 522; 530; 531; 533

Adopt Sections: 503; 512; 515; 517; 518; 523; 524

Repeal Sections: 521

Specific Purpose of each adoption amendment or repeal

The specific purpose of this proposed regulatory change is to provide specific regulations that will govern full contact mixed martial arts events and be in compliance with the recent amendment to Business and Professions (B&P) Code Sections 18627 and 18640 wherein the term "martial arts" was redefined to include any combination of martial arts including mixed martial arts and directs the California State Athletic Commission to oversee these events. The current regulations only address kickboxing and do not provide for regulation of other full contact martial arts disciplines. Some sections of the current kickboxing regulations are antiquated and are no longer relevant to what is happening in international competition. A new form of martial arts has surfaced known as mixed martial arts or "submission fighting". These bouts employ such techniques as choke holds and joint manipulation to force an opponent to submit or "tap-out". This is basically a "grappling" sport, which is full contact. Because these events are full contact mixed martial arts, the Commission should regulate them for the health and safety of the participants. These regulatory changes will provide the mixed martial arts sports with the foundation that is necessary to regulate the sport and to protect the health and safety of the participants. The updates to the kickboxing sections will bring them into compliance with what is currently being practiced on an international level without jeopardizing the health and safety of the participants. One other primary purpose is to ensure that the regulations clearly delineate the distinct differences between mixed martial arts and kickboxing.

Section 500 The Commission determined that the citation section be cited as the "Professional Full Contact Martial Arts and Kickboxing Rules" based on input received from those in the profession who understand the need to have rules that clearly delineate the distinct differences between Martial Arts and Kickboxing yet allow for rules inclusive of the vast majority of Martial Arts disciplines including mixed martial arts. Mixed martial arts is a combination of the striking arts and grappling arts which is acceptable internationally and in recent years has been legalized in several states including Nevada, Florida, New Jersey, Louisiana, Colorado, Oklahoma, Utah and the Mohegan Sun in Connecticut. It should be mentioned that the regulations used in Nevada were developed based on the California mixed martial arts regulations.

Section 501 This section clearly defines the distinction between martial arts and kickboxing.

Section 502 This section defines which professional boxing rules apply and which rules do not apply to martial arts or kickboxing. The sections identified within this section are not applicable to the sport of martial arts because they apply to the sport of boxing, in particular the boxing event and show regulations.

Section 503 This section establishes the procedures for opponent selection for martial arts contests conducted under a tournament format. The commission included in this section a stipulation that the Commission will determine the initial opponents in the first round of a tournament format event by random draw of names. This procedure will insure the initial pairing of opponents is impartial.

Section 514 This section adds updated glove weights for kickboxers and martial arts fighters and adds a no glove requirement for martial arts disciplines that prohibit striking or punching.

- a) This section updates the glove weights to be used by kickboxers. The glove weights to be used by the various weight categories were determined based upon input received from organizations interested in martial arts and kickboxing and upon their knowledge and expertise in martial arts and kickboxing. For health and safety reasons it was also determined that when two fighters differ in weight classes, the contestants shall wear the gloves required for the higher weight classification. This recommended outcome meets the industry standards and would not jeopardize the health and safety of the fighters.
- (b) It was determined, based upon input received from organizations interested in martial arts and kickboxing and their knowledge and expertise in mixed martial arts and kickboxing, that a fighter in a martial arts contest will wear gloves that have no padding in the palm or fingertip area and are appropriate in weight for the fighter's hand size. This type of glove provides adequate protection when striking is used without inhibiting the grappling side of the sport.
- (c) This section which requires that the Commission approve all gloves used in martial arts and kickboxing is common practice in the boxing, martial arts and kickboxing industry. This regulation is consistent with existing Rule 318 which requires the commission to approve gloves used in professional and amateur boxing contests.
- (d) This rule allows for the possibility of a contest between fighters whose respective disciplines prohibit striking or punching. Such disciplines include grappling and jujitsu.

Section 515 This section establishes the time period a participant may not fight between bouts. It also establishes the required rest period between bouts in tournament format events and requires that a physician must examine tournament participants before each bout. It was determined that there should be a seven (7) day waiting period prior to a fighter fighting again, to protect the health and safety of the fighter. The rest period also allows for those instances when a fighter may have taken numerous strikes to the head during a bout won by the fighter who may have suffered a mild concussion for a certain time after a fight and not realize it. Therefore, to preclude the fighter from fighting with a concussion and obtaining greater and permanent injuries, the commission believes that a seven (7) day waiting period is a reasonable lapse of time.

The rest period between each bout is based upon the industry standard and because it is a reasonable amount of time for the fighter to recuperate and rehydrate prior to the next bout.

Section 516 This section adds explicit procedures for scoring the bout if a fighter cannot continue due to an injury. It was determined that since not all injuries will place an opponent in jeopardy that each injury should be evaluated on its own merit by the referee and doctor to determine if the bout should continue, be classified as a technical draw or a technical knockout. It was also determined that the five (5) minutes of recovery time has been the standard for mixed martial arts, boxing, and kickboxing, and it appears to be sufficient time for the injured fighter to regain composure and to prevent any unfair advantage to the fighter who caused the foul.

It was determined that if the referee did not see but suspects a foul, the referee should, in his/her sole discretion, be able to confer with the judges to determine where the foul may be placed and/or ask for a replay, if available, before rendering a decision. It was also determined that the referee should also have the discretion to consider any, all, or none of the opinions expressed in making a determination. Based on input received from experts in the mixed martial arts and kickboxing industry and referees that work both martial arts and kickboxing the authority and discretion provided by this section to the referee is in keeping with the current rules used in boxing, martial arts and kickboxing wherein it is the referees' duty to direct and control the bout (B&P Code Section 18730).

Section 517 This section adds explicit procedures to follow due to the result of one fighter intentionally fouling their opponent.

- (b) This section identifies tactics that are considered fouls if used in any kickboxing matches, and specifies that use of these tactics will result in a warning and loss of points at the referee's discretion. These fouls and the resultant punitive actions are standard in the kickboxing and boxing industry.
- (c) This section identifies tactics that are considered fouls if used in any martial arts contest other than kickboxing and specifies that use of these tactics will result in a warning and loss of points at the referee's discretion. These fouls and the resultant punitive actions are standard in the martial arts and boxing industry.
- (d) This section delineates possible punitive actions in addition to the possible loss of points that may be taken against the offending fighter. The possible punitive actions are standard in the martial arts and boxing industry.

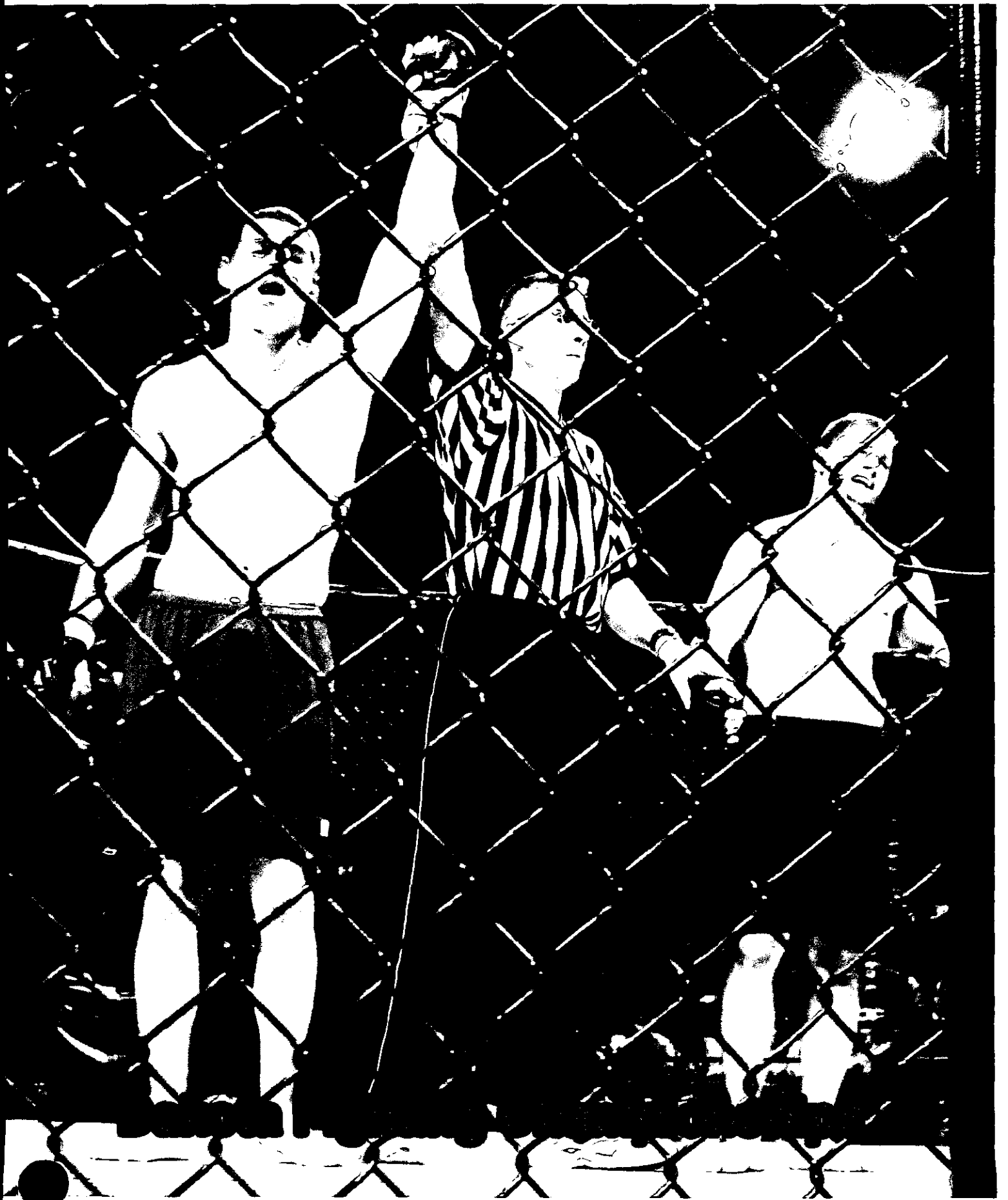
Section 523 This section establishes the parameters for the types, sizes and construction of rings or fighting area for kickboxing and martial arts contests. The parameters included in this section are all based on the current predominant practices for ring construction in the boxing, kickboxing and martial arts industry.

- (a) This section establishes that for kickboxing contests the ring or fighting area must meet the existing requirements for a boxing ring found in Rule 311 through Rule 313. This is standard for the kickboxing industry—and was proposed to protect the safety of the fighter and immediate safety of the ringside officials, spectators, staff, and fighters.
- (b) This section establishes the minimum and maximum dimensions, specifies the materials to be used and describes the standards that must be met in the construction of a ring floor or fighting area for martial arts contests. This is standard for the martial arts industry and was proposed to protect the safety of the fighter and immediate safety of the ringside officials, spectators, staff, and fighters.
- (c) This section establishes guidelines that must be followed when assembling the ring platform and makes specific the standards that the materials used must meet when constructing a ring floor or fighting area for martial arts contests. It also specifies those parameters that the ringside tables and ring posts must meet to gain approval from the commission. It was determined that these guidelines are standard for the martial arts industry and are proposed to protect the safety of the fighter and immediate safety of the ringside officials, spectators, staff, and fighters.
- (d) This section establishes that the ring must be enclosed by a fence and delineates the standards that the enclosure must meet when assembling the ring enclosure. It was determined that this is standard for the martial arts industry and was proposed to protect the safety of the fighter and immediate safety of the ringside officials, spectators, staff, and fighters

Section 524 This section makes specific that it is the promoters' responsibility to ensure that acceptable sanitary measures are met and that the Physicians and commission representatives will check for any violations. It also specifies that the ring shall be cleaned before the event and before each bout. This section provides additional specific language to expand on the existing sanitation requirements found in Rule 292. Given that mixed martial arts fighters spend more time on the canvas than do boxers or kickboxers these additional health and safety measures are standard in the kickboxing, and martial arts industry.

Section 530 This section was amended to clarify that this rule, which establishes procedures to be followed by the referee and timekeeper when a fighter is knocked down, will be used only in a kickboxing contest. It was determined that this rule is not applicable to mixed martial arts as fighters may submit or "tap out". This is standard practice in the kickboxing and boxing industry.

Section 531 This section was amended to clarify that the discretionary standing eight (8) count will be used only in a kickboxing contest. It was determined that this rule is not applicable to mixed martial arts as



What is MMA?



The sport is represented by athletes who train in a combination of striking, wrestling and submissions. Techniques come from many different styles of martial arts and other sports such as Wrestling, Judo, Kickboxing, Jui Jitsu, Boxing and Karate. Fights are scored much like boxing and are ended by knockout, submission (where the opponent gives up), ref stoppage (if the fighter cannot intelligently defend himself), doctor stoppage (if the fighter gets cut or injured) or by decision.

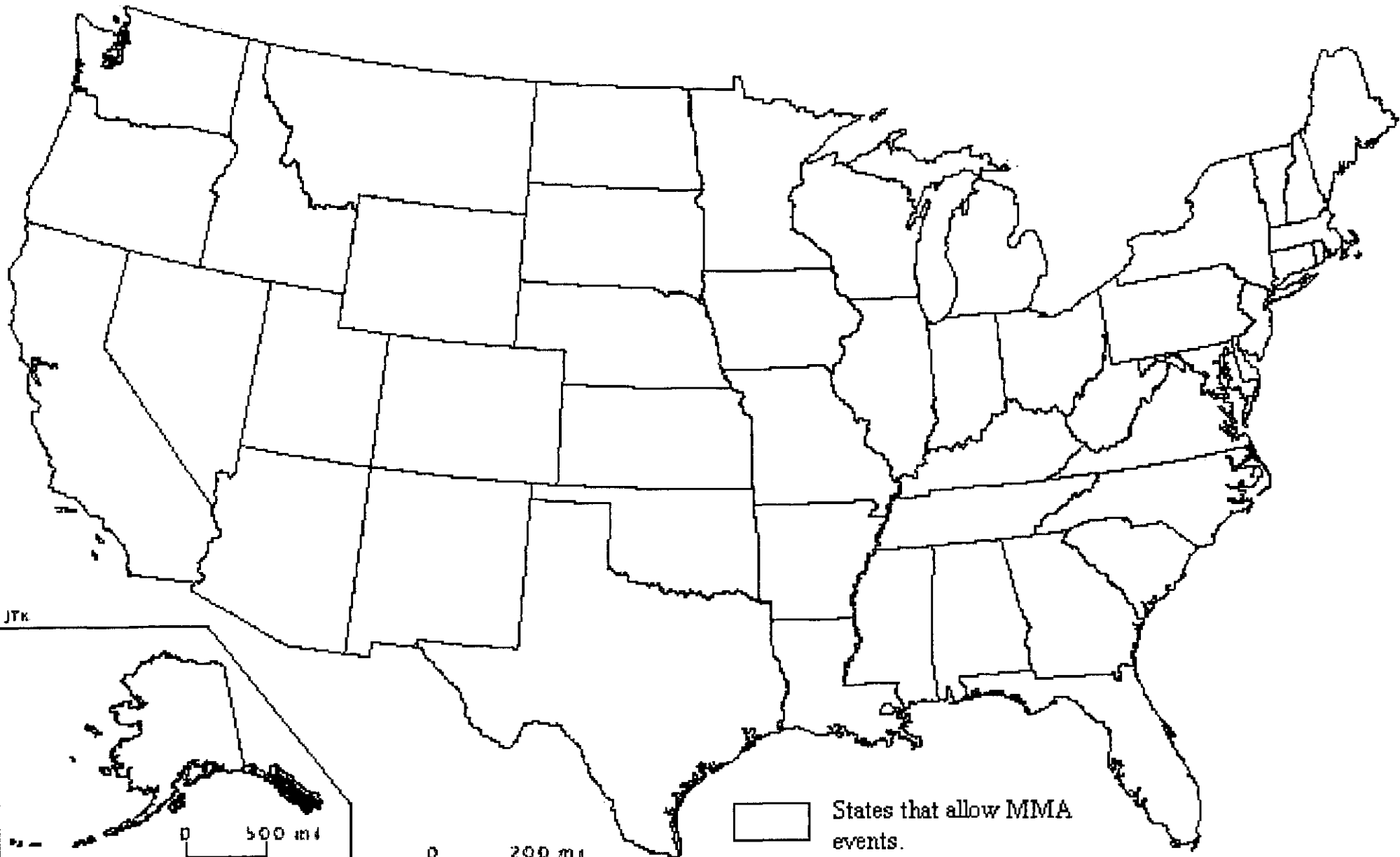
The sport has referees, judges, ring doctors, score keepers and all the officials other sports like boxing have. Opponents are matched up by weight, experience and skill level.

There has never been a serious injury or death as a result of this sport in the United States regulated or otherwise since its start in 1993.

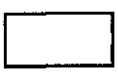
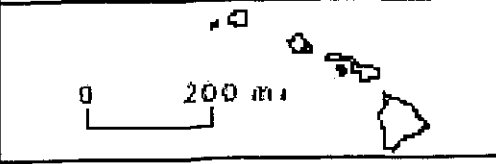
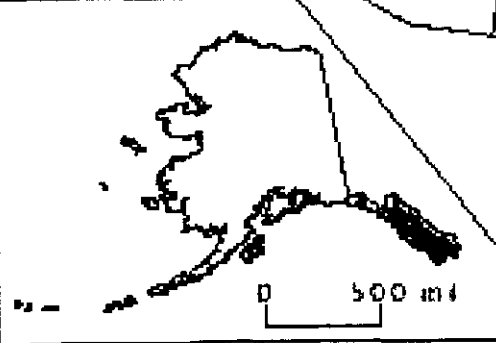
The sport is regulated or allowed in more states than it is banned in by a large majority.

States that do regulate it do it through the Athletic/Boxing Commission.

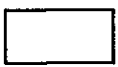
The sport is aired on Pay Per View, Fox Sports Channel, ESPN and has a reality show on Spike TV.



JTK



States that allow MMA events.



States that ban MMA events.

ISKA-MMA

Amateur MMA

FIGHTER APPLICATION

Name: _____ Age: _____

Height: _____ Weight: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Discipline(s): _____

Rank or Belts: _____

Wins: _____ Losses: _____ Draws: _____ K.O.'s: _____ Other: _____

What club do you currently represent? _____

What clubs have you trained with in the past? _____

Do you take any medications? _____

Are you allergic to any medications? _____

Do you have any ongoing medical problems? _____

Have you ever had a concussion? Yes/No If yes when was the last concussion? _____

Have you ever been diagnosed with a heart murmur or other heart condition? _____

To your knowledge, is there any physical or mental condition which would impair your ability to participate in the Dakota Fighting Championships? _____

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

**ISKA-MMA
MEDICAL EXAMINATION**

Name: _____ Ring Name: _____ DOB: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:

General appearance: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____ Blood Pressure: _____
Pulse: _____ Resp: _____ Temperature: _____

Head: normocephalic _____ yes _____ no other _____
Eyes: pupils equal _____ yes _____ no other _____
reactive to light _____ yes _____ no other _____

Ears: TMs _____ unremarkable other _____
hearing _____ acceptable other _____

Nose: deformity _____ yes _____ no other _____

Dentition: _____ maintained _____ poor other _____

Lungs: clear _____ yes _____ no other _____

Heart: rhythm _____ normal sinus other _____
murmur _____ yes _____ no other _____

Abdomen: tenderness _____ yes _____ no other _____
mass _____ yes _____ no other _____
splenomegally _____ yes _____ no
hepatomegally _____ yes _____ no

Neuro: alert and oriented _____ yes _____ no other _____
strength and tone normal _____ yes _____ no other _____
coordination _____ normal other _____
reflexes _____ normal other _____

Derm: rash _____ yes _____ no other _____
notable scars _____ yes _____ no other _____

Recommended follow-up regarding: _____

Comments _____

I have examined the above individual and find him/her in _____ satisfactory _____ unsatisfactory condition to participate in a MMA event scheduled for April 9th, 2005.

_____/_____
Signature of Medical Personnel Date

ISKA-MMA Judging Card

Judges Name:
Clint Olmstead
Date: 04-09-05

"A" Fighters
Name

"B" Fighters
Name

Using the 10-Point Must Scoring System, Judges are required to determine a winner of a bout that ends after the initial scheduled number of rounds have been completed. 10 points must be awarded to the winner of the round and nine points or less must be awarded to the loser, except for a rare even round, which is scored (10-10).

The following four areas must be evaluated

- 1) Effective Striking
- 2) Effective Grappling
- 3) Ring Control
- 4) Effective Aggressiveness/Defense

Evaluations shall be made in the order in which the techniques appear above, giving the most weight in scoring to effective striking, grappling, ring control and aggressiveness/defense

Rd-1	Rd-2	Rd-3	Rd-4	Rd-5
A / B	A / B	A / B	A / B	A / B

Totals: "A" Fighter "B" Fighter

Winner: Judges Int.

SKA-MMA Score-keeper Card

SCORE-KEEPERS Name: Date:	"A" Fighters Name	"B" Fighters Name
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Judge # 1

Rd-1	Rd-2	Rd-3	Rd-4	Rd-5
A / B	A / B	A / B	A / B	A / B

Totals: "A" Fighter "B" Fighter

Judge #2

Rd-1	Rd-2	Rd-3	Rd-4	Rd-5
A / B	A / B	A / B	A / B	A / B

Totals: "A" Fighter "B" Fighter

Judge # 3

Rd-1	Rd-2	Rd-3	Rd-4	Rd-5
A / B	A / B	A / B	A / B	A / B

Totals: "A" Fighter "B" Fighter

Winner: Scorer Int.

INTERNATIONAL SPORT KARATE ASSOCIATION MIXED MARTIAL ARTS RULES OVERVIEW

INTERNATIONAL SPORT KARATE ASSOCIATION - MIXED MARTIAL ARTS (ISKA-MMA) rules permit all styles of fighting. Biting, eye gouging, clawing, groin techniques, striking to the throat or fish hooking the mouth, striking the spine with the point of the elbow, and hair pulling in bouts will be prohibited. All participants will use groin protection, mouthpieces, and specialized padded leather gloves which will still allow for grappling. The competitors fight until one submits or until the doctor, referee, or designated cornerperson stops the fight.

INTERNATIONAL SPORT KARATE ASSOCIATION MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ISKA-MMA AMATUER COMPETITION

SECTION I: THE RING

1. THE FIGHTING AREA

The fighting area shall be no smaller than 18' by 18'. The fighting area floor shall be padded in a manner as approved by the ISKA-MMA. The ISKA-MMA recommends a minimum of 1/2", maximum of 1" layer of closed cell foam. A standard boxing type rope ring is allowed for amateur and non-title professional contests only. If a standard boxing type roped ring is used, the ring floor shall extend beyond the ropes not less than 18". Padding must extend over the edge of the platform. The fighting area must have a canvas covering. No vinyl or other plastic rubberized covering will be permitted. If fencing is used then all metal parts must be covered and padded in a manner approved by the ISKA-MMA.

2. HEIGHT OF RING

The ring platform shall be at least 30" above the floor of the building and shall be provided with suitable steps or ramp for use by the fighters. Ring-side tables must be no higher than ring platform level.

3. SANITATION

The promoter of the event will be responsible for ensuring acceptable sanitary standards are met, with respect to dressing rooms, showers, water bottles, towels or other equipment. Physicians and ISKA-MMA Representatives are to make a particular examination at every event for violations of these rules. The ring must be swept, dry-mopped, or otherwise adequately cleaned before the event and prior to the fights.

SECTION II: FIGHTERS' ELIGIBILITY

1. PRE-CONDITIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL STATUS

No fighter may compete in an ISKA-MMA Amateur bout, if the fighter has been Licensed by any State as a Professional MMA Fighter.

All fighters seeking professional status must get written approval from their ISKA-MMA Regional Director. Requirements for approval will include an accurate, current listing of all of the fighter's bouts, including event dates, places, weight class, opponents, and results.

All fighters will be accepted by invitation only, after demonstrating an extreme proficiency in their fighting style.

2. FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

ISKA-MMA licensing is mandatory for all fighters and promoters.

All fighters must sign an ISKA-MMA approved contract for each bout, with the promoter of the event.

3. SUSPENDED FIGHTERS

Any fighter who is currently under suspension by the ISKA-MMA will not be permitted to participate in any ISKA-MMA event for the duration of the suspension.

SECTION III: PRE-FIGHT REGULATIONS

1. EXAMINATION OF FIGHTERS

Any fighter applying for eligibility to compete in an ISKA-MMA event must be insured and examined by a physician certified by the ISKA-MMA, to establish both physical and mental fitness for competition. This examination must include a complete physical, neurological and drug screening and must be taken at such time as directed by the ISKA-MMA.

2. WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION

Male fighters will compete in nine weight classes:

Flyweight	(124.9 lbs and less)
Featherweight	(125 lbs – 134.9 lbs)
Bantamweight	(135 lbs – 144.9 lbs)
Lightweight	(145 lbs – 154.9 lbs)
Welterweight	(155 lbs – 169.9 lbs)
Middleweight	(170 lbs – 184.9 lbs)
Light-Heavyweight	(185 lbs.-204.9 lbs)
Heavyweight	(205 lbs – 264.9 lbs)
Super Heavyweight	(265 lbs and up)

Female fighters will compete in five weight classes:

Lightweight	(124.9 lbs and less)
Middleweight	(125 lbs – 134.9 lbs)

Light-Heavyweight (135 lbs – 149.9 lbs)
Heavyweight (150 lbs – 174.9 lbs)
Super Heavyweight (175 lbs and up).

3. WEIGHT TIME

Fighters will be weighed on or before the day of the match, at a time to be determined by the ISKA-MMA, on scales approved by the ISKA-MMA. All weights stripped.

4. MAKING WEIGHT - TITLE BOUTS

In title bouts if a fighter cannot make weight at the prescribed time, he will be allowed to weigh a second time, two hours later, at a place designated by the ISKA-MMA Representative. If the fighter fails to make weight at this second weigh-in, and these weigh-ins occur the day before the bout, he may weigh again, no sooner than eight hours before the start time of the event on the day of the bout; that is, should the fighter fail to make weight at the original time, and fails to make weight two hours later, he may weigh again no sooner than noontime the next day, if the event is scheduled to begin at 8:00 pm.

If the official weigh-in is scheduled the day of the bout, the fighter not making weight will be weighed again two hours later. If he still does not make weight, then he may attempt a final weigh-in two hours before the start of the event. In other words, if the fighter cannot make weight at the originally scheduled time, and cannot make weight two hours later, he will not be weighed again until two hours before the start time of the event. In this case, if the event is to start at 8:00 pm, his final official weigh-in should be at 6:00 pm.

If a fighter cannot make weight at the final "official" weigh-in and that fighter is the champion, the title will be declared vacant and the bout will ensue. Should the challenger win the bout, he will become champion. In the event the former champion wins the bout the title will be declared vacant, and a run off for the title will be established, according to the rules of the ISKA-MMA. If the fighter who cannot make weight is the challenger, the bout will proceed as scheduled; however, should the challenger win the bout, the title will be declared vacant, and a run off will be established, according to the rules of the ISKA-MMA. In either case, the fighter who cannot make weight will also be subject to the purse penalties as specified in his contract and by the ISKA-MMA.

Any exception to these rules regarding weight-making in title bouts requires the approval of the ISKA-MMA Commissioner.

5. MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE WEIGHT LOSS

The maximum amount of weight a fighter will be allowed to lose, during any period of time within 32 hours before the start time of the event, is 4% of that fighters weight at his initial weigh-in. For example, if a fighter weighs-in at 175 lbs., at noontime the day before the event, but is overweight according to his contract, the ISKA-MMA Representative will calculate his maximum allowable weight loss as 4% of 175 lbs., or 7 lbs. ($175 * .04 = 7$), and that 7 lbs., will be the maximum that fighter will be allowed to lose before the start time of the event.

If the maximum allowable weight loss fails to bring a fighter within the permissible weight spread, that fighter will be declared ineligible to compete in his scheduled bout, and will be subject to the penalties as described in Rule 11 below.

6. MINIMUM AGE OF FIGHTERS

No fighter shall participate in an ISKA-MMA event, if he is less than 18 years of age, unless permitted by both the fighter's country of origin, the jurisdiction where the match takes place and the ISKA-MMA Commissioner.

All fighters seeking eligibility to compete in an ISKA-MMA event must provide proof of age, such as a notarized copy of their birth certificate or their passport.

7. ADVANCE APPEARANCE OF MAIN EVENT FIGHTERS

In title bouts, both the champion and the challenger will be present in the event locale according to the date stated in their ISKA-MMA Title Contract. This date will be no less than 3 days before the event, unless, with ISKA-MMA approval, the fighter and promoter agree otherwise. All fighters participating in title bouts, and the promoter of these bouts, will enter an agreement using the ISKA-MMA Title Contract, as directed by the ISKA-MMA. Terms of the contract may be modified with ISKA-MMA approval, but no rematch clauses, agreements between the promoter and the fighter regarding officials, or clauses that interfere beyond established guidelines, with a fighter's availability to other promoters, will be allowed.

Breach of this contract by either party may lead to fines or suspension levied by the ISKA-MMA Commissioner, in addition to any legal remedies.

8. APPEARANCE BONDS AND FORFEITS

All fighters may be required to post appearance bonds with a promoter for whom they are to appear. In the event the fighter fails to appear, this bond is to be forfeited and divided 50% to the promoter and 50% to the fighter's opponent for training expenses. The amount of the forfeit money must be specified in the fighter's contract.

Appearance bonds will not exceed 50% of the purse.

N.B. Fighters bonds will be required only with the express permission of the ISKA-MMA Commissioner.

9. FIGHTERS MUST REPORT

All fighters, or representative second, must attend the pre-fight meeting held by the ISKA-MMA Representative. This meeting will typically be following the weigh-in, or during the afternoon before the event. In addition, fighters will be required to report for physicals, and to their dressing rooms, at the time specified by the ISKA-MMA Representative. Failure to do so will result in fines as per the ISKA-MMA fine schedule, and possibly result in the fighter being dropped from the event. All fines will be retained by the ISKA-MMA.

All fighters, once they report to the ISKA-MMA Representative or the Athletic Inspector in charge of dressing rooms immediately prior to the start of an event, are not to leave the facility, and are subject to urinalysis and fines, if they do not remain in approved areas.

10. FIGHTERS' APPEARANCE

All fighters must be clean and present a tidy appearance. The excessive use of grease or any foreign substance is not permitted. The Referee, or the ISKA-MMA Representative, shall insist upon removal of any such excessive grease or foreign substance. Non compliance by the contestant shall be sufficient cause for disciplinary action, such as purse deduction, or disqualification.

11. FIGHTERS DISQUALIFIED OR DECLARED INELIGIBLE

Fighters who are declared ineligible for their bouts due to excessive weight, misrepresented age, physical incapacity's pre-known to the fighter, or other willful violation of ISKA-MMA regulations, will be subject to fines and suspension by the ISKA-MMA Commissioner. Unless otherwise specified in the fighters contract, the promoter will have no obligation to the ineligible fighters, and may demand reimbursement from the fighter for any expenses or purse pre-paid by the promoter. The promoter will, however, be obligated to pay the expenses of the opposing fighter who presents himself properly, plus any cancellation settlements if provided for in that fighters contract.

Fighters who are disqualified during their bout for willful gross rule violations, or unprofessional performance, or who represent themselves improperly following their bout, may be subject to the same penalties, at the discretion of the ISKA-MMA Representative, with the approval of the ISKA-MMA Commissioner.

SECTION IV: FIGHTERS; EQUIPMENT AND SECONDS

1. UNIFORM

A uniform approved by the ISKA-MMA Representative must be worn by all fighters upon entering the ring. Any fighter presenting themselves in attire deemed inappropriate will be fined from \$25.00 up to 10% of their purse by the ISKA-MMA Representative, and will not compete in their bout until they present themselves

according to regulations. Black belts may be worn at the option of the fighter and must be tied securely around the waist, and can not be used by the fighter during the bout for anything but adornment.

No rings, jewelry, or items other than those authorized may be worn.

2. GLOVES, KNEE PADS, ELBOW PADS AND MOUTHPIECES

All fighters will wear regulation gloves approved by the ISKA-MMA. If the gloves have been used previously, they must be whole, clean and subject to inspection by the referee or by the ISKA-MMA Representative as to condition. If found imperfect, they shall be changed before the bout starts. No breaking, roughing, or twisting of gloves shall be permitted.

Knee pads and elbow pads of soft substance may be worn by all fighters and are subject to the approval of the ISKA-MMA Representative.

All male fighters are encouraged to wear an approved groin protector. A plastic cup with an athletic supporter is adequate.

All fighters must wear fitted mouthpieces. All fighters are required to have an extra mouthpiece ringside during their match.

Fighters must furnish their own knee pads, elbow pads, groin protectors and mouthpieces. All promoters must have several extra sets of gloves of common sizes to be used in case gloves are broken or in any way damaged beyond use during the course of the bouts. Fighters who do not present themselves properly equipped at the start time of their bout shall be subject to fines by the ISKA-MMA Representative, and may be penalized by the referee, including being counted out of the match, if any equipment problems cannot be solved within 5 minutes of the referee's order to correct such problem.

3. GLOVES - STANDARD SPECIFICATION

All gloves must be of a professional quality and must be approved by the ISKA-MMA Representative. All gloves must be made so as to fit the hands of any fighter whose hands may be unusual in size. The make and type of all gloves must be approved in advance by the ISKA-MMA Representative. All gloves will be provided by the promoter. The referee must inspect and approve any tape used on the gloves.

4. HAND AND FOOT/ANKLE WRAPPINGS

The wrapping of hands is prohibited.

The use of footgear is prohibited.

The wrapping of feet/ankles is not mandatory. Fighters who wish to wrap their feet/ankles shall be responsible for their own gauze and tape.

Gauze shall be of the soft or soft-stretch type, and shall not exceed 2" in width. Tape shall be of the soft adhesive type and shall not exceed 1.5" in width. Up to 6' of tape may be used to wrap each foot and ankle.

The ISKA-MMA Representative, or his designee, must inspect all foot/ankle wrappings.

5. NUMBER OF SECONDS AND THEIR APPEARANCE.

Each fighter may have up to one seconds of his choice for non-title match, and two for title matches and each second, while assisting the fighter must wear an ISKA-MMA approved uniform (subject to the approval of the ISKA-MMA Representative), must present a neat and tidy appearance, provide a pail, tape, water bottle and other equipment necessary to perform his function. Seconds may not sit, stand on, lean on or touch the ring apron during the course of the bout, nor otherwise interfere physically or verbally with the bout or the duties of the officials. Seconds must remain in designated areas assigned to them by the ISKA-MMA Representative during the bout. At no time is a second allowed into the ring except with approval by the ISKA-MMA Representative. The ISKA-MMA Representative may levy fines and/or disqualification of the fighter for improper and unprofessional conduct by the seconds.

6. THROWING IN THE TOWEL

A manager or chief second may toss a towel into the ring in token of the defeat of his principal.

SECTION V: CONDUCT OF BOUTS

1. DURATION OF BOUTS

- a) Non-Championship bouts are three (3), five (5) minute rounds.
- b) Championship bouts are five (5), five (5) minute rounds.

One and a half (1.5) minute rest between rounds.

The fight continues until one fighter submits, his corner throws in the towel, the referee stops the fight or the doctor stops the contest, or the time limit of the rounds expires. The time runs continuously and may be called or stopped only by the referee in special cases, such as equipment malfunction or commitment of a foul.

2. REFEREE INSTRUCTION

The referee will, before starting a bout, ascertain from each fighter the name of his chief handler and will hold said chief handler responsible for the conduct of his assistant handler(s) during the progress of a bout.

Immediately before the bout commences, the referee will call the fighters to the center of the ring and conduct the traditional karate bow in the following manner:

- a) The fighters, while standing in their starting zones (usually designated red or blue), will face the referee;
- b) The referee will first bow to the fighters, who will return the bow and then bow to each other in customary fashion; and
- c) From the position in which the bow takes place, the fighters will prepare to fight as the referee signals the timekeeper that the bout will commence.

3. AUTHORIZED OFFENSIVE TECHNIQUES

All striking (punches, kicks, etc.) and grappling (take-downs, throws, submission holds, etc.) techniques are allowed with the exception of those techniques specified as Fouls in Rule 4.

4. FOULS

a) Fouls, at the discretion of the referee, based on the intent of the fighter committing the foul and the result of the foul, may cause time to be stopped in the bout and warnings, recuperation time and/or disqualification being issued.

- (1) Flagrant disregard of the referee's instructions;
- (2) Biting;
- (3) Eye gouging;
- (4) Clawing;
- (5) Groin techniques;
- (6) Striking to the throat;
- (7) Fish hooking of the mouth;
- (8) Striking spine;
- (9) Point of Elbow strikes;
- (10) Knee's strikes to the head on the ground;
- (11) Head butts;
- (12) Kicks to front of Knee;
- (13) Kicks to Head of Downed fighter;
- (14) Hair pulling;
- (15) Holding on to Fence;
- (16) Spiking an opponent to the canvas on there head or back of neck;
- (17) Throwing opponent out of fenced area/ring;
- (18) Intentionally delaying the contest due to improper equipment, or by intentionally dropping or spitting out the mouthpiece.

b) Disqualification occurs after any combination of three (3) fouls or after a flagrant foul.

c) Fouls result in a point being deducted by the official scorekeeper from the

offending contestant's score. (The judges should only make notations of points deducted by the referee, for each round)

- d) Only a referee can assess a foul. If the referee does not call the foul, judges must not make that assessment on their own.
- e) A fouled fighter has up to five minutes to recuperate.
- f) If a foul is committed:
 - 1) the referee shall call time
 - 2) the referee shall check the fouled contestant's condition and safety
 - 3) the referee shall then assess the foul to the offending contestant, deduct points, and notify the cornermen, judges and official scorekeeper
- g) If a bottom contestant commits a foul, unless the top contestant is injured, the fight will continue. If top contestant is injured, he will be give his recovery time and then put back into top position if able to continue.

NOTE: A fighter who executes a fouling technique which is deemed malicious (with the intent of causing injury above and beyond the scope reasonably expected in a bout of this nature), may be subject to bearing the medical, as well as related recovery and recuperation expenses of the fighter who is injured as a result of such fouling technique.

5. FOULING, STOPPING THE BOUT

If the referee determines that the fouled fighter needs time to recover, he may stop the bout (and the time) and give the injured fighter a reasonable amount of time to recover, up to a maximum of 5 minutes under normal circumstances. At the end of this reasonable rest period the referee and the ring physician will determine if the fouled fighter can continue the bout, if he can the bout will continue.

The results of the foul will be based on the following determination by the referee:

If the referee determines that the foul was obviously committed by one of the fighters, and that the fouled fighter did not contribute to the injury (by landing his groin on an opponents knee, etc.), the referee can disqualify the fighter committing the foul and declare the fouled fighter the winner.

If the referee determines that the injured fighter was responsible for his own injury, the referee will not penalize his opponent in any manner. In this case, if the referee or ring physician determines that the injured fighter is unable to continue, he will lose by "technical knockout".

If the referee determines that there was no fault attributable to either fighter (that the injury was caused by both fighters), the referee will allow the injured fighter time to

recover. If, at the end of the recovery period, the referee or the ring physician determines that the fouled fighter cannot continue, the bout will be called a "technical draw".

If an injury occurs due to a suspected foul, that the referee was unable to see, a "blind foul", the Referee may, at his sole and final discretion, confide with the ISKA-MMA Representative, to determine where the fault may be placed. He may consider any, all, or none of the opinions expressed in making his determination. At his sole discretion, he may ask for a replay, if television equipment is available, of the technique in question before rendering his decision. A referee's decision on fouls may be overruled at ringside only by the ISKA-MMA Representative, and then, only in the instance of a clear error or misapplication of the rules.

6. THE POWER TO STOP THE CONTEST

Either the Referee, the fighter's chief handler, the doctor or the fighter may stop contest. The referee or the doctor shall have the power to stop a bout at any stage during the bout, if he considers that either fighter is in such condition that to continue might subject him to serious injury. Should both fighters be in such condition that to continue might subject them to serious injury, the referee will declare the match a "technical draw". A fighter who submits or "taps out" or a fighter who's chief handler "throws in the towel" loses the bout.

7. PROCEDURE FOR FAILURE TO COMPETE

In any case where the referee decides that the fighters are not honestly competing, that a knockout is a "dive", or a foul is actually a prearranged termination of the bout, he will not disqualify a fighter for fouling, nor render a decision. He shall stop the bout and declare it ended, and order the purses of both fighters held pending an investigation and disposition for the funds by the ISKA-MMA. The announcer shall inform the audience that a "no decision" was rendered. The ISKA-MMA Commissioner will have the final authority in rendering a decision on the match, including dispensation of purse moneys.

8. GROUND ACTIVITY RULE

If both fighters have gone to the ground and neither is actively working to improve his position then they shall be separated and stood up by the referee. The referee shall immediately restart the bout from the standing position.

9. MOUTHPIECES

No fighter will be allowed to begin any bout without a mouthpiece. Whenever the mouthpiece is knocked out by a fair blow or a foul tactic, or however the mouthpiece is dropped or spit out by the fighter, the referee shall wait for a lull in the activity of both fighters, call time out, stop the bout in place, and replace the mouthpiece. Willful dropping, or spitting out of the mouthpiece by a fighter, shall also be deemed as a "delay of bout" foul, and the fighter shall be penalized accordingly by the referee. The

mouthpiece is replaced whenever it is lost for any reason. All fighters must bring two mouthpieces to the ringside for use during their match.

SECTION VI: PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND SAFETY REGULATIONS

1. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND FEES

The attending physician will have a suitable place or room in which to make his examinations. His fees shall include temporary or emergency treatment to any injured fighter in the arena or dressing room. The fees for such examination shall be borne by the promoter. The physician to be retained must have been the recipient of an M.D. or D.O. degree, or recognized international equivalent.

2. TIME AND EXAMINATION

A thorough physical and eye examination will be given to each fighter by the attending physician at the time of weigh-in. Unless otherwise specified by ISKA-MMA/Local Commission.

3. EXAMINATION ORDERED BY THE ISKA-MMA

Any fighter who has been signed to a contract for a fight at any event may be ordered by the ISKA-MMA to appear at any time to be weighed or to be examined by any physician designated by the ISKA-MMA.

Any fighter who participates in an ISKA-MMA sanctioned event, may, at the request of the ISKA-MMA Representative, be required to submit to a pre-fight or post-fight blood and/or urine examination for foreign substance. Any fighter who refuses to submit to the examination will be immediately suspended for a length of time as specified by the ISKA-MMA, and will be subject to disciplinary action and penalties as provided in contractual agreements with the ISKA-MMA and promoter.

4. REJECTIONS AND REPORTS

Should any fighter examined prove unfit for competition, the fighter must be rejected, and an immediate report of the fact made to the promoter and the ISKA-MMA Representative. The examining physician will, one hour before the start of any event, clarify in writing to the ISKA-MMA Representative that the fighters are in good physical condition.

5. REPORTS OF ILLNESS

Whenever a fighter, because of injury or illness, is unable to take part in a bout for which he is under contract, he or his manager must immediately report the fact to the ISKA-MMA. The fighter will then submit to an examination by a physician designated by the ISKA-MMA. The examination fee of the physician is to be paid by the fighter, or the promoter, if the latter requests an examination.

6. CONTINUOUS PRESENCE OF PHYSICIAN AND EMERGENCY MOBILE UNIT

At least one licensed physician, possessing an M.D. or equivalent degree, and one standby emergency mobile unit, all approved in advance by the ISKA-MMA, must be in attendance at all ISKA-MMA sanctioned events. The use of two physicians at ringside is strongly recommended. The mobile unit must include a full range of resuscitative equipment and be parked inside or adjacent to an entrance of the building hosting the event. The physician(s) must sit at immediate ringside throughout the duration of the bouts. A stretcher and oxygen tank, and containers of "instant ice", must be readily available at ringside.

No bout will be allowed to proceed unless the physician is in his seat. The physician shall not leave until after the decision in the final bout. He shall be prepared to assist if any serious emergency arises, and will render temporary or emergency treatments for cuts or minor injuries sustained by the fighters.

Under no circumstances are the fighters seconds permitted to enter the ring, or to attend to a fighter in any manner whatsoever, during the course of a bout. The ringside physician cannot attend to an injured fighter during the course of a fight.

7. REPORT OF INJURY

All attending physicians must report all cases in which the fighters have been injured during a bout, or have applied for medical aid after an event. If a fighter has suffered a knockout, or any other severe injuries whether in or out of the ring, and whether or not connected with ISKA-MMA, and has on such account been treated by his personal physician or has been hospitalized, he and his manager must promptly submit to the ISKA-MMA a full report from such physician or hospital.

8. FIGHTERS KNOCKED OUT

Fighters who have been knocked out will be kept lying down until they have recovered. When a fighter is knocked out, no one will touch him except the referee, who will remove

his mouthpiece, until the ringside physician enters the ring and personally attends the fallen fighter and issues such instructions as he sees fit to the fighter's handlers. If a fighter suffers an injury, has been knocked out, or has participated in an unusually punishing bout, or if a technical knockout decision has been rendered against him by the referee, such fighter will be placed on the ill and unavailable list for such period of time as may be recommended by any approved ISKA-MMA physician who may examine him. A fighter who loses a bout by knockout will be suspended from competition by the ISKA-MMA for a minimum of 60 days. A fighter who loses a bout by technical knockout will be suspended for 30 days, or longer, if substantial head or body trauma was involved.

9. SUSPENSION FOR DISABILITY

Any fighter rejected by an examining physician will be suspended until it is shown that he is fit for further competition. Any fighter suspended for 30 or 60 days for his medical protection, or suspended for a hard fight will take the same examination as required for the eligibility physical, except as directed by the ISKA-MMA. The physician may require any other procedure, including an electroencephalogram, if indicated.

10. ADMINISTRATION OR USE OF DRUGS

Use by a fighter of any of the listed substances, or any other drugs, will result in disqualification from his bout, and fines and suspension by the ISKA-MMA Commissioner.

SECTION VII: RINGSIDE OFFICIALS, PERSONNEL AND DUTIES

1. RINGSIDE OFFICIALS

A referee, one timekeeper, an ISKA-MMA Representative, a physician, all approved by the ISKA-MMA, will be employed at all ISKA-MMA sanctioned ISKA-MMA events. All ISKA-MMA officials must be ISKA-MMA certified. The ISKA-MMA will appoint to each event an ISKA-MMA Representative who will be responsible for the assignment of the referee. The ISKA-MMA Representative will work with the promoter in the assignment of the other ringside officials, but the final authority for the selection and appointment of all ringside officials shall rest with the ISKA-MMA Representative. If the event falls within the jurisdiction of an athletic commission, and commission regulations require any alteration of this rule, the decision of the ISKA-MMA Representative shall be final with regard to changes in number and qualification of the officials.

2. STATES WITH ATHLETIC COMMISSIONS

In those states where ISKA-MMA is regulated by Athletic Commissions, the commission will usually supply an on-site inspector who will assist the promoter in the operation of his event. In these cases, the ISKA-MMA Representative will work jointly with the inspector in the performance of his duties. **An inspector authorized and licensed by the state is empowered to make final decisions on all matters falling under his jurisdiction.**

3. TIMEKEEPER'S EQUIPMENT

All necessary equipment will be provided to the timekeeper by the promoter.

4. TIMEKEEPER'S DUTIES

The timekeeper will keep the time during each bout, starting and stopping the official clock, for time-outs designated to him by the referee.

5. TYPES OF BOUT RESULTS:

- a) Submission by:
 - 1) Tap Out
 - 2) Verbal tap out
- b) TKO by:
 - 1) Referee stops bout
 - 2) Ringside Physician stops bout
 - 3) Corner stops bout
- c) KO by:
 - 1) Failure to rise from the canvas
- d) Decision via score cards:
 - 1) Unanimous – When all three judges score the bout for the same contestant.
 - 2) Split Decision – When two judges score the bout for one contestant and one judge scores for the opponent.
 - 3) Majority – When two judges score the bout for the same contestant and one judge scores a draw.
 - 4) Draw –
 - a. Unanimous – When all three judges score the bout a draw
 - b. Majority – When two judges score the bout a draw
 - c. Split – When all three judges score differently
- e) Disqualification
- f) Forfeit
- g) Technical Draw
- h) Technical Decision
- i) No Contest

6. SCORING TECHNIQUES

Using the 10-Point Must Scoring System, Judges are required to determine a winner of a bout that ends after the initial scheduled number of rounds have been completed. 10 points must be awarded to the winner of the round and nine points or less must be awarded to the loser, except for a rare even round, which is scored (10-10).

Judges must evaluate mixed martial arts techniques, such as:

- a) Effective Striking
- b) Effective Grappling
- c) Ring Control
- d) Effective Aggressiveness/Defense

Evaluations shall be made in the order in which the techniques appear above, giving the most weight in scoring to effective striking, grappling, ring control and aggressiveness/defense.

Mixed Martial Arts Techniques are defined below as:

- a) Effective Striking: The total number of legal heavy strikes landed.
- b) Effective Grappling: The successful execution of a legal takedown and/or reversal including the following maneuvers:
 - 1) Takedowns from standing position to mount position;
 - 2) Passing the guard to mount position;
 - 3) Bottom position fighters using an active, threatening guard.
- c) Ring Control: Dictating the pace, location and position of the bout using the following maneuvers:
 - 1) Countering a grappler's attempt at takedown to remain standing and legally striking effectively;
 - 2) Taking down an opponent to force a ground fight;
 - 3) Creating threatening submission attempts pass the guard to achieve mount, while on the ground;
 - 4) Creating striking opportunities, while on the ground.
- d) Effective Aggressiveness/Defense: Moving forward and landing a legal strike, while avoiding being struck, takedown and/or reversed while performing the maneuvers described above.

7. OBJECTIVE SCORING CRITERIA:

10-10 Round

- 1) When both contestants appear to be fighting evenly and neither contestant shows clear dominance.
- 2) When both contestants suffer equal numbers of legal knockdowns, takedowns, and strikes, and neither shows clear dominance in a round.

10-9 Round

- 1) When a contestant wins by a close margin, landing the greater number of effective legal strikes, grappling and other maneuvers;
- 2) When a contestant remains in the guard position with no fighter having an edge in striking or grappling, the fighter who scored the legal takedown wins the round.

10-8 Round

- 1) When a contestant overwhelmingly dominates by striking or grappling in a round.
- 2) When a contestant adversely affects his opponent by knocking him down from legal strikes, threatening submission attempts, throwing, legal striking while standing or grounded.

10-7 Round

- 1) When a contestant totally dominates by striking or grappling in a round.
- 2) When a contestant detrimentally affects his opponents by knocking him down from legal strikes, threatening submission attempts, throwing, legal striking while standing or grounded.

Judges should use a sliding scale and recognize the length of time the fighters are either standing or on the ground, as follows:

- 1) If 90% of a round was spent on the ground, then:
 - a) Effective Grappling is weighed first.
 - b) Effective Striking is then weighed
- 2) If 90% of a round was standing, then:
 - a) Effective Striking is weighed first
 - b) Effective Grappling is then weighed
- 3) If a round ends with 50% standing and 50% grounded, striking and grappling are weighed more equally.

8. ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS

After the ISKA-MMA Representative has completed verifying the master results card, the Representative will give the ring announcer the results on "Announcer's Final Result Sheet". The announcer shall then, inform the audience of the decision over the public

address system. The referee will indicate the winner as the announcer gives the winner's name.

In the event of a knockout, a technical knockout, disqualification or forfeit, the announcer and referee will officially designate the winner and give the time at which the bout was stopped. In the event of a technical draw, the announcer will give the time at which the bout was stopped and will detail for the audience the nature of the decision.

9. CHANGE OF DECISION

A decision rendered at the termination of any bout is final, and cannot be changed unless the ISKA-MMA Representative at the event, or subsequently the ISKA-MMA Commissioner, determines that any one of the following occurred:

There was collusion affecting the results of any bout.

There was a clear violation of the rules or regulation governing ISKA-MMA bouts which affected the result of any bout.

If the ISKA-MMA Representative or Commissioner determines that any of the above occurred with regard to any bout, then the decision rendered shall be changed as the ISKA-MMA Representative or Commissioner may direct.

10. PROTESTS

All protests over the decision of a match shall be verbally registered only by the protesting fighter and/or his chief handler to the ISKA-MMA Representative prior to the end of the event, who will note the nature of the protest in his Representative's report. All protests must be received at the appropriate ISKA-MMA office, in writing and accompanied by all pertinent evidence (videotapes, affidavits, etc.), no later than 10 days following the bout in question. No protest will be considered unless accompanied by the appropriate fee:

Non-title bouts - state, provincial or regional office - \$50 U.S.

Title bouts - Commissioner - \$150 U.S.

In the event either party is dissatisfied by the decision rendered by the state, provincial or regional office, that party may appeal to the ISKA-MMA Commissioner accompanied by an additional \$150 U.S. appeal fee.

All decisions by the ISKA-MMA Commissioner are final.

All parties should recognize that the ISKA-MMA has NO authority over local athletic commissions and cannot change their rules. The standard for review is "clear" evidence which would justify a change of decision, or "clear" circumstances which in the best interest of the sport, would justify a change in decision.

Any questions on the rules of the ISKA-MMA should be directed to the ISKA-MMA Commissioner;

Paul M. Smith
P.O. Box 1494.
Jackson, Ca. 95642
(209)304-1100