

CHAPTER 72-02.2-02
COMMISSIONER OF COMBATIVE SPORTS AND
COMMISSION OF COMBATIVE SPORTS - MIXED FIGHTING STYLE

PROPOSED CHANGES

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72-02.2-02-01. Definitions.

For purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Commission" or "commission member" means the North Dakota commission of combative sports or a person delegated by the commissioner.
2. "Commissioner" means the North Dakota secretary of state acting as the commissioner of combative sports.
3. "Contest" means a match between two contestants in a mixed fighting style competition.
4. "Contestant" means a participant in a match who receives remuneration directly or indirectly as consideration for the participant's performance in a mixed fighting style competition, except for a participant's performance as an amateur in section 72-02.2-02-26.
5. "Exhibition" means a mixed fighting style match in which a decision is not rendered.
6. "Match" means any contest or exhibition, in which participants intend to and do inflict punches or blows, or employ other techniques to temporarily incapacitate an opponent, regardless of whether the object of the participants is to win or display their skills without striving to win.

7. "Matchmaker" means any person who brings together professional mixed fighting style contestants or arranges professional mixed fighting style matches.
8. "Mixed fighting style competition" is a contest or match in which participants intend to inflict or employ kicks, punches, blows, holds, and other techniques to injure, stun, choke, incapacitate, or disable an opponent. The techniques include a combination of boxing, kickboxing, wrestling, grappling, or other recognized martial arts.
9. "Promoter" means any person, club, corporation, or association, and any officer, director, employee, or stockholder thereof, that produces, arranges, or stages professional mixed fighting style contests or exhibitions.
10. "Registry" means any entity certified by the association of boxing commissions and combative sports to maintain records and identification of mixed fighting style contestants.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-02. Commission of combative sports.

The North Dakota commission of combative sports consists of nine members appointed by the commissioner to staggered three-year terms each with three members appointed in each term. A vacancy in the membership caused other than by expiration of terms is filled for the balance of the term for the position in which the vacancy occurred.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-03. General provisions.

The rules in this chapter govern all mixed fighting style contests or exhibitions.

1. The commissioner and the commission are the administrators of all professional mixed fighting style contests within the state and over amateur contests, upon request, with the approval of the commissioner.
2. Unless stated otherwise within these rules, the commissioner and commission shall follow the unified rules of mixed martial arts as adopted by the association of boxing commissions and combative sports in effect on ~~October 1, 2020~~ [November 1, 2024](#).
3. The commission may not approve the following:
 - a. Matches in which more than two contestants appear in the ring at the same time;
 - b. Matches in which the contestants are of the opposite sex; and
 - c. Matches in which the contestants are not using gloves.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020, [amended effective November 1, 2024](#).

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-04. Licensing - Terms and conditions.

1. Licenses are issued for a calendar year beginning January first and ending December thirty-first. When applying for a license, the applicant shall ~~sign~~ submit the application ~~form~~ affirming ~~by oath~~ the information provided is correct.
2. The licenses available and the fees for each license are as follows:
 - a. Contestant- Twenty-five dollars.
 - b. Judge - Twenty-five dollars.
 - c. Manager - Fifty dollars.
 - d. Matchmaker - Fifty dollars.
 - e. Physician - No fee.
 - f. Promoter - Two hundred fifty dollars.
 - g. Referee - Twenty-five dollars.
 - h. Second or trainer - Twenty-five dollars.
 - i. Timekeeper - Twenty-five dollars.
3. Except for a contestant, every licensee shall:
 - a. ~~Be at least eighteen years of age.~~ Provide proof that the applicant is 18 years of age or older.— Acceptable proof can be demonstrated by a photo driver's license, state issued ID card, tribal issued ID card, passport, or birth certificate combined with additional photo identification.
 - b. Have at least one year of verifiable experience and proficiency in either professional or amateur mixed fight style competition.
 - c. Be licensed for each role the licensee has in the event, and if more than one, only may be required to pay the fee for the highest prices license issued to the licensee.
 - d. Referee, Judge, and timekeeper applicants must submit proof of qualifications that may include certified training from the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports.
 - e. Physicians (MD/DO) must submit proof of licensure to practice medicine in the state of North Dakota, and be certified through the Association of Ringside Physicians.
 - ~~d.f.~~ Understand the commissioner will honor the actions of other regulatory jurisdictions.
 - ~~e.g.~~ Understand the commissioner or commission may issue a verbal warning for the first infraction of the law or rules, a written warning for a second infraction, and a suspension up to six months for a third infraction. The commissioner or commission, without warning, may suspend a license for a violation that endangers the life or health of any person.
4. ~~To become licensed, a contestant shall~~ Prelicensure Requirements. Before the commissioner issues a license to a contestant, the applicant shall:
 - a. ~~Be at least eighteen years of age.~~ Provide proof that the applicant is 18 years of age or older.— Acceptable proof can be demonstrated by a photo driver's license, state issued ID card, tribal issued ID card, passport, or birth certificate combined with additional photo identification.
 - b. Have a mixed martial arts national identification card issued by the ~~a~~ Association of ~~b~~ Boxing

eCommissions and eCombative sSports and if not, make application through the commissioner.

- c. Provide the contestant's legal name and professional name if applicable, photo identification, address, contact telephone number, social security number, birth date, height, weight, eye color, and any distinguishing marks.
- d. Provide the names and ~~addresses~~ contact information of the contestant's manager and trainer.
- e. If a female contestant, certify the contestant is not pregnant.
- f. Disclose whether the contestant has been suspended during the preceding twelve months, by which jurisdiction, and for what reason.

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~~g. Present documented evidence the contestant has been tested within six months of application by a laboratory in the United States which possesses a certificate under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act [42 U.S.C. 263a], to detect the presence of bloodborne pathogens, as identified by the commissioner, with negative results.~~

~~h. Disclose the date of the contestant's most recent physical examination, any serious bodily injuries, any serious head injuries, any surgeries, and whether the contestant is using any prescriptions or medications. If the commissioner or commission member determines a question exists as to the medical condition of a contestant, a complete physical examination may be required, at the contestant's expense. Upon completion of the examination, the physician chosen shall submit a report directly to the commissioner and to the contestant. The physician's report shall affirmatively state whether the contestant has the health and fitness to safely compete in a mixed fighting style competition. The physician's report must be filed with the commissioner in the contestant's permanent medical record.~~ Submit to the commissioner the results of current lab results and medical examinations on forms prescribed by the commissioner that state the contestant is cleared to participate in a combative sports contest:-

- Bloodwork results for HBsAg(Hepatitis B surface antigen), HCV (Hepatitis C antibody) and HIV. Bloodwork results are good for 6 months from the date the blood was drawn. The commissioner shall not issue a license to an applicant submitting positive test results for HBsAg, HCV, or HIV.

~~i. The commissioner may request that an applicant **must** undergo any of the following medical examinations (at the contestant's expense) and submit the results of the following medical examinations prior for approval to participate.~~ clearance.

- A physical examination performed by a licensed medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic medicine, advance practice nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant. Physical examinations are valid for one year from the date of exam.
- An ophthalmological examination performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist that includes dilation designed to detect any retinal defects or other damage or condition of the eye that could be aggravated by combative sports. Ophthalmological examinations are valid for one year from the date of exam.
- Other appropriate neurological or physical examinations before any contest, if the commissioner determines that the examination is desirable to protect the health of the contestant.

~~h.j.~~ Understand the contestant may not compete in a contest or exhibition within seven days after their previous contest nor within ninety days of a contest in which the contestant was unable to defend himself or herself.

~~i.k.~~ Understand the commissioner may honor the actions of other regulatory jurisdictions.

~~j.l.~~ Understand the commissioner may hold an informal hearing to determine whether a contestant should be licensed or whether an existing license should be suspended or revoked. The contestant or designated representative may attend.

~~k.m.~~ Understand the commissioner may deny the contestant's license application or suspend or revoke an existing license if, in the judgment of the commissioner or commission, the contestant is guilty of an act detrimental to the integrity of mixed fighting style competition, or to the public interest.

~~l.n.~~ Understand the commissioner or commission may issue a verbal warning for the first infraction of the law or rules, a written warning for a second infraction, and a suspension

up to six months for a third infraction. The commissioner or commission, without warning, may suspend a license for a violation that endangers the life or health of any person.

~~m.o.~~ Understand the contestant may request an informal hearing before the commissioner to review the suspension or revocation of a license for a recent knockout, injury, or other medical reason to provide proof of sufficiently improved physical condition. The contestant also may request an informal hearing before the commissioner to review a suspension or revocation of a license for a positive drug test, providing a false alias, or having false identification or providing a false document or information to obtain a license.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective July 1, 2016; October 1, 2020, [amended effective November 1, 2024](#).

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-05. Duties of promoter.

A promoter shall:

1. Make application to the commissioner or commission to produce, arrange, or stage a match a minimum of two months prior to the event.

2. Provide proof of adequate insurance covering contestants, officials, and the public present at the event.
3. Provide medical insurance and pay the deductibles for each contestant covering injuries sustained by a contestant during the competition with a minimum benefit of two thousand five hundred dollars and at least two thousand five hundred dollars for an accidental death.
4. Provide a completed notification of contest form to the commissioner a minimum of five days prior to the event.
5. Seek approval from the commissioner for a change in the announced or advertised programs for any main match a minimum of forty-eight hours prior to the scheduled weigh-in for the event. The change must be included in any public announcement or advertisement relating to the match and posted at ticket offices and announced from the ring prior to the opening match. If, because of the change, a patron requests a refund of the purchase price of their ticket, the promoter shall grant the refund if it is presented at the ticket office before the start of the second match or the main match, whichever comes first.
6. Select and hire all ring officials, including judges, knockdown counter, physician, referees, timekeeper, with the approval and assignment of the commissioner, and shall pay the officials for their services.
7. Provide the commissioner with copies of all contracts between the promoter and contestants, which are subject to the commissioner's review to verify consistency with the requirements of state law and these rules.
8. Understand the failure to follow state law or these rules or failure to cooperate with the commissioner or commission member may result in a future denial of a match.
9. Pay an administrative fee to reimburse the commissioner for the costs of regulating the event by making a monetary deposit with the commissioner, in an amount satisfactory to the commissioner, prior to the event and paying the balance within thirty days ~~after~~ of being invoiced for the event. The deposit is refundable only when an event is canceled due to circumstances which are, in the opinion of the commissioner, extreme and beyond the control of the promoter.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020, amended effective November 1, 2024.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-06. Duties of referee.

A referee shall:

1. Not officiate more than thirty-two rounds during the event.
2. Have a physical examination prior to the event by the ringside physician either at the official weigh-in or prior to the beginning of the match and receive the physician's approval prior to officiating a match.
3. Exercise authority, according to the rules, over the match the referee is officiating.
4. Meet before a match with the contestant's second and assistant second, if applicable, and provide those individuals with instructions.
5. Stop the match if it becomes partial, or if a contestant is in such a condition that if the match continues the contestant is subject to serious injury.

6. Stop the match if a contestant has a cut or wound that might be a serious injury and consult with the ringside physician as to whether the match should continue.
7. Determine whether an injury is the result of a legal or illegal blow and whether it was intentional or accidental.
8. Return a contestant's mouthpiece during a lull in the match and if the contestant is intentionally ejecting the mouthpiece, the referee may discount a point during that round from the contestant or disqualify the contestant.
9. Not drink alcoholic beverages a minimum of twelve hours prior to the event and until assigned duties are completed.
10. Be replaced by the commission with another referee if the referee becomes incapacitated or otherwise unable to complete the match.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-07. Duties of judges.

The three judges for the match shall:

1. Sit on a stool midway between the ring posts and not on the same side of the ring as another judge and have a direct view of the ring.
2. Use the "ten point must system" scoring described in section 72-02.2-02-22.
3. Mark the score card in ink for each contestant, sign it, and hand it to the referee after each round without discussion with anyone except as needed with the commissioner or a commission member.
4. Correct a clerical or mathematical error on the score cards as may be identified at the conclusion of the match. Otherwise, the match results cannot be changed without a hearing before the commissioner.
5. Not drink alcoholic beverages a minimum of twelve hours prior to the event and until assigned duties are completed.
6. Be replaced by the commission with another judge if a judge becomes incapacitated or otherwise unable to complete the scoring of a match.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-08. Duties of seconds.

1. Each contestant may have a maximum of three seconds, with one of the seconds designated as the chief second.
2. Two seconds, without shoes, are allowed inside the ring at the end of each round and the others, if any, shall stay on the platform. The seconds shall clear all items from the ring platform and leave the ring by the start of the next round.
3. During rounds, the seconds shall stay within the outside corner area of the ring and may not touch the ring.

4. A chief second verbally, with a hand signal or by mounting the apron, may signal to the referee that the contestant cannot continue and to stop the match. The "throwing of a towel" into the ring is not an indicator of the contestant's defeat.
5. During the match, a second may not provide a contestant with alcoholic beverages, narcotics, or stimulants, pour or spray excessive water on the contestant's body, or place ice in the contestant's trunks or cup.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-09. Duties of timekeeper.

1. The timekeeper shall have a timing device. The timekeeper shall indicate the beginning and end of each round by a bell, horn, or buzzer having a clear audible tone to be heard by the referee and contestants. Ten seconds prior to the end of a round, the timekeeper shall strike an object three times in a manner having a clear audible tone alerting the referee and contestants.
2. If a match is stopped before the scheduled number of rounds, the timekeeper shall record the time the stoppage occurred.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-10. Duties of physician.

1. A physician shall examine each contestant ~~at the weigh-in prior to the match~~ within 36 hours of entering the ring. – and The examining physician shall immediately file with the commissioner a written report of the examination to certify to the commissioner the contestant is in acceptable physical condition to ~~box~~fight.
2. The examination must include an examination of the following: the contestant's heart and general physical and neurological condition including the eyes, ears, mouth and jaw, nose, chest, head, hands, abdomen, blood pressure, and resting heart rate.
3. If more than one physician is present, the commissioner shall select one to be the head physician. If the physician also is a commission member, the physician may not serve concurrently as the ringside physician and commission member during the match.
4. The physician shall sit near the ring steps and remain there during the match unless required in the ring. After the match, the physician shall examine and certify each contestant's physical condition.
5. The physician may enter the ring during a match and terminate the match if the physician determines the contestant has or may have a serious physical injury. The physician immediately shall render emergency treatment as required and shall recommend further treatment, or hospitalization as required. The physician may require for a period the contestant or contestant's manager to remain in the ring or on the premise. For the commissioner's records, the physician shall file a report of the incident.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020, amended effective November 1, 2024.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-11. Ticket provisions.

1. All tickets must display the purchase price and may not be sold for more than the purchase price.
2. Upon showing identification provided by the commissioner, only the following persons may be admitted without a ticket:
 - a. The commissioner, commission members, and others designated for official duty by the commissioner.
 - b. The event officials required by state law and these rules.
 - c. The promoter and designated employees.
 - d. The contestants and their managers, trainers, and cornerpersons.
 - e. The emergency medical personnel, law enforcement, firefighters, and on duty public officials.
 - f. Members of the media.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective January 1, 2007; October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-12. Contracts and financial arrangements.

1. A promoter may not have a direct or indirect financial relationship with a contestant. A match may not be held in premises owned or leased by the promoter or premises in which the promoter has a direct or indirect financial relationship unless approved by the commissioner.
2. Before weigh-in, the promoter shall provide the commissioner with copies of the contract between the promoter and each contestant.
3. The promoter shall deposit with the commissioner prior to the match the funds to be paid by contract to the contestant after the match. If it is determined by the commissioner that a contestant made a dishonest effort not matching the contestant's skill level, the payment to the contestant may be withheld and returned to the promoter.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-13. Gross revenue fee.

Repealed effective October 1, 2020.

72-02.2-02-14. Sham or collusive matches.

1. The commissioner shall suspend or revoke the license of any promoter, ring official, manager, trainer, or cornerperson who promotes, conducts, gives, or participates in any sham or collusive mixed fighting style competition or exhibition. A promoter or matchmaker may not arrange a match in which the skills and abilities of one contestant are significantly superior to the other contestant.
2. The commissioner may suspend, revoke, refuse to renew, or refuse to issue a license, to an applicant for a license if the applicant:

- a. Has been, or is associated with anyone interfering with a match or contestant;
- b. Has been convicted of a crime in any jurisdiction, or is associating or consorting with any person who has been convicted of a crime in any jurisdiction;
- c. Consorts or associates with bookmakers, gamblers, or persons of similar pursuits, or if the applicant or applicant's associate engaged in similar pursuits;
- d. Is financially irresponsible;
- e. Has been guilty of or attempted any fraud or misrepresentation in connection with mixed fighting style; or
- f. Has violated or attempted to violate any law with respect to a mixed fighting style competition in any jurisdiction or any rules or regulation, or has violated any mixed fighting style competition rule approved or adopted by the commissioner, or has been guilty of or engaged in similar, related, or like practices.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-15. Weight classes - Weigh-in and weight differences.

1. At a time and place approved by the commissioner, the commission members shall administer a weigh-in event in which each contestant must be weighed before the opposing contestant at least eight but not more than ~~twenty-four~~thirty-six hours before the match.
2. The weight classes are as identified in the unified rules of mixed martial arts as adopted by the association of boxing commissions and combative sports and in effect on ~~October 1, 2020~~November 1, 2024.
3. The official scales must be available to all contestants a minimum of two hours before the scheduled start time of the weigh-in event. A title fight must have two scales, the official scale and a second for the contestants. The secretary of state shall provide the official scale. The promoter shall provide the scales for contestants. For a title match, the official scale must be certified and calibrated by a qualified technician.
4. Only contestants approved for the mixed fighting style competition event may be weighed during the weigh-in event.
5. A contestant who has contracted to participate in a specific weight class may not compete if the contestant's weight exceeds the standards for that weight class unless the contract allows the weight differential to be agreed to by the opposing contestant and the opposing contestant agrees to it.
6. If a contestant does not meet the weight requirements during the weigh-in event for the weight class and the opposing contestant does not agree, the contestant or both contestants have two additional hours to make the prescribed weight provided that a weight loss in excess of two pounds [907.18 grams] is not permitted for a contestant weighing less than one hundred forty-five pounds [65.77 kilograms] and a weight loss of three pounds [1360.77 grams] is not permitted for a contestant weighing more than one hundred forty-five pounds [67.77 kilograms].
7. If the contestants fail in making the weight after the two-hour period, both contestant managers shall come to an agreement, or the match is canceled. If allowed by the promoter and agreed to by the commissioner, the contestants may have an exhibition match.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020, [amended effective November 1, 2024](#).

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-16. Conduct of contests and exhibitions.

1. Mixed fighting style competitive events must have a minimum of twenty scheduled rounds. Each match must have a minimum of three rounds and a maximum of five rounds for a championship match.
2. The maximum time for each round is five minutes with a one minute rest period between each round. Each match must have a referee and three judges.
3. The commissioner may not approve a match in which the contestants are not of equal ability.
4. There is a maximum period of ten minutes between matches, except for an intermission with a maximum period of twenty minutes.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-17. Proper appearance and attire.

Proper appearance and attire are subject to the unified rules of mixed martial arts as adopted by the association of boxing commissions and combative sports and in effect on ~~October 1, 2020~~ [November 1, 2024](#).

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020, [amended effective November 1, 2024](#).

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-18. Bandage and glove requirements.

1. The gloves must be furnished by the promoter, examined, and approved at the weigh-in by the commissioner to assure the gloves are whole (not broken, rough, or twisted), in sanitary condition, have padding that is not misplaced or lumpy, and fit the hands of the contestant. [The promoter must provide -the following number of gloves in each size: number of gloves provided must be:](#)
 - [Size Small – 8 pair](#)
 - [Size Medium – 12 pair](#)
 - [Size Large – 12 pair](#)
 - [Size Extra-large – 12 pair](#)
 - [Size Double Extra Large – 8 pair](#)
- ~~4.2.~~ The gloves furnished by the promoter must be new [or freshly sanitized](#) for every contestant ~~ant.-or exhibition that is designated as a main event.~~
- ~~2.3.~~ The gloves must weigh a minimum of four ounces [113.4 grams] and a maximum of eight ounces [226.8 grams].
- ~~3.4.~~ The gloves of each contestant must be placed on the contestant hands in the presence of a commission member according to the wrapping requirements of the unified rules of mixed martial arts, as adopted by the association of boxing commissions and combative sports and in effect on October 1, 2020.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-19. Medical and other safeguards.

Each match must include the following safeguards:

1. A minimum of one physician, licensed by the North Dakota board of medicine and licensed as a ring physician by the board, must be at ringside during the match. Ring physicians licensed by other state jurisdictions may be allowed at ringside with the commissioner's approval.
2. The presence of the highest level of emergency medical personnel available in the community, i.e., emergency medical technician, emergency medical technician-intermediate, or emergency medical technician-paramedic, as defined by the North Dakota state department of health, emergency health services section, with an ambulance dedicated for contestants. In an emergency, the medical personnel and ambulance may be released by the ring physician. The match must be on hold until the personnel and ambulance return to the premises. The commissioner shall determine the appropriate level of personnel present.
3. Commissioner-approved rubber or plastic gloves must be worn during the match by all persons, including managers, cornerpersons, timekeepers, ring physicians, and referees, in contact with a contestant.
4. Alcoholic beverages and smoking must be prohibited at ringside.
5. The commissioner shall approve the placement of cameras by the media near the ring or on the platform. Media personnel may sit ringside only in neutral corners as approved by the commissioner.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-20. Ring or fenced area.

A mixed fighting style match only may be held in a ring or fenced area inspected and approved by the commission according to the following requirements:

1. For a ring:
 - a. The ring must be a minimum of sixteen feet [4.88 meters] and a maximum of thirty-two feet [9.753 meters] square inside the ropes. The ring floor must extend a minimum of eighteen inches [457.2 millimeters] beyond the ropes. The ring platform must be a maximum height of four feet [1.22 meters] and have a smooth, firm surface covered with clean canvas duck or other resilient material stretched taut and laced tightly to the ring platform. The ring must be completely padded both inside and outside the ropes to a minimum thickness of one inch [25.4 millimeters] and a maximum thickness of four inches [101.6 millimeters], with insulate or a similar material approved by the commission.
 - b. Each ring must have four ring posts a maximum of three inches [76.20 millimeters] in diameter extending above the ring platform. The maximum height above the platform for each post is fifty-eight inches [1473.2 millimeters], and the post must be a minimum of eighteen inches [457.2 millimeters] from the ring ropes. All ring posts, post tops, and turnbuckles must be padded, and ring corners must have protective padding extending from the top rope to the bottom rope.
 - c. There must be a minimum of five ring ropes attached to the ring posts by adjustable turnbuckles. Each rope must be a minimum of one inch [25.4 millimeters] in diameter and covered with soft material and attached securely to the ring posts. The ropes must be

readily adjustable and maintained at a proper and safe degree of tautness. Ties must be fastened to the ropes at appropriate intervals to ensure safety.

- d. The ring must be illuminated by overhead lights arranged to eliminate shadows and minimize heat and glare.
 - e. Steps must lead to the ring platform from two diagonally opposite corners of the ring platform.
 - f. Extra steps approved by the commission must be placed in a neutral corner.
2. For a fenced area:
- a. The fenced area must be circular or have at least four equal sides and must be no smaller than sixteen feet [4.87 meters] wide and no larger than thirty-two feet [9.75 meters] wide.
 - b. The floor must be a maximum height of four feet [1.22 meters] and have a smooth, firm surface covered with clean canvas duck or other resilient material stretched taut and laced tightly to the ring platform. The floor must be completely padded to a minimum thickness of one inch [25.4 millimeters] and a maximum thickness of four inches [101.6 millimeters], with insulate or a similar material approved by the commission.
 - c. Steps must lead to the floor area.
 - d. Metal posts a maximum of six inches [152.40 millimeters] in diameter extend from the event floor to between five feet [1.52 meters] and seven feet [2.13 meters] in height above the fighting area and are padded in a manner as approved by the commissioner.
 - e. The material surrounding the floor must prevent a contestant from falling out or breaking through the fenced area, including, without limitation, chain link fence coated with vinyl.
 - f. Any metal portion of the fenced area must be covered, padded, nonabrasive, as approved by the commissioner and without any outside obstruction surrounding it.
 - g. The fenced area must be illuminated by overhead lights arranged to eliminate shadows and minimize heat and glare.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-21. Ringside equipment.

1. The promoter or second shall supply the following items approved by the commission for each contestant corner:
 - a. Enough buckets for contestants;
 - b. Plastic water bottle and water;
 - c. Sponges;
 - d. Surgical tape; and
 - e. Chairs or stools for contestant use between rounds and for cornerpersons in their corner.
2. The following items also may be placed in the corner:
 - a. Petroleum jelly, for discretionary use around the eyes;

- b. Adrenalin in a manufacturer's premeasured vial in a 1/1000 solution; and
 - c. Coagulant (avitene, thrombin, thromboplastin, or fibroplastic).
3. A contestant may not use or be administered any other drugs, stimulants, or nonprescription items not listed in this section.

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History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-22. Scoring system.

The judges shall use the "ten point must system" scoring system based on the guidelines as adopted by the association of boxing commissions and combative sports and in effect on ~~October 1, 2020~~[November 1, 2024](#). The contestant winning the round is awarded ten points and the other contestant is awarded nine or fewer points. If the round is even, each contestant receives ten points. Fractions of points are not permitted. If the referee deducts points, the referee shall inform each judge, who then shall make the deduction on a scorecard.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020, [amended effective November 1, 2024](#).

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-23. Fouls, deduction of points, and stoppage of match.

This section follows the guidelines as adopted by the association of boxing commissions and combative sports and in effect on ~~October 1, 2020~~[November 1, 2024](#).

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective ~~October 1, 2020~~[November 1, 2024](#).

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-24. Stalling or faking.

1. A referee shall warn a contestant if the referee determines a contestant is stalling or faking. If, after the warning, the contestant continues to stall or pull punches, the referee shall stop the match at the round's end.
2. If the referee determines if one or both contestants are stalling or faking, or if a contestant refuses to fight, the contest is terminated as a no contest and one or both contestants forfeit their pay.
3. If a contestant falls without being struck, the contestant must be examined immediately by the ring physician. After conferring with the physician, the referee may disqualify the contestant, who then forfeits their pay.

History: Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-25. Results of contests.

The results of the contest will follow the guidelines adopted by the association of boxing commissions and combative sports and in effect on ~~October 1, 2020~~[November 1, 2024](#).

History: Effective October 21, 2006; amended effective October 1, 2020, [amended effective November 1, 2024](#).

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-26. Amateur contests.

The regulation of an amateur event must follow all these rules with the following modifications:

1. The contestant has never received remuneration directly or indirectly as consideration for the participant's performance in a mixed fighting style competition, boxing, kickboxing, or any other combative sport.
2. The match may not exceed a maximum of five rounds with a maximum of three minutes in each round with a one minute rest period between rounds.
3. Contestants may not make elbow strikes or use knees to contact with the head of the opponent.

History: Effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

72-02.2-02-27. Appeal from actions of the commissioner or commission.

An applicant or licensee may appeal any action of the commissioner or commission under this chapter in denying, suspending, refusing to renew, or revoking a license. The appeal must be performed in accordance with the provisions of North Dakota Century Code chapter 28-32.

History: Effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

CHAPTER 72-02.2-01.1
COMMISSIONER OF COMBATIVE SPORTS AND
COMMISSION OF COMBATIVE SPORTS - BOXING

PROPOSED CHANGES

Section

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72-02.2-01.1-01. Definitions.

For purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Boxing" means a contest or match in which two contestants attack each other and defend themselves with fists wearing protective gloves during a predetermined time in a boxing ring.
2. "Commission" or "commission member" means the North Dakota commission of combative sports or a person delegated by the commissioner.
3. "Commissioner" means the North Dakota secretary of state acting as the commissioner of combative sports.
4. "Contestant" or "boxer" means a participant in a match who receives remuneration directly or indirectly as consideration for the participant's performance in a boxing match.
5. "Exhibition" means a boxing or sparring match where a decision is not rendered.
6. "Match" means any bout, contest, or sparring, in which participants intend to and do inflict punches to temporarily incapacitate an opponent, regardless of whether the object of the participants is to win or display their skills without striving to win.

7. "Matchmaker" means any person who brings together professional boxers or arranges professional boxing matches.
8. "Promoter" means any person, club, corporation, or association, and any officer, director, employee, or stockholder thereof, that produces, arranges, or stages professional boxing or kickboxing matches.
9. "Registry" means any entity certified by the association of boxing commissions and combative sports for maintaining records and identification of boxers.
10. "Sparring" means boxing for either practice or as an exhibition.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective July 1, 1997; July 1, 2016; October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-02. Commission of combative sports.

The North Dakota commission of combative sports consists of nine members appointed by the commissioner to staggered three-year terms each with three members appointed in each term. A vacancy in the membership caused other than by expiration of terms is filled for the balance of the term for the position in which the vacancy occurred.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective July 1, 2016; October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-03. General provisions.

1. These rules govern boxing matches, exhibitions, or sparring, unless rules are otherwise approved by the commissioner for good cause shown for a specific match, exhibition, or sparring event. Kickboxing matches are governed by the generally accepted rules adopted for that sport and submitted to the commissioner for approval prior to the event.
2. The commissioner and the commission are the administrators of all professional boxing or sparring matches within the state.
3. The following matches may not be approved:
 - a. Matches containing both professional and amateur contests in the same event;
 - b. Matches in which more than two contestants appear in the ring at the same time;
 - c. Matches in which the contestants are of the opposite sex; and
 - d. Matches in which the contestants are not using gloves.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-04. Licensing.

1. Licenses are issued for a calendar year beginning January first and ending December thirty-first. When applying for a license, the applicant shall ~~sign~~submit the application affirming ~~by oath~~ the information provided is correct.
2. The licenses available and the fees for each license are as follows:

- a. Boxer or kickboxer - Twenty-five dollars.
- b. Cornerperson or second or trainer - Twenty-five dollars.
- c. Judge - Twenty-five dollars.
- d. Knockdown counter - Twenty-five dollars.
- e. Manager - Fifty dollars.
- f. Matchmaker - Fifty dollars.
- g. Physician - No fee.
- h. Promoter - Two hundred fifty dollars.
- i. Referee - Twenty-five dollars.
- j. Timekeeper - Twenty-five dollars.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective February 26, 1997; July 1, 2016; October 1, 2020, [amended effective November 1, 2024](#).

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-05. Terms and conditions of license.

1. Except for a contestant, every licensee shall:

- a. ~~Be at least eighteen years of age.~~ [Provide proof that the applicant is 18 years of age or older. Acceptable proof can be demonstrated by a photo driver's license, state issued ID card, tribal issued ID card, passport, or birth certificate combined with additional photo identification.](#)
- b. Have at least one year of verifiable experience and proficiency in either professional or amateur boxing.
- c. Be licensed for each role the licensee has in the event, and if more than one, only may be required to pay the fee for the highest priced license issued to the licensee.
- d. [Referee, Judge, and timekeeper applicants must submit proof of qualifications that may include certified training from the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports.](#)
- ~~e.~~ [Physicians \(MD/DO\) must submit proof of licensure to practice medicine in the state of North Dakota, and be certified through the Association of Ringside Physicians.](#)
- ~~d.f.~~ Understand the commissioner will honor the actions of other regulatory jurisdictions.
- ~~e.g.~~ Understand the commissioner or commission may issue a verbal warning for the first infraction of the law or rules, a written warning for a second infraction, and a suspension up to six months for a third infraction. The commissioner or commission, without warning, may suspend a license for a violation that endangers the life or health of any person.

1. ~~To become licensed, a contestant shall:~~ [Prelicensure Requirements. Before the commissioner issues a license to a contestant, the applicant shall:](#)

2.

- a. ~~Be at least eighteen years of age.~~Provide proof that the applicant is 18 years of age or older. Acceptable proof can be demonstrated by a photo driver's license, state issued ID card, tribal issued ID card, passport, or birth certificate combined with additional photo identification.
- b. Have a boxer's federal identification card issued by the ~~a~~Association of ~~b~~Boxing ~~e~~Commissions and ~~e~~Combative ~~s~~Sports and if not, make application through the commissioner.
- c. Provide the contestant's legal name and professional name if applicable, photo identification, address, contact telephone number, social security number, birth date, height, weight, eye color, and any distinguishing marks.
- d. Provide the names and ~~addresses~~contact information of the contestant's manager and trainer.

- e. Disclose whether the contestant has been suspended during the preceding twelve months, by which jurisdiction, and for what reason.
- ~~f. Present documented evidence the contestant has been tested within six months of application by a laboratory in the United States that possesses a certificate under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act [42 U.S.C. 263a], to detect the presence of bloodborne pathogens, as identified by the commissioner, with negative results.~~
- ~~f. Disclose the date of the contestant's most recent physical examination, any serious bodily injuries, any serious head injuries, any surgeries, and whether the contestant is using any prescriptions or medications. If the commissioner or commission member determines a question exists as to the medical condition of a boxer, a complete physical examination may be required, at the contestant's expense. Upon completion of the examination, the physician chosen shall submit a report directly to the commissioner and to the contestant. The physician's report must affirmatively state whether the contestant has the health and fitness to safely box. The physician's report must be filed with the commissioner in the boxer's permanent medical record. Submit to the commissioner the results of current lab results and medical examinations on forms prescribed by the commissioner that state the contestant is cleared to participate in a combative sports contest:~~
- ~~• Bloodwork results for HBsAg(Hepatitis B surface antigen), HCV (Hepatitis C antibody) and HIV. Bloodwork results are good for 6 months from the date the blood was drawn. The commissioner shall not issue a license to an applicant submitting positive test results for HBsAg, HCV, or HIV.~~
- g. The commissioner may request that an applicant undergo any of the following medical examinations (at the contestant's expense) and submit the results for approval to participate.
- A physical examination performed by a licensed medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic medicine, advance practice nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant. Physical examinations are valid for one year from the date of exam.
 - An ophthalmological examination performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist that includes dilation designed to detect any retinal defects or other damage or condition of the eye that could be aggravated by combative sports. Ophthalmological examinations are valid for one year from the date of exam.
 - Other appropriate neurological or physical examinations before any contest, if the commissioner determines that the examination is desirable to protect the health of the contestant.
- ~~g-h.~~ Understand the contestant may not compete in a contest or exhibition within seven days after the contestant's previous contest or within ninety days of a contest in which they were unable to defend themselves.
- ~~h-i.~~ Understand a suspension must be reported to the registry.
- ~~i-j.~~ Wear trunks, without buckles or ornaments, which are belted at the contestant's waistline.
- ~~j-k.~~ Use a mouthpiece that fits the contestant's mouth.
- ~~k-l.~~ If a female contestant, shall wear a breast protector and groin protector, and if a male contestant, shall wear a protection cup.

- l.m. Secure hair, so it does not impede the vision or safety of the contestant or the other contestant in a match.
- m.n. Use only minimum cosmetics.
- n.o. If a female contestant, certify the contestant is not pregnant.
- o.p. Understand the commissioner may honor the actions of other regulatory jurisdictions. However, the commissioner may allow a contestant suspended by another jurisdiction to box if permitted under the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 [Pub. L. 104-272].
- p.q. Understand the commissioner may hold an informal hearing to determine whether a contestant should be licensed or whether an existing license should be suspended or revoked. The contestant or designated representative may attend.
- q.r. Understand that if, in the judgment of the commissioner or commission, a contestant is guilty of an act detrimental to the integrity of boxing, or to the public interest, the commissioner may deny the contestant's license or suspend or revoke an existing license.
- r.s. Understand the commissioner or commission may issue a verbal warning for the first infraction of the law or rules, a written warning for a second infraction, and a suspension up to six months for a third infraction. The commissioner or commission may, without warning, suspend a license for a violation that endangers the life or health of any person.

~~s.t.~~ Understand the contestant may request an informal hearing before the commissioner to review the suspension or revocation of a license for a recent knockout, injury, or other medical reason to provide proof of a sufficiently improved physical condition. The contestant also may request an informal hearing before the commissioner to review a suspension or revocation of a license for a positive drug test, providing a false alias, or having a false boxer's federal identification card or providing a false document or information to obtain a license.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective July 1, 1997; October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-06. Duties of promoter.

A promoter shall:

1. Make application to the commissioner or commission to produce, arrange, or stage a match a minimum of two months prior to the event.
2. Provide proof of adequate insurance covering contestants, officials, and the public present at the event.
3. Provide medical insurance and pay the deductibles for each contestant covering injuries sustained by a contestant during the competition with a minimum benefit of two thousand five hundred dollars and at least two thousand five hundred dollars for an accidental death.
4. Provide a completed notification of contest form to the commissioner a minimum of five days prior to the event.
5. Seek approval from the commissioner for a change in the announced or advertised programs for any main match a minimum of forty-eight hours prior to the scheduled weigh-in for the event. The change must be included in any public announcement or advertisement relating to the match and posted at ticket offices and announced from the ring prior to the opening match. If, because of the change, a patron requests a refund of the purchase price of their ticket, the promoter shall grant the refund if it is presented at the ticket office before the start of the second match or the main match, whichever comes first.
6. Select and hire all ring officials, including judges, knockdown counter, physician, referees, and timekeeper, with the approval and assignment of the commissioner, and shall pay the officials for their services.
7. Provide the commissioner with copies of all contracts between the promoter and contestants, which are subject to the commissioner's review to verify consistency with the requirements of state law and these rules.
8. Understand the failure to follow state law or these rules or failure to cooperate with the commissioner or a commission member may result in a future denial of a match.
9. Pay an administrative fee to reimburse the commissioner for the costs of regulating the event by making a monetary deposit with the commissioner, in an amount satisfactory to the commissioner, prior to the event and paying the balance within thirty days ~~after~~ of being invoiced for the event. The deposit only is refundable when an event is canceled due to circumstances which are, in the opinion of the commissioner, extreme and beyond the control of the promoter.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020, amended effective November 1,

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-07. Duties of referee.

A referee shall:

1. Not officiate more than thirty-two rounds during the event.
2. Have a physical examination prior to the event by the ringside physician either at the official weigh-in or prior to the beginning of the match and receive the physician's approval prior to officiating a match.
3. Exercise authority, according to the rules, over the match the referee is officiating.
4. Meet before a match with the contestant's cornerperson and assistant cornerperson, if applicable, and provide those individuals with instructions.
5. Provide before a match score sheets for each round to each of the three judges and, at the end of each round, shall collect the score sheets from each judge, and give the score sheets to the commissioner's official scorer.
6. Stop the match if it becomes partial or if a contestant is in such a condition that if the match continues the contestant is subject to serious injury.
7. Stop the match if a contestant has a cut or wound that might be a serious injury and consult with the ringside physician as to whether the match should continue.
8. Determine whether an injury is the result of a legal or illegal blow and whether it was intentional or accidental.
9. Return a contestant's mouthpiece during a lull in the match and, if the contestant is intentionally ejecting the mouthpiece, the referee may discount a point during that round from the contestant or disqualify the contestant.
10. Not drink alcoholic beverages a minimum of twelve hours prior to the event and until assigned duties are completed.
11. Be replaced by the commission with another referee if the referee becomes incapacitated or otherwise unable to complete the match.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-08. Duties of judges.

The three judges for the match shall:

1. Sit on a stool midway between the ring posts and not on the same side of the ring as another judge and have a direct view of the ring.
2. Use the "ten point must" system described in section 72-02.2-01.1-22.
3. Mark the score card in ink for each contestant, sign it, and hand it to the referee after each round without discussion with anyone except as needed with the commissioner or a commission member.

4. Correct a clerical or mathematical error on the score cards as may be identified at the conclusion of the match. Otherwise, the match results cannot be changed without a hearing before the commissioner.
5. Not drink alcoholic beverages a minimum of twelve hours prior to the event and until assigned duties are completed.
6. Be replaced by the commission with another judge if a judge becomes incapacitated or otherwise unable to complete the scoring of a match.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-09. Duties of cornerpersons.

1. Each contestant may have a maximum of three cornerpersons, with one of the cornerpersons designated as the chief cornerperson.
2. One cornerperson is allowed inside the ring at the end of each round and the others, if any, shall stay on the apron. The cornerperson shall clear all items from the ring platform and leave the ring by the start of the next round.
3. During rounds, the cornerpersons shall stay within the outside corner area of the ring and may not touch the apron or ring.
4. A chief cornerperson verbally, with a hand signal, or by mounting the apron, may signal to the referee that the contestant cannot continue and to stop the match. The "throwing of a towel" into the ring is not an indicator of the contestant's defeat.
5. During a match, a cornerperson may not provide a contestant with alcoholic beverages, narcotics, or stimulants, pour or spray excessive water on the contestant's body, or place ice in the contestant's trunks or cup.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-10. Duties of timekeeper and knockdown counter.

1. The timekeeper shall have a timing device. The timekeeper shall indicate the beginning and end of each round by a bell, horn, or buzzer having a clear audible tone to be heard by the referee and contestants. Ten seconds prior to the end of a round, the knockdown counter shall strike the apron three times alerting the referee and contestants.
2. If a match is stopped before the scheduled number of rounds, the timekeeper shall record the time the stoppage occurred.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-11. Duties of physician.

1. A physician shall examine each contestant ~~at the weigh-in prior to the match~~ within 36 hours of entering the ring. The examining physician shall immediately file with the commissioner a written report of the examination to ~~and~~ certify to the commissioner the contestant is in acceptable physical condition to box.

2. The examination must include an examination of the following: [the contestant's heart and general physical and neurological condition including the](#) eyes, ears, mouth and jaw, nose, chest, head, hands, abdomen, blood pressure, and resting heart rate.
3. If more than one physician is present, the commissioner shall select one to be the head physician. If the physician also is a commission member, the physician may not serve concurrently as the ringside physician and commission member during the match.
4. The physician shall sit near the ring steps and remain there during the match unless required in the ring. After the match, the physician shall examine and certify each contestant's physical condition.
5. The physician may enter the ring during a match and terminate the match if the physician determines the contestant has or may have a serious physical injury. The physician immediately shall render emergency treatment as required and shall recommend further treatment, or hospitalization as required. The physician may require for a period the contestant or contestant's manager to remain in the ring or on the premise. For the commissioner's records, the physician shall file a report of the incident.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-12. Boxing ticket provisions.

1. All tickets must display the purchase price and may not be sold for more than the purchase price.
2. Upon showing identification provided by the commissioner, only the following persons may be admitted without a ticket:
 - a. The commissioner, commission members, and others designated for official duty by the commissioner.
 - b. The event officials required by state law and these rules.
 - c. The promoter and designated employees.
 - d. The contestants and their managers, trainers, and cornerpersons.
 - e. The emergency medical personnel, law enforcement, firefighters, and on duty public officials.
 - f. Members of the media.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-13. Contracts and financial arrangements.

1. A promoter may not have a direct or indirect financial relationship with a contestant. A match may not be held in premises owned or leased by the promoter or premises in which the promoter has a direct or indirect financial relationship unless approved by the commissioner.
2. Before weigh-in, the promoter shall provide the commissioner with copies of the contract between the promoter and each contestant.

3. The promoter shall deposit with the commissioner prior to the match the funds to be paid by contract to the contestant after the match. If it is determined by the commissioner that a contestant made a dishonest effort not matching the contestant's skill level, the payment to the contestant may be withheld and returned to the promoter.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-14. Gross revenue fee.

Repealed effective October 1, 2020.

72-02.2-01.1-15. Sham or collusive matches.

1. The commissioner shall suspend or revoke the license of any promoter, ring official, manager, trainer, or cornerperson who promotes, conducts, gives, or participates in any sham or collusive boxing or sparring match. A promoter or matchmaker may not arrange a match in which the skills and abilities of one contestant are significantly superior to the other contestant.
2. The commissioner may suspend, revoke, refuse to renew, or refuse to issue a license, to an applicant for a license if the applicant:
 - a. Has been, or is associated with anyone interfering with a match or contestant;
 - b. Has been convicted of a crime in any jurisdiction, or is associating or consorting with any person who has been convicted of a crime in any jurisdiction;
 - c. Consorts or associates with bookmakers, gamblers, or persons of similar pursuits, or if the applicant or applicant's associate engaged in similar pursuits;
 - d. Is financially irresponsible;
 - e. Has been guilty of or attempted any fraud or misrepresentation in connection with boxing; or
 - f. Has violated or attempted to violate any law with respect to boxing in any jurisdiction or any rules or regulation, or has violated any boxing rule approved or adopted by the commissioner, or has been guilty of or engaged in similar, related, or like practices.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-16. Weight and weighing ceremony.

1. At a time and place approved by the commissioner, the commission members shall administer a weigh-in event in which each contestant must be weighed before the opposing contestant at least eight but not more than ~~twenty-four~~thirty-six hours before the match.
2. The official scales must be available to all contestants a minimum of two hours before the scheduled start time of the weigh-in event. A title fight must have two scales, the official scale and a second for the contestants. The secretary of state shall provide the official scale. The promoter shall provide the scales for contestants. For a title match, the official scale must be certified and calibrated by a qualified technician.
3. Only contestants approved for the event may be weighed during the weigh-in event.

4. A contestant who has contracted to participate in a specific weight class may not compete if the contestant's weight exceeds the standards for that weight class unless the contract allows the weight differential to be agreed to by the opposing contestant and the opposing contestant agrees to it.
5. If a contestant does not meet the weight requirements during the weigh-in event for the weight class and the opposing contestant does not agree, the contestant or both contestants have two additional hours to make the prescribed weight.
6. If the contestants fail in making the weight after the two-hour period, both contestant managers shall come to an agreement, or the match is canceled. If allowed by the promoter and agreed to by the commissioner, the contestants may have an exhibition match.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020, [amended effective November 1, 2024](#).

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-17. Conduct of matches.

1. Boxing events must have a minimum of twenty-four scheduled rounds. Each match must have a minimum of four rounds and a maximum of twelve rounds for male contestants and ten rounds for female contestants.
2. The maximum time for each round for a male contestant is three minutes and two minutes for a female contestant with a one minute rest period between each round. Each match must have a referee and three judges. A contestant may not box in more than twelve rounds within seventy-two consecutive hours.
3. The commissioner may not approve a match in which the contestants are not of equal ability.
4. There is a maximum period of ten minutes between matches, except for an intermission with a maximum period of twenty minutes.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-18. Bandage and glove requirements.

1. [The gloves must be furnished by the promoter, examined, and approved at the weigh-in by the commissioner to assure the gloves are whole \(not broken, rough, or twisted\), in sanitary condition, have padding that is not misplaced or lumpy, and fit the hands of the contestant. The promoter must provide the following number of gloves in each size:](#)
 - [8 oz – 20 pair](#)
 - [10 oz – 20 pair](#)
2. [The gloves furnished by the promoter must be new or freshly sanitized for every contestant.](#)
- ~~4.3.~~ A commission member shall be present during the wrapping of a contestant's hands.
- ~~2.4.~~ A contestant's bandage for each hand must consist of soft gauze a maximum of twelve yards [10.97 meters] long and a maximum of two inches [50.8 millimeters] wide.
- ~~3.5.~~ The gauze, which may not contain water or any other substance, must be held in place by a maximum of three feet [0.91 meters] of medical tape per hand. The tape may not be applied over the knuckles of the hand.
- ~~4.6.~~ Unless otherwise directed by the commissioner, the gloves for a male contestant weighing

less than one hundred forty-seven pounds [66.68 kilograms] must be eight ounces [226.8 grams] and the gloves for a male contestant weighing one hundred forty-seven pounds [66.68 kilograms] or more must be ten ounces [283.5 grams]. The gloves for a female boxer must be ten ounces [283.5 grams].

- a. The commissioner shall approve thumbless boxing gloves, or gloves with the thumb section locked, fastened, tied, or immovable set to the balance of the glove, unless waived by the commission for a title match of twelve rounds.

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- b. A commission member shall inspect the gloves to assure the gloves are not broken or unclean, or do not have misplaced or lumpy padding. After approval, the gloves must be kept in the commission's possession until the match. A commission member shall be present when the gloves are placed on the contestant's hands.
- c. The laces on the gloves must be tied on the outside of the back of the wrist and secured and covered with athletic tape to the top of the glove, which tape is then signed by a commission member.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-19. Medical and other safeguards.

Each match must include the following safeguards:

1. A minimum of one physician, licensed by the North Dakota board of medicine and licensed as a ring physician by the board, must be at ringside during the match. Ring physicians licensed by other state jurisdictions may be allowed at ringside with the commissioner's approval.
2. The presence of the highest level of emergency medical personnel available in the community, i.e., emergency medical technician, emergency medical technician-intermediate, or emergency medical technician-paramedic, as defined by the North Dakota state department of health, emergency health services section, with an ambulance dedicated for contestants. In an emergency, the medical personnel and ambulance may be released by the ring physician. The match must be on hold until the personnel and ambulance return to the premises. The commissioner shall determine the appropriate level of personnel present.
3. Commissioner-approved rubber or plastic gloves must be worn during the match by all persons, including managers, cornerpersons, timekeepers, ring physicians, and referees, in contact with a contestant.
4. Alcoholic beverages and smoking must be prohibited at ringside.
5. The commissioner shall approve the placement of cameras by the media near the ring or on the platform. Media personnel may sit ringside only in neutral corners as approved by the commissioner.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-20. The boxing ring.

A boxing match only may be held in a ring inspected and approved by the commission according to the following requirements:

1. The ring must be a minimum of sixteen feet [4.88 meters] and a maximum of twenty-two feet [6.71 meters] square inside the ropes. The ring apron must be a minimum of two feet [0.61 meters]. The ring platform must be a maximum height of four feet [1.22 meters] and have a smooth, firm surface covered with clean canvas duck or other resilient material stretched taut and laced tightly to the ring platform. The ring must be completely padded both inside and outside the ropes to a minimum thickness of one inch [25.4 millimeters] and a maximum thickness of four inches [101.6 millimeters], with insulate or a similar material approved by the commission.

2. Each ring must have four ring posts extending above the ring platform. The maximum height above the platform for each post is five feet [1.52 meters], and the post must be a minimum of eighteen inches [457.2 millimeters] from the ring ropes. All ring posts, post tops, and turnbuckles must be padded, and ring corners must have protective padding extending from the top rope to the bottom rope.
3. There must be four ring ropes attached to the ring posts by adjustable turnbuckles. Each rope must be a minimum of one inch [25.4 millimeters] in diameter and covered with soft material and attached securely to the ring posts. The ropes must be readily adjustable and maintained at a proper and safe degree of tautness. Ties must be fastened to the ropes at appropriate intervals to ensure safety.
4. The ring must be illuminated by overhead lights arranged to eliminate shadows and minimize heat and glare.
5. Steps must lead to the ring platform from two diagonally opposite corners of the ring platform.
6. Extra steps approved by the commission must be placed in a neutral corner.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-21. Ringside equipment.

1. The promoter or cornerperson shall supply the following items approved by the commission for each contestant corner:
 - a. Enough buckets for contestants;
 - b. Plastic water bottle and water;
 - c. Sponges;
 - d. Surgical tape; and
 - e. Chairs or stools for contestant use between rounds and for cornerpersons in their corner.
2. The following items also may be placed in the corner:
 - a. Petroleum jelly, for discretionary use around the eyes;
 - b. Adrenalin in a manufacturer's premeasured vial in a 1/1000 solution; and
 - c. Coagulant (avitene, thrombin, thromboplastin, or fibroplastic).
3. A contestant may not use or be administered any other drugs, stimulants, or nonprescription items not listed in this section.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-22. Scoring system.

The judges shall use the "ten point must system" for scoring. The contestant winning the round is awarded ten points based on clean hitting, effective aggressiveness, defense, and ring generalship. The other contestant is awarded nine or fewer points. If the round is even, each contestant receives ten points. Fractions of points are not permitted. The scores start at ten with seven being the lowest. If the

referee deducts points, the referee shall inform each judge who then shall make the deduction on a scorecard.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-23. Boxing knockdowns and knockouts requirements.

1. Knockdown: A boxer is "down" when any part of the boxer's body, except the boxer's feet, touches the floor of the ring, or when the boxer hangs helplessly on the ring ropes or when the boxer is rising from a down position, as a result of a legal blow. Whether a knockdown has occurred is at the sole judgment of the referee.
2. Eight count: A boxer who is down shall take a count of eight seconds regardless of whether the boxer has returned to their feet before the count of eight has ended.
3. Counting: When a boxer is down, the knockdown counter immediately shall begin counting, making the count known with an arm motion. The referee immediately shall order the other boxer to a neutral corner and then pick up the count from the knockdown counter making the count known with an arm motion. If the boxer is unable to return to their feet at the count of ten seconds, the referee shall declare the other boxer the winner of the match.
4. Low blow: The referee may give a boxer a maximum break of five minutes if the referee determines a foul was committed by the other boxer. Each boxer shall return to their respective corner until the round is ready to resume.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective July 1, 2016; October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-24. Boxing fouls.

1. Intentional fouls: If an intentionally fouled contestant cannot continue, the offending contestant is disqualified. If the match continues and is subsequently stopped because of an injury resulting from the intentional foul, the fouled contestant is declared the winner of the match.
2. Accidental fouls: If a contestant is accidentally fouled and the match cannot continue, or if the match continues and subsequently is stopped because of an injury resulting from the accidental foul, the contestant ahead on points becomes the winner of the match by technical decision if at least one-half of the rounds are completed.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-25. Stalling or faking prohibited.

1. A referee shall warn a contestant if the referee determines a contestant is stalling or faking. If, after the warning, the contestant continues to stall or pull punches, the referee shall stop the match at the round's end.
2. If the referee determines if one or both contestants are stalling or faking, or if a contestant refuses to fight, the contest is terminated as a no contest and one or both contestants forfeit their pay.

3. If a contestant falls without being struck, the contestant must be examined immediately by the ring physician. After conferring with the physician, the referee may disqualify the contestant, who then forfeits their pay.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-26. Fight results.

The following fight results apply to boxing matches:

1. Draw: A winner cannot be determined by score cards.
2. TKO: A contestant cannot continue.
3. KO: A contestant is knocked out.
4. Disqualified: A contestant is disqualified for violating rules.
5. Split decision: Two judges score in favor of one contestant and the third judge scores in favor of the other contestant.
6. Unanimous decision: All judges scored in favor of the same contestant.
7. Majority draw: Two judges score both contestants the same and the third judge scores in favor of one contestant.

History: Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07

72-02.2-01.1-27. Appeal from actions of the commissioner or commission.

An applicant or licensee may appeal any action of the commissioner or commission under this chapter in denying, suspending, refusing to renew, or revoking a license. The appeal must be performed in accordance with the provisions of North Dakota Century Code chapter 28-32.

History: Effective October 1, 2020.

General Authority: NDCC 53-01-07

Law Implemented: NDCC 53-01-07