



NORTH DAKOTA
SECRETARY OF STATE
MICHAEL HOWE

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May 27, 2025

Ms. Liz Fordahl
Assistant Code Revisor
North Dakota Legislative Council
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard, 2nd Floor
Bismarck, ND 58505-0360

Dear Ms. Fordahl:

The Notice of Intent to Adopt Administrative Rules and a copy of the proposed rules are enclosed as required by N.D.C.C. § 28-32-10(1).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Howe".

Michael Howe
Secretary of State

Enclosures



NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

TAKE NOTICE that the North Dakota Office of the Secretary of State will hold a public hearing to address the amendment of North Dakota Administrative Code Chapters 72-02.2-01.1 and 72-02.2-02 at 10 am on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, in the Secretary of State's Main Conference Room at the North Dakota State Capitol, 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota.

The purpose of the proposed rules is to amend Administrative Rules relating to Combative Sports, i.e., Boxing and Mixed Fighting Style, under the authority granted in subsection 1 of North Dakota Century Code Section 53-01-07. The proposed rules address requirements related to the Office of the Secretary of State for governing the conduct of boxing, kickboxing, mixed fighting style competitions, and sparring exhibitions. These include matches, licensing, contestants, promoters, referees, judges, cornerpersons and seconds, ring officials, physicians, ticketing, contracts, rings and fenced areas, equipment, scoring, medical and related safeguards.

The proposed rules are not expected to have an impact on the regulated community in excess of \$50,000.

The proposed rules may be reviewed at the Office of the Secretary of State, 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota. A copy of the proposed rules may be requested by writing or calling:

North Dakota Secretary of State
600 E Boulevard Avenue Dept 108
Bismarck ND 58505-0500

Email: sos@nd.gov

Phone: (701) 328-3660

Written or oral comments on the proposed rules sent to the above address or telephone number and received no later than 12 noon on Friday, July 25, 2025, will be fully considered.

If you plan to attend the public hearing and will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the Secretary of State at the above address or telephone number at least one week prior to the public hearing.

Dated this 27 of May, 2025.

Michael Howe
Secretary of State

SMALL ENTITY REGULATORY ANALYSIS

NORTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
AMENDING OF N.D. ADMIN CODE CHAPTER 72-02.01-1.1 AND 72-02.2-01

COMBATIVE SPORTS – BOXING & MIXED FIGHTING STYLES

1. **Was establishment of less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small entities considered?** A number of the changes in 72-02.2-02 are in alignment with national requirements for combative sports as set out by rule changes adopted by the Association of Boxing Commissioner and Combative Sports – Unified Rules of Mixed Martial Arts. Remaining changes in 72-02.2-01.1 and 72-02.2-02 are changes to update processes to modern standards or clarify language.
2. **Was establishment of less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements considered for small entities?** The proposed rules do not require any schedules and extends deadlines for greater convenience.
3. **Was consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements for small entities considered?** The proposed rules do not impact any compliance or reporting requirements.
4. **Were performance standards established for small entities for replacement design or operational standards required in the proposed rule?** The proposed rules do not affect any design or operational standards; therefore, there are no performance standards in the proposed rule.
5. **Was exemption of small entities from all or any part of the requirements in the proposed rule considered?** Such exemption of small entities would not be possible given the statutory requirements for combative sports.

Sandra McMerty
Deputy Secretary of State
May 23, 2025

SMALL ENTITY ECONOMIC IMPACT

**NORTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
AMENDING OF N.D. ADMIN CODE CHAPTER 72-02.01-1.1 AND 72-02.2-01**

COMBATIVE SPORTS – BOXING & MIXED FIGHTING STYLES

1. **Which small entities are subject to the proposed rule?** Individual contestants in boxing and mixed fighting style events, promoters of these events, and officials involved with the regulation of the events.
2. **What are the administrative and other costs required for compliance with the proposed rule?** Fees to regulate events are authorized in N.D.C.C. § 53-01-07(2)(3) and in the amended rules. A special fund with a continuing appropriation is authorized by N.D.C.C. § 53-01-09.
3. **What is the probable cost and benefit to private persons and consumers who are affected by the proposed rule?** The annual costs for licensing of contests, promoters, and some other support roles are not increasing. Promoters may see a slight increase in additional costs by requirements to provide a greater number of combatant gloves or safety supplies to meet proposed requirements. Individual contestants may be requested to provide greater medical information or testing for safety concerns as needed, which could have costs associated.
4. **What is the probable effect of the proposed rule on state revenues?** There should be no impact to state revenue. The program currently is operating at a deficit.
5. **Is there any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the proposed rule?** No, this is the least intrusive and cost affective timing for implementation of this proposed rule and assist in addressing administrative process and combative sport rule changesp.

FISCAL NOTE
North Dakota Administrative Code
Amendments to Chapters 72-02.2-01.1 and 72-02.2-02
Combative Sports – Boxing and Mixed Fighting Style

1. **A. 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.*

	2023-2025 Biennium		2025-2027 Biennium		2027-2029 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

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

	2023-2025 Biennium	2025-2027 Biennium	2027-2029 Biennium
Counties	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cities	\$0	\$0	\$0
School Districts	\$0	\$0	\$0
Townships	\$0	\$0	\$0

2. **A. Fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

Amended Rules relate to the regulations of Combative Sports Chapter 53-01 of the North Dakota Century Code. No state fiscal impact.

B. Fiscal impact sections: *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

No state fiscal impact.

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.*

Fees to regulate events are authorized in N.D.C.C. § 53-01-07(2)(3) and in the amended rules. A special fund with a continuing appropriation is authorized by N.D.C.C. § 53-01-09.

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.*

Expenditures are made from a special fund authorized by N.D.C.C. § 53-01-09 and fees are assessed as authorized in N.D.C.C. § 53-01-07(3).

C. Appropriations: *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation or a part of the appropriation is included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

No appropriations are required.

Name: Sandra McMerty
Agency: Office of the Secretary of State, Commissioner of Combative Sports
Telephone: (701) 328- 3660
Date Prepared: May 23, 2025