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# Emergency or Public Necessity Rule(s) Filing Form

*Emergency and Public Necessity rules are effective from date of filing for a period of up to 165 days.*

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**Rule Type :**

- Emergency Rule  
 Public Necessity Rule

**Revision Type (check all that apply):**

- Amendment  
 New  
 Repeal

**Statement of Necessity:**

Pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 4-5-208 and 4-5-209, the Tennessee Athletic Commission (hereinafter the "Commission") is authorized to re-adopt emergency rules when it can clearly establish that it could not reasonably be foreseen during the initial one hundred sixty-five-day period that such emergency would continue or would likely recur during the next nine (9) months.

Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, The Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2008, created the Commission. The Act provided the Commission the sole authority to regulate contests of unarmed combat in the state of Tennessee. The Act also terminated the authority of the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance to regulate professional boxing in the state as of July 1, 2008. Section 2 of the Act specifically authorized and directed the Commission to make every effort to promulgate emergency rules necessary to effectuate the intent of the Act no later than sixty (60) days after a quorum of the Commission was appointed. The Commission held its first meeting on September 5, 2008 immediately following a quorum being appointed and seated. Emergency Rules were filed on November 7, 2008. A Notice of Rulemaking Hearing was filed with the Secretary of State's office on November 26, 2009 for a rulemaking hearing to be conducted on the earliest date possible based upon the nine (9) members of the Commission schedules. The Commission conducted the Rulemaking Hearing on February 12, 2009 in order to make the Emergency Rules Permanent. The Emergency Rules are effective through April 21, 2009. Permanent Rules were filed with the Secretary of State's Office on March 17, 2009 and will become effective on May 31, 2009.

The Commission has authorized the re-adoption of the emergency rules to continue the effectiveness of the emergency rules that are currently in place. Without the continuation of the emergency rules, there will be no

rules in place for the period of time between April 21, 2009 (the last day the emergency rules are effective) and the first day the permanent rules are effective, which will be seventy-five days from the date they were filed, March 17, 2009. Without any rules in place, there will be no mechanism by which the Commission will be able to regulate contests of unarmed combat in the state of Tennessee and ensure the health, safety and welfare of combatants.

The finding of this emergency is not based upon a failure to timely process and file rules through the normal rulemaking process. The commission began work on rules in the first month that a quorum of the commission was appointed and seated. Although the rules of other states' athletic commissions were surveyed and considered as a starting point, it soon became clear that the Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2008 contained many provisions that were unique to Tennessee. At its September 30, 2009 meeting, the commission received a great deal of public comment on the draft emergency rules and was asked to approve four sanctioning organizations. Almost immediately after the emergency rules' adoption, the commission was required to sanction several professional contests. The administration of the contests revealed issues that needed to be addressed in the permanent rules. These issues, or the length of time it would require to revise and gain approval of the legality of the same, could not have reasonably been foreseen prior to the commission's supervision of the professional contests.

The public health, safety and welfare would be impaired if these emergency rules are not continued because the Commission would lack the mechanism to effectuate the purposes of the Act. It is necessary to continue the emergency rules because the Commission could not have reasonably foreseen that this need for emergency rules would continue or recur when they originally promulgated the emergency rules.

**Rule(s) Revised (ALL chapters and rules contained in filing must be listed here. If needed, copy and paste additional tables. Please enter only ONE Rule Number/RuleTitle per row)**

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Chapter 0145-01  
General Provisions

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0145-01-.01    Applicability.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all professional unarmed combat contests held or scheduled to be held in the state of Tennessee.

Authority:        Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-01-.02    Definitions.

As used in the rules of the Tennessee Athletic Commission, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1)    "Amateur" means a person who has never competed in an unarmed combat sport competition or contest for any purse or item of value, other than for a prize or item of value which does not exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00), including reasonable expenses.
- (2)    "Application fee" means the fee due at the time an application for a license is submitted to the Commission.
- (3)    "Association of Boxing Commission" means the association recognized by state athletic commissions, which affiliate with such association regarding rules and regulations of unarmed combat sports. The association may also mean and be referred to as the "ABC Association for Professional Unarmed Combat Contests".
- (4)    "Banned substances" means substances defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency, in addition to any illegal substance.
- (5)    "Boxing" means unarmed combat to compete with the fists.
- (6)    "Combatant" means any person eighteen (18) years of age or older who engages in a professional unarmed combat contest.
- (7)    "Commission" means the Tennessee Athletic Commission.
- (8)    "Commissioner" means any member of the Tennessee Athletic Commission.
- (9)    "Contest" means an unarmed combat sport competition in which licensed combatants compete for a purse or item of value greater than that amount authorized for an amateur event.

- (10) "Department" means the Department of Commerce and Insurance.
- (11) "Event" means an amateur event in which combatants compete in an unarmed combat sport competition in accordance with the Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2008.
- (12) "Immediate family member" means a spouse, parent, sibling or child.
- (13) "Kickboxing" means unarmed combat involving the use of striking techniques delivered with the upper and lower body, and in which the combatants remain standing while striking.
- (14) "Manager" means a person who:
- (a) undertakes to represent the interests of another person by contract, agreement or other arrangement, in procuring arranging or conducting a professional contest in which such person will participate as a combatant;
  - (b) directs or controls the activities of an unarmed combatant relating to the participation of the unarmed combatant in a professional contest;
  - (c) receives or is entitled to receive at least ten percent (10%) of the gross purse of any professional unarmed combatant for services relating to the participation of the unarmed combatant in a professional contest; or
  - (d) receives compensation for services as an agent or representative of an unarmed combatant.
- The term does not include an attorney who is licensed to practice law in this state if the attorney's participation in any of the activities described in subdivision (a) is limited solely to the attorney's legal representation of a client who is an unarmed combatant.
- (15) "Matchmaker" means a person who brings together professional boxers, kickboxers or mixed martial art combatants or arranges professional contests of unarmed combat.
- (16) "Mixed martial arts" means unarmed combat using a combination of techniques from different disciplines of the martial arts, including kicking, wrestling, and striking, subject to applicable limitations set forth in the Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2008 and rules promulgated by the Commission.
- (17) "Permit" means a certification of approval for a contest, issued upon receipt of an application and fee that shall be established and collected, pursuant to the rulemaking authority of the Commission for professional contests.
- (18) "Person" means and includes individuals, corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships or associations, domestic and foreign.
- (19) "Physician" means a person licensed to practice medicine in the state of Tennessee.
- (20) "Professional" means a person who competes in an unarmed combat sport contest in this state for the purpose of a purse or item of value greater than that amount authorized for an amateur event.
- (21) "Promoter" means any person who produces, stages, or sponsors any professional contest of unarmed combat.
- (22) "Purse" means the financial guarantee or any other remuneration for which combatants are participating in a professional contest and includes the combatant's share of any payment received for radio broadcasting, television or motion picture right.

- (23) "Ring official" means any person who performs any one (1) or more of the following official functions during the progress of a professional contest of unarmed combat:
- (a) "Announcer" means a person authorized to act as an announcer at unarmed combat contests or amateur events.
  - (b) "Judge" means a person who is responsible for scoring the performances of the combatants in a professional contest;
  - (c) "Referee" means a person who is present in the ring during the professional contest and exercises general supervision;
  - (d) "Ringside physician" means a person licensed to practice medicine in the state of Tennessee and licensed by the Commission as a ring official;
  - (e) "Timekeeper" means a person who is the official timer of the length of the rounds and the intervals thereof in a professional contest of unarmed combat.
- (24) "Sanctioning organization" means an organization recognized by the Tennessee Athletic Commission that sanctions professional contests of unarmed combat and is required to comply with all provisions of this act. "Sanctioning organization" may also mean an organization recognized by the Tennessee Athletic Commission that adopts rules and regulations pursuant to the provisions of T.C.A. § 68-115-213.
- (25) "Second" means a person, including a manager, who is present at any professional unarmed combat contest to provide assistance or advice to combatants during a professional contest of unarmed combat.
- (26) "Show settlement" means the period of time immediately following the professional contest in which a Commission member or the Commission's administrator or his or her designee shall meet with venue personnel and the contest promoter to review ticket sales and collect fees due if paid immediately following the professional contest.
- (27) "Unarmed combat" means and shall include boxing, mixed martial arts, and kickboxing as defined and regulated under the provisions of the Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2008.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §§68-115-102 and 68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-01-.03 Licensing.

- (1) No person, firm, or corporation shall promote any contest of unarmed combat, or participate in any contest of unarmed combat as a promoter, matchmaker, combatant, manager, second, announcer, referee, judge, ringside physician or timekeeper without a valid license issued by the Commission.
- (2) Applications for licenses shall be submitted on forms prescribed by the Commission. The applicant shall completely and truthfully respond to all questions or requests for information propounded on, or in connection with, the application. The license shall be denied if the applicant fails to respond to all questions or to provide any requested information. The Commission, or the Commission's administrator, may require any applicant to demonstrate his competence by submission of references or successful completion of a written or oral examination.
- (3) Applications for new licenses or the renewal of existing licenses shall be accompanied by a fifty dollar (\$50.00) nonrefundable application fee and a license fee as follows:

Announcer	\$ 100.00
Promoter	\$ 500.00

Matchmaker	\$ 100.00
Boxer	\$ 25.00
Mixed Martial Artist	\$ 25.00
Kickboxer	\$ 25.00
Manager	\$ 100.00
Second	\$ 50.00
Referee	\$ 75.00
Judge	\$ 50.00
Timekeeper	\$ 50.00

Such fee shall not be prorated for any portion of a year. Every license shall expire two (2) years following the date of issuance. With the exception of an applicant for a promoter's license, if an applicant held an unexpired license pursuant to the law at the time of the enactment of the Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2008, upon application and approval, the license fee shall be waived if such application is made on or before December 31, 2008. No license fee shall be charged for a Ringside Physician license.

- (4) No license issued by the Commission under this chapter shall be transferable.
- (5) All combatants applying for a license shall be required to submit, upon application, on a form approved by the Commission, a report of a medical examination, including but not limited to a dilated eye exam performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist and a blood test for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV, performed no earlier than thirty (30) days prior to applying for such license or renewal thereof. Professional combatants who are thirty-five (35) years of age or older shall have a neurological examination by a neurologist or neurosurgeon and submit a medical report thereof within thirty (30) days of applying for a license or renewal thereof. The Commission will not issue a license until it has the opportunity to review the report.
- (6) The Commission's administrator shall have the authority to examine the combatant's record, experience, skill and physical condition and may deny the issuance of a license if, in the administrator's opinion, the combatant's record, experience, skill and physical condition indicate the combatant is unqualified to participate in professional contests of unarmed combat. The applicant may appeal the administrator's decision to deny the issuance of a license to the Commission. Any such appeal will be heard at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission.
- (7) No person shall be permitted to compete in any contest of unarmed combat unless the person:
  - (a) is at least eighteen (18) years of age; and
  - (b) furnishes satisfactory identification (including photograph) to the Commission.
- (8) No promoter's license shall be issued or renewed unless the applicant presents a good and sufficient surety bond executed to the state of Tennessee in an amount no less than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00.)
- (9) Applicants for a promoter, matchmaker, manager, judge or referee license, at the applicant's cost, shall submit two (2) completed fingerprint cards or a copy of the receipt for electronically scanned prints. Fingerprints must be rolled nail to nail by a qualified, trained technician on the fingerprint cards provided by the Commission. The cards must be fully completed and signed and all questions in the blocks at the top of the card must be answered. To be considered for licensure, any applicant convicted in any jurisdiction of any of the crimes listed herein, must have completed serving the sentence or court ordered probation at least five (5) years prior to the date of application. Conviction of a felony shall disqualify an applicant subject to the conditions stated in this section and conviction of any misdemeanor involving the following may disqualify an applicant subject to the conditions stated in this section:
  - (a) shooting a firearm or other weapon;
  - (b) assault and battery or other act of violence against persons or property;

- (c) crimes involving the sale, manufacture or distribution of controlled substances, drugs or narcotics;
- (d) theft of property;
- (e) theft of services; or
- (f) violation of any other jurisdiction's statutes regulating boxing, kickboxing, or mixed martial arts.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §§68-115-201, 68-115-204 and 68-115-206 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-01-.04 Permits for Professional Contests.

- (1) A promoter of a contest of unarmed combat shall obtain a permit from the Commission not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the contest.
- (2) Applications for permits shall be submitted on forms prescribed by the Commission. The applicant shall completely and truthfully respond to all questions or requests for information propounded on, or in connection with, the application. Applications for permits shall include, without limitation:
  - (a) the address where the contest is to be held;
  - (b) a list of the individual contests to be held, if more than one contest, including the names, addresses, phone numbers and contracted weights of all prospective contestants ( i. e. the "contest sheet");
  - (c) if the program will be televised, each date and network on which the program will be televised;
  - (d) a list of ring officials from which the Commission or the Commission's administrator may assign to the event. The Commission or the Commission's administrator may assign ring officials not contained in the list. The promoter will be responsible for payment for the ring officials' services; and
  - (e) proof of medical insurance covering the combatant for any injuries sustained in any contest to be held under the permit in an amount of not less fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00).

Provided that the promoter has completed the application completely and provided all requested information, an application for permit will be processed within five (5) business days from the date of receipt.

- (3) The promoter shall immediately notify the Commission's administrator of any change in the information submitted pursuant to paragraph (2) above. The contest sheet shall be deemed final seven (7) business days prior to the contest.
- (4) If the Commission's administrator determines (on the basis of available information) that a proposed contest would not be reasonably and fairly competitive, the administrator shall so advise the promoter within five (5) business days after receipt of the application submitted in accordance with this rule. Unless the administrator is offered evidence or argument which causes him or her to reverse that determination, such contest shall not be held in this state and any permit issued for a program of multiple unarmed combat contests shall not include the same. The applicant may appeal the administrator's decision to the Commission.

- (5) If the Commission's administrator determines that a proposed venue would not be appropriate, the administrator shall so advise the promoter within five (5) business days after receipt of the application submitted in accordance with this rule. Unless the administrator is offered evidence or argument which causes him or her to reverse that determination, such venue shall not be utilized. The applicant may appeal the administrator's decision to the Commission.
- (6) The fee for the permit shall be three hundred dollars (\$300.00).

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §§68-115-201 and 68-115-205 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-01-.05 Responsibilities of Promoters.

- (1) It shall be the responsibility of the promoter of an unarmed combat contest to inform all prospective participants that it will be necessary for them to be duly licensed in accordance with Rule 0145-1-.03 Licensing.
- (2) No promoter shall knowingly permit any person to act as a boxer, mixed martial artist, kickboxer, manager or second in any contest if such person is (or would be) prohibited from acting in such capacity by any provision of the Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2008 or any rules or regulations of the Tennessee Athletic Commission.
- (3) The promoter shall assure that the ringside physician is seated so as to have immediate access to the ring.
- (4) The promoter shall provide surgical gloves to all persons working in the ring. No promoter shall knowingly permit any person to act as a second (including a manager acting as a second) or referee in any contest unless such person is supplied with, and uses, such surgical gloves. The promoter is responsible for ensuring that acceptable sanitary standards are met with respect to dressing rooms, water bottles, towels or other equipment. Physicians and commission representatives shall specifically check at every contest or event for violations of these rules. The ring shall be swept, dry-mopped, or otherwise adequately cleaned before the event and prior to each fight.
- (5) Prior to the initiation of any contest or event, the commission representative shall inspect the bout area for safety and the promoter of the contest or event shall be required to make whatever changes to such area as are necessary in the judgment of the commission representative.
- (6) The promoter shall ensure that the emergency equipment and procedures required by T.C.A. §68-115-404 are provided for at each unarmed combat contest.
- (7) No person may arrange, promote, organize, or produce a professional unarmed combat contest without providing health insurance for each combatant to provide medical coverage for any injuries sustained in the contest in an amount not less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00). The promoter shall provide proof of such coverage at the time the promoter applies for a permit for a professional contest.
- (8) The promoter shall ensure the venue provides a sufficient ringside area for commission officials and ring officials to carry out their official duties.
- (9) The promoter shall file with the Commission's administrator a copy of any and all contracts entered into for the sale, lease, or other exploitation of broadcasting, television or motion picture rights for any professional contest.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §§68-115-201, 68-115-204, 68-115-211, 68-115-213 and 68-115-214 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-01-.06 Weigh-In.

- (1) The promoter of a bout shall furnish an accurate scale for the weigh-in. Such scale shall be available to the contestants at least eight (8) hours prior to the weigh-in time.
- (2) Upon receipt of an application for a permit pursuant to Rule 0145-1-.04, the Commission's administrator shall establish a time and place for the weigh-in. In setting such time and place, the administrator shall consider any expressed preference of the promoter; however, the decision of the administrator shall be final.
- (3) Unless otherwise authorized by the Commission's administrator, the contestants shall appear at the time and place designated for the weigh-in.
- (4) All weigh-ins shall be under the supervision and control of the Commission's administrator and/or his or her designee.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §§68-115-201, 68-115-204, 68-115-401 and 68-115-402 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-01-.07 Ring Officials Generally.

- (1) No promoter, or official, director or stockholder thereof, shall act as a referee, judge, or timekeeper at any bout conducted by such promoter.
- (2) No person shall act or agree to act as a ring official under any circumstances which might reasonably appear to impair his or her capacity to exercise independent judgment.
- (3) No ring official shall consume, or be under the influence of, alcoholic beverages or drugs during the course of his official duties.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-01-.08 Combatants Generally.

- (1) The administration or use of drugs or stimulants, either before or during a bout, to or by any combatant, is prohibited. Any contestant violating this provision shall be subject to disqualification. For the purpose of verifying compliance with this rule, the Commission's administrator or his designee may require that one or both contestants in a bout submit to a urinalysis, blood test, or, if recommended by the ringside physician, any other post-fight examination.
- (2) All combatants shall attend the pre-fight rules meeting held the day of or the day before all professional contests, with the meeting to be conducted by the referee and the Commission's administrator or his or her designee.
- (3) Combatants shall obey the referee at all times during the bout.
- (4) Combatants shall act with proper sportsmanship at all times and shall obey the provisions of the Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2008 and these rules at all times.
- (5) In addition to the pre-licensing medical examination, all combatants shall complete a pre-contest medical form as provided by the Commission and be subject to a pre-contest medical examination to be performed by the ringside physician, or another physician as selected by the Commission's administrator. A pre-contest examination of a female combatant should include abdominal, breast, and pelvic examinations. Any female combatant shall provide the examining physician with the results of a pregnancy test performed on the combatant within the previous fourteen (14) days. If such results are positive, that combatant shall not be permitted to compete.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §§68-115-201, 68-115-204, 68-115-402, 68-115-403 and 68-115-405 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-01-.09 Treatment or Hospitalization.

- (1) In the event of any serious injury, the ringside physician may immediately render any emergency treatment necessary, recommend further treatment or hospitalization if indicated. The ringside physician shall fully report the entire matter to the Commission within twenty-four (24) hours and subsequently thereafter, if necessary. Such physician may also require that the injured combatant and his manager remain in the ring or on the premises after the contest for such period of time as the physician deems advisable.
- (2) In the event that a combatant who has suffered a knockout or any severe injury has on such account been treated by the combatant's personal physician or has been hospitalized, the combatant or his manager must promptly submit to the Commission a full report from such physician or hospital.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-01-.10 Contracts for Combatants.

Every contract for the services of a combatant in any bout in this State shall be in writing and:

- (1) include a term incorporating by reference the statutes and rules governing professional contests in Tennessee;
- (2) contain no other terms in conflict with such statutes or rules; and
- (3) be available for review by the Commission at any reasonable time upon request.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

Chapter 0145-02  
Professional Boxing

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0145-02-.01 Applicability.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all professional boxing contests held or scheduled to be held in the state of Tennessee and shall take precedent over any other rules, including but not limited to rules of any sanctioning organization, that are in any way directly or indirectly in conflict with any provision set forth in this chapter, unless the Commission modifies or waives such provision. The Commission may modify or waive any provision hereunder:

- (1) in cases of undue hardship, demonstrable impracticality, or necessity; or
- (2) for the purpose of allowing a bout to be sanctioned by a recognized boxing association, council, or organization.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.02 Ring.

- (1) The ring shall not be less than sixteen feet (16') nor more than twenty-four feet (24') square within the ropes. The floor of the ring shall extend not less than sixteen inches (16") nor more than two feet (2') beyond the ropes on all sides of the ring. Such floor shall be padded with a one inch (1") layer of Ensolite (or the equivalent) placed over a one inch (1") base of building board or other suitable material. The padding shall be covered with canvas, duck, or similar material tightly stretched and laced securely in place under the apron.
- (2) The ring platform shall not be more than four feet (4') above the floor of the building, and shall be provided with suitable steps. If the ring platform is not elevated at least three and one-half feet (3 1/2') above the floor of the building, there shall be a clear space of four feet (4') from the ring posts on all sides.
- (3) Ring posts shall be constructed of metal, shall provide sufficient structural support, shall be properly padded, and shall extend from the floor of the building to a height of fifty-eight inches (58") above the ring floor.
- (4) There shall be four (4) ring ropes not less than one inch (1") in diameter. All ropes shall be wrapped securely in soft material, and shall be tightly drawn. The lower rope shall be eighteen inches (18") above the ring floor; the second rope thirty inches (30"); the third rope forty-two inches (42"); and the fourth rope, fifty-four inches (54") above the ring floor.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.03 Bell.

A device capable of producing a tone easily audible to the contestants shall be fastened securely at or below the floor level of the ring.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.04 Bandages.

Contestant's hands shall be wrapped with soft gauze bandages not more than three inches (3") in width held in place by not more than eight feet (8') of surgeon's tape one inch (1") in width. The binding of surgeon's tape must not be applied within one-half inch (1/2") of the knuckles of the contestant's hand.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.05 Gloves.

- (1) In all weight classifications up to and including light-heavyweights, the contestants shall wear gloves weighing not less than eight (8) ounces. In the cruiserweight and heavyweight classifications, the contestants shall wear gloves weighing not less than (10) ounces.

- (2) Ends of glove laces shall be securely taped.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.06 Protective Equipment.

- (1) Each boxer shall be equipped with, and use throughout the bout:
- (a) equipment which will preclude any claim of incapacity due to low blows; and
  - (b) a custom-made, individually fabricated mouth guard; provided, however, that a referee shall not call time for the purpose of replacing any mouthpiece which is knocked out or dropped during a bout.
- (2) Each referee and all seconds (including a manager acting as a second) shall be equipped with surgical gloves which shall be worn throughout the bout.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.07 Shoes.

Shoes shall be of soft material, and shall not be fitted with spikes, cleats, hard soles, or hard heels.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.08 Weight Classifications.

- (1) Bouts may be conducted in the following weight classifications. The allowable weight differential (in pounds) between contestants within major classifications is indicated in parentheses.
- |     |                   |                         |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) | Jr. Flyweight     | Not over 108 lbs – (3)  |
| (b) | Flyweight         | Not over 112 lbs – (3)  |
| (c) | Bantamweight      | Not over 118 lbs – (3)  |
| (d) | Jr. Featherweight | Not over 122 lbs – (3)  |
| (e) | Featherweight     | Not over 126 lbs – (5)  |
| (f) | Jr. Lightweight   | Not over 130 lbs – (5)  |
| (g) | Lightweight       | Not over 135 lbs – (7)  |
| (h) | Jr. Welterweight  | Not over 140 lbs – (7)  |
| (i) | Welterweight      | Not over 147 lbs – (9)  |
| (j) | Jr. Middleweight  | Not over 154 lbs – (9)  |
| (k) | Middleweight      | Not over 160 lbs – (11) |
| (l) | Light Heavyweight | Not over 175 lbs – (12) |
| (m) | Cruiserweight     | Not over 195 lbs - (12) |
| (n) | Heavyweight       | Over 195 lbs.           |

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.09 Seconds.

- (1) A contestant in a bout is permitted a maximum of three (3) licensed seconds to assist him between rounds in his corner. A licensed manager may act as a second without possessing a second's license.
- (2) No second shall enter the ring while a round is in progress.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.10 Referees.

- (1) Each bout shall be officiated by a referee who is licensed in accordance with Rule 0145-1-.03. The referee shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this chapter relating to the conduct of such bout. He shall maintain effective supervision and control over the contest while it is in progress. The referee shall effectively communicate all of his decisions and actions concerning a bout through clear and appropriate signals and/or notifications.
- (2) Prior to the start of a bout, the referee shall:
  - (a) confirm that the contestants and their seconds possess current and valid licenses issued under the authority of this chapter;
  - (b) inspect and initial (to denote his approval of) the bandages of each contestant;
  - (c) examine each contestant's gloves to insure that they are not in an unsanitary, lumpy, rough, or broken condition;
  - (d) observe the fitting of each contestant's gloves;
  - (e) ensure that no foreign substances have been applied to the gloves, bandages, protective equipment, or body of the contestants, and that their equipment is in order; and
  - (f) ensure that all persons working the ring wear surgical gloves.
- (3) The referee may:
  - (a) stop a contest and consult with the ringside physician on the advisability of allowing it to continue;
  - (b) administer a "standing eight count" to a contestant in order to observe his condition; and
  - (c) warn, penalize or disqualify a contestant for:
    1. hitting below the belt;
    2. hitting an opponent who is down or is getting up after being down;
    3. holding an opponent with one hand and hitting with the other;
    4. holding or deliberately maintaining a clinch;
    5. wrestling or kicking;
    6. butting with the head or shoulder or using the knee;
    7. hitting with the open glove, or with the butt of the hand, the wrist, or the elbow;
    8. purposely going down without being hit;
    9. striking deliberately at the part of the body over the kidneys;
    10. the use of the pivot blow or the deliberate use of the rabbit punch;
    11. jabbing opponent's eyes with the thumb of the glove;
    12. the use of abusive language in the ring;
    13. any unsportsmanlike-like conduct or action causing injury to an opponent;

14. hitting on the break;
15. hitting after the bell has sounded ending the round;
16. roughing at the ropes; or
17. pushing an opponent about the ring, or into or through the ropes.

- (4) If a referee has reason to believe that a foul which he did not see may have been committed, he may poll the judges to determine whether such foul was committed. The referee may consider any, all or none of the opinions expressed in making his determination. The referee may, in his sole discretion, ask for a replay, if television equipment is available, before rendering his decision.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §§68-115-201 and 68-115-404 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.11 Timekeeper.

- (1) At all bouts there shall be a licensed timekeeper who possesses a whistle and/or some other sound device and an accurate stopwatch. The timekeeper shall be seated outside the ring close to the sound device required by Rule 0145-2-.03.
- (2) The timekeeper shall indicate the beginning and ending of each round by activating the sound device. Ten (10) seconds before the beginning of each round, the timekeeper shall warn the seconds of the contestants by blowing the whistle.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.12 Scoring.

- (1) All bouts will be scored by the "ten-point must" system by a minimum of three (3) judges. In this system the winner of each round receives ten (10) points and the opponent a proportionately less number, but under no circumstances less than seven (7). When the round is even, each boxer receives ten (10) points.
- (2) A referee may participate in the scoring of a bout without possessing a judge's license. However, it is recommended that the referee take no part in the scoring of a bout in order to devote maximum attention to the proper performance of his supervisory responsibilities.
- (3) Whenever a referee decides to penalize a contestant because of a foul or other infraction of the rules, he shall notify both corners and the judges of the number of points to be deducted from such contestant at the end of the round in which the infraction occurs. The judges shall adjust their scorecards in accordance with the referee's instructions.
- (4) The scoring of a bout shall be based on four (4) factors, in the following order:
  - (a) clean hits;
  - (b) effective aggressiveness;
  - (c) defense; and
  - (d) ring generalship.
- (5) For scoring purposes, a "standing eight count" shall be deemed equivalent to a knockdown.
- (6) In any bout fought to a decision, the outcome shall be determined by a majority of the scorers.

Example: Two judges score a bout a draw; one judge scores the bout in one boxer's favor. The outcome is a draw.

- (7) In the event that a bout terminates by a knockout or technical knockout which, in the referee's sole judgment, resulted from head blows, he shall instruct the judges to enter the designation "KOH" or "TKOH" (as appropriate) on their scorecards.
- (8) At the conclusion of a bout, all scorecards shall be signed by the scorer and transmitted to a designated "chief judge". After reviewing the scorecards for accuracy and correctness, the chief judge shall notify the ring announcer of the official decision. Following the announcement of the decision, the scorecards shall be delivered to the Directors.
- (9) In order to afford an adequate view of the bout as well as sufficient isolation from other spectators, judges may be seated in elevated chairs positioned midway between the ring posts on different sides of the ring.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.13 Knockdown and Knockout

- (1) A contestant shall be deemed "down" when:
  - (a) any part of his body, except his feet, is on the ring floor;
  - (b) he is rising from a down position; or
  - (c) he is hanging helplessly over the ropes; provided, however, that a boxer hanging over the ropes is not officially "down" until so pronounced by the referee.
- (2) When a contestant is knocked down, the timekeeper shall immediately rise and announce the elapsed seconds; and the referee shall promptly order the opponent to retire to the farthest neutral corner. The referee shall then return to the fallen contestant and audibly announce the count as he motions with his right arm downward indicating the end of each second. Should the opponent fail to remain in the neutral corner farthest for the boxer who is down, the referee shall cease counting until he has returned to it, and then continue the count from the point at which it was interrupted.
- (3) A contestant who is knocked down must take a count of eight (8) whether or not he has regained his feet before the count has been reached. If when the count of eight (8) is reached the contestant is on his feet, the referee shall wipe any accumulated resin from his gloves, and may examine him sufficiently to assure himself that the contestant is physically fit and mentally alert enough to continue. If so assured, the referee shall, without loss of time, order the contestants to resume boxing.
- (4) If the contestant taking the count is still down when the referee calls the count of ten (10), the referee shall wave both arms, indicating that the contestant has been knocked out. When a round other than a final round shall terminate while the referee is administering the count to a contestant who has been knocked down, the count shall be continued. The timekeeper shall not ring the bell until and unless such contestant rises before the count of ten (10) and the referee orders him to resume boxing. If the fallen contestant shall fail to rise before the count of ten (10), he shall be declared the loser by knockout in the round just concluded.
- (5) Should a boxer slip, fall down, or be pushed down, he shall be ordered to his feet immediately. Failure to rise may subject him to disqualification.
- (6) A contestant who has fallen through the ropes and out of the platform ring as a result of a legal blow during the contest may not be helped by anyone, and the referee shall start the count, which in this special case will be twenty (20) seconds. Should the contestant fail to re-enter the ring before the count of twenty (20) seconds, the referee shall wave both arms to indicate that he has been knocked out and shall raise the hand of the opponent as the winner.

- (7) If a contestant is knocked down three (3) times in a round, he shall be declared the loser by knockout.
- (8) When a boxer has been knocked out, none of his seconds shall touch him until the attending physician enters the ring and personally attends the fallen boxer, and issues such instructions as he deems appropriate to the boxer's seconds.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.14 Technical Knockout.

- (1) The referee shall promptly terminate a bout and declare a "technical knockout" if:
  - (a) he is advised to do so by the ringside physician;
  - (b) in his opinion, the bout is too one sided;
  - (c) in his opinion, a contestant is in such condition that continuation of the bout might subject him to serious injury; or
  - (d) a contestant fails to answer the bell for a round.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §§68-115-201 and 68-115-404 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.15 No Contest.

- (1) If the stoppage of a bout is attributable to any cause other than legal blows (including injuries resulting therefrom), disqualification, or retirement, such bout:
  - (a) will be ruled a "no contest", if the stoppage occurs before the end of the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) round; or
  - (b) will be decided by the totals on the scorecards, if the stoppage occurs after the end of the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) round.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201. [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.16 Stimulants.

- (1) No substance other than plain water shall be administered to a contestant during the course of a bout. The discretionary use of petroleum jelly around the eye is permitted; however, the use of petroleum jelly, grease, or any other substance on the arms, legs, or body of contestant is prohibited.
- (2) The discretionary use of coagulants, such as a solution of adrenalin (1/1000) approved by the ringside physician, is permitted between rounds to stop bleeding of minor cuts and lacerations sustained by a contestant. The use of "iron type" coagulants, such as Monsel's solution, is absolutely prohibited, and shall be cause for immediate disqualification.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §§68-115-201 and 68-115-405 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.17 Time Limitations.

- (1) No bout shall exceed twelve (12) rounds of not more than three (3) minutes each in length. There shall be a rest period of one (1) minute between consecutive rounds.

- (2) The number of days which must elapse before a boxer who has competed anywhere in a bout may participate in another bout shall be as follows:

Length of Bout (In scheduled rounds)	Required Interval (in days)
(a) 4 or less	2
(b) 5 - 9	5
(c) 10 - 12	7

- (3) A boxer who suffers a knockout (KO), technical knockout (TKO) or retires from a fight for any reason shall not be permitted to engage in any further competitive boxing or sparring for a period of at least thirty (30) days. If a boxer loses two (2) bouts by KO or TKO within a period of three (3) months, he shall not be permitted to engage in any further boxing or sparring for a period of at least six (6) months. This rule includes any KO or TKO suffered in an out of state bout. Both the boxer and the boxer's manager shall be responsible for assuring compliance with this paragraph.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, §§ 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.18 Resolution of Disputes.

In the event a problem or dispute arises in connection with a bout held or scheduled to be held in this State, the parties shall make every effort to achieve a reasonable settlement consistent with the provisions of this chapter. If the parties fail to reach an agreement, and the Commission's administrator or his or her designee determines that a resolution of the matter is reasonably necessary to protect the welfare of one or both of the boxers, then such matter shall be referred to the Commission's administrator or his or her designee for decision.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §§68-115-201 and 68-115-203 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.19 Female Boxing.

- (1) Bouts between contestants of opposite sexes are prohibited.
- (2) Female boxers shall be subject to provisions of this chapter; except, however that female contestants shall wear:
- (a) gloves weighing not less than ten (10) ounces; and
  - (b) a pelvic area protector and breast protector.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.20 Foul Related Injuries.

- (1) If a boxer is injured by a foul (for which the referee does not disqualify his opponent), both boxers may be seated in their corners for a period not to exceed five (5) minutes. During such period:
- (a) the boxers shall be neither attended nor talked to by their seconds; and
  - (b) the ringside physician shall examine the fouled boxer and, in his discretion, the other boxer.
- (2) Should the fouled boxer be unable to continue after the rest period, the bout shall be scored in accordance with Rule 0145-2-.15.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.21 Boxer Identification Card.

- (1) In addition to any other requirements contained in this chapter:
  - (a) Each professional boxer residing in this State shall register with the Commission and obtain a boxer identification card.
  - (b) Each professional boxer shall renew his or her identification card once every two (2) years.
  - (c) The fee for a new identification card or renewal of an existing identification card shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).
  - (d) Each professional boxer shall present his or her identification card to the appropriate regulatory authority not later than the time for the weigh-in for each professional boxing match they enter.
- (2) A professional boxer who is a resident of a foreign country or a state (as defined by the "Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996", Public Law 104-272) in which professional boxing is not regulated may register and obtain a boxer identification card in this state as provided in paragraph one (1) of this rule.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-02-.22 Federal Standards.

Each individual or entity licensed or required to be licensed under this chapter shall comply with the "Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996" (Public Law 104-272), any amendments made thereto, and any federal regulations promulgated thereunder.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, §§ 2 and T.C.A. §§68-115-201 and 68-115-501 [effective July 1, 2008].

Chapter 0145-03  
Kickboxing and Mixed Martial Arts

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0145-03-.01 Applicability.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all professional kickboxing and mixed martial art contests held or scheduled to be held in the state of Tennessee and shall take precedent over any other rules, including but not limited to rules of any sanctioning organization, that are in any way directly or indirectly in conflict with any provision set forth in this chapter, unless the Commission modifies or waives such provision. The Commission may modify or waive any provision hereunder:

- (1) in cases of undue hardship, demonstrable impracticality, or necessity; or
- (2) for the purpose of allowing a bout to be sanctioned by a recognized association, council, or organization.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.02 Ring.

All kickboxing and mix martial arts contests or events shall be conducted in rings as follows:

- (1) For kickboxing contests or events, the ring or fighting area shall meet the following requirements:
  - (a) The ring shall be not less than seventeen feet (17') square within the ropes. The ring floor shall extend beyond the ropes not less than eighteen inches (18"). Padding must extend beyond the ring ropes and over the edge of the platform. Such floor shall be padded with a one (1) inch layer of Ensolite (or the equivalent) placed over a one (1) inch base of building board or other suitable material. The padding shall be covered with canvas, duck, or similar material tightly stretched and laced securely in place under the apron.
  - (b) The ring platform shall not be more than four feet (4') above the floor of the building, and shall be equipped with suitable steps for use by combatants. Ring posts shall be metal, not more than four inches (4") in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a height of fifty-eight inches (58") above the ring floor, and shall be properly padded.
  - (c) Ring ropes shall be at least four (4) in number, not less than one inch (1") in diameter; the lower rope eighteen inches (18") above the ring floor, the second rope thirty inches (30") above the ring floor, the third rope forty-two inches (42") above the ring floor, and the fourth rope fifty-four inches (54") above the ring floor. The lower rope shall have applied around it a padding of a thickness of not less than one-half inch (½") and of a type and construction to be approved by the Commission.
- (2) For all other types of mixed martial arts bouts, the ring or fighting area shall meet the requirements set forth in this section as follows:
  - (a) The ring or fighting area shall be no smaller than twenty feet (20') by twenty feet (20') and no larger than thirty-two feet (32') by thirty-two (32'). A ring enclosed by ropes shall be square. The ring floor or floor of the fighting area enclosed by ropes shall extend at least twenty inches (20") beyond the ropes. The ring floor or floor of the fighting area shall be padded with a one inch (1") layer of Ensolite (or the equivalent) placed over a one inch (1") base of building board or other suitable material. Padding shall extend beyond the ring or fighting area and over the edge of the platform. The ring or fighting

area shall have a canvas covering or similar material, tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Vinyl or other plastic rubberized covering shall not be permitted. There shall not be any obstruction or object, including but not limited to a triangular border, on any part of the ring floor.

- (b) The ring platform shall not be more than four feet (4') above the floor of the building. A ring enclosed by ropes shall have three (3) sets of suitable steps or ramps, one for use by each of the combatants and one for use by the officials. A ring enclosed by a fence shall have two (2) sets of suitable steps or ramps for use by the combatants and the officials. Ringside tables shall be no higher than ring platform level. Ring posts for a ring enclosed by ropes shall be metal, not less than three inches (3") nor more than six inches (6") in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a maximum height of six inches (6") above the highest horizontal rope above the ring floor. Ring posts for a ring enclosed by ropes shall be separated from the ring ropes by at least eighteen inches (18"). The posts for a ring enclosed by a fence shall extend from the floor to the top of the fighting area and shall be no less than sixty-six inches (66") and no more than seventy-eight inches (78") above the floor of the fighting area. All posts shall be properly padded in a manner approved by the Commission.
- (c) The ring shall be enclosed by either of the following:
  - (1) A fence made of such material as will not allow a combatant to fall out or break through it on to the floor or spectators, including but not limited to vinyl-coated chain link. However, the enclosure shall not obstruct or limit the supervision and regulation of the bout by the officials or Commission representatives. All metal parts shall be covered and padded in a manner approved by the Commission and shall not be abrasive to the combatants; or
  - (2) Five (5) horizontal ropes not less than 1 inch (1") in diameter and wrapped in soft material. The lowest rope shall be not less than five inches (5") nor more than eight (8") inches above the floor. The second rope shall be not less than eight inches (8") nor more than twelve inches (12") above the lowest rope. The top three (3) ropes shall be spaced equal distance apart and not less than twelve inches (12") nor more than fourteen inches (14") from each other. The lowest rope shall have a padding of a thickness of not less than one-half inch (½") applied around it. The horizontal ropes shall be tied together by vertical ropes not less than one-fourth inch (¼") in diameter. If a ring is less than twenty-four feet (24') by twenty-four feet (24'), there shall be two (2) vertical ropes, spaced equal distance apart, on each side of the ring. If a ring is twenty-four feet (24') by twenty-four (24') or greater, there shall be three (3) vertical ropes, spaced equal distance apart, on each side of the ring. The lowest portion of each vertical rope, between the lowest horizontal rope and second rope, shall have a padding of a thickness of not less than one-fourth inch (¼") applied around them.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.03 Referees.

- (1) Each bout shall be officiated by a referee who is licensed in accordance with Rule 0145-1-.03. The referee shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this chapter relating to the conduct of such bout. He shall maintain effective supervision and control over the contest while it is in progress. The referee shall effectively communicate all of his decisions and actions concerning a bout through clear and appropriate signals and/or notifications.
- (2) Prior to the start of a bout, the referee shall:
  - (a) confirm that the contestants and their seconds possess current and valid licenses issued under the authority of this chapter;

- (b) inspect and initial (to denote his approval of) the bandages of each contestant;
  - (c) examine each contestant's gloves to insure that they are not in an unsanitary, lumpy, rough, or broken condition;
  - (d) observe the fitting of each contestant's gloves;
  - (e) ensure that no foreign substances have been applied to the gloves, bandages, protective equipment, or body of the contestants, and that their equipment is in order; and
  - (f) ensure that all persons working the ring wear surgical gloves.
- (3) The referee may:
- (a) stop a contest and consult with the ringside physician on the advisability of allowing it to continue;
  - (b) in a kickboxing event, administer a "standing eight count" to a contestant in order to observe his condition; and
  - (c) warn, penalize or disqualify a contestant for violation of any foul enumerated in this part.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §§68-115-201 and 68-115-404 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.04 Fouls.

- (1) The following tactics are fouls in both kickboxing and mixed martial arts and shall result in a warning and loss of points as determined by the referee:
- (a) headbutting;
  - (b) striking downward using point of the elbow;
  - (c) openhand attacks to the eyes or throat or eye gouging;
  - (d) striking at that part of the body over the kidney or spine or chopping or striking the back of the neck or head;
  - (e) biting, spitting or, in the referee's discretion, slapping;
  - (f) the use of abusive language in the ring;
  - (g) any unsportsmanlike conduct or action that causes injury to an opponent or referee;
  - (h) attacking an opponent on or during a break;
  - (i) attacking after the bell or gong has sounded to end the round, or when the opponent is out of the ring;
  - (j) intentionally pushing, shoving or wrestling an opponent out of the ring with any part of the body;
  - (k) linear kicks to the front or side of the knees;
  - (l) intentionally delaying the contest due to improper equipment, or by intentionally dropping or spitting out the mouthpiece;

- (m) intentional evasion of contact;
  - (n) hair pulling;
  - (o) attacking or obstructing the trachea;
  - (p) clawing, pinching or twisting the flesh or grabbing the clavicle;
  - (q) pulling or holding the uniform below the hipline;
  - (r) holding the ropes or fence;
  - (s) small joint manipulation, including but not limited to twisting of fingers or toes;
  - (t) groin techniques/attacks of any kind, including but not limited to grabbing or striking;
  - (u) fish hooking;
  - (v) biting;
  - (w) flagrant disregard of the referee's instructions;
  - (x) finger strikes or rakes to any part of the body;
  - (y) knuckle gouging to the face or any part of the body, including into the throat;
  - (z) stomping a grounded opponent;
  - (aa) kicks to the head of a grounded opponent;
  - (bb) kneeing to the head of a grounded opponent;
  - (cc) lifting, pushing, throwing, or otherwise forcing an opponent out of the ring or cage;
  - (dd) attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee or other ring official;
  - (ee) interference by a combatant's manager or second;
  - (ff) trainer ring rope or cage grabbing;
  - (gg) holding the shorts or gloves of an opponent;
  - (hh) spiking which occurs when a combatant purposely drives an opponent straight to the ring floor on his head or neck from an upright and vertical position; and
  - (ii) putting a finger into any orifice or into any cut or laceration of an opponent.
- (2) The following tactics are fouls in kickboxing and shall result in a warning and loss of points as determined by the referee:
- (a) arm bars;
  - (b) grabbing or holding onto an opponent's leg or foot, and grabbing or holding onto any other part of the body;
  - (c) punching or kicking a combatant when the combatant is down. A combatant is down when any part of the combatant's body, other than combatant's feet, touch the floor. The combatant's opponent may continue to attack until the combatant has touched the floor with any part of the body other than the feet.

- (d) leg checking, which occurs when a combatant extends the leg to check an opponent's leg or to prevent the opponent from kicking;
  - (e) purposely going down without being hit;
  - (f) any use of throws or any takedowns;
  - (g) holding and hitting;
  - (h) hitting or slapping with an open glove; and
  - (i) using the heel of the palm of the hand to deliver a blow to the face.
- (3) In addition to or in lieu of losing points, any combatant guilty of any of the foul tactics listed in this section that are applicable to the combatant's sport may be disqualified. The combatant's purse may be withheld from payment, and the combatant may be suspended. Disposition of the purse and the penalty to be imposed upon the combatant shall be determined by action of the Commission.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.05 Ring Ropes.

- (1) Combatants shall not grab the ring ropes, or cage in a mixed martial arts event, at any time the two (2) combatants are in contact with each other during a bout in an attempt to stall action, trap an opponent, escape a technique, or otherwise gain advantage in the bout. Combatants may momentarily grab the ring ropes or cage to brace or steady themselves, gain or to maintain their balance.
- (2) If a combatant grabs or otherwise secures any ring rope with a hand, arm, foot or leg during a bout to avoid a submission hold, the referee shall stop the bout and deduct two (2) points from the combatant who grabbed the rope.
- (3) If a combatant continually holds the ring ropes to rest, pull himself or herself from the action, avoid the bout's action, or otherwise gain advantage in the bout, the referee shall deduct one (1) point from the resting combatant, and two (2) points for each additional time such conduct occurs.
- (4) Excessive grabbing or other use of the ring ropes in violation of these rules may result, in the referee's sole discretion, in a combatant's disqualification and an award of the bout to such combatant's opponent.
- (5) The referee shall verbally instruct combatants to release the ring ropes or cage, when appropriate, prior to warning, deducting points or disqualifying a combatant for violating the applicable provisions of this act.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.06 Intentional Fouls.

- (1) In the case of an intentional foul, the referee may interrupt the bout for the purpose of allowing the injured combatant time to recover. A maximum of five (5) minutes of recovery time shall be permitted.
- (2) When an intentional foul causes the bout to be interrupted for the purpose of allowing the injured combatant time to recover, the referee shall penalize the offending combatant guilty of the foul two (2) points.

- (3) If the injured combatant is thereafter unable to continue, the offending combatant shall be disqualified. The offending combatant's purse may also be withheld, and the offending combatant may be subject to suspension or revocation.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.07 Unintentional Fouls.

- (1) When a bout is interrupted due to an injury caused by an unintentional foul, the referee, in consultation with the ringside physician, shall determine whether the combatant who has been fouled can continue or not. If the referee sees, or if after consultation with the judges, the referee determines that a combatant is unintentionally fouled and that the combatant's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of a foul, the referee may order the bout continued after a reasonable interval, not to exceed five (5) minutes.
- (2) If the referee or the ringside physician determines that the bout may not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an unintentional foul or because of an injury inflicted by an unintentional foul which later becomes aggravated by fair blows, the bout shall be declared a draw, if according to the score cards, the bout was determined to be a draw at the time the foul occurred. If, according to the score cards, the combatant committing the foul was winning prior to the foul, the bout shall be declared a technical draw. If, according to the score cards, the combatant being fouled was winning prior to the foul, then that combatant shall be declared the winner.
- (3) When an unintentional foul causes the bout to be interrupted for the purpose of allowing the injured combatant time to recover, the referee shall penalize the combatant guilty of the foul one (1) or more points.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.08 Suspected Fouls.

If an injury occurs due to a suspected foul that the referee was unable to see, the referee may, in his sole discretion, confer with the judges to determine where the foul may be placed. The referee may consider any, all or none of the opinions expressed in making his determination. The referee may, in his sole discretion, ask for a replay, if television equipment is available, of the technique in question before rendering his decision.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.09 Standing Eight Count - Kickboxing.

The referee may, at his discretion, administer an eight-count to a contestant in a kickboxing contest who is in trouble but who is still standing. He shall direct the opponent to a neutral corner, then begin counting from one (1) to eight (8), examining the contestant in trouble as he counts. If, after completing the standing eight-count, the referee determines that the contestant is not able to continue, he shall stop the contest and declare the opponent the winner by technical knockout.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.10 Scoring.

- (1) Referees and judges shall score all contests and determine the winner through the use of the ten-point must system. In this system, the winner of each round receives ten (10) points and the opponent a proportionately less number. If the round is even, each combatant receives ten (10) points. No fraction of points shall be given.
- (2) At the termination of the professional contest or amateur event, or the termination of each round, as determined by the Commission's representative present at the contest or event, the cards of the judges shall be picked up by the referee and delivered to the Commission's

representative assigned to check the totals. The majority opinion shall be conclusive and if there is no majority then the decision shall be a draw. When the Commission's representative has completed verifying the score, the ring announcer shall be informed of the decision and shall announce the decision.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.11 Results of Contests.

A contest of mixed martial arts may end under the following results:

- (1) Submission by:
  - (a) physical tap out.
  - (b) verbal tap out.
- (2) Technical knockout by the referee stopping the contest.
- (3) Decision via the scorecards, including:
  - (a) unanimous decision;
  - (b) split decision;
  - (c) majority decision; and
  - (d) draw, including:
    1. unanimous draw;
    2. majority draw; and
    3. split draw.
- (4) Technical decision.
- (5) Technical draw.
- (6) Disqualification.
- (7) Forfeit.
- (8) No contest.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.12 Weight Classifications.

- (1) The following shall constitute the applicable weight classes for male contestants. The allowable weight differential (in pounds) between contestants within major classifications is indicated in parentheses.
  - (a) Flyweight through 125 lbs. - (3)
  - (b) Bantamweight 125.1-135 lbs. - (5)
  - (c) Featherweight 135.1-145 lbs. - (6)
  - (d) Lightweight 145.1-155 lbs. - (7)
  - (e) Welterweight 155.1-170 lbs. - (8);
  - (f) Middleweight 170.1-185 lbs. - (8);
  - (g) Light Heavyweight 185.1-205 lbs. - (12);

(h) Heavyweight 205.1-265 lbs. - (40); and  
(i) Super Heavyweight 265.1 lbs. and over - No limit.

(2) The following shall constitute the applicable weight classes for female contestants:

(a) Lightweight through 125 lbs. - (3);  
(b) Middleweight 125.1-135 lbs. - (5);  
(c) Light-Heavyweight 135.1-150 lbs. - (6);  
(d) Heavyweight 150.1-175 lbs. - (12); and  
(e) Super Heavyweight 175.1 lbs. and over - (15).

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.13 Time Limitations.

- (1) Non-title kickboxing bouts shall not exceed ten (10) rounds, each round not to exceed three (3) minutes, with a rest period of not less than one (1) minute nor more than two (2) minutes, as specified by the sanctioning body. Except with the approval of the Commission, title bouts shall not exceed the maximum length or number of rounds specified in this subsection and in no event shall the rest period between rounds be less than one (1) minute.
- (2) Non-title mixed martial arts bouts shall not exceed five (5) rounds, each round not to exceed five (5) minutes, with a rest period of not less than one (1) minute nor more than two (2) minutes, as specified by the sanctioning body. Except with the approval of the Commission, title bouts shall not exceed the maximum length or number of rounds specified in this subsection and in no event shall the rest period between rounds be less than one (1) minute.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.14 Apparel.

- (1) The ring apparel for each combatant on a program shall include two (2) pairs of trunks or permissible apparel and a custom-made individually-fitted mouthpiece or any other apparel approved by the Commission. Commission staff shall not approve ring costumes that are so similar as to possibly cause confusion as to the identity of the contenders.
- (2) A combatant who is participating in a kickboxing contest or amateur event may, at the combatant's option, use padded footgear and shin protectors. Shoes shall not be worn either in mixed martial arts or kickboxing professional contests.
- (3) In addition to the items described in subsection (a), the apparel for each male combatant shall include a foul-proof groin protector, and shall be worn during all professional contests and amateur events.
- (4) In addition to the items described in subsection (a), the apparel for each female combatant shall include a body shirt and chest protector.
- (5) Contestants' hands shall be wrapped with soft gauze bandages not more than three inches (3") in width held in place by not more than eight feet (8') of surgeon's tape one inch (1") in width. The binding of surgeon's tape must not be applied within one-half inch (1/2") of the knuckles of the contestant's hand
- (6) Combatants' fingernails and toenails shall be cut and trimmed.
- (7) Combatants shall wear a mouthpiece at all times while the bout is in progress.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.15 Gloves.

- (1) Combatants in kickboxing contests, in all weights up to and including heavyweight class, shall wear no less than eight (8) ounce gloves. In heavier classes, fighters shall wear no less than ten (10) ounce gloves. When two (2) contestants differ in weight classes, the contestants shall wear the gloves required for the higher weight classification.
- (2) A combatant in a martial arts contest shall wear gloves that have no padding in the palm or fingertip area and that are appropriate in weight for the combatant's hand size.
- (3) All gloves must be approved by the Commission.
- (4) No gloves shall be required for those martial arts disciplines that prohibit striking or punching.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.16 Timekeepers.

A timekeeper shall:

- (1) keep accurate time of all bouts;
- (2) begin the start of the clock for each round, as initiated by the referee, including overtime rounds;
- (3) give three (3) slaps to the ring mat or three (3) pounds on the table to indicate ten (10) seconds remaining in the round;
- (4) blow a whistle to indicate to the referee that there are ten (10) seconds left in the round break;
- (5) start and stop the bout clock for time stoppages as called by the referee; and
- (6) signal the end of each round by the use of a bell, buzzer, or other available loud signal.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201. [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.17 Scorekeepers.

A scorekeeper shall record and tabulate the scores and point deductions from all of the judges. All actual scores shall be placed on the master score sheet as they are indicated by the judges' scorecards. In the event there is a knockout or the referee stops the bout for any reason, the scorekeeper shall ascertain the exact time from the timekeeper. This will be recorded on the area marked on the score sheet.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.18 Ring Announcers.

- (1) The ring announcers shall fully represent the contest or event to the public in an official and professional manner.
- (2) If the ring announcer uses any profanity over the event public address system, the announcer could be subject to a civil penalty up to the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) by the Commission and banned from the contest or event.
- (3) The ring announcer shall read all the bout results.
- (4) There shall be no talking by the ring announcer over the microphone or anyone over a public address system during a bout.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.19 Music.

- (1) There shall be no music played during a bout.
- (2) Combatant entree music or event music with profane or abusive lyrics and or foul language shall be prohibited.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-03-.20 Managers and Seconds.

- (1) All combatants shall be allowed a maximum of three (3) managers and seconds at ringside while the bout is in progress.
- (2) Five (5) managers and seconds shall be allowed for title bouts of national level or higher.
- (3) All managers and seconds shall stay in their combatant's corner while the bout is in progress.
- (4) If a combatant's manager or second leaves his corner area and goes directly ringside or cage side to an area outside their corner area where the combatants are engaged in combat, to coach their combatant, the referee shall stop the bout and make one (1) of the following determinations:
  - (a) warn the coaching corner to stay in their respective corner;
  - (b) deduct one (1) point from the combatant whose manager or second left their corner;
  - (c) end the round, awarding the entire round to the opposing combatant; or
  - (d) end the bout, awarding the entire bout to the opposing combatant.
- (5) During the round breaks, only one (1) manager or second shall be allowed in the ring, while the other two (2) shall stand outside the ring ropes on the outside edge of the ring or on the floor. If the bout takes place in a cage, one (1) manager and one (1) second are allowed on the cage area designated for such coaches to attend to that coach's combatant.
- (6) Managers or seconds shall obey the referee at all times during the bout.
- (7) Managers or seconds shall conduct themselves with appropriate and proper sportsmanship in all ways connected with the bout.
- (8) Managers or seconds may spray water and apply ice to a combatant between rounds. The managers or managers or seconds are responsible to dry the corner area before the next round commences.
- (9) Managers or seconds may discretionally use petroleum jelly on the face of the contestant.
- (10) The managers and seconds may use only those substances approved by the Commission to stop hemorrhaging.
- (11) Violation of the rules by managers or seconds may result in warnings, point deductions, and/or disqualification of that manager's or second's combatant.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §68-115-201 [effective July 1, 2008].

Chapter 0145-04  
Disciplinary Actions

Table of Contents

0145-04-.01 Civil Penalties

0145-04-.01 Civil Penalties.

- (1) The Commission may, in a lawful proceeding with respect to any person licensed or required to be licensed, in addition to or in lieu of any other lawful disciplinary action, assess a civil penalty for a violation of a statute, rule or order, enforceable by the Commission, in accordance with the following schedule:

Violation	Penalty
T.C.A. §68-115-204	\$0 – 250,000
T.C.A. §68-115-209(a)(1)	\$0 – 250,000
(2)	\$0 – 250,000
(3)	\$0 – 250,000
(4)	\$0 – 250,000
(5)	\$0 – 250,000
(6)	\$0 – 250,000
(7)	\$0 – 250,000
(8)	\$0 – 250,000
(10)	\$0 – 250,000

- (2) Each day of continued violation shall constitute a separate violation.

- (3) In assessing civil penalties, the following factors may be considered:

- (a) whether the amount imposed will be a substantial economic deterrent to the violator;
- (b) the circumstances leading to the violation;
- (c) the severity of the violation and the risk of harm to the public;
- (d) the economic benefits gained by the violator as a result of non-compliance; and
- (e) the interest of the public.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §§68-115-201 and 68-115-216 [effective July 1, 2008].

Chapter 0145-5  
Amateur Events

Table of Contents

0145-05-.01 Applicability

0145-05-.02 Amateur Sanctioning Organizations

0145-05-.01 Applicability.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all amateur unarmed combat events held or scheduled to be held in the state of Tennessee except those events held by schools, colleges and universities having membership in either the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association or the National Collegiate Athletic Association wherein the participants are bona fide students.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §§68-115-201, 68-115-301 and 68-115-302 [effective July 1, 2008].

0145-05-.02 Amateur Sanctioning Organizations.

Unless exempted pursuant to Rule 0145-05-.01, an amateur combatant shall not participate in any unarmed combat event or exhibition unless the event or exhibition is sanctioned by an amateur sanctioning organization recognized and approved by the Commission and the participant is registered with such sanctioning organization. The Commission will only approve and recognize those amateur sanctioning organizations that are able to establish and enforce rules as strict as, or stricter, than those established by the Commission for professional unarmed combat contests.

Authority: Chapter 1149 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 2 and T.C.A. §§68-115-201 and 68-115-213 [effective July 1, 2008].

\* If a roll-call vote was necessary, the vote by the Agency on these rules was as follows:

Board Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Signature (if required)
Jack Sammons	X				
Chuck Clark	X				
Neal Frauwirth	X				
Steve Hannah	X				
Stuart Howard	X				
Teri Mast	X				
Joe Smith	X				
Kurt Spindler				X	
Scott White	X				

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of emergency or public necessity rules, lawfully promulgated and adopted.

Date: 3-20-09

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Name of Officer: J. Wayne Pugh

Title of Officer: Deputy General Counsel for Regulatory Boards, Department of Commerce and Insurance



Subscribed and sworn to before me on: 3/20/09

Notary Public Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

My commission expires on: 5/12/2012

All emergency or public necessity rules provided for herein have been examined by the Attorney General and Reporter of the State of Tennessee and are approved as to legality pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

[Handwritten Signature]  
Robert E. Cooper, Jr.  
Attorney General and Reporter

4-7-09  
Date

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**PUBLICATIONS**

Filed with the Department of State on: 4/20/09

Effective for: 165 \*days

Effective through: 10/02/09

\* Temporary rules may be effective for up to 165 days from the date of filing.

[Handwritten Signature]  
Tre Hargett  
Secretary of State

**Additional Information Required by Joint Government Operations Committee**

All agencies, upon filing a rule, must also submit the following pursuant to TCA 4-5-226(i)(1).

- (A)** A brief summary of the rule and a description of all relevant changes in previous regulations effectuated by such rule;

These are new rules regulating unarmed combat in the State. The rules are broken down into five sections. The first section contains regulations which are applicable to all professional contests of unarmed combat. The second section deals with regulations applicable to only boxing. The third section deals with regulations applicable to kickboxing and mixed martial arts.

- (B)** A citation to and brief description of any federal law or regulation or any state law or regulation mandating promulgation of such rule or establishing guidelines relevant thereto;

These emergency rules are being promulgated in response to the enactment of the Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2008.

- (C)** Identification of persons, organizations, corporations or governmental entities most directly affected by this rule, and whether those persons, organizations, corporations or governmental entities urge adoption or rejection of this rule;

Promoters, participants and sponsors of unarmed combat sports will be affected by these rules. All of these parties are anxious for rules to be promulgated in order for professional contests to be allowed in this State. The enactment of the Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2008 terminated the authority of the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance to regulate boxing. The termination of such authority created a situation in which there was no regulation of unarmed combat or boxing until such time as the new Athletic Commission was appointed and had the chance to promulgate rules. This resulted in confusion as to whether any such contests could legally take place until these rules became effective.

- (D)** Identification of any opinions of the attorney general and reporter or any judicial ruling that directly relates to the rule;

I am unaware of any opinion of the attorney general or any judicial ruling that directly relates to these rules.

- (E)** An estimate of the probable increase or decrease in state and local government revenues and expenditures, if any, resulting from the promulgation of this rule, and assumptions and reasoning upon which the estimate is based. An agency shall not state that the fiscal impact is minimal if the fiscal impact is more than two percent (2%) of the agency's annual budget or five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), whichever is less;

These rules are expected to have a neutral fiscal impact on the Commission; the fees for application and licensure should ensure that the program is self-sufficient.

- (F)** Identification of the appropriate agency representative or representatives, possessing substantial knowledge and understanding of the rule;

Jeffrey Mullen  
Executive Director  
Tennessee Athletic Commission

C. Edward Scudder  
Assistant General Counsel  
Department of Commerce and Insurance

J. Wayne Pugh,  
Deputy General Counsel for Regulatory Boards  
Department of Commerce and Insurance

- (G)** Identification of the appropriate agency representative or representatives who will explain the rule at a scheduled meeting of the committees;

Jeffrey Mullen  
Executive Director  
Tennessee Athletic Commission

C. Edward Scudder  
Assistant General Counsel  
Department of Commerce and Insurance

J. Wayne Pugh,  
Deputy General Counsel for Regulatory Boards  
Department of Commerce and Insurance

- (H)** Office address and telephone number of the agency representative or representatives who will explain the rule at a scheduled meeting of the committees; and

Jeffrey Mullen  
Executive Director  
Tennessee Athletic Commission  
170 N. Main  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103  
Telephone Number: (901) 543-6060

C. Edward Scudder  
Assistant General Counsel  
Department of Commerce and Insurance  
500 James Robertson Parkway  
Davy Crockett Tower  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
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J. Wayne Pugh  
Deputy General Counsel for Regulatory Boards  
Department of Commerce and Insurance  
500 James Robertson Parkway  
Davy Crockett Tower  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
Telephone Number: (615) 253-2371

- (I)** Any additional information relevant to the rule proposed for continuation that the committee requests.