

GUIDELINES FOR PROMOTERS OF MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

Promoting professional boxing and or mixed martial arts event for the first time may seem overwhelming at times. The following information is intended to serve as an informative tool in promoting such an event in Florida. Please contact the Florida State Boxing Commission if you are unsure about something not covered in this package.

LICENSURE

The first step in becoming a promoter is to obtain a license from the Commission. You will be required to submit a license application, submit a non-refundable application fee of \$250.00 and file a \$15,000 Surety Bond with the Commission. If you plan on becoming licensed using your business name, an application will be needed for each officer of the corporation or partner of the partnership. The promoter application fee of \$250.00 will cover the officer(s) license application for corporations or partnerships.

SCHEDULING A LIVE EVENT

In order to actually promote a live event, a licensed promoter will need to submit an application for Live Event Permit. The permit fee is based on the venue's occupancy or seating capacity. When submitting the application for Live Event Permit, the promoter will also identify a Florida-licensed matchmaker for the proposed event. Permit applications are subject to review and approval by the Commission.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The promoter is required to obtain medical insurance and accidental death insurance for all participants. The policy must cover each fighter for a minimum of \$20,000 in benefits for each category. Proof of insurance is due no later than the day prior to the weigh-in.

ROLE OF THE MATCHMAKER

The matchmaker will submit proposed fight card to the Commission for review. The Commission will notify the matchmaker and/or promoter, once a decision has been made concerning the proposed fight card. The proposed fight card should be submitted no less than ten (10) days out from the date of the event. Changes can be made within the ten (10) day window prior to the event. It is also the responsibility of the matchmaker to provide official records from Battlebase.net for all proposed participants, and notify the participants of the medical requirements established in Florida. For additional information on these requirements, please see General Guidelines.

CONDITIONS OF THE MATCHES

A promoter who wishes to have a mixed martial arts event must submit a proposed set of conditions of the matches at least 30 days prior to the event for

review purposes. The Commission will then notify the promoter relative to the proposed conditions of the matches concerning approvals or disapprovals of the conditions. As a rule of thumb, it is easier to start with the Uniform Conditions for Mixed Martial Arts as adopted by Nevada and New Jersey, and proceed by pointing out any proposed variances as compared to them. For more information, please contact the Commission.

MARKETING

Bouts may be advertised publicly once filed with the Commission. Any bouts not yet filed may be advertised as a certain fighter being featured on the fight card. For example, if John Smith is filed with the Commission to fight John Doe, then Smith vs. Doe can be advertised. However, assume the same fight is not yet filed with the Commission. In this case, "featuring John Doe" may be advertised. Should tickets be purchased while relying on erroneous advertising, the consumer is entitled to a refund under Florida law. Any questions concerning the filing of bouts can be directed to the Commission.

OFFICIALS

The Commission will assign and schedule the Inspectors, Timekeeper, Referees, Judges, and Ringside Physicians. It is the responsibility of the promoter to pay the fees and associated travel expenses for the Judges, Referees, and Ringside Physicians. If a hotel room, air travel or a car rental is required for an official, the Commission will notify the promoter to make reservations. The standard fees associated with non-title fights are \$150 per Referee, \$125 per Judge, and \$600 per Ringside Physician. A typical-sized show is accustomed to seeing two (2) Referees, four (4) Judges and two (2) Ringside Physicians per event. Increasing the number of bouts or the number of scheduled rounds may warrant the assignment of additional officials. For title fights and televised fights, please contact the Commission for information concerning officials' fees.

WEIGH-IN

NOTE: Commission will provide a scale at the weigh-in.

The promoter is responsible for scheduling the weigh-in. The time and place will be identified on the application for Live Event Permit submitted to the Commission (see scheduling a Live Event) and is subject to the approval of the Commission. In addition to this, the promoter must ensure the following is provided and/or scheduled:

- Attendance by all participants (including seconds, trainers, etc.)
- A quiet, clean and separated area for the purpose of pre-bout medical examinations by the ringside physicians. Each physician should be afforded a table with two chairs for their examination purposes.
- A table with good lighting for Commission staff to perform the administrative tasks of the Commission at the weigh-in.

- Adequate seating and tables for participants and their trainers/seconds.
- Executed copies of the Letters of Agreement between Promoter and Participant for each fighter. Opponents' maximum weight provisions must match for each pairing of opponents on the contracts/agreement.
- The appropriate number of "all access" credentials clearly indicating "Florida State Boxing Commission" or "Commission" should be provided to the Executive Director or the Assistant Executive Director at the time of the weigh-in. The number of credentials will vary for each event. Accordingly, please contact the Commission at 850.488.8500 in advance to obtain a copy of the Officials' Pass List.
- Credentials should also be issued to working staff of the promotion, to participants and their licensed seconds, to media, and to any television production staff. Each credential should clearly denote the areas accessible to the individual being issued the credential. The promoter shall furnish the Commission representative with a complete list of all individuals issued an "all access" pass. Note: "All access" credentials should be limited to "working" staff and the Commission.

Important Note: Please make sure fighters come prepared with their Federal Identification Cards and another form of government-issued picture identification. Also, any fighter arriving more than one-half hour late to the weigh-in will be penalized without a valid excuse. Pro debut fighters must present their Amateur Passbook (if one exists). Someone capable of attesting to a pro debut's fighting skills, such as a licensed manager or trainer, must be present at the time of the weigh-in. The matchmaker will also be responsible for providing a Pro debut information sheet.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

All food and beverages should be dispensed in paper or plastic plates or cups. Only plastic utensils may be used. Cans, glass bottles or plates and metal utensils are prohibited. Venues that have box seating or membership areas that are not a part of the main floor or stadium seating are exempt from this as long as precautions are taken to not allow the glass or metal objects into the prohibited areas. These requirements are true whether the concessions are handled directly by the promoter, the venue or subcontracted to a separate vendor. Upon failure to meet these requirements, the Commission will look to the licensed promoter for compliance.

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL

Ring and seating configurations should account for the requirement to have an unobstructed, clear path to the ring for emergency purposes. This path should

be wide enough to allow paramedics access to the ring with an ambulance stretcher and any necessary medical equipment.

The following emergency medical equipment and personnel must be in place at all times during the event:

- Medical attendants will be placed by the Executive Director or Assistant Executive Director and will report to him or her before the start of the event.
- An ambulance with two (2) qualified attendants (EMT or Paramedics);
- A portable resuscitator with all additional equipment necessary for its operation;
- Portable oxygen supply (to be kept at the Commission table/ringside and one in each dressing room (total of three required).
- A clean stretcher and clean blanket (to be located along with the ambulance attendants, at a location determined by the Commission)

No match shall begin or continue unless such personnel and equipment are on the premises in a state of readiness. Arrangements should be made to allow the ambulance to park as close to the building as possible with easy access to the main floor/ring. The service entrance is usually a good candidate for ambulance parking. Please be sure to let the emergency personnel know that emergency transport must be permanently on-site during the event. The Commission will not allow emergency transportation that needs to be called upon when needed. In other words, if the ambulance needs to leave due to another call, the event will be stopped until such time another ambulance is on-site.

MISCELLANEOUS REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

The ring or fenced area, any lighting equipment, and any other required equipment (judges' stools, spit buckets, participants' stools, seconds' chairs, etc.) should be completely assembled and in a state of readiness at least 1 ½ hours prior to the scheduled time of the first match in the program of matches. The ring or fenced area and lighting will be inspected by the Commission at this time. The promoter shall ensure the appropriate qualified staff is available to make any corrections or adjustments deemed necessary by the Commission at this time.

In addition to the pre-fight inspection, the promoter shall also ensure a person or persons capable of making emergency repairs, corrections and adjustments to the ring or fenced area, lights and other necessary fixtures must be available at all times during the progress of a program.

Gloves which must pass inspection at the event (have enough on-hand). Typical inspection failures are attributed to worn padding at knuckles or cracks in the leather. Also, please be aware that 4 to 8 ounce gloves are allowable. Participants are not allowed to bring their own gloves to the event for use in the match.

- Three stools (counter/bar height) for judges at ringside with an unobstructed view.
- A public address system with microphone available for use at ringside
- Five chairs for each participant's corner (see ring diagram)
- Spit bucket, stool and three clean towels for each participant's corner
- Complete set of numbered round cards; size must be legible from all parts of the arena

SEAT CONFIGURATIONS/TICKET SALES

If the venue is responsible for seating arrangements and/or the associated ticket sales, please be aware that no seats and/or tables may be sold immediately against the ring apron as these seats and/or tables are reserved for officials and media only. The closest seating that may be sold will be at least 6 feet behind the backside of any of the ringside seats assigned to the officials/media (see ring diagram).

An account of all tickets sold and all complimentary tickets issued is required to be filed with the Commission after the event by the party responsible for ticket sales and issuance. If the venue has agreed to perform this function, please contact the Commission prior to the event.

RING AND FENCED AREA LAYOUT

The officials' seating (see "Commission Table" on ring diagram) should always be opposite the primary television camera if televised.

Judges' stools should be counter-height instead of table-height. Please refer to the ring diagram for the placement of the judges' stools.

There should always be three different sets of steps for access to the ring or fenced area. One set in each blue and red corner and another set in a neutral corner.

For fenced areas, there should be two (2) doorways for access inside the fenced area.

Electrical power (110-V) should be provided to the timekeeper and official commission table locations at ringside (see ring diagram).

ANNOUNCER

The promoter is responsible for scheduling the announcer. This person must also obtain a license from the Commission.

TELEVISION, BROADCAST OR MOTION PICTURE RIGHTS: CONTRACTS

The promoter must file any contracts requested thereof by the Commission concerning television, broadcast or motion picture rights with the Commission.

POST-EVENT TAXATION

The promoter is responsible for filing the Post-Event Tax Form with the Commission within 72 hours after the live event (5 additional days allowed for mailing time). If the promoter has negotiated this in a contract with a venue, for example, the Commission will still look to the promoter of record for the form and payment. Late payments are subject to a 10% penalty per day.

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH VENUES

If any of the requirements listed above have been contracted out to another party such as the venue, the promoter of records should recommend their accessing the online information found under information for Venues. Ultimately, the Commission will look to the promoter of records for compliance with the requirements listed above. Examples of contracted roles include:

- Marketing
- Food and Beverage (No food or drinks around ringside other than water)
- Emergency Equipment and Personnel
- Ring, Ring Layout, Stools (for participants and judges)
- Seating Configuration
- No blocking the view of the public
- Ticket Sales
- Security Personnel
- Taxation