

Mississippi Athletic Commission Rules and Regulations



Title 30: Professions and Occupations

Part 301: Mississippi Athletic Commission Rules and Regulations

Introduction. The following rules and regulations are adopted by the Mississippi Athletic Commission pursuant to section 75-75-101 through 75-75-123 of the Mississippi Code to govern all boxing, kickboxing, sparring, tough-man contests, submission wrestling, and wrestling matches and exhibitions, except where special regulations are made for a particular bout or exhibition. The Mississippi Athletic Commission has sole direction, management, control and jurisdiction over all boxing, sparring and wrestling matches and exhibitions to be held in the State. No boxing, sparring and wrestling matches and exhibition for a prize or purse, or at which admission fee is charged, either directly or indirectly, in the form of dues or otherwise, shall be conducted in this State, except by an individual licensed by the Mississippi Athletic Commission and in pursuance of a permit granted by the Mississippi Athletic Commission for each match or exhibition.

Part 301 Chapter 1: General Provisions

Rule 1.1 The following terms shall have the meaning assigned herein:

- A. "Announcer"- a person responsible for announcing the names of the officials, contestants and decisions of each bout.
- B. "Bout" -one match between 2 contestants.

- C. "Professional Boxing" – boxing for financial compensation.
- D. "Commission"- members of the Mississippi Athletic Commission.
- E. "Contest" -a group of bouts.
- F. "Contestant" -one who has obtained a license to compete or perform in a bout.
- G. "Deputy Commissioner"- those designated by the Commission to attend and inspect events regulated by the Commission in their absence.
- H. "Director"-a direct representative of promoter.
- I. "Inspectors" – shall have the same meaning as "Deputy Commissioner."
- J. "Judge"-a person serving as a member of a panel that is responsible for determining a decision in each bout.
- K. "Kick Boxing" -boxing in which contestants are allowed to kick.
- L. "Manager"- the licensed individual that negotiates the financial interest of the fighter.
- M. "Matchmaker" -a person responsible for matching the contestants for a bout.
- N. "Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)" -shall mean the same as "Submission Wrestling."
- O. "Official" -means any judges, referee, or timekeeper.
- P. "Permit" -written permission to hold an event on a specific date and hour at a specific place or a license fee good for one event.
- Q. "Professional Wrestling" -a fixed bout of wrestling skills by 2 or more wrestlers.
- R. "Promoter" -The person(s) responsible for promoting, publicizing, producing, organizing and conducting an event, generally the one profiting from the event.
- S. "Purse" -the financial guarantee that a contestant receives for good faith participation in a bout.
- T. "Referee" -the person in charge of enforcing the rules of a contest.
- U. "Second"- shall have the same meaning as "trainer."
- V. "Sparring" -means competing for practice or as an exhibition.
- W. "Special Bouts" -any type of contest that does not conform to the rules adopted by the Mississippi Athletic Commission that is approved by the Commission for a particular event.
- X. "Straw Promoter"- obtaining a promoter license to represent someone else that may not have otherwise qualified as a promoter.
- Y. "Submission Wrestling" - competition involving the use of a combination of techniques from different disciplines of martial arts, boxing, kickboxing and wrestling. This is to include, without limitation, any throwing, striking, and grappling. It shall include the term "mixed martial arts" or "MMA."
- Z. "Timekeeper" -a person responsible for keeping accurate time during each bout and rings the bell for the beginning and ending of each round.
- AA. "Tough-Man Contest"- a boxing elimination tournament.
- BB. "Trainer" -someone who coaches a fighter.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.2 Permits

- A. The promoter shall apply for the event permit in writing at least 50 days prior to the scheduled event. Live television events shall be excluded.
- B. A promoter shall not give publicity to an event until the permit has been approved.

- C. Each permit shall name possible contestants, the number of fights, the number of rounds and the date, place and time of contest.
- D. The permit shall note any celebrity guest that will be advertised as part of the promotion.
- E. A permit may be denied if the Commission believes that one promotion will interfere with another on any given day.
- F. The Commission must approve all changes and substitutions.
- G. All permit applications are to be mailed, faxed, emailed, or hand delivered to the Commission with all fees.
- H. A deposit or surety bond may be required by the promoter for permit approval and is conditional upon the faithful performance of the payment for Commission fees, official's fees, contracts with licensees, and fines of the Commission.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.3 Tickets and Passes.

- A. No person(s) shall be admitted to any event unless they are a ticket holder or pass holder.
- B. The Commission shall approve all ticket prices.
- C. The statutory 6% gate fee shall apply to all compensated tickets.
- D. Boxes for deposit of tickets must be used at the gate for collection of ticket stubs or by any other audit means approved by the Commission.
- E. All tickets must be sold from a locations approved by the Commission.
- F. The value of each ticket shall be printed on the ticket stub.
- G. The promoter shall issue passes to the following:
 - 1) Members, employees, and guests of the Commission.
 - 2) Competitors on the program and their licensed trainers.
 - 3) Officials connected with the contest.
 - 4) Promotion staff.
 - 5) Passes for others may be issued only by authority and at the discretion of the Commission.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.4 Licensing

- A. License application for promoter, director, manager, matchmaker, boxer, kickboxer, tough-man contestant, wrestler, submission wrestler, referee, timekeeper, trainer-second, judge, or any contestant shall be made in writing on a form prescribed by the Commission or by online application.
- B. The Commission shall charge a fee not to exceed \$100 for each license or permit for promoter, director, boxer, manager, matchmaker, tough-man contestant, wrestler, submission wrestler, referee, timekeeper, trainer-second, judge or any contestant.
- C. Each license shall expire on June 30th after issue.
- D. Each applicant must use his or her legal name when applying for a license.
- E. No individual shall perform any position without being licensed for that position.
- F. Each applicant shall put true and correct information on his or her application.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.5 Promoter Requirements

- A. The promoter is the person(s) responsible for promoting, publicizing, producing, organizing and conducting an event.
- B. Upon license approval, each promoter shall deposit \$500 with the Commission as non-refundable gate fees. Wrestling shall be excluded.
- C. Promoter applicant shall have 2 years of experience with the event they are promoting and must have participated in a minimum of 6 events in a licensed position.
- D. Promoter applicant shall be thoroughly familiar with the rules and regulations of the Mississippi Athletic Commission.
- E. First time promoter applicant shall collect 30 signatures of fighters with recorded wins on a Commission approved petition.
- F. First time promoter applicant shall provide the Commission with proof of sufficient financial resources to hold their event and must provide a sufficient promoting plan.
- G. First time promoter applicant shall provide the Commission with a letter of reference from any Mississippi licensed promoter or from any State Commission.
- H. Applicant must have a track record of honest and quality promotions with all former promotions.
- I. Additional background information from the applicant may be required.
- J. Applicant shall apply only one time within each fiscal year.
- K. Promoter shall have a valid telephone number, address, and email address.
- L. Promoter must have an updated web site with information about their promotion.
- M. Promoter shall have full control over each event being promoted.
- N. Each contestant and official shall be paid immediately following the event.
- O. All events shall be promoted at a non-smoking venue.
- P. All events shall be held in venues with no less than 500 seats.
- Q. Promoter shall not permit drinks to be dispensed on the floor of the arena nor on the premises except in approved containers approved by the Commission.
- R. The promoter shall be responsible for verifying to the Commission the identity, fight record and suspensions of all contestants. A promoter shall be responsible for the accuracy of the names and records of the participants in all publicity or promotional material. The list of contestants shall be submitted 10 days before event.
- S. No licensed promoter shall operate or attempt to operate as a straw promoter. The person(s) responsible for promoting, publicizing, producing, organizing and conducting an event shall be the one to obtain the license.
- T. Promoter must produce quality events.
- U. All contracts relating to the event must be made with the promoter.
- V. Each promoter shall be automatically suspended upon the completion of their event until all fees and costs are paid to the Commission and all financial obligations are met.
- W. The promoter is responsible for full contractual payment to all contestants.
- X. Promoters shall supply the following equipment:
 - 1) Ring for boxing, tough-man, or kickboxing. The ring shall be no less than 16 or more than 24 feet square when measured inside the line of the ropes. The apron of the ring

- shall extend beyond the ropes by approximately two feet. The ring shall be equipped with four ropes with spacer ties on each side of the ring to secure the ropes. The ring floor shall have a padding approved by the Commission. The padding shall extend beyond the ring ropes and over the edge of the platform and shall be covered with canvas or other approved material. The corners of the ring shall have all hard objects in reach of the competitors securely padded. The Commission shall approve the boxing ring. (This rule excludes submission-wrestling cage).
- 2) Buckets for use by each contestant.
 - 3) Stools in each corner for use by the trainers and contestants.
 - 4) Tables with seats surrounding the ring for the exclusive use and assignment of the Commission.
 - 5) Approved scales for weigh-in that measure in tenths of one pound.
 - 6) A gong or bell for the timekeeper.
 - 7) A public address system.
 - 8) Three stools for the judges.
 - 9) Sufficient bout sheets for officials and Commission.
 - 10) Numbered ring cards for each round.
 - 11) Separate dressing rooms for men and women.
 - 12) Electricity supplied at the ring for the Commission.
 - 13) An ambulance or medical personnel with appropriate resuscitation equipment on site at all times.
 - 14) Physicians at ringside while bouts take place.
 - 15) Latex gloves for referee and medical personnel.
 - 16) Towels for contestants and trainers.
 - 17) Water in each corner for contestant.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.6 Contracts

- A. All agreements must be in the form of a written contract approved by and filed with the Commission. There shall be no oral agreements.
- B. The promoter shall contract with all competitors using a bout agreement approved by the Commission. There shall be 3 copies of all contracts, each for the promoter, contestant and Commission.
- C. The contract between a promoter and a contestant shall embody all of the agreements between the parties.
- D. Contracts not filed with the Commission may be considered invalid.
- E. Each contract made with a venue, sponsor, investor, or any contract related to the event must be submitted to the Commission upon request.
- F. No contestant shall be paid before completing his or her bout.
- G. All bout agreements shall contain language that subjects the contestant to being temporarily licensed by the Commission upon signing the agreement.
- H. All contracts relating to the holding or staging of any boxing, wrestling or sparring match or exhibition or relating to any participation therein, shall contain a provision to the effect that all rules passed or adapted by the Commission, either before or after the execution of

the contract, shall be considered as a part of the contract, the same as if said rule were fully set out of the body of the instrument.

- I. If it should be determined by the Commission that a contestant did not give a good faith effort of their skills, the contestant may not be paid their contracted purse.
- J. At the discretion of the Commission, a contestant may not be paid their contract purse if they are disqualified.
- K. Any contract provision may be considered and treated as a rule and be subject to any and all fines and suspension allowed by the Commission.
- L. The promoter prior to offering the bout agreement to the contestant shall sign all bout contracts offered to contestants.
- M. Any contract bout agreement offered to a contestant to sign, that is not first signed by the promoter, may be considered a valid agreement by the Commission.
- N. No contract provision shall require a contestant to sell any tickets; however, tickets sold by a contestant may be offered as a bonus to the contestant.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.7 Contestants

- A. An individual applying for a license as a contestant of boxing, tough-man, kickboxing or submission wrestling must be 18 years of age. No Contestant under the age of 18 is allowed unless the promoter has submitted a waiver of requirement and approved by the Commission.
- B. Each contestant applicant, if asked, shall furnish the Commission with the following information:
 - 1) Copy of a State or federal issued identification;
 - 2) Federal identification card;
 - 3) A written statement as to training and experience;
 - 4) Competitive record as an amateur and professional;
 - 5) Medical fitness report with any information required by the Commission;
- C. The Commission may deny a contestant a license or permit to compete if it is believed that the contestant is not physically or mentally fit to compete.
- D. A contestant shall report any change in their medical condition that may affect their ability to safely compete.
- E. The Commission may, at any time, require current medical information on any contestant.
- F. The use of strong smelling ointments or lubricants not approved by the Commission shall be prohibited.
- G. Each contestant shall put forth a good faith effort in each competition.
- H. Any contestant may be disciplined for rule violations from their manager, trainer or second.
- I. Each contestant's hand and foot wraps must be inspected and approved by a Commission inspector.
- J. Contestant clothing is subject to approval by the Commission.
- K. Each contestant must be clean prior to competing.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.8 Managers

- A. A manager shall have his fighter under written contract.
- B. Each management contract shall be filed and approved by the Commission to be considered valid.
- C. A licensed fighter is not required to have a manager.
- D. Licensed managers are also qualified as seconds.
- E. A management contract may not exceed 3 years.
- F. A manager shall not receive over 33% of the competitors contracted bout compensation.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.9 Matchmakers

- A. There shall be a licensed matchmaker for each event.
- B. Matchmaker applicant must have sufficient experience with making competitive matches.
- C. Promoters may act as matchmaker if they are qualified.
- D. The matchmaker shall be responsible for making fairly matched bouts.
- E. Ten days before the contest, the matchmaker shall supply the Commission with a list of all contestants and a copy of their records from the record registry.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.10 Trainers and Seconds

- A. Every person serving as a trainer must be licensed.
- B. No individual may be in the corner other than licensed trainers and seconds.
- C. Competitors and trainers shall not bring unlicensed individuals to the ring.
- D. Licensed contestants and managers may qualify as seconds.
- E. All trainers shall be responsible for maintaining good conduct before, during and after the contest.
- F. The Commission shall determine the number of trainers used for each bout.
- G. A contestant may lose points or be disqualified for the conduct of his/her trainer(s).
- H. Any Commission member or referee may eject a second for violations.
- I. The referee may deduct points from the fighter or disqualify the fighter for violations caused by the trainer-second.
- J. Before a contest begins, the seconds and trainers shall:
 - 1) Be identified for the inspector and the referee. Only those identified and licensed shall be allowed in the corner.
 - 2) Before putting on gloves, the trainer shall present the fighter's wrapped hands for inspection by the supervising Commission inspector.
 - 3) The trainer shall present the contestant and be ready to fight when the referee calls the contestants to ring center for final instructions.

- 4) Sealed sport drinks must be presented to the Commission for examination before the bout or they may not be used.
- K. During the round, seconds:
- 1) Shall remain seated.
 - 2) May coach fighter.
 - 3) Shall not heckle opponent.
 - 4) Shall not mount the stairs or apron or enter the ring until the bell indicates the end of a round.
 - 5) Shall refrain from excessive coaching that may interfere with the referee.
 - 6) A contestant's trainer shall not heckle or in any manner annoy the opponent of the contestant or the referee, before, during and after the contest.
 - 7) Shall not enter the ring to assist or move a contestant who has been knocked-down or injured until instructed to do so by medical personnel.
 - 8) The seconds may not assist a contestant that has been knocked out of the ring.
 - 9) Shall signal the referee to stop the fight by mounting the ring apron and verbally notifying the referee and using a waving hand and/or throwing a towel into the ring.
 - 10) Shall not physically assist during the round.
 - 11) The referee may halt time and warn a trainer for violations. The referee may have the judges deduct points from the contestant for violations from their trainer or second.
- L. During the one minute rest period, a second:
- 1) May coach his/her fighter.
 - 2) May treat cuts, abrasions and/or swelling.
 - 3) May provide water, ice, approved sports drinks or other cooling-down techniques.
 - 4) Shall leave the ring at the sound of the timekeeper's whistle that is given ten seconds before a round begins and shall wipe the floor clean.
 - 5) Shall remove all items in the ring and on the ring platform prior to the bell sounding the beginning of the round and shall wipe the floor clean of debris and water.
 - 6) Shall not administer alcoholic beverages, narcotics or stimulants to a contestant.
 - 7) Shall insure that the tape on the glove lace is secure before the sound of the start bell.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.11 Officials (Referee, Judge, Timekeeper)

- A. Officials for each contest shall consist of a referee, 3 judges, and a timekeeper.
- B. The Commission Chairman shall appoint the officials for each event.
- C. Officials shall be thoroughly experienced in officiating to qualify for licensing and may be required to obtain specific certifications.
- D. Judges must be impartial and discreet at all times.
- E. Officials are subject to alcohol and drug testing.
- F. Officials may be required to pass a pre-fight physical.
- G. Officials shall not discuss their decisions with anyone except the Commission.
- H. Official's fee for service shall be set by the Commission and paid by the promoter.
- I. Only the referee can stop a bout, and he/she may consult with the ringside physician on the physical condition of either contestant at any time.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.12 Deputy Commissioners

- A. The Commission Chairman shall designate Deputy Commissioners as it deems necessary to represent the Commission whenever necessary. Deputy Commissioners are the direct representatives of the Commission.
- B. The Deputy Commissioner in charge shall have exclusive regulatory control of the event.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.13 Prompt Appearance

- A. Contestants must report to the place of contest, place of weigh-in, and place of rules meeting at the time set by the Commission.
- B. Once a contestant is called to the ring by the Commission, they shall have up to 5 minutes to enter the ring to compete.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.14 Failure to Appear

- A. Any contestant who has entered into a contract, oral or written, to participate in a bout, who shall for any reason be unable to carry out his agreement and does not notify the promoter and the Commission of his incapability to do so and the reason or cause therefore, and whose reason or cause therefore is not considered by the Commission as satisfactory, shall be penalized by the Commission by suspension for a period of not less than six 6 months and not more than 1 year and/ or fined by the Commission.
- B. The contestant may also be required to compensate the promoter for any and all costs related to the failure to appear. This may include, but not limited to, the opponent's travel and purse cost.
- C. A letter of intent to fight may be considered as an agreement between a contestant, his manager and a promoter.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.15 Revocation, Denial & Suspension of Licenses

- A. The Chairman of the Commission shall be ex officio the recorder of permits and licenses as per Mississippi code section 75-75-107. Each license application shall receive initial approval or denial from the Chairman. Each applicant that is denied a license from the Chairman may appeal the decision to the entire Commission within 15 days of notice of denial. Any applicant who has been denied a license by the Commission may not file a similar application until one (1) year after the denial by the Commission. Any application for license filed within the one (1) year period may be denied without a hearing.

- B. Any licensee who is determined by an examining physician to be unfit to compete or officiate, may be suspended until it is shown that they are fit for further competition or officiating.
- C. Any contestant suspended for their medical protection may be required to furnish the Commission with any requested medical reports to be reinstated.
- D. Anyone on administrative or medical suspension by another Commission may be denied a license.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.16 Disciplinary Procedure

- A. The Chairman of the Commission shall make the initial official decision as to any disciplinary action or fine that may be taken against a licensee for rule violations. Any disciplinary decision made by a Deputy Commissioner in charge shall not be made official until approved by the Chairman. Any decision made by the Chairman may be appealed to the entire Commission and a hearing may be requested. The ruling of this hearing shall be final. All appeals must be made within 15 days of receiving notice from the Commission regarding the disciplinary action taken.
- B. Any person who shall violate any rule passed or adopted by the Mississippi Athletic Commission may be fined as follows for each violation:
 - 1) For contestants, up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or up to twenty-five percent (25%) of contracted purse;
 - 2) For trainer, second or manager, up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or up to ten percent (10%) of contracted amount of the represented fighter;
 - 3) For promoter or director, up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or up to twenty-five percent (25%) of contracted amount of the highest two (2) combined bout purses during an event;
 - 4) And referee, judge, timekeeper or matchmaker, up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or twenty-five percent (25%) of the contracted pay for that event.
- C. In addition to fines, each rule violation is subject to suspension of performance in any licensed position for up to 1 year and is subject to immediate disqualification.
- D. Any person fined by the Commission shall remain suspended from any licensed position until the fine is paid in full.
- E. The Commission may honor any suspension placed upon the licensee by any other Commission.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105, 75-75-119

Rule 1.17 Appeals of results

- A. Any contestant that disputes a decision made at any event by the referee or judges must be appealed to the Commission within 7 days. The decision made by any referee or judge is final unless there is very strong evidence to suggest there was foul play or gross negligence.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.18 Exempt Matches

- A. Pursuant to Mississippi code section 75-75-123, all boxing, sparring and wrestling matches in colleges, universities or high schools shall be exempt from the jurisdiction of the Commission and shall only be permitted and supervised by the governing body of such high school, college or university.
- B. Amateur boxing bouts sanctioned by USA Boxing shall be exempt from these rules and shall be governed by USA Boxing rules.
- C. Contest considered karate or martial arts by the Commission that do not allow full contact and continuous action, shall be exempt from Commission jurisdiction.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.19 Insurance

- A. All boxing contests shall provide accidental medical insurance of at least \$2,500 for each contestant for any injury that happens during a contest.
- B. The contestant is responsible for paying \$250 of any insurance deductible.
- C. Liability insurance may be required from the promoter.
- D. It is the responsibility of each contestant to pay for the medical costs of any injury caused at a contest unless the promoter contractually agrees to insure the cost.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.20 Record keeping registry

- A. The registry for boxing and submission wrestling (MMA) records and suspension shall be the official registry approved by the Association of Boxing Commissions.
- B. All records shall be obtained from these sources and reported to these sources.
- C. Promoter must provide the records and reports of each fighter to the Commission at least 10 days before the event.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.21 Medical Requirements

- A. Each contestant shall get pre-fight medical clearance within 30 hours of the beginning of the contest from a medical professional. Any contestant deemed unfit shall not compete.
- B. No contestant shall compete that is under the influence of alcohol or drugs that mentally or physically hinder performance.
- C. Any contestant that is knowingly infected with HIV or hepatitis C shall not be allowed to compete. The Commission may require a medical test clearing each contestant of each disease prior to each bout.
- D. A ringside physician shall be present during each bout.

- E. An ambulance or medical personnel with appropriate resuscitation equipment shall be continuously present on site.
- F. Each female contestant must provide the Commission with a negative pregnancy test.
- G. At any time upon being licensed by the Commission, a licensee may be subject to any drug testing.
- H. Weigh-in for the contest shall be held at a time approved by the Commission the day of or the day before the bout.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.22 General Rules

- A. Any violation of State or Federal law by a licensee shall be considered a rule violation.
- B. No profanity shall be used by a licensee or in the music supplied by the licensee.
- C. No videoing allowed without written consent from the Commission.
- D. There shall be a border area approximately 6 feet from the sides of the ring or cage. Only licensed participants, Commission members and their guests, promotional staff, security, medical personnel and others approved by the Commission shall be allowed. The Commission shall assign all seats within the border. No seats shall be sold in this area unless approved by the Commission.
- E. In the event of a dispute regarding the rules, or any other issue that is not clearly covered under these rules, the onsite ruling made by the Commission will be final.
- F. All licensees must abide by any reasonable order given by the Commission.
- G. Only licensed personnel are allowed to enter the fight area. Fighters may be subject to fines if they have unlicensed personnel enter the fight area with them.
- H. Each former member of the Athletic Commission shall permanently remain on the Commission as an honorary Commission member and shall receive 2 passes to each event that they choose to attend.
- I. All papers filed shall be property of the Athletic Commission.
- J. No event shall take place in a topless entertainment facility.
- K. The contestant can weigh up to 1/10th of a pound over contracted weight with any clothing on.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 1.23 Waiver of Requirements.

- A. The Commission, upon its choosing, may waive any requirements set forth in these rules.
- B. Any rules adapted by the Commission shall supersede any rules of any sanctioning body rules adapted or approved by the Commission.
- C. Any request for waiver of requirement shall be submitted by email from the promoter.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Part 301 Chapter 2: Boxing and Kickboxing Rules

Rule 2.1 Professional Boxing Rules

- A. The Mississippi Athletic Commission shall use the current Regulatory Guidelines and Unified Championship Rules of the Association of Boxing Commissioners as their professional boxing contest rules. The Association of Boxing Commission World Title Fight Manual shall also be used in conjunction with regional and world title fights.
- B. The following exclusions to the Regulatory Guidelines shall apply:
 - 1) The Commission may allow a standing 8 count for professional boxing bouts.
 - 2) The promoter is required to purchase accidental medical insurance for any or all contestants competing in an event for the minimum amount of \$2,500. The competitor shall pay the first \$250 of the insurance deductible. If the competitor is paid less than \$250, it shall not exceed the purse amount.
- C. Federal Identification Card Requirements:
 - 1) Each application for a federal identification card must be received 15 days prior to the issuance of the card.
 - 2) The application must include a full color copy of the applicant's Driver license or State issued identification card.
 - 3) The application must be accompanied with a Mississippi boxer license application.
 - 4) The fee to replace a Federal Identification Card shall be the same as a license.
 - 5) Each identification card shall be valid up to 4 years.
- D. Each boxing card must have a minimum of 30 scheduled rounds.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 2.2 Amateur Boxing Rules

- A. Amateur boxing bouts contest sanctioned by USA Boxing shall be exempt from permit and licensing and shall be governed by USA Boxing rules. Any individual owing fines or is suspended or revoked from licensing shall not be allowed to participate in any capacity.
- B. All other amateur sanctioning organizations shall submit their rules to the Commission for approval.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 2.3 Kickboxing Rules.

- A. All kickboxing contest's rules shall be submitted to the Commission for approval.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Part 301 Chapter 3: Rules for Tough-man Contest

Rule 3.1 License Entry Requirements

- A. Contestants must be at least 18 years of age to compete.

- B. The promoter shall submit to the Commission the skill level requirements and limitations that are to be used for each contest. The Commission must approve the requirements.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 3.2 Tough-man Contest rules

- A. No round shall exceed 2 minutes in length and no round shall be less than 45 seconds.
- B. Maximum of 4 rounds per bout.
- C. Rest period between rounds shall be between 1 minute and 1 minute 30 seconds.
- D. Boxing gloves must be 12 to 16 oz. in size.
- E. All contestants shall wear headgear. All headgear must be tagged USA Boxing approved.
- F. Groin protection must be worn.
- G. No contest shall last more than 2 consecutive days.
- H. No contestant may fight more than a total of 12 rounds in any single day of competition or 18 total rounds in a 2-day competition.
- I. The standing 8-count rule shall be used for all bouts.
- J. The 3 knockdown rule may be used for all bouts.
- K. The physician may stop a bout at any time.
- L. The promoter may appoint seconds for each contest.
- M. All weight classes must be approved by the Commission.
- N. Elimination procedure must be approved by the Commission.
- O. All other amateur or professional boxing contest rules shall apply.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 3.3 Other Rules

- A. Cash prizes may be awarded in a tough-man contest and the contestant keeps amateur status.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Part 301 Chapter 4: Rules for Submission Wrestling Rules (Mixed Martial Arts)

Rule 4.1 The Contest Fighting Area

- A. The cage used for the contest shall be provided by the promoter and shall be approved by the Commission.
- B. The cage shall be no smaller than 18 feet by 18 feet and no larger than 32 feet by 32 feet and at least 6ft high.
- C. The fighting area canvas shall be padded with approximately 1-inch layer of padding. Padding shall cover the entire floor of the fighting area.
- D. The cage floor shall not be more than four feet above the ground floor and shall have suitable steps or ramp for use by the participants.

- E. The fighting area shall be enclosed with a tightly fitted vinyl coated chain-link fence that will not allow a fighter to fall out of the fighting area.
- F. All metal and hard parts shall be covered and padded in a manner approved by the Commission and shall not be abrasive to the fighters.
- G. A door to the cage shall be used for ring entrance.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 4.2 Round Duration

- A. Each professional non-championship bout shall be 3 rounds of 5 minutes in duration with a 1-minute rest period between each round.
- B. Each professional championship bout shall be 5 rounds of 5 minutes in duration with a 1-minute rest period between each round.
- C. Each amateur bout shall be 3 rounds of 3 minutes in duration with a 1-minute rest period between each round.
- D. All rounds for female contestants shall be 3 minutes.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 4.3 Weight Classes – Weight classes are a guide and not a requirement for bout approval

- A. Flyweight – Up to 105 lbs.
- B. Super Flyweight- 105.1 to 115 lbs.
- C. Bantamweight-115.1 to 125 lbs.
- D. Super Bantamweight- 125.1 to 135 lbs.
- E. Featherweight – 135.1 to 145 lbs.
- F. Lightweight – 145.1 to 155 lbs.
- G. Super Lightweight- 155.1 to 165 lbs.
- H. Welterweight – 165.1 to 175 lbs.
- I. Super Welterweight – 175.1 to 185 lbs
- J. Middleweight – 185.1 to 195 lbs
- K. Super Middleweight- 195.1 to 205 lbs.
- L. Light Heavyweight – 205.1 to 225 lbs.
- M. Heavyweight- 225.1 to 265 lbs.
- N. Super Heavyweight – 265.1 lbs. and over.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 4.4 Contest Fouls: The following are contest fouls and will result in penalties if committed:

- A. Head butting or striking with the head.
- B. Eye gouging of any kind.
- C. Biting or spitting on an opponent.
- D. Hair pulling.
- E. Fish hooking.

- F. Groin attacks of any kind.
- G. Intentionally placing a finger in any opponent's orifice, cut or laceration.
- H. Small joint manipulation (fingers and toes).
- I. Deliberately striking the spine or back of the head.
- J. Throat strikes of any kind or grabbing the trachea.
- K. Clawing, pinching, or twisting the flesh.
- L. Kicking the head of a grounded fighter.
- M. Kneeing the head of a grounded fighter.
- N. Stomping - this does not include stomping the feet when both fighters are standing.
- O. The use of abusive language in fighting area.
- P. Any unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Q. Attacking an opponent on or during the break.
- R. Attacking an opponent who is under the referee's care.
- S. Avoiding contact, consistent dropping of mouthpiece or faking an injury.
- T. Interference from trainer or seconds.
- U. Throwing an opponent out of the fighting area.
- V. Flagrant disregard of the referee's instructions.
- W. Spiking an opponent on the canvas on their head or neck.
- X. Smothering (hand cupped over opponent's mouth or nose).

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 4.5 Penalties for Contest Fouls.

- A. At the discretion of the referee, a warning may be issued for any unintentional foul infraction.
- B. Disqualification occurs after any combination of three fouls or after a referee determines that a foul was intentional and flagrant.
- C. Fouls will result in a point being deducted by the referee.
- D. Only a referee can assess a foul. If the referee does not call a foul, the judges shall not make an assessment on their own that a foul occurred and cannot factor such into their scoring calculations. The referee may consult with the judges to clarify an actual foul.
- E. A fouled fighter, accidental or intentional, has up to five minutes to recuperate if the referee deems any recovery time is needed. During the recovery time, the referee may have the ringside physician examine the fighter.
- F. If a foul is committed, the referee shall:
 - 1) Call time;
 - 2) Check the fouled fighter's condition and safety;
 - 3) Assess the foul to the offending fighter, deduct points, and notify each judge.
 - 4) If a bottom fighter commits a foul, unless the top fighter is injured, the fight shall continue so as to not jeopardize the top fighter's superior positioning at the time.
- G. The referee shall verbally notify the bottom fighter of the foul.
- H. When the round is over, the referee shall assess the foul and notify both fighters and the judges.

- I. The referee may terminate a fight based on the severity of a foul. For such a flagrant foul, a fighter shall lose by disqualification.
- J. The referee is the sole arbiter of a fight and is the only individual authorized to stop a contest.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 4.6 Injuries Sustained During Competition

- A. If an injury sustained during the fight is a result of a legal maneuver and is severe enough to terminate a fight, the injured fighter loses by technical knockout.
- B. If an injury sustained during the fight is a result of an intentional foul and is severe enough to terminate a fight, the fighter causing the injury loses by disqualification.
- C. If an injury is sustained during the fight and is a result of an intentional foul and the fight is allowed to continue, the referee shall notify the scorekeeper to automatically deduct one point from the fighter who committed the foul.
- D. If an injury sustained during the fight is a result of an intentional foul and it causes the injured fighter to be unable to continue at a subsequent point in the fight, the injured fighter shall win by technical decision if he or she is ahead on the score cards. If the injured fighter is even or behind on the score cards at the time of stoppage, the outcome of the fight shall be declared a technical draw.
- E. If a fighter injures himself or herself while attempting to foul his or her opponent, the referee shall not take any action in his favor and the injury shall be treated in the same manner as an injury produced by a fair blow.
- F. If an injury sustained during the fight is a result of an accidental foul and is severe enough for the referee to stop the fight immediately, the fight shall result in a no contest if stopped before two rounds have been completed in a three round fight or if stopped before three rounds have been completed in a five round fight.
- G. If an injury sustained during the fight is a result of an accidental foul and is severe enough for the referee to stop the fight immediately, the fight shall result in a technical decision awarded to the fighter who is ahead on the score cards at the time the fight is stopped only when the fight is stopped after two rounds of a three round fight or three rounds of a five round fight have been completed.
- H. There will be no scoring of an incomplete round. However, if the referee penalizes either fighter, then the appropriate points shall be deducted when the scorekeeper calculates the final score.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 4.7 Judging.

- A. All fights will be evaluated and scored by three judges.
- B. The 10-Point Must System will be the standard system of scoring a fight. Under the 10-Point Must Scoring System, 10 points must be awarded to the winner of the round and nine points or less must be awarded to the loser. A round with no clear winner shall be scored (10-10).

- C. Judges shall evaluate techniques such as effective striking and grappling, control of the fighting area, effective aggressiveness and defense.
- D. Evaluations shall be made in the following order:
 - 1) Effective striking and grappling;
 - 2) Control of the fighting area;
 - 3) Effective aggressiveness and defense.
- E. Effective striking is judged by determining the total number of legal heavy strikes landed by a fighter.
- F. Effective grappling is judged by considering the amount of successful executions of a legal takedown, throws and ground grappling.
- G. Fighting area control is judged by determining who is dictating the pace, location and position of the fight.
- H. Effective aggressiveness means effectively pressing the action.
- I. Effective defense means avoiding being struck, taken down, or reversed while countering with offensive attacks.
- J. The following objective scoring criteria shall be utilized by the judges when scoring a round:
 - 1) A round is to be scored as a 10-10 round when both fighters appear to be fighting evenly and neither fighter shows clear dominance in a round.
 - 2) A round is to be scored as a 10-9 round when a fighter wins by a close margin, landing the greater number of effective legal strikes, grappling and other maneuvers.
 - 3) A round is to be scored as a 10-8 round when a fighter overwhelmingly dominates by striking or grappling in a round.
 - 4) A round is to be scored as a 10-7 round when a fighter totally dominates by striking or grappling in a round.
- K. Judges shall use a sliding scale and recognize the length of time the fighters are either standing or on the ground, as follows:
 - 1) If the fighters spend a majority of a round on the canvas, effective grappling is weighed first and effective striking is then weighed.
 - 2) If the fighters spend a majority of a round standing, effective striking is weighed first and effective grappling is then weighed.
 - 3) If a round ends with a relatively even amount of standing and canvas fighting, striking and grappling are weighed equally.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 4.8 Bout Results

- A. Submission:
 - 1) Tap Out: When a fighter physically uses his hand or foot by tapping to indicate to the referee that he no longer wishes to continue fighting.
 - 2) Verbal submission: When a fighter verbally announces to the referee that he or she does not wish to continue.
- B. Technical knockout:

- 1) Referee stops fight when an injury, as a result of a legal maneuver, is severe enough to terminate a fight.
 - 2) Referee stops fight when a fighter is not defending himself.
- C. Knockout:
- 1) When a fighter is physically unable to rise from canvas.
- D. Decision via score cards:
- 1) Unanimous: When all three judges score the fight for the same fighter.
 - 2) Split Decision: When two judges score the fight for one fighter and one judge scores for the opponent.
 - 3) Majority Decision: When two judges score the fight for the same fighter and one judge scores a draw.
 - 4) Draws
 - i. Unanimous: When all three judges score the fight a draw.
 - ii. Majority: When two judges score the fight a draw.
 - iii. Split: When all three judges score differently and the score total results in a draw.
- E. Disqualification: When an injury sustained during the fight is the result of an intentional foul and is severe enough to terminate the fight.
- F. Forfeit: When a fighter fails to begin competition or prematurely ends the fight for reasons other than injury or by indicating a tap out.
- G. Technical Draw: When an injury sustained during the fight is a result of an intentional foul and causes the injured fighter to be unable to continue and the injured fighter is even or behind on the score cards at the time of stoppage.
- H. Technical Decision: When the fight is prematurely stopped due to injury and a fighter is leading on the scorecards.
- I. No Contest: When a fight is prematurely stopped due to accidental injury and a sufficient number of rounds have not been completed to render a decision via the scorecards.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 4.9 Equipment

A. Wraps

- 1) In all weight classes, the bandages on each fighter's hands shall be restricted to soft gauze cloth not more than 13 yards in length and two inches in width, held in place by not more than 10 feet of surgeon's tape, one inch in width, for each hand.
- 2) Surgeon's adhesive tape shall be placed directly on each hand for protection near the wrist. The tape may cross the back of the hand twice and extend to cover and protect the knuckles when the hand is clenched to make a fist.
- 3) The bandages shall be evenly distributed across the hand.
- 4) Bandages and tape placed on the fighter's hands shall be inspected and approved by a Commission inspector.
- 5) Gloves are not to be placed on the hands of a fighter until the approval of the inspector is received.

- 6) Foot wraps may be spirally placed on the ankle and foot. It must be covered with an approved elastic sock.

B. Mouth Piece

- 1) All fighters are required to wear a mouthpiece during competition. The mouthpiece shall be subject to approval by the Commission. The round cannot begin without the mouthpiece in place.
- 2) If the mouthpiece is involuntarily dislodged during competition, the referee shall call time, clean the mouthpiece, and reinsert the mouthpiece at the first opportune moment, without interfering with the immediate action.

C. Protective Equipment

- 1) Male fighters shall wear a groin protector of their own selection, of a type approved by the Commissioner.
- 2) Female fighters may wear a chest protector during competition. The chest protector shall be subject to approval by the Commissioner.

D. Gloves

- 1) All fighters shall wear four, five or six ounce gloves in good condition that are Commission approved. The promoter is responsible for supplying each bout with the same brand gloves. Each contestant may wear their own gloves if approved by the opponent and the Commission.

E. Apparel

- 1) Each fighter shall wear mixed martial arts shorts, biking shorts, or kick-boxing shorts that do not extend beyond the top of the knee.
- 2) Gi's or shirts are prohibited during competition.
- 3) Shoes are prohibited during competition.
- 4) Elastic ankle support socks approved by the Commission are allowed.
- 5) Elastic knee braces that do not contain hard objects may be used.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 4.10 Appearance

- A. All fighters shall be cleanly shaven to a maximum of ¼ inch beard or mustache.
- B. Hair shall be trimmed or tied back in such a manner as not to interfere with the vision of either fighter or cover any part of a fighter's face.
- C. Jewelry or piercing accessories are prohibited during competition.
- D. All fighters shall be clean and shall not have any substance placed on their body other than underarm deodorant and vasoline on cheek and brow.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 4.11 Contestant Requirements

- A. No contestant shall compete that does not have a minimum of 6 months training and be in good physical condition.
- B. Each professional contestant must have at least 7 wins recorded by an Athletic Commission to qualify as a professional fighter.

- C. Each contestant shall be clear of suspension on the record registry or they may not be eligible to compete.
- D. No amateur contestant or their trainer-second may request any form of compensation for competing. This shall include travel, hotel, and/or meal cost.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 4.12 Restarting a Stalled Match

- A. If the match stalls on the fence, the referee may restart the match in the center of the cage.
- B. If a match stalls on the ground, the referee may restart the match in a standing position.
- C. If the referee stalls the action to have the physician examine a cut or any other injury caused by foul, the bout may be restarted in the same position as it was stopped.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Rule 4.13 Number of Bouts

- A. A submission wrestling card shall consist of a minimum of 10 bouts. Seventy (70) percent or more of the contestants must have a prior competition victory recognized by the Commission.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Part 301 Chapter 5: Wrestling Exhibition Rules

Rule 5.1 General Rules for Exhibition Wrestling.

- A. Anyone serving or acting as a promoter, director, wrestler, boxer, manager, matchmaker, referee, timekeeper, trainer, second and judge shall be licensed.
- B. No one shall enter the ring area except licensed participants, medical personnel, security, Commission members and others approved by the Commission.
- C. The ring area shall consist of the ring and its border.
- D. Promoters must be present at all events or have a licensed director present as their representative.
- E. Promoters are responsible for having a fire extinguisher at their event.
- F. Promoters are responsible for making sure each participant is licensed.
- G. Fireworks, fires, and pyrotechnics may only be used if approved by the Commission and the local fire department.
- H. There shall be a border at least 6 feet from the ring separating spectators from the ring.
- I. Wrestlers in all exhibitions or bouts must be properly trained and in good physical condition to participate. If it is deemed by a Commission member, doctor, medical tech, or promoter that a wrestler is not physically fit to perform, the wrestler shall not be allowed to perform.

- J. Wrestlers appearing in exhibitions or bouts must be properly clothed in neat and clean apparel. No hard sole shoes will be allowed.
- K. No wrestler's license shall be issued to any person under 18 years of age.
- L. No foreign objects may be used in a wrestling exhibition unless approved by the Commission.
- M. All performance outside of the ring must be done on a padded surface approved by the Commission.
- N. The promoter or director shall inspect the ring before each event.
- O. Wrestling rings shall contain at least 3 ropes.
- P. All general provision medical requirements shall be waived for exhibition wrestling.
- Q. No wrestling exhibition shall have any act that creates intentional bleeding.
- R. No wrestler shall have any physical contact with a spectator.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Part 301 Chapter 6: Organization, Duties, and Executive policies and Procedures

Rule 6.1 Athletic Commission Duties. The Commission shall have and is hereby vested with the sole direction, management, control and jurisdiction over all boxing, kickboxing, sparring, tough-man contest, wrestling, submission wrestling, matches or exhibitions to be conducted, held or given within the State of Mississippi. All matches and exhibitions authorized shall be held under the supervision of and subject to the rules and regulations of the Mississippi Athletic Commission. The Commission has full power and authority and it shall be its duty: (a) to make and publish rules and regulations governing the conduct of boxing, sparring and wrestling matches and exhibitions, the time and place thereof, and the prices charged for admission thereto; (b) to accept application for and, in its discretion, order a license or permit issued to promoters and participants of these events, and to revoke the license or permit; (c) to collect through the recorder of permits and licenses a fee of six percent (6%) of the gross receipts of every boxing, sparring or wrestling match or exhibition, and a fee not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for each annual license or permit issued to a boxer, kickboxer, wrestler, submission wrestler, referee, judge, matchmaker, promoter, manager, trainer, second, director, or timekeeper; and (d) to revoke any license or permit when, in its judgment, the public welfare requires it. The Commission is prohibited from issuing regulations which may be construed as granting a franchised or exclusive territory, and from the issuing of any type of monopolistic license or permit.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-101, 75-75-105

Rule 6.2 Certain Matches Exempted. Boxing, sparring and wrestling matches in colleges, universities or high schools shall be exempted from the jurisdiction of the Commission and shall be permitted and supervised by the governing body of such high school, college or university.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-123

Rule 6.3 Athletic Commissions Office Organization. The Athletic Commission consists is a 3 member Commission. The membership of the commission consists of a chairman of the

commission and 2 associate commissioners. There is one administrative assistant to the Commission.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-103, 75-75-111

Rule 6.4 Delegation of Authority. The commission may appoint and remove at its pleasure, such number of inspectors of athletics as in its judgment is necessary to aid in the proper discharge of its duties.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-109

Rule 6.5 Contact Information. The Athletic Commission can be contacted at telephone number 610-373-9361 or through other contacts listed on website address of www.MSboxing.org.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. 75-75-105

Part 301 Chapter 7: Rulemaking Oral Proceedings

Rule 7.1 Application of Chapter. This chapter applies to all oral proceedings held for the purpose of providing the public an opportunity to make oral presentations or written input on proposed new rules, amendments to rules, and proposed repeal of existing rules before the Athletic Commission pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-2.104 (Rev. 2006).

Rule 7.2 Request for Oral Proceeding. When a political subdivision, an agency, or a citizen requests an oral proceeding in regards to a proposed rule adoption, the requestor must submit a printed, typewritten, or legibly handwritten request.

- A. Each request must be submitted on 8-1/2" x 11" white paper.
- B. The request may be in the form of a letter addressed to the Athletic Commission or in the form of a pleading as if filed with a court.
- C. Each request must include the full name, telephone numbers, and mailing address of the requestor(s).
- D. All requests shall be signed by the person filing the request, unless represented by an attorney, in which case the attorney may sign the request.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-2.105 (Rev. 2006).

Rule 7.3 Notice of Oral Proceeding. Notice of the date, time, and place of all oral proceedings shall be filed with the Secretary of State's Office for publication in the Administrative Bulletin. The agency providing the notice shall provide notice of oral proceedings to each requestor. The oral proceedings will be scheduled no earlier than twenty (20) days from the filing of the notice with the Secretary of State. The Agency Head, or designee who is familiar with the substance of the proposed rule, shall preside at the oral proceeding on a proposed rule.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-2.104 (Rev. 2006).

Rule 7.4 Public Participation Guidelines. Public participation shall be permitted at oral proceedings in accordance with the following:

- A. At an oral proceeding on a proposed rule, persons may make statements and present documentary and physical submissions concerning the proposed rule.
- B. Persons wishing to make oral presentations at such a proceeding shall notify the Athletic Commission at least three business days prior to the proceeding and indicate the general subject of their presentations. The presiding officer in his or her discretion may allow individuals to participate that have not contacted the Athletic Commission prior to the proceeding.
- C. At the proceeding, those who participate shall indicate their names and addresses, identify any persons or organizations they may represent, and provide any other information relating to their participation deemed appropriate by the presiding officer.
- D. The presiding officer may place time limitations on individual presentations when necessary to assure the orderly and expeditious conduct of the oral proceeding. To encourage joint presentations and to avoid repetition, additional time may be provided for persons whose presentations represent the views of other individuals as well as their own views.
- E. Persons making presentations are encouraged to avoid restating matters that have already been submitted in writing. Written materials may, however, be submitted at the oral proceeding.
- F. Where time permits and to facilitate the exchange of information, the presiding officer may open the floor to questions or general discussion. The presiding officer may question participants and permit the questioning of participants by other participants about any matter relating to that rule-making proceeding, including any prior written submissions made by those participants in that proceeding. No participant shall be required to answer any question.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-2.105 (Rev. 2006).

Rule 7.5 Submissions and Records. Physical and Documentary Submissions presented by participants in an oral proceeding shall be submitted to the presiding officer. Such submissions become the property of the Athletic Commission, part of the rulemaking record, and are subject to the Athletic Commission's public records request procedure. The Athletic Commission may record oral proceedings by stenographic or electronic means.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-2.105 (Rev. 2006).

Part 301 Chapter 8: Declaratory Opinions

Rule 8.1 Application of Chapter. This chapter sets forth the Athletic Commission's rules governing the form, content, and filing of requests for declaratory opinions, the procedural rights of persons in relation to the written requests, and the Commission's procedures regarding the disposition of requests as required by Mississippi Code § 25-43-2.103.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-2.105 (Rev. 2006).

Rule 8.2 Scope of Declaratory Opinions. The Athletic Commission will issue declaratory opinions regarding the applicability to specified facts of:

- A. a statute administered or enforceable by the Commission,
- B. a rule promulgated by the Commission, or
- C. an order issued by the Commission.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-2.105 (Rev. 2006).

Rule 8.3 Scope of Declaratory Opinion Request. A request must be limited to a single transaction or occurrence.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-2.105 (Rev. 2006).

Rule 8.4 How to Submit Requests. When a person with substantial interest, as required by Section 25-43-2.103 of the Administrative Procedures Act, requests a declaratory opinion, the requestor must submit a printed, typewritten, or legibly handwritten request.

- A. Each request must be submitted on 8-1/2" x 11" white paper.
- B. The request may be in the form of a letter addressed to the Athletic Commission or in the form of a pleading as if filed with a court.
- C. Each request must include the full name, telephone numbers, and mailing address of the requestor(s).
- D. All requests shall be signed by the person filing the request, unless represented by an attorney, in which case the attorney may sign the request.
- E. Each request must clearly state that it is a request for a declaratory opinion.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-2.105 (Rev. 2006).

Rule 8.5 Signature Attestation. Any party who signs the request shall attest that the request complies with the requirements set forth in these rules, including but not limited to a full, complete, and accurate statement of relevant facts and that there are no related proceedings pending before any agency, administrative, or judicial tribunal.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-2.105 (Rev. 2006).

Rule 8.6 Request Content Requirement. Each request must contain the following:

- A. A clear identification of the statute, rule, or order at issue;
- B. The question for the declaratory opinion;
- C. A clear and concise statement of all facts relevant to the question presented;
- D. The identity of all other known persons involved in or impacted by the facts giving rise to the request including their relationship to the facts, and their name, mailing address, and telephone number; and
- E. A statement sufficient to show that the requestor has a substantial interest in the subject matter of the request.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-2.105 (Rev. 2006).

Rule 8.7 Reasons for Refusal of Declaratory Opinion Request. [Model] The Athletic Commission may, for good cause, refuse to issue a declaratory opinion. The circumstances in which declaratory opinions will not be issued include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- A. The matter is outside the primary jurisdiction of the Commission;
- B. Lack of clarity concerning the question presented;
- C. There is pending or anticipated litigation, administrative action or anticipated administrative action, or other adjudication which may either answer the question presented by the request or otherwise make an answer unnecessary;
- D. The statute, rule, or order on which a declaratory opinion is sought is clear and not in need of interpretation to answer the question presented by the request;
- E. The facts presented in the request are not sufficient to answer the question presented;
- F. The request fails to contain information required by these rules or the requestor failed to follow the procedure set forth in these rules;
- G. The request seeks to resolve issues which have become moot or are abstract or hypothetical such that the requestor is not substantially affected by the rule, statute, or order on which a declaratory opinion is sought;
- H. No controversy exists or is certain to arise which raises a question concerning the application of the statute, rule, or order;
- I. The question presented by the request concerns the legal validity of a statute, rule, or order;
- J. The request is not based upon facts calculated to aid in the planning of future conduct, but is, instead, based on past conduct in an effort to establish the effect of that conduct;
- K. No clear answer is determinable;
- L. The question presented by the request involves the application of a criminal statute or sets forth facts which may constitute a crime;
- M. The answer to the question presented would require the disclosure of information which is privileged or otherwise protected by law from disclosure;
- N. The question is currently the subject of an Attorney General's opinion request;
- O. The question has been answered by an Attorney General's opinion;
- P. One or more requestors have standing to seek an Attorney General's opinion on the proffered question;
- Q. A similar request is pending before this agency, or any other agency, or a proceeding is pending on the same subject matter before any agency, administrative or judicial tribunal, or where such an opinion would constitute the unauthorized practice of law; or
- R. The question involves eligibility for a license, permit, certificate or other approval by the Athletic Commission or some other agency and there is a statutory or regulatory application process by which eligibility for said license, permit, or certificate or other approval may be determined.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-2.105 (Rev. 2006).

Rule 8.8 Agency Response. Within forty-five (45) days after the receipt of a request for a declaratory opinion which complies with the requirements of these rules, the Athletic Commission shall, in writing:

- A. Issue an opinion declaring the applicability of the statute, rule, or order to the specified circumstances;
- B. Agree to issue a declaratory opinion by a specified time but no later than ninety (90) days after receipt of the written request; or
- C. Decline to issue a declaratory opinion, stating the reasons for its action.

The forty-five (45) day period shall begin on the first business day after which the request is received by the Commission.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-2.105 (Rev. 2006).

Rule 8.9 Availability of Declaratory Opinions and Requests for Opinions. Declaratory opinions and requests for declaratory opinions shall be available for public inspection and copying at the expense of the viewer during normal business hours. All declaratory opinions and requests shall be indexed by name, subject, and date of issue. Declaratory opinions and requests which contain information which is confidential or exempt from disclosure under the Mississippi Public Records Act or other laws shall be exempt from this requirement and shall remain confidential.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-2.105 (Rev. 2006).