

**LCB File No. R070-01**

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE  
NEVADA ATHLETIC COMMISSION OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ACT UPON A REGULATION**

Notice of Hearing for the Adoption of Regulations of  
the Nevada Athletic Commission

The Nevada Athletic Commission will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m., on July 23, 2001, at 555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 2600, Las Vegas, Nevada. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments from all interested persons regarding the adoption of regulations that pertain to chapter 467 of the Nevada Administrative Code.

The following information is provided pursuant to the requirements of NRS 233B.0603:

The purposes of the proposed regulation are to (1) adopt rules regarding mixed martial arts contests; (2) adopt rules regarding elimination-boxing contests; (3) provide for the filing and prompt disposition of petitions for declaratory orders and advisory opinions; and (4) change certain contest rules, including rules regarding the boxing ring, intentional fouls, contestants' appearance and weight loss, and technical knockouts.

The proposed regulation is not expected to have an immediate or long-term adverse economic effect, nor an immediate or long-term beneficial economic effect upon the regulated community.

There is no estimated immediate or long-term adverse effect on the public. However, the public should receive beneficial effects, both immediate and long-term, by the improved regulation of unarmed combat.

There is no additional cost to the agency for enforcement of these regulations. Finally, the proposed regulation does not establish a new fee, nor increase an existing fee.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed action of the Nevada Athletic Commission may appear at the scheduled public hearing or may address their comments, data, views, or arguments, in written form, to the Office of the Nevada Athletic Commission, 555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 1500, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101. Written submissions must be received by the Nevada Athletic Commission on or before July 20, 2001. If no person who is directly affected by the proposed action appears to request time to make an oral presentation, the Nevada Athletic Commission may proceed immediately to act upon any written submissions.

A copy of this notice and the regulation to be adopted will be on file at the State Library, 100 Stewart Street, Carson City, Nevada, for inspection by members of the public during business hours. Additional copies of the notice and regulation to be adopted will be available at the Office of the Nevada Athletic Commission, 555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 1500, Las Vegas, Nevada, and in all counties in which an office of the agency is not maintained, at the main public library, for inspection and copying by members of the public during business hours. This notice and the text of the proposed regulation are also available in the State of Nevada Register of Administrative Regulations, which is prepared and published monthly by the Legislative Counsel Bureau pursuant to NRS 233B.0653, and on the Internet at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us>. Copies of this notice and the proposed regulation will be mailed to members of the public upon request.

Upon adoption of any regulation, the agency, if requested to do so by an interested person, either before adoption or within 30 days thereafter, will issue a concise statement of the principal reasons for and against its adoption, and incorporate therein its reason for overruling the consideration urged against its adoption.

This Notice of Intent to Act Upon a Regulation has been sent to all persons on the agency's mailing list for administrative regulations and posted at the following locations:

1. Office of the Athletic Commission  
555 East Washington Avenue  
Suite 1500  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
2. Bradley Building  
2501 East Sahara Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89104
3. Washoe County District Courthouse  
75 Court Street  
Reno, Nevada 89502
4. Department of Parks & Recreation  
2601 East Sunset Road  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89120
5. State of Nevada Grant Sawyer Building  
555 East Washington Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

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**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE  
NEVADA ATHLETIC COMMISSION OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

June 19, 2001

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§1-3, 5-24, NRS 467.030; §4, NRS 233B.120 and 467.030.

**Section 1.** Chapter 467 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 26, inclusive, of this regulation.

**Sec. 2.** *“Elimination-boxing contest” means a competition in which contestants who have no professional experience as boxers compete in a series of boxing matches.*

**Sec. 3.** *“Mixed martial arts” means unarmed combat which permits the use of a mix of techniques from different disciplines, including but not limited to, grappling, kicking and striking from the standing position, and other techniques subject to the limitations set forth in this chapter.*

**Sec. 4. 1.** *If an intentional foul causes an injury and it results in the bout being stopped in a later round, the injured contestant will win by technical decision if he is ahead on the scorecards, or the bout will be declared a no contest if the injured contestant is behind or even on the scorecards.*

*2. If a contestant injures himself while attempting to foul his opponent, the referee will not take any action in his favor, and the injury will be the same as one produced by a fair blow.*

**Sec. 5. 1.** *A petition for a declaratory order or advisory opinion may be filed only by a holder of or applicant for a license.*

*2. The original and 7 copies of the petition must be filed with the commission. The commission will hear the petition within 60 days. Within 60 days thereafter, or within 120 days if good cause exists for an extended period of consideration, the commission will issue its declaratory order or advisory opinion.*

***[ELIMINATION-BOXING CONTESTS]***

***Sec. 6. 1. An elimination-boxing contest must be conducted under the supervision and authority of the commission. Except to the extent an elimination-boxing contest is subject to the provisions of section 7 of this regulation, all laws and regulations on unarmed combat apply to an elimination-boxing contest.***

*2. A license issued under the provisions of this section in compliance with NAC 467.012 to 467.089, inclusive, authorizes participation only in an elimination-boxing contest.*

***Sec. 7. 1. All matches in an elimination-boxing contest must be scheduled for no more than 3 rounds of boxing. A round must be 1 minute in duration, with a 1 minute period of rest between rounds.***

*2. A contestant shall wear gloves that weigh 16 ounces for each match.*

*3. The contestants may wear headgear approved by the commission or its representative.*

*4. A contestant may participate in more than one match in an elimination-boxing contest, but a contestant shall not box more than a total of 12 rounds in an elimination-boxing contest.*

***[MIXED MARTIAL ARTS]***

***Sec. 8. All contests or exhibitions of mixed martial arts must be conducted under the supervision and authority of the commission. Except to the extent a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts is subject to the provisions of sections 9 to 16 of this regulation, all laws and regulations on unarmed combat apply to a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts.***

**Sec. 9.** *Except with the approval of the commission or its executive director, non-championship contests or exhibitions of mixed martial arts shall not exceed 3 rounds, championship contests of mixed martial arts shall be for 5 rounds, and a round must be 5 minutes in duration, with a 1 minute period of rest between rounds.*

**Sec. 10. 1.** *Except with the approval of the commission or its executive director, the classes for unarmed combatants who are of mixed martial artists and the weights for each class are shown in the following schedule:*

- Flyweight..... up to 125 lbs.*
- Bantamweight..... over 125 to 135 lbs.*
- Featherweight..... over 135 to 145 lbs.*
- Lightweight..... over 145 to 155 lbs.*
- Welterweight..... over 155 to 170 lbs.*
- Middleweight..... over 170 to 185 lbs.*
- Light Heavyweight..... over 185 to 205 lbs.*
- Heavyweight..... over 205 to 265 lbs.*
- Super Heavyweight..... over 265 lbs.*

**2.** *After the time of the weigh-in, weight loss in excess of 2 pounds is not permitted for contestants weighing in at 135 lbs. or less, weight loss in excess of 3 pounds is not permitted for contestants weighing in over 135 lbs. but no more than 170 lbs., and weight loss in excess of 4 pounds is not permitted for contestants weighing in over 170 lbs.*

**Sec. 11. 1.** *Mixed martial arts contestants must wear shorts approved by the commission or its representative.*

**2.** *Mixed martial arts contestants may not wear shoes or any foot padding during a match.*

**Sec. 12. *The following acts constitute fouls in mixed martial arts contests and exhibitions:***

- 1. Butting with the head;***
- 2. Eye gouging of any kind;***
- 3. Biting or spitting at an opponent;***
- 4. Hair pulling;***
- 5. Fish hooking;***
- 6. Groin attacks of any kind;***
- 7. Intentionally putting finger in any opponent's orifice (includes laceration);***
- 8. Downward point of elbow strikes;***
- 9. Small joint manipulation;***
- 10. Strikes to spine or back of the head;***
- 11. Heel kicks to the kidney;***
- 12. Throat strikes of any kind (includes grabbing trachea);***
- 13. Clawing, pinching, twisting the flesh, or grabbing the clavicle;***
- 14. Kicking the head of a grounded opponent;***
- 15. Kneeing the head of a grounded opponent;***
- 16. Stomping of a grounded opponent;***
- 17. Holding the ropes or the fence;***
- 18. Using abusive language in the ring or fenced area;***
- 19. Any unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to an opponent;***
- 20. Attacking an opponent on or during the break;***
- 21. Attacking an opponent under the referee's care;***

*22. Timidity (avoiding contact, intentional and/or consistent dropping of mouthpiece, or faking an injury);*

*23. Corner interference;*

*24. Throwing an opponent out of the ring or fenced area;*

*25. Flagrant disregard of the referee's instructions;*

*26. Spiking an opponent to the canvas on his head or neck;*

*27. Throwing in the towel during competition; and*

*28. Holding an opponent's shorts or gloves.*

**Sec. 13. 1.** *If a mixed martial arts contest or exhibition is stopped because of an accidental foul, the referee shall determine whether the unarmed combatant who has been fouled can continue or not. Immediately after separating the contestants, the referee shall inform the judges and the commission's representative of his determination that the foul was accidental. If the unarmed combatant's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of a foul, and the foul did not involve a concussive impact to the unarmed combatant's head, the referee may order the contest or exhibition continued after a recuperative interval of up to 5 minutes.*

*2. If the referee determines that the mixed martial arts contest or exhibition may not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an accidental foul, the contest or exhibition must be declared a no contest if the foul occurs during:*

*(a) The first 2 rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for less than 5 rounds; or*

*(b) The first 3 rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for 5 rounds.*

*3. If an accidental foul renders an unarmed combatant unable to continue the mixed martial arts contest or exhibition after:*

*(a) The completed second round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for less than 5 rounds; or*

*(b) The completed third round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for 5 rounds, the outcome must be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops the contest or exhibition.*

*4. If an injury inflicted by an accidental foul later becomes aggravated by fair blows and the referee orders the mixed martial arts contest or exhibition stopped because of the injury, the outcome must be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops the contest or exhibition.*

*5. If an injury falls under subsections 3 or 4 of this section, and the referee penalizes either contestant, the point(s) shall be deducted from the final score.*

**Sec. 14. 1.** *If the referee determines that the mixed martial arts contest or exhibition may not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an intentional foul, the contestant causing the injury loses by disqualification.*

*2. If the referee determines that the mixed martial arts contest or exhibition may continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an intentional foul, the referee will notify the authorities and automatically deduct 2 points from the contestant who committed the foul.*

*3. If injury caused by an intentional foul results in the mixed martial arts contest or exhibition being stopped in a later round,*

*(a) the injured contestant will win by technical decision, if he is ahead on the score cards; and*

*(b) the bout will result in a technical draw, if the injured contestant is behind or even on the scorecards.*



**Sec. 15. *Mixed martial arts contests may end under the following results:***

**1. *Submission by:***

**(a) *Tap Out***

**(b) *Verbal tap out***

**2. *TKO by referee stopping bout***

**3. *Decision via scorecards:***

**(a) *Unanimous decision – when all three judges score the contest for the same contestant***

**(b) *Split decision – when two judges score the contest for one contestant and one judge scores for the opponent***

**(c) *Majority decision – when two judges score the contest for the same contestant and one judge scores a draw.***

**(d) *Draw –***

**(1) *Unanimous – when all three judges score the contest a draw***

**(2) *Majority – when two judges score the contest a draw***

**(3) *Split – when all three judges score differently.***

**4. *Disqualification***

**5. *Forfeit***

**6. *Technical Draw***

**7. *Technical Decision***

**8. *No Contest***

**Sec. 16. 1. *Mixed martial arts contests and exhibitions may be held in a ring or fenced area.***

**2. *A mixed martial arts ring must meet the following requirements:***

*(a) The ring shall be no smaller than 20 feet square and no larger than 32 feet square within the ropes. The ring floor must extend at least 24 inches beyond the ropes. The ring floor must be padded with ensolite or another similar closed-cell foam, with at least a 1 inch layer of foam padding. Padding must extend beyond the ring ropes and over the edge of the platform, with a top covering of canvas, duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges must not be used.*

*(b) The ring platform must not be more than 4 feet above the floor of the building, and must be provided with suitable steps for use of unarmed combatants. Ring posts must be of metal, not more than 3 inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a minimum height of 58 inches above the ring floor, and shall be properly padded in a manner approved by the commission. Ring posts must be at least 18 inches away from the ropes.*

*(c) There must be five ring ropes, not less than 1 inch in diameter and wrapped in soft material. The lower rope must be 12 inches above the ring floor.*

*(d) There must not be any obstruction or object, including, without limitation, a triangular border, on any part of the ring floor.*

*3. A mixed martial arts fenced area must meet the following requirements:*

*(a) The fenced area must have at least 8 equal sides, or be circular, and shall be no smaller than 20 feet wide and no larger than 32 feet wide. The floor must extend at least 18 inches beyond the fence. The fenced area floor must be padded with ensolite or another similar closed-cell foam, with at least a 1 inch layer of foam padding, with a top covering of canvas, duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the fenced area platform. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges must not be used.*

*(b) The fenced area platform must not be more than 4 feet above the floor of the building, and must be provided with suitable steps for use of unarmed combatants. Fence posts must be of metal, not more than 6 inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to between 6 and 8 feet above the fenced area floor, and shall be properly padded in a manner approved by the commission.*

*(c) The fenced area shall be enclosed by a fence made of such a material as will not allow a fighter to fall out or break through it onto the floor or spectators; including, but not limited to, vinyl-coated chain link. All metal parts shall be covered and padded in a manner approved by the commission and shall not be abrasive to the contestants. The fence shall provide two (2) entries into the fenced area.*

*(d) There must not be any obstruction on any part of the fence surrounding the competition area.*

**Sec. 17.** NAC 467.012 is hereby amended to read as follows:

467.012 1. An application for a license as a:

(a) Professional boxer;

(b) Professional wrestler;

(c) Kickboxer;

(d) *Elimination boxer;*

(e) Any other unarmed combatant, *including but not limited to, a mixed martial arts contestant;*

~~(e)~~ (f) Promoter;

~~(f)~~ (g) Matchmaker;

~~(g)~~ (h) Manager;

~~(h)~~ (i) Second, including a trainer;

~~(i)~~ (j) Referee;

~~(j)~~ (k) Judge;

~~(k)~~ (l) Timekeeper;

~~(l)~~ (m) Announcer; or

~~(m)~~ (n) Physician,

must be made in writing on a form supplied by the commission and signed by the applicant under penalty of perjury.

2. Each license issued is subject to the conditions and agreements set forth in the application.

3. Any false statement of a material matter in such an application is a ground:

(a) For denial of the application; or

(b) If the license has already been issued, for revocation of the license.

4. Before issuing a license, the commission or its staff may, when deemed appropriate, require an applicant to provide independent proof of his identity such as a photographic identification provided by a governmental authority.

5. The commission may require an applicant to appear before the commission to answer questions or provide documents in conjunction with an application for a license.

6. The *initial and* renewal fee:

(a) For a boxer is \$25.

(b) For a wrestler is \$25.

(c) For a kickboxer is \$25.

(d) *For an elimination boxer is \$25.*

(e) For any other unarmed combatant is \$25.

~~[(e)]~~ (f) For a matchmaker is \$100.

~~[(f)]~~ (g) For a manager is \$100.

~~[(g)]~~ (h) For a second is \$50.

~~[(h)]~~ (i) For an announcer is \$100.

7. Unless the commission limits the license to a shorter period, a license is valid for the remainder of the calendar year for which it is granted.

8. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a licensee must pay the full renewal fee for a license, regardless of whether his license is limited or conditioned by the commission. If the commission later removes the limitation or grants the licensee the same type of license for another period in the same calendar year, the licensee is not required to pay an additional renewal fee for a license within that same calendar year.

**Sec. 18.** NAC 467.427 is hereby amended to read as follows:

467.427 The gloves used in a contest or exhibition must meet the following requirements:

1. The gloves must be examined by the representative of the commission and the referee. If padding in any glove is found to be misplaced or lumpy or if any glove is found to be imperfect, the glove must be changed before the contest or exhibition starts. No breaking, roughing or twisting of gloves is permitted.

2. The gloves for every contest or exhibition that is designated as a main event must be new, furnished by the promoter and made to fit the hands of the contestant.

3. If gloves to be used in preliminary contests or exhibitions have been used before, they must be whole, clean and in sanitary condition. The gloves are subject to inspection by the referee or representative of the commission. If a glove is found to be unfit, it must be replaced with a glove that meets the requirements of this section.

4. Each promoter must have an extra set of gloves of the appropriate weight available to be used in case a glove is broken or otherwise damaged during the course of a contest or exhibition.

5. *For contests or exhibitions of boxing or kickboxing, ~~Each unarmed combatant~~ each contestant* must wear gloves which weigh not less than 8 ounces and not more than 10 ounces, except that the commission will set the weight of gloves to be used in a championship contest.

~~6.]~~ All gloves must have the distal portion of the thumb attached to the body of the glove so as to minimize the possibility of injury to an opponent's eye.

6. *For contests or exhibitions of mixed martial arts, each contestant must wear gloves which weigh not less than 4 ounces and not more than 8 ounces.*

7. Both unarmed combatants shall use the same brand and model of gloves for their contest or exhibition.

**Sec. 19.** NAC 467.442 is hereby amended to read as follows:

467.442 A boxing or kickboxing ring must meet the following requirements:

1. The ring must be 20 feet square within the ropes. The ring floor must extend at least 18 inches beyond the ropes. The ring floor must be padded with ensolite or another similar closed-cell foam. Padding must extend beyond the ring ropes and over the edge of the platform, with a top covering of canvas, duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges must not be used.

Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges must not be used.

2. The ring platform must not be more than 5 feet above the floor of the building, and must be provided with suitable steps for use of unarmed combatants. Ring posts must be of metal, not more than 3 inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a height of 58 inches above the ring floor. Ring posts must be at least 18 inches away from the ropes.

3. There must be four ring ropes, not less than 1 inch in diameter and wrapped in soft material. The lower rope must be 18 inches above the ring floor ~~[and offset 4 inches to the outside of the ring from the ropes above].~~

4. There must not be any obstruction or object, including, without limitation, a triangular border, on any part of the ring floor.

**Sec. 20.** NAC 467.476 is hereby amended to read as follows:

467.476 1. The classes for unarmed combatants who are boxers *and elimination boxers*, and the weights for each class are shown in the following schedule:

Strawweight.....	up to 105 lbs.
Light-Flyweight.....	over 105 to 108 lbs.
Flyweight.....	over 108 to 112 lbs.
Super Flyweight.....	over 112 to 115 lbs.
Bantamweight.....	over 115 to 118 lbs.
Super Bantamweight.....	over 118 to 122 lbs.
Featherweight.....	over 122 to 126 lbs.
Super Featherweight.....	over 126 to 130 lbs.
Lightweight.....	over 130 to 135 lbs.
Super Lightweight.....	over 135 to 140 lbs.
Welterweight.....	over 140 to 147 lbs.
Super Welterweight.....	over 147 to 154 lbs.
Middleweight.....	over 154 to 160 lbs.
Super Middleweight.....	over 160 to 168 lbs.
Light-heavyweight.....	over 168 to 175 lbs.

Cruiserweight..... over 175 to 195 lbs.

Heavyweight..... all over 195 lbs.

2. No boxing *or elimination-boxing* contest or exhibition may be scheduled and no unarmed combatants may engage in a boxing contest or exhibition without the approval of the commission or the commission's representative if the difference in weight between unarmed combatants exceeds the allowance shown in the following schedule:

up to 118 lbs..... not more than 3 lbs.

118 lbs. - 126 lbs..... not more than 5 lbs.

126 lbs. - 135 lbs..... not more than 7 lbs.

135 lbs. - 147 lbs..... not more than 9 lbs.

147 lbs. - 160 lbs..... not more than 11 lbs.

160 lbs. - 175 lbs..... not more than 12 lbs.

175 lbs. - 195 lbs..... not more than 20 lbs.

195 lbs. and over..... no limit.

3. ~~[Weight loss in excess of 2 pounds after the time of the weigh-in is not permitted.]~~ *After the time of the weigh-in, weight loss in excess of 2 pounds is not permitted for contestants weighing in at 135 lbs. or less, weight loss in excess of 3 pounds is not permitted for contestants weighing in over 135 lbs. but not more than 168 lbs., and weight loss in excess of 4 pounds is not permitted for contestants weighing in over 168 lbs.*

**Sec. 21.** NAC 467.598 is hereby amended to read as follows:

467.598 1. Each unarmed combatant must be clean and present a tidy appearance.



2. The excessive use of grease or any other foreign substance may not be used on the face of an unarmed combatant. The referees or the commission's representative in charge shall cause any excessive grease or foreign substance to be removed.

3. The commission's representative shall determine whether head or facial hair presents any hazard to the safety of the unarmed combatant or his opponent or will interfere with the supervision and conduct of the contest or exhibition. *Unless corrected, an unarmed combatant whose head or facial hair presents such a hazard or interference will not be allowed to compete.*

*4. An unarmed combatant is not permitted to wear any jewelry or other piercing accessories during competition.*

**Sec. 22.** NAC 467.612 is hereby amended to read as follows:

467.612 1. Each judge of a boxing *or mixed martial arts* contest or exhibition that is being judged shall score the contest or exhibition and determine the winner through the use of the following system:

(a) The better competitor of a round receives 10 points and his opponent proportionately less.

(b) If the round is even, each competitor receives 10 points.

(c) No fraction of points may be given.

(d) Points for each round must be awarded immediately after the end of the period of unarmed combat in the round.

2. After the end of the mixed martial arts contest or exhibition, the announcer shall pick up the scores of the judges from the commission's desk. The majority opinion is conclusive and, if there is no majority, the decision is a draw.

3. When the representative of the commission has checked the scores, he shall inform the announcer of the decision and the announcer shall inform the audience of the decision over the speaker system.

**Sec. 23.** NAC 467.748 is hereby amended to read as follows:

467.748 1. If a contest or exhibition is terminated because an unarmed combatant is:

(a) ~~Knocked down three times in the same round;~~

~~(b)~~ Unable to continue;

~~(e)~~ (b) Not honestly competing;

~~(d)~~ (c) Injured; or

~~(e)~~ (d) Disqualified,

it may be adjudged a technical knockout to the credit of the winner.

2. A contest or exhibition which is won by other than a full count of 10 or the scoring of the judges must be adjudged a technical knockout to the credit of the winner.

**Sec. 24.** NAC 467.830 is hereby deleted.