

**WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
NATALIE E. TENNANT
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

Form #3

Do Not Mark In This Box

FILED

2015 JUL 30 P 2:56

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

**NOTICE OF AGENCY APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED RULE
AND
FILING WITH THE LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE**

AGENCY: WV State Athletic Commission TITLE NUMBER: 177

CITE AUTHORITY: W. Va. Code § 29-5A-24b & W.Va. Code § 29-5A-3a(f)

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES NO

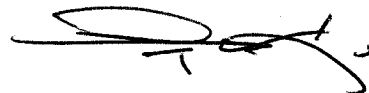
IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 2

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Regulation of Mixed Martial Arts

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

THE ABOVE PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE RULE HAVING GONE TO A PUBLIC HEARING OR A PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD IS HEREBY APPROVED BY THE PROMULGATING AGENCY FOR FILING WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THEIR REVIEW.



Authorized Signature

QUESTIONNAIRE

(Please include a copy of this form with each filing of your rule: Notice of Public Hearing or Comment Period, Proposed Rule, and if needed, Emergency and Modified Rule.)

DATE: July 28, 2015

TO: LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE

FROM: (Agency Name, Address & Phone No.) WV State Athletic Commission, 900 Pennsylvania Avenue,

Charleston, WV 25302. Phone: 304-558-1428

LEGISLATIVE RULE TITLE: Regulation of Mixed Martial Arts

1. Authorizing statute(s) citation W.Va. Code § 29-5A-3a(f) & W.Va. Code § 29-5A-24(a)

2. a. Date filed in State Register with Notice of Hearing or Public Comment Period:

Public Comment Period June 18, 2015 - July 20, 2015.

b. What other notice, including advertising, did you give of the hearing?

The Athletic Commission emailed a copy of the proposed rule to all licensed West Virginia promoters.

c. Date of Public Hearing(s) *or* Public Comment Period ended:

July 20, 2015

d. Attach list of persons who appeared at hearing, comments received, amendments, reasons for amendments.

Attached X No comments received

- e. Date you filed in State Register the agency approved proposed Legislative Rule following public hearing: (be exact)

July 30, 2015

- f. **Name, title, address and phone/fax/e-mail numbers** of agency person(s) to receive all *written correspondence* regarding this rule: (Please type)

Chase Hill, Chairman

WV State Athletic Commission

900 Pennsylvania Avenue

Charleston, WV 25305 Phone: 304-558-1428 Email: WVACHILL@gmail.com

- g. **IF DIFFERENT FROM ITEM 'f'**, please give **Name, title, address and phone number(s)** of agency person(s) who wrote and/or has responsibility for the contents of this rule: (Please type)

3. If the statute under which you promulgated the submitted rules requires certain findings and determinations to be made as a condition precedent to their promulgation:

- a. Give the date upon which you filed in the State Register a notice of the time and place of a hearing for the taking of evidence and a general description of the issues to be decided.

N/A

b. Date of hearing or comment period:

N/A

c. On what date did you file in the State Register the findings and determinations required together with the reasons therefor?

N/A

d. Attach findings and determinations and reasons:

Attached N/A

Rule Title: Regulation of Mixed Martial Arts Title 177 Series 2

Summary of Proposed Rule

The proposed rules amends the existing legislative rule for mixed martial arts (MMA) to authorize Amateur MMA in this State, adopts additional protections for Amateur MMA contestants, and identifies prohibited techniques for Amateur MMA events which vary from the techniques for Professional MMA events. The proposed rule makes some additional changes and clarifications to the existing rule.

Statement of Circumstances which require the rule to be amended.

The existing legislative rule regulating MMA was adopted in 2013 and specifically prohibits Amateur MMA events in West Virginia. In 2015, the Legislature amended W. Va. Code § 29-5A-1 et seq., and explicitly authorized Amateur MMA in the State. In addition, the Legislature directed the Athletic Commission to adopt the current unified rules of mixed martial arts from the Association of Boxing Commissions to enable proper equipment, the fighting area, and weight classes, to ensure the safety of all contestants, the licensing of all participants, referees and judges, and the approval of all contests, matches and exhibitions. *See* W. Va. Code § 29-5A-3a(d).

APPENDIX B

FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES

Regulation of Mixed Martial Arts

Rule Title: _____

Type of Rule: Legislative Interpretive Procedural

Agency: State Athletic Commission

Address: Chase Hill, Chairman
900 Pennsylvania Avenue
Charleston, WV 25301

Phone Number: (304) 558-1428 Email: WVACHILL@gmail.com

Fiscal Note Summary

Summarize in a clear and concise manner what impact this measure will have on costs and revenues of state government.

The proposed rule reflects changes in licensing fees enacted in W.Va. Code § 29-5A-20.

Fiscal Note Detail

Show over-all effect in Item 1 and 2 and, in Item 3, give an explanation of Breakdown by fiscal year, including long-range effect.

FISCAL YEAR			
Effect of Proposal	Current Increase/Decrease (use "--")	Next Increase/Decrease (use "--")	Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation)
1. Estimated Total Cost	0.00	0.00	0.00
Personal Services	0.00	0.00	0.00
Current Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Repairs & Alterations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assets	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Estimated Total Revenues			

Regulation of Mixed Martial Arts

Rule Title: _____

Rule Title: _____

3. Explanation of above estimates (including long-range effect):

Please include any increase or decrease in fees in your estimated total revenues.

The proposed rule imposes no additional fees beyond those required by statute. The proposed rule nominally increases the revenues which will be received by the Athletic Commission. The license fees listed in Section 177-2-4.5 reflect the increased fees adopted pursuant to W.Va Code § 29-5A-20.

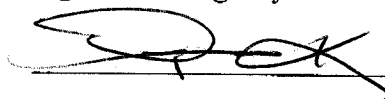
MEMORANDUM

Please identify any areas of vagueness, technical defects, reasons the proposed rule **would not** have a fiscal impact, and/or any special issues **not** captured elsewhere on this form.

The proposed rule imposes no new additional expenses on the Athletic Commission beyond those required by Statute. The increased payments to fight officials will not affect State expenditures. W.Va. Code § 29-5A-6 and 29-5A-17 established minimum rates of pay for fight officials. All fight officials must be paid by event promoters and will not be paid from State funds by the Athletic Commission.

Date: 7-30-15

Signature of Agency Head or Authorized Representative

 _____

177CSR2

FILED

2013 JUL 30 P 2:56

TITLE 177
LEGISLATIVE RULE
STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

SERIES 2
REGULATION OF MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

§177-2-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- This rule establishes the procedures to be followed for all Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) events under the jurisdiction of the State Athletic Commission. It applies to any Mixed Martial Arts event or any showing exhibiting of any simultaneous telecast of any live, current or spontaneous Mixed Martial Arts, or a closed circuit telecast subscription television viewed within this State or any other state and for which an admission charge is made.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code § 29-5A-24(b) and W. Va. Code § 29-5A-3a(f).

1.3. Filing Date. -- May 24, 2013.

1.4. Effective Date. -- June 24, 2013.

§177-2-2. Jurisdiction.

The Athletic Commission shall have sole power, direction, management and control over all professional and amateur mixed martial arts contests, matches, events, shows, and exhibitions, or any form thereof, to be promoted, conducted, held or given within the state. ~~All Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) events, matches, and exhibitions, or any form thereof, other than Professional Mixed Martial Arts Events are prohibited.~~

§177-2-3. Definitions.

The words used in this rule shall have the following meanings, unless the content indicates a different meaning:

~~3.1. "Commission" means the West Virginia State Athletic Commission.~~

3.1. "Amateur" – means a fighter who has not been licensed as a professional fighter in the State of West Virginia or any other jurisdiction.

~~3.2. "Contestant" means:~~

~~3.2.1 A person who competed in a minimum of 8 amateur MMA matches. Amateur matches which cannot be verified by the Commission do not count toward the minimum number of matches required. or~~

~~3.2.2. A person who has been licensed as a professional MMA contestant by another state to compete in a sanctioned event and has competed as a professional MMA contestant in a sanctioned event in another state.~~

~~3.2.3. No contestant may be licensed by the Commission who does not have a winning record~~

3.2. "Commission" -- means the West Virginia State Athletic Commission.

~~3.3. "Deputy" -- means an individual appointed by the Commission to represent the Commission in its absence.~~

3.3. "Contestant" -- means a fighter that competes in a Mixed Martial Arts event, match or exhibition or any form thereof, which can further be categorized as professional or amateur.

~~3.4. "Event" -- means a series of matches in which contestants compete.~~

3.4. "Deputy" -- means an individual appointed and trained by the Commission to represent the Commission in its absence.

~~3.5. "Match" means a fight between contestants.~~

3.5. "Event" - means a series of matches in which contestants compete.

~~3.6. "Mixed Martial Arts" (MMA) -- means a combative sporting contest, the rules of which allow two competitors to attempt to achieve dominance over one another by utilizing a variety of techniques including, but not limited to, striking, grappling and the application of submission holds.~~

3.6. "Match" - means a fight between contestants.

~~3.7. "Permit" -- means a document allowing an event to occur.~~

3.7. "Mixed Martial Arts" (MMA) - means a combative sporting contest, the rules of which allow two competitors to attempt to achieve dominance over one another by utilizing a variety of techniques including, but not limited to, striking, grappling and the application of submission holds.

~~3.8. "Promoter" -- means any individual, club, corporation or association engaged in the promotion of regularly scheduled or individual MMA shows or contests.~~

3.8. "Permit" -- means a document allowing an event to occur.

3.9. "Professional" -- means:

3.9.(a) A contestant who has competed in a minimum of 8 amateur MMA matches and has developed the skills to be able to compete for money. Amateur matches which

cannot be verified by the Commission do not count toward the minimum number of matches required. or

3.9.(b) A person who has been licensed as a professional MMA contestant by West Virginia or another state to compete in a sanctioned event and has competed as a professional MMA contestant in a sanctioned event in West Virginia or another state.

3.10. "Promoter" -- means any individual, club, corporation or association engaged in the promotion of regularly scheduled or individual MMA shows or contests.

§177-2-4. Licenses.

4.1. General. -- The Commission may issue a license to promote, conduct or hold an event to a promoter.

4.2. Application requirements.

(a) Applications for a license shall be signed by the applicant. The applicant shall provide the requested information.

(b) An application for license of contestant shall be accompanied by 2 passport size photographs of the applicant.

4.3. Requirements for granting or renewing license.

Before being granted a license or license renewal the applicant must establish to the satisfaction of the Commission that he or she:

(a) Is skilled in the profession of Mixed Martial Arts;

(b) Is physically fit and mentally sound;

(c) Has not been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude;

(d) Will conduct his business in the best interest and welfare of the public, preserving the safety and health of participants and the best interest of the sport;

(e) Will adhere to and comply with all rules;

(f) In the case of a corporate applicant, these factors shall pertain to its officers, directors, principal stockholders and employees; and

(g) Every license and licensee shall be subject to the provisions of W. Va. Code §§ 29-5A-1 *et seq.*

4.4. Suspensions, revocation or probation of license or licensee. --

The Commission may suspend, revoke or place on probation the license of any licensee licensed under this rule, who in the discretion of the Commission:

- (a) Is guilty of failure to obey any lawful order of the Commission or any inspector;
- (b) Is guilty of violating any provision of this rule;
- (c) Has committed fraud or deceit in securing a license for himself or another, or by falsifying a license application;
- (d) Has failed to report to the commission his/her conviction of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude in any jurisdiction within 10 years preceding the suspension or revocation;
- (e) Is an habitual drunkard or addicted to the use of narcotics, as determined by a physician;
- (f) Is or has become mentally incompetent, as determined by a physician;
- (g) Is or has been guilty of unprofessional or unethical conduct or such conduct as to require a suspension or revocation of license in the best interest of the public;
- (h) Has failed to furnish the proper party a copy of any contract or agreement required by this rule or has breached such contract;
- (i) Has loaned or permitted another person to use his license or has borrowed or used the license of another;
- (j) Has failed to maintain in force the bond required by this rule;
- (k) Has by act or omission conducted himself themselves in a manner which would tend to be detrimental to the best interests of Mixed Martial Arts or to the public interest and general welfare;
- (l) Has been disciplined in any manner by the Commission or similar agency or body of any jurisdiction;
- (m) Has failed to pay a fine or forfeiture imposed by this rule;
- (n) Has either by any act, threat, statement or otherwise, restrained, hindered, interfered with or prevented another applicant or promoter, club, corporation, association or booking agent from presenting any professional MMA event; or
- (o) Has either engaged directly or indirectly in restraints or monopolies, or taken any action tending to create or establish restraints or monopolies, or conspired with others to restrain any person or persons from participating or competing in any professional MMA event for any promoter, club, corporation, association or booking agent.

(p) Has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude in any jurisdiction within one year preceding the suspension or revocation and such conviction not previously reported to the commission by said licensee;

4.5. License fees (1 year).

4.5.1. Promoters (1 year) -- \$125.00

4.5.2. Professional Contestant (1 year) -- \$1025.00

4.5.4.3. Seconds, Professional -- \$120.00

4.5.5.4. Managers, Professional -- \$150.00

4.5.6.5. Referees and other Officials -- \$130.00

§177-2-5. Venues.

~~Venues must have a minimum seating capacity of 2,500. However, the Commission may waive the minimum seating capacity requirement. Venues with a seating capacity of 3,500 or more must have a minimum of four video monitors displaying a continuous live feed of the match for the spectators; venues with a maximum seating capacity of 3,499 or less must have at least two monitors displaying a continuous live feed of the match for the spectators. All such video monitors must be a minimum of six feet by six feet. No event shall take place until the venue has been approved by the commission.~~

§177-2-6. Bond Required.

Before any license is issued to any promoter conducting any Mixed Martial Arts contest, he shall execute and file with the Commission a surety bond sufficient to cover all purses, awards and payments to be paid by the promoter. The bond shall be determined by the Commission. The minimum bond shall be \$10,000.00 dollars. The bond shall be available to cover any fees associated with Contestant, managers, seconds, doctors, other match related participants, medical expenses or deductible costs for injured boxers (insurance deductibles), and match officials. The bond may not be available to cover expenses such as building rental, concession stand operations, advertisements, or other similar expenses.

§177-2-7. Individual Permit and Permits for Professionals

7.1. Application for permit.

Before any professional Mixed Martial Arts event is authorized in the State of West Virginia, the promoter shall obtain an individual permit and permit from the Commission at least 30 days before the date of any such contest or exhibition.

(a) Requirements of applicants. -- Each application for a permit shall name all contestants, the number of rounds and the date and place of the contest.

(b) Contracts made must be filed. -- All contracts made by the promoter with contestants who are to appear on the event must be filed at the same time. All signed contracts must be submitted to the Commission no later than 12PM of the day of the event. No contestant will be allowed to enter the cage unless he or she has signed a contract for the event. Contestants who are substituted to the card on the day of the event pursuant to Section 7.5, *infra*, must sign a contract for the event prior to entering the cage.

(c) Books open for inspection. -- As a condition for issuance of a permit, each applicant must agree to accord the Commission the right to examine the books, accounts and other records for which the permit is issued.

7.2. Permits.

Request for event permits shall be submitted to the Commission a minimum of 30 days in advance. Permits will be issued by the Commission 5 days in advance of all contests. Permits for events must be exhibited in a conspicuous place at the box office.

7.3. Minimum Number of Rounds.

There shall be a minimum of ~~thirtyeighteen~~ (3018) rounds on a card unless special written permission is obtained from the Commission at the time of granting the permit to have a fewer number of rounds.

7.4. Pre-permit publicity.

The promoters are not permitted to give publicity to a card until the card has been approved by the Commission, unless otherwise approved by the Commission.

7.5. Changes or substitutions.

All changes and substitutions must be approved ~~in writing by the chairman of~~ by the Commission.

(a) Notice. Notice of any change in the announced or advertised programs for any contest must be filed with the Commission at least 4 hours prior to the contest, conspicuously posted at the box office and announced from the cage before the opening contest.

(b) Forfeitures. -- If an MMA contestant who is under contract to appear at an event appears at the weigh-in time and is ready to fulfill his or her contractual obligations, but his or her opponent does not appear or his or her opponent is not able to compete due to a medical condition as determined by the examining physician and a substitute opponent is not provided, the event promoter must pay the contestant his or her contract price unless a forfeit is provided.

(c) Refunds. -- Whenever a substitution is made in an advertised contest, the official announcer shall advise the audience of the substitution prior to the opening match. If any of the patrons desire to have the price of the ticket refunded, a refund will be given if the tickets are presented at the box office prior to the fight. The box office must remain open for at least twenty (20) minutes to redeem the tickets.

7.6. Substitutions -Main Event. -- Substitutions are not to be permitted in ~~the main~~ any bout unless approved by the Commission.

7.7. Late changes to card. --The Commission may allow changes to the card on the day of the event if a scheduled contestant fails to attend the match, fails to pass the physical examination, fails to make the required weight for the fight, or for other good cause as determined in its discretion.

§177-2-8. Insurance for Contestants.

8.1. General. --All promoters, clubs, associations and corporations engaged in the presentation of professional Mixed Martial Arts events will provide Accidental Death & Dismemberment insurance for the protection of Contestant appearing and participating in such events. The minimum amount of Accidental Death & Dismemberment insurance shall be \$20,000.00.

8.2. Coverage. -- Insurance coverage shall provide for reimbursement to the MMA contestant for medical, surgical and hospital care with a minimum coverage of \$20,000 per participant for injuries sustained while participating in any permitted MMA event under the control of a licensed promoter, club, corporation or association.

8.3. Policy Deductible-The MMA contestant shall not be subject to payment of any deductible amount required under the insurance policy. The promoter may provide insurance coverage to the boxers der a policy which has no deductible amount or a "zero" dollar deductible amount. In the alternative, if the promoter provides insurance coverage to the MMA contestant under a policy which requires a deductible payment from the MMA contestant for medical treatment, then the promoter will be required to pay all deductible payments incurred on behalf of the MMA contestant directly to the medical provider. No promoter will be permitted to require an MMA contestant to pay the deductible amount to the medical provider and seek reimbursement from the promoter.

8.4. Penalty for nonpayment of premium. -- Failure to pay premiums on insurance required by this rule, shall be cause for suspension or revocation of the license of such promoter, club, corporation or association.

8.5. Certificate of insurance.-The promoter must submit a valid certificate of insurance coverage to the Commission no later than 72 hours prior to the start of the event.

§177-2-9. Promoters Report.

9.1. Report required. -- Every promoter, club, association or corporation holding a Mixed Martial Arts event must complete and file the promoter's report in the format provided by the Commission. The report must be received by the chairman of the Commission within 4 business days after the date of the event.

9.2. Failure to submit report. -- Any licensee that fails to file a report of any contest within 4 business days or makes an unsatisfactory report to the Commission shall be subject to penalties as set forth by this rule.

9.3. Report requirements. -- The promoter must file within 4 business days after any event a ~~list of all matches which shall include the name of each participant, weight of each participant, address of each participant, and all decisions rendered by the judges~~ written report, showing the number of tickets sold and the amount of the gross proceeds to include sponsorships.

9.4. Penalties. -- The Commission may impose an administrative penalty or suspend the license of any promoter for the failure to submit reports. The fine may not exceed \$100.00 per day for each day the report is not submitted after the fourth business day.

§177-2-10. Inspectors or Deputies.

10.1. General. -- The Commission shall appoint inspectors as the Commission may deem necessary. At least one (1) inspector shall be at all Mixed Martial Arts events.

10.2. Inspector's report. -- At each MMA event, an official or inspector of the Commission shall attend. Upon its conclusion, the Chief Deputy or the deputy in charge shall sign a detailed report showing the results of the fights and the physician's report. The inspector shall be responsible for all details of the contest and shall file all necessary reports within 48 hours after the event with the chairman of the Commission. The inspector may choose other inspectors to assist him with his duties with the approval of the Commission.

10.3. Duties of chief inspector or chief deputy.

(a) General Duties- The deputy in charge of an event shall have complete charge of the licenses. It is his or her duty to see that this rule is carried out. The chief inspector or deputy in charge of an event shall be held accountable for the actions of every other deputy assigned to that particular show. The deputy in charge shall file, in addition to the official report, a detailed account of any violations of this rule and the law governing MMA events- particularly where a purse or gate has been ordered held.

(b) Prohibition to act as judge or referee- The deputy in charge of a show and any additional deputies or inspectors may not act as a referee or a judge in any event permitted by the Commission. ~~Provided, that Deputies or inspectors may act as a referee or judge on an emergency basis due to the failure of the scheduled referee or judge to appear or the inability of the scheduled referee or judge to perform the designated duties at the event.~~

10.4. Cooperation with law-enforcement agencies. -- The inspectors shall work in cooperation and in conjunction with any police officers detailed for MMA events.

10.5. Equipment. -- The inspector shall ensure that all necessary equipment is provided, that the contestants are ready on time, that the seconds are properly instructed in their duties, that the doctor's report and the statement of weights are delivered to the Commission and that all rules pertaining to the proper conduct of the match are enforced.

10.6. Participants.

(a) Gloves. --Contestants are not permitted to put on their gloves until the bandages are examined by a representative of the Commission.

(b) Weights. -- Contestant will be suspended for a period not to exceed 60 days if they come in over the contracted weight unless authorized by the Commission.

(c) Miscellaneous. -- Cage equipment must be approved by the Commission's inspector. Clubs must have dressing rooms set aside for the use of contestants and no person, except those specifically referenced in §26.2 of this Rule, shall be permitted in the room.

§177-2-11. Administrative Review.

11.1. Administrative Review. -- Any licensee subject to a suspension, penalty, or any enforcement action issued by the Commission, shall have a right to administrative review. The Commission shall use the procedure provide in § 29-5A-1 *et seq.*

11.2. Judicial Review. -- Judicial review of the Commission's decision shall be subject to the contested cases provisions of the WV Administrative Appeals Act set forth in W. Va. Code § 29-5A-4.

§177-2-12. Minimum Age Limit.

12.1. Contestants. --No person under the age of 18 shall be licensed as an ~~MMA~~ contestant.

12.2. Managers. -- No person under the age of 20 shall be licensed as a manager. 12.3. Seconds. -- No person under the age of 18 shall be licensed as a second.

12.4. All Contestant, managers, and seconds, shall be required to provide acceptable proof of age to the Commission upon request.

§177-2-13. Assumed Names.

In applying for a license, an applicant shall give his or her correct name, any ring name or fight name, address, social security number and date of birth, and any other names appearing on any license held by him or her under other boxing commission, athletic commission, and any other body regulating MMA.

§177-2-14. Designation of Officials.

For all Mixed Martial Arts contests, the referee or referees, judges and timekeeper shall be designated by the Commission. Only the officials so designated have the authority to perform their respective functions. No referee or judge shall be designated by the Commission who does not hold a valid certification for that position issued by the Association of Boxing Commissions. Examining physicians must be furnished by the promoter and approved by the Commission. All officials appointed by the Commission must be at least 18 years of age.

§177-2-15. Failure to Appear.

15.1. Automatic suspension. -- Any contestant who fails to appear at a show for which he or she had signed a contract to appear, without a valid excuse or furnishing a doctor's certificate in case of physical disability, shall be automatically suspended for a period of 60 days. The Commission may suspend the contestant for a period not to exceed 12 months for good cause.

15.2. Reporting requirements. -- If a licensed contestant, because of injuries or illness, is unable to take part in a contest for which he or she is under contract, he or she (or his or her manager) must immediately report that fact to the Commission and submit to an examination by a physician designated by the Commission.

15.3. Investigation and final penalty. -- A licensed contestant who is unable to take part in a contest shall submit to the Commission, in person or in writing his or her reasons for nonappearance. If such reasons are not satisfactory to the Commission, he or she shall forfeit the appearance, his or her license shall be canceled and notification of the Commission's action shall be forwarded to other boxing Commissions, athletic commissions, and other agencies that regulate Mixed Martial Arts.

§177-2-16. Weigh-in.

16.1. General. -- Contestants shall be weighed on the same scales in the presence of each other and an official of the Commission at such time and place prior to the event as may be designated by the Commission. At the weigh-in of all contestants, duly accredited newspaper representatives shall, upon request, be admitted. Contestants performing at outdoor shows are required to weigh-in on the day they contract for their services. In the event of a 24 hour postponement due to weather conditions, weights and physical examinations for the original date of the contract are valid. In the event of a postponement requiring the show to be held later than 24 hours after original date, new weights and physical examinations will be required.

16.2. Time of completion. -- Weigh-in ceremonies must be completed no later than 6 hours prior to the first bell signaling the start of the contest. Contestant appearing late will not be weighed-in, will not be allowed the opportunity to fight, and will be indefinitely suspended for 6 months. No amateur contestant will be suspended or sanctioned by the Athletic Commission for the failure to appear and fight as previously scheduled. The Commission shall have the discretion to conduct the weigh-in ceremonies on the day prior to the event or on the day of the event.

16.3. Who must be present. -- Promoters or matchmakers must personally attend weigh-in ceremonies and are not permitted to delegate their duties to an assistant. Inspectors will not weigh-in Contestant until the arrival of the promoters or matchmakers staging the contest. All equipment of contestants shall be approved by the inspector at weigh-in time.

§177-2-17. Weights and Classes.

The Commission shall utilize the weight classes set forth in Appendix 1 for all Mixed Martial Arts events. ~~The Commission shall have the discretion to utilize different weight classes as necessary for the event.~~

§177-2-18. Contracts.

18.1. Contracts must be filed. -- The Commission shall be furnished with certified copies of all contracts between promoting corporations, Mixed Martial Arts contestants or managers. A copy of all contracts and agreements between a promoter, club, association or corporation, licensed under this rule and any person or persons not named in the license, who by virtue of the contract or agreement might gain financial benefit from the promotion and presentation of MMA events in West Virginia by a promoter, club, associations or corporation, must be placed on file with the Commission for approval.

18.2. When filed. -- An original copy of every contract between a manager and an MMA contestant licensed in West Virginia must be filed when an application for license is made. The contracts shall be maintained in the archives of the Commission.

§177-2-19. Fake Contests.

Any promoting corporation, referee, second or contestant, who in the judgment of the Commission, is guilty of intentional conniving or participation in any prearranged or "Fake" contest shall be liable to suspension and other penalties provided for in this rule.

§177-2-20. No Pay Before Contest.

No Contestant shall be paid for his services before a contest.

§177-2-21. Wagering.

Wagering on the contest is prohibited in any area under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

§177-2-22. Length of Rounds.

Rounds for match shall be of 5 minutes' duration with a rest period of 1 minute between rounds.

§177-2-23. Number of Rounds.

Title events (championship events) shall consist of 5 rounds; all other matches shall consist of 3 rounds.

§177-2-24. Reporting In.

Contestant shall report to the inspector in the dressing room at least 1 hour before they are due in the cage.

§177-2-25. Interval Between Fights.

In addition to federal requirement, a contestant may not be allowed to fight who has fought in a match until 6 days have elapsed excluding the day of the previous event. The Commission shall have the discretion to extend the interval between matches, if the Commission determines that the health or safety of the contestant would otherwise be in jeopardy.

§177-2-26. Dressing Room.

26.1. A commission inspector shall be in charge of and supervise the conduct of the dressing room, see that the Contestants and seconds are dressed in accordance with the rules, that tape, gloves and accouterments are as required and there is no delay between fights. He shall see to it, that a set of contestants is ready to enter the cage while the preceding match is in progress.

26.2. No one shall be allowed in the contestants' dressing room except managers and seconds who are working the event, representatives of the Commission, and the promoter's representatives.

§177-2-27. Managers.

27.1. General. -- No manager shall attempt to select or insist upon the selection of any designated referee in a bout in which a Contestant under his management is to appear, nor shall he have the name of any referee written into the official contract covering such fights.

27.2. Assignments of interest. -- No assignment of a contestant's or manager's interest in a contract, or of any part thereof, shall be made without the written approval and consent of the Commission.

27.3. Contracts to be filed. -- All copies of the contracts entered into between managers and contestants must be placed on file with the Commission for approval. A contract becomes null and void if any time during his term the manager is not licensed by the Commission.

27.4. Limitation on earnings. -- A contestant is permitted to have 1 manager. That manager is not allowed to receive more than 33 1/3% of the match earnings of the contestant.

27.5. Limitation on supervision. -- A manager may not have more than 2 contestants under their management in any show without special permission from the Commission.

§177-2-28. Contestants with No Managers.

A contestant who is not under contract to a manager may make his own matches and sign contracts and is not required to have a manager's license to handle his own affairs.

§177-2-29. Seconds.

29.1. Dress. -- Seconds and managers acting as seconds must be attired.

29.2. Demeanor. -- Seconds may not excessively coach or in any way assist a principal during a round, or by word or action attempt to heckle or annoy his principal's opponent.

29.3. Conduct. -- Seconds may not enter a cage until an audible device indicates the end of the round and are prohibited from spraying or forcefully throwing water on a contestant, they shall leave the cage at the sound of the timer's whistle 10 seconds before a round is to begin, removing all obstructions, buckets, stools, etc., promptly at the sounding of an audible devices.

29.4. Throwing in the towel. -- Seconds may throw a towel in the cage as a token of defeat or may step upon the cage apron and indicate to the referee that his contestant should not continue; otherwise, the referee is the sole judge as to the ability of a contestant to continue.

29.5. Prohibition of certain dressings. -- No second shall be permitted to use grease or any other substances on the body of a contestant. The use of petroleum jelly in corners is not allowed except in the use of stopping blood and on cuts. Petroleum jelly, or other substances approved by the commission, may be used in between rounds in the use of stopping blood and on cuts and only in the presence of a representative of the commission. The use of drugs, alcohols or stimulants during a match by any contestant is adequate cause for revoking license.

§177-2-30. Timekeepers.

30.1. Qualifications. -- Timekeepers shall be appointed by the Commission and shall be of recognized good standing and character.

30.2. Duties. -- The timekeeper shall be seated at the cage side close to the timer or bell. The timekeeper shall use an electronic timer or bell to indicate the beginning and end of each round so the contestants shall hear the timer or bell.

30.3. Equipment. -- The timekeeper shall provide himself with an audible device and an accurate stop watch that has been properly examined and certified by an inspector of the Commission before it is used.

30.4. Warnings. -- 10 seconds before the beginning of each round the timekeeper shall give warning to the seconds of the contestants using an audible device.

§177-2-31. The Announcer.

31.1. Responsibilities. -- The announcer shall be approved by the Commission.

(a) Announcing contestants. -- After contestants and their chief seconds are in the cage, the announcer shall announce the names of the contestants, their correct weights and such other matters as may be approved by the Commission. Promoters shall make provisions for the announcement of rounds.

(b) Decisions. -- The announcer must get the judges' verdicts on paper, ~~and he must not reveal a judge's decision to another prior to the announcement. The announcer shall immediately after each bout turn these tally slips over to a representative of the Commission at the cage side. This official shall check the slips and inform the announcer of the decisions. The~~ Once both opponents are center ring with the referee, the announcer shall then announce ~~it~~ the decision to the crowd. He may announce whether or not the decision is unanimous, majority, or a split decision.

31.2. Conduct. -- The announcer in a contest shall be neatly dressed. His conduct is subject to the supervision of the Commission.

§177-2-32. Physician; Medical Requirements.

32.1. Physical examination required. -- Every contestant shall, at weighing-in time or at any other time on the day of the match that may be designated by the Commission, be subjected to a physical examination by a duly licensed physician approved by the Commission. The physician must be a medical doctor (MD) or a doctor of osteopathy (DO) duly licensed by the State of West Virginia.

32.2. Inspectors to enforce. -- Inspectors are charged with the duty of seeing that this provision is, in every case, complied with. The physician, attending EMT' s, and oxygen bottles shall be at ring side at all times. In the event that the physician, attending EMT' s, or oxygen bottles are not at ringside, the match shall be stopped immediately and shall not resume until the physician, attending EMT's, and oxygen bottle return to ring side.

32.3. Fitness certification required. -- No contestant may take part in a match until pronounced fit to do so by the physician approved by the Commission. The facts of physical examinations and of the physical fitness of contestants shall be certified over the signature of the physician as a part of the inspector's report submitted after each set of matches.

32.4. Attendant required. --A physician shall attend at cage side until the conclusion of the final bout. In addition, the promoter shall have at least one (1) ambulance plus two (2) Emergency Medical Technicians- Intermediate (EMT I's) or individuals with greater medical qualifications present until the conclusion of the final bout.

32.5 Oxygen bottles required.- The promoter must ensure that oxygen bottles are kept at cage side for the duration of all Mixed Martial Arts events.

§177-2-33. Decisions.

33.1. By judges. -- Three (3) judges, appointed by the Commission, shall render a decision at the termination of each Mixed Martial Arts bout. Judges shall be of recognized good standing and character and certified by the Association of Boxing Commissions.

~~33.2. Special judges. — Licensed referees, members of the Commission, or designated officials of the Commission may, in an emergency, act as judge.~~

33.32. Location of judges. -- The three (3) judges shall be stationed at opposite sides of the cage.

33.43. Scoring System. -- The 10-Point Must System will be the standard system of scoring a bout.

33.4.(a). Under the 10-Point Must Scoring System, 10 points must be awarded to the winner of the round and nine points or fewer must be awarded to the loser, except for an even round, which is scored (10-10).

33.4.(b). Judges shall evaluate mixed martial arts techniques, such as effective striking, effective grappling, control of the fighting area, effective aggressiveness and defense. Evaluations shall be made in the order in which the techniques appear, giving the most weight in scoring to effective striking, effective grappling, control of the fighting area and effective aggressiveness and defense. Effective striking is judged by determining the number of legal strikes landed by a contestant and the significance of such legal strikes.

33.4.(c). Effective grappling is judged by considering the amount of successful executions of a legal takedown and reversals. Examples of factors to consider are take downs from standing position to mount position, passing the guard to mount position, and bottom position contestants using an active, threatening guard.

33.4.(d). Fighting area control is judged by determining who is dictating the pace, location and position of the bout. Examples of factors to consider are countering a grappler's attempt at takedown by remaining standing and legally striking; taking down an opponent to force a ground fight; creating threatening submission attempts, passing the guard to achieve mount, and creating striking opportunities.

33.4.(e). Effective aggressiveness means moving forward and landing a legal strike or takedown.

33.4.(f). Effective defense means avoiding being struck, taken down or reversed while countering with offensive attacks.

33.54. The following scoring criteria shall be utilized by the judges when scoring a round;

33.5.(a). A round is to be scored as a 10-10 Round when both contestants appear to be fighting evenly and neither contestant shows dominance in a round;

33.5.(b). A round is to be scored as a 10-9 Round when a contestant wins by a close margin, landing the greater number of effective legal strikes, grappling and other maneuvers;

33-5-(c). A round is to be scored as a 10-8 Round when a contestant overwhelmingly dominates by striking or grappling in a round;

33-5-(d). A round is to be scored as a 10-7 Round when a contestant totally dominates by striking or grappling in a round.

§177-2-34. Fouls (with explanations as warranted).

34.1. The following are fouls and will result in penalties if committed by an contestant.

34.2. Holding or grabbing the fence.

A contestant may put their hands on the fence and push off of it at ~~anytime~~ any time. A contestant may place their feet onto the cage and have their toes go through the fencing material at any time. When a contestant's fingers or toes go through the cage and grab hold of the fence and start to control either their body position or their opponent's body position it now becomes an illegal action. If a contestant is caught holding the fence or cage material, the referee shall issue a one-point deduction from the offending ~~contestants~~ contestant's scorecard if the foul caused a substantial change in position such as the avoidance of a takedown. If a point deduction for holding the fence occurs, and because of the infraction, the fouling contestant ends up in a superior position due to the foul, the contestants should be re-started by the referee, standing in a neutral position

34.3. Holding opponent's shorts or gloves.

A contestant may not control their opponent's movement by holding onto their opponent's shorts or gloves. A contestant may hold onto or grab their opponent's hand as long as they are not controlling the hand only by using the material of the glove, but by actually gripping the hand of the opponent. It is legal to hold onto your own gloves or shorts

34.4. Butting with the head.

Any use of the head as a striking instrument whether head to head, head to body or otherwise is illegal.

34.5. Eye gouging of any kind.

Eye gouging by means of fingers, chin, or elbow is illegal. Legal strikes or punches that contact the contestant's eye socket are not eye gouging and shall be considered legal attacks.

34.6. Biting or Spitting at an opponent.

Biting in any form is illegal. A contestant must recognize that a referee may not be able to physically observe some actions, and must make the referee aware if they are being bit during an exhibition of unarmed combat.

34.7. Hair pulling.

Pulling of the hair in any fashion is an illegal action. A contestant may not grab a hold of his opponent's hair to control their opponent in any way.

34.8. Fish Hooking.

Any attempt by a contestant to use their fingers in a manner that attacks their opponent's mouth, nose or ears, stretching the skin to that area will be considered Fish hooking. Fish hooking generally is the placing of fingers into the mouth or your opponent and pulling your hands in opposing directions while holding onto the skin of your opponent.

34.9. Groin attacks of any kind.

Any attack to the groin area including, striking, grabbing, pinching or twisting is illegal.

34.10. Intentionally placing a finger into any orifice, or into any cut or laceration of your opponent. A contestant may not place their fingers into an open laceration in an attempt to enlarge the cut. A contestant may not place their fingers into an opponent's, nose, ears, mouth, or any body cavity.

34.11. Downward pointing of elbow strikes;

A contestant may not employ ceiling to floor (12 o'clock to 6 o'clock) elbow strikes.

34.12. Small joint manipulation.

Fingers and Toes are small joints. Wrists, Ankles, Knees, Shoulders and Elbows are all large joints.

34.13. Strikes to the spine or the back of the head.

Strikes behind the crown of the head and above the ears are not permissible within the Mohawk area. Strikes below the top of the ear are not permissible within the nape of the neck area.

34.14. Heel kicks to the kidney.

34.15. Throat strikes of any kind, including, without limitation, grabbing the trachea.

No directed throat strikes are allowed. A directed attack would include a contestant pulling his opponents head in a way to open the neck area for a striking attack. A contestant may not gouge their fingers or thumb into their opponent's neck or trachea in an attempt to submit their opponent.

34.16. Clawing, pinching, twisting the flesh or grabbing the clavicle.

Any attack that targets the contestant's skin by clawing at the skin or attempting to pull or twist the skin to apply pain is illegal. Any manipulation of the clavicle is a foul.

34.17. Kicking the head of a grounded opponent.

A grounded opponent is any contestant who has more than just the soles of their feet on the ground. (i.e. could have one shin or one finger down to be considered a downed contestant). If the referee determines that a contestant would be a grounded contestant but is not solely because the cage fence has held contestant from the ground, the referee can instruct the combatants that he is treating the contestant who is being held up solely by the cage or ropes as a grounded contestant.

34.18. Kneeing the head of a grounded opponent.

A grounded opponent is any contestant who has more than just the soles of their feet on the ground. If the referee determines that a contestant would be a grounded contestant but is not solely because the cage fence has held contestant from the ground, the referee can instruct the combatants that he is treating the contestant held up solely by the cage or ropes as a grounded contestant.

34.19. Stomping of a grounded contestant.

Stomping is considered any type of striking action with the feet where the contestant ~~if~~ lifts their leg up bending their leg at the knee and initiating a striking action with the bottom of their foot or heel. Axe kicks shall not be classified as stomps. Standing foot stops shall not be classified as a foul; therefore, this foul does not include stomping the feet of a standing contestant.

34.20. The use of abusive language in the fighting area.

34.21. Any unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to opponent.

34.22. Attacking an opponent on or during the break.

A contestant shall not engage their opponent in any fashion during a time-out or break of action in competition.

34.23. Attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee.

34.24. Timidity.

Timidity is defined as any contestant who purposely avoids contact with his opponent or runs away from the action of the fight. Timidity can also be called by the referee for any attempt by a contestant to receive time by falsely claiming a foul, injury, or purposely dropping or spitting out their mouthpiece or other action designed to stall the fight.

34.25. Interference from a mixed martial artists seconds.

Interference is defined as any action or activity aimed at disrupting the match or causing an unfair advantage to be given to one combatant. ~~Corners~~ Corners are not allowed to distract the referee or influence the actions of the referee in any fashion.

34.26. Throwing an opponent out of the caged area.

A contestant shall not throw their opponent out of the cage.

34.27. Flagrant disregard of the referee's instructions.

A contestant must follow the instructions of the referee at all times. Any deviation or failure to comply may result in the contestant's disqualification.

34.28. Spiking the opponent to the floor on the head or neck (pile-driving).

A pile driver is considered to be any throw where you control your opponent's body by placing his feet straight up in the air with his head straight down and then forcibly drive your opponent's head into the canvas or flooring material. It should be noted that when a contestant is placed into a submission hold by their opponent, if that contestant is capable of elevating their opponent they may bring that opponent down in any fashion they desire because they are not in control of their opponent's body. The contestant who is attempting the submission can either adjust their position, or let go of their hold before being slammed to the floor.

34.29. Attacking an opponent after the bell has sounded the end of the period of unarmed combat.

34.30. Linear Knee Strikes are prohibited.

§177-2-35. Scoring the fouls.

Fouls may result in a point being deducted by the official scorekeeper from the offending Mixed Martial Arts contestant's score. The scorekeeper will be responsible for calculating the true score after factoring in the point deduction; judges shall not deduct for fouls.

§177-2-36. Assessing Fouls.

Only a referee may assess a foul. If the referee does not call the foul, judges shall not make that assessment on their own and cannot factor such into their scoring calculations.

§177-2-37. Foul Procedures.

37.1. If a foul is committed, the referee shall:

~~37.1.(a).~~ call time;

~~37.1.(b).~~ Direct the non-injured contestant to a neutral corner;

~~37.1.(c).~~ check the fouled contestant's condition and safety; and

~~37.1.(d).~~ assess the foul to the offending contestant, deduct points, and notify each ~~corner's~~ corners' seconds, judges and the official scorekeeper.

37.2. If a bottom contestant commits a foul, unless the top contestant is injured, the match shall continue, so as not to jeopardize the top contestant's superior positioning at the time.

~~37.2.(a)~~ The referee shall verbally notify the bottom contestant of the foul.

~~37.2.(b).~~ When the round is over, the referee shall assess the foul and notify both ~~corner's~~ corners' seconds, the judges and the official scorekeeper.

~~37.2.(c).~~ The referee may terminate a bout based on the severity of a foul. For such a flagrant foul, a contestant shall lose by disqualification.

§177-2-38. Time Considerations for Fouls.

38.1. Low Blow Foul.

~~38.1.(a).~~ A contestant who has been struck with a low blow is allowed up to 5 minutes to recover from the foul as long as in the cage side doctor's opinion the contestant may possibly continue on in the match. If the contestant states that they can continue on before the 5 minutes of time have expired, the referee shall as soon as practical restart the fight. If the contestant goes over the 5 minute time allotment the match cannot be restarted and the contest must come to an end with the outcome determined by the round and time in which the match was stopped.

38.2. Contestant who is not fouled by low blow but another foul.

~~38.2.(a).~~ If a match or exhibition is stopped because of an accidental foul, the referee shall determine whether the contestant who has been fouled can continue or not. If the contestant's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of the foul and if the foul did not involve a concussive impact to the head of the contestant who has been fouled, the referee may order the match or exhibition continued after a recuperative interval of not more than 5 minutes. Immediately after separating the contestants, the referee shall inform the Commission's representative of his or her determination that the foul was accidental.

~~38.2.(b).~~ If a contestant is fouled by blow that the referee deems illegal, the referee should stop the action and call for time. The referee may take the injured contestant to the cage side doctor and have the cage side doctor examine the contestant as to their ability to continue on in the contest. The cage side doctor has up to 5 minutes to make their determination. If the cage side doctor determines that the contestant can continue in the contest, the referee shall as soon as practical restart the fight. However, unlike the low blow foul rule, the contestant does not have up to 5 minutes of time to use at their discretion.

~~38.2.(c)~~. For a foul other than a low blow, the fouled contestant is not guaranteed 5 minutes of recovery time. If deemed not fit to continue by the referee or cage side physician, the referee must immediately call a halt to the match. If the contestant is deemed not fit to continue by the referee or cage side physician but some of the 5 minute foul time is still remaining, the contestant cannot avail himself of the remaining time.

~~38.2.(d)~~. If the referee stops the match and employs the use of the cage side doctor, the cage side physician's examinations may not exceed 5 minutes. If 5 minutes is exceeded, the match cannot be re-started and the match must end.

§177-2-39. Scoring of Incomplete Rounds.

The judges shall score an incomplete round. If the referee penalizes either contestant, then the appropriate points shall be deducted when the scorekeeper calculates the final score for the partial round.

§177-2-40. Tap Out.

40.1. Submission by Tap Out.- When a contestant physically uses his hand to indicate that he or she no longer wishes to continue.

40.2. Verbal Tap Out.- When a contestant verbally announces to the referee that he or she does not wish to continue or makes audible sounds such as screams indicating pain or discomfort.

§177-2-41. Combat Area.

41.1. Matches may take place in a cage or ring that has been approved by the commission. The cage or ring shall meet the requirements set forth by the commission and is subject to inspection prior to each match by a Commission representative such as a referee.

41.2. Cages. -The cage specifications shall meet the following requirements.

~~41.2.(a)~~. The fighting area floor shall be no smaller than 18 feet by 18 feet and no larger than 32 feet by 32 feet. The fighting area floor shall be padded in a manner as approved by the Commission, with at least one inch layer of foam padding. Padding shall extend beyond the fighting area and over the edge of the platform. The floor must be covered with canvas, vinyl or other plastic rubberized material. The Athletic Commission shall have discretion to approve the flooring materials prior to use at the event. The fighting area floor shall not be more than four feet above the floor of the building and shall have suitable steps or ramp for use by the participants.

~~41.2.(b)~~. Post shall be made of metal not more than six inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a minimum height of 58 inches above the fighting area floor and shall be properly padded in a manner approved by the Commission. The fighting area floor shall be enclosed by a fence made of such material as will not allow a contestant to fall out or break through it onto the floor or spectators, including, but not limited to, vinyl coated chain link

fencing. 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 separate entries onto the fighting area floor.

41.3. The Commission shall determine all seating arrangements at cage side necessary to effectuate the match. A promoter may submit a proposed seating arrangement to the commission one week before the event.

41.4. Ring – The ring specification shall meet the following requirements:

41.4.(a). The ring shall be no smaller than twenty feet square and no larger than thirty-two feet square within the ropes. One corner shall have a red designation and the corner directly opposite shall have a blue designation.

41.4.(b). The floor must extend at least eighteen inches beyond the ropes. The ring floor must be padded in a manner as approved by the commission, with at least one inch layer of foam padding. The floor must be covered with canvas, vinyl or other plastic rubberized material. The Athletic Commission shall have discretion to approve the flooring materials prior to use at the event. The fighting area floor shall not be more than four feet above the floor of the building and shall have suitable steps or ramp for use by the participants.

41.4.(c). Ring posts must be made of metal, not more than three inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a minimum height of fifty-eight inches above the ring floor, and must be properly padded in a manner approved by the commission. Ring posts must be at least eighteen inches away from the ring ropes.

41.4.(d). There must be five ring ropes not less than one inch in diameter and wrapped in soft material. The lowest ring rope must be twelve inches above the ring floor.

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

§177-2-42. Referee's License.

42.1. Qualifications. -- Referees shall be appointed by the Commission and shall be ~~licensed~~ certified by the Association of Boxing Commissions.

42.2. Prohibitions. -- No person who is, directly or indirectly, interested in the management of a contestant, or who is an individual promoter, or stockholder in, or an employee of a corporation, or interested in an unincorporated club or association engaged in the promotion of an event, shall be ~~granted a~~ allowed to ~~referee's license~~ said event.

42.3. Powers of the referee. -- After a match starts, the referee has power to declare a match "No Contest," and order the purse held, pending the decision of the Commission. The referee shall immediately make a report to the Commission. The referee may stop a match if, in his opinion, a contestant is badly outclassed or injured or the referee may temporarily stop a match and consult

the examining physician on the advisability of stopping the contest in case a contestant appears injured. The referee is empowered to enforce discipline and the rules pertaining to the conduct and behavior of contestants and seconds.

42.4. Duties of referee.

(a) General. -- Subject to the supervision of Commission members or Deputy Commissioners, the chief official of the match is the referee who has general supervision over matches.

(b) Ascertainment of seconds. -- The referee shall, before starting a match, ascertain from each contestant the name of his chief second and shall hold the chief second responsible for the conduct of his assistant seconds during the progress of the contest.

(c) Instructions. -- The referee shall call contestants together in the cage before each match for the final instructions at which time each contestant shall be accompanied by only his chief second.

42.5. Referee's inspection. -- The referee shall inspect the bandages and the gloves and make sure that no grease or other foreign substances have been applied to either the gloves or the bodies of the contestants to the detriment of the opponent.

42.6. Referee's uniform. -- Referees shall wear official uniforms as authorized by the Commission.

§177-2-43. "Down" Without Being Struck; Counted Out.

43.1. General. -- A contestant who goes down without being struck and stays down shall be disqualified.

43.2. Absence of contestant. -- Should a contestant leave the cage during the 1 minute period between rounds and fail to be in the cage when the audible sound signals to resume the match or should a contestant fail to rise from his chair at the beginning of a round, the referee shall start counting immediately and unless the contestant is on his feet in the cage at the end of 10 seconds, the referee shall declare him counted out.

§177-2-44. Withholding Purse.

When counting a contestant out or disqualifying a contestant for fouling, the purse shall held, in effect, giving a decision, should the referee decide that one (1) or both the contestants are not honestly competing, or that the knockdown is "A Dive" or the found prearranged termination of the bout, the referee shall stop the bout and order the purses of both Contestant held pending investigation by the Commission.

§177-2-45. Gloves.

Contestants shall wear gloves which weigh a minimum of 4 ounces in weight. Contestants shall wear the same weight gloves. If gloves used in any match have been used

before, they must be whole, clean and in sanitary condition. Gloves must be supplied by the promoter and approved by the Commission. No contestant may be allowed to supply their own gloves for any match.

§177-2-46. Hand Wraps.

All contestants shall be required to gauze and tape their hands prior to a match. In all weight classes, the bandages on each contestant's hand shall be restricted to soft gauze cloth not more than 15 yards in length and 2 inches in width, held in place by not more than 10 feet of surgeon's tape, 1 inch in width, for each hand. Surgeon's adhesive tape shall be placed directly on each hand for protection near the wrist. However, as opposed to boxing wraps, 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. The bandages shall be evenly distributed across the hand. Bandages and tape shall be placed on the contestant's hands in the dressing room in the presence of the inspector and, if warranted, in the presence of the manager or chief second of his or her opponent.

Under no circumstances are gloves to be placed on the hands of a contestant until the approval of the inspector is received. Substances other than tape and gauze shall not be utilized. For example, pre-wraps may not be used.

§177-2-47. Use of Vaseline, Gels, or other similar substances.

Contestants may not apply ~~any~~ body grease, gels, balms, lotions, oils, or other substances to the hair, face or body. This includes the use of excessive amounts of water "dumped" on a contestant to make him/her slippery. However, Vaseline may be applied solely to the facial area at cage side in the presence of an inspector, referee, or a person designated by the commission. Any contestant applying anything other than Vaseline in an approved fashion at cage side may be penalized a point or subject to loss by disqualification.

§177-2-48. Contestants's Attire and Appearance.

48.1. Trunks.- A contestant shall wear mixed martial arts shorts, biking shorts, or kick boxing shorts.

48.2. Shirt or Gi.- Male contestants may not wear a shirt or gi during competition. Female contestants shall wear a body shirt or other appropriate attire during competition.

48.3. Shoes.- Contestants may not wear shoes or padding on their feet during a competition.

48.4. No articles of clothing other than as specified above shall be allowed.

48.5. No articles of clothing shall be worn by any contestant unless approved by the Commission.

§177-2-49. Protective Equipment.

49.1. Male contestants must provide and shall wear a groin protector during the match.

49.2. Female contestants may not wear groin protectors. Female contestants must provide and shall wear a breast protector.

49.3. All contestants must provide and wear a mouthpiece during the match.

49.4. No other protective gear shall be allowed.

49.5. No protective equipment shall be worn by a contestant unless approved by the Commission.

§177-2-50. Appearance.

The inspector or Commission representative shall determine whether head or facial hair presents any hazard to the safety of the contestant or their opponent or will interfere with the supervision and conduct of the match. Facial hair may not be braided. Fingernails and toenails must be trimmed subject to the approval of the Commission.

§177-2-51. Water Buckets, etc.

There shall be provided by the promoter a sufficient number of water buckets for the use of all contestants. Promoters shall also provide fans, stools for seconds and other articles as are required in the conduct of a match. Promoters shall provide a sufficient number of buckets so that each contestant shall have a new bucket for his or her fight.

§177-2-52. Officials Fees (at a minimum).

52.1. Day of Show Chief Deputy or Deputy in Charge \$75.00.

52.2. Judges \$50.00 per day.

52.3. Time Keeper \$50.00 per day.

52.4. Referees \$75.00 per day.

52.5. Inspectors \$50.00 per day.

§177-2-53. Medical Testing Requirements.

~~53.1. A contestant shall submit evidence to the Commission that the contestant is free of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and proof of passing a Hepatitis B and a Hepatitis C virus test. The Commission will only accept laboratory results that are no older than twelve (12) months.~~

53.1. An annual blood test is not required. The Athletic Commission shall follow the "First Blood Rule". Upon seeing first blood, the referee will take the contestant to a neutral

corner and wipe off the blood. If the bleeding stops, the fight will continue. If, in the referee's discretion, the bleeding cannot be stopped, the fight will be stopped.

53.2. A female contestant shall submit a negative pregnancy test to the Commission. The test must be no older than 2 days prior to the date of the match.

53.3. The Commission may require additional medical testing of a contestant in order to protect the health and safety of the contestant. Additional testing may include an electrocardiogram (EKG), neurological exam, CAT scan (CT), cardiovascular stress test, or any other examination, which the Commission deems necessary.

53.4. A contestant who fails may not participate in a match.

§177-2-54. Safety of Contestants.

Notwithstanding any provision of these rules to the contrary, the Commission may take any additional measures deemed necessary to protect the safety of all contestants.

§177-2-55. Reserved.

§ 177-2-56. Types of Match Results.

A match may end under the following results:

56.1. Submission:

(a) Tap out: when a contestant physically uses their hand(s) to indicate that they no longer wish to continue.

(b) Verbal tap out: when a contestant verbally announces to the referee that they do not wish to continue.

56.2. Knockout "(KO)": failure to rise from the floor.

56.3. Technical knockout "(TKO)":

(a) Referee stops bout because contestant can no longer defend themselves; or

(b) Cage side physician advises referee to stop bout; or

(c) When an injury as a result of a legal maneuver is severe enough to terminate the bout.

56.4. Decision via scorecards:

(a) Unanimous: when all 3 judges score the match for the same contestant.

(b) Split decision: when 2 judges score the match for 1 contestant and 1 judge scores for the opponent.

(c) Majority decision: when 2 judges score the bout for the same contestant and 1 judge scores the bout a draw.

56.5. Draws:

(a) Unanimous: when all 3 judges score the bout a draw;

(b) Majority: when 2 judges score the bout a draw;

(c) Split when all 3 judges score it differently and the score total results in a draw.

56.6. Disqualification: when an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul severe enough to end the match.

56.7. Forfeit: when a contestant fails to begin competition or prematurely ends the match for reasons other than injury or indicating a tap out.

56.8. Technical draw:

(a) When an injury sustained during the match as a result of an intentional foul causes the injured contestant to be unable to continue and the injured contestant is even or behind on the score cards at the time of the stoppage.

(b) When an injury sustained during the match and a result of an unintentional foul causes the injured contestant to be unable to continue and the sufficient number of rounds have been completed with the results of the scorecards being a draw.

56.9. Technical decision: when the match is prematurely stopped due to an injury and a contestant is leading on the scorecards.

56.10. No contest: when a match is prematurely stopped due to accidental injury and a sufficient number of rounds have not been completed to render a decision via the scorecards.

§ 177-2-57. Consumables.

A contestant may only consume water or an electrolyte replacement drink (such as Gatorade, power aid, etc.,) at cage side.

§ 177-2-58. Amateur Specific Rules.

All previous rules and regulations shall apply for Amateur Mixed Martial Art bouts unless indicated as such under this section.

58.1. Protective Equipment:

(a) Shin guards with instep pads shall be worn if contestants have 3 or less amateur fights.

(b) Ankle wraps are optional.

(c) Gloves: 6oz gloves for all weight categories.

(d) Female Chest Protectors are optional.

58.2. Rounds:

3 or less amateur fights will be (3) 2 minute rounds with a 60 sec rest between. 4 or more amateur fights will be (3) 3 min rounds with a 60 sec rest between.

58.3. Fouls:

(a) Use of the head for striking is not allowed.

(b) Elbow strikes are not allowed.

(c) Knees to the head are not allowed.

(d) Kicks to the head are not allowed.

(e) Fist strikes to the head of grounded opponent are allowed. Striking the back of the head of either a standing or grounded opponent is not allowed.

(f) Neck cranks are not allowed.

(g) Twisted leg submissions are not allowed.

(h) Linear Kicks to the knees are not allowed.

(i) Heel kicks to the kidneys are not allowed.

APPENDIX 1

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS WEIGHT CLASSES

Male and female Contestant shall use the same weight classes.

Weight Class ~~Weights~~-Weight Difference Allowed:

Flyweight up to 125 lbs. 10*

Bantamweight over 125 to 135 lbs. 10*

Featherweight over 135 to 145 lbs. 10*

Lightweight over 145 to 155 lbs. 10*

Welterweight over 155 to 170 lbs. 10*

Middleweight over 170 to 185 lbs. Note 1

Light Heavyweight over 185 to 205 lbs. Note 1
Heavyweight over 205 to 265 lbs. Note 1
Super Heavyweight over 265 lbs. Note 1

* If a boxer weighs 158 pounds or less, the boxer shall not be allowed to match another boxer when the weight differential is more than 10 pounds. *See* W. Va. Code § 29-5A-19.

Note 1: If both Contestants weigh 159 pounds or more at the scheduled weigh in and their weights fall within the same weight class, then there is no restriction on the weight differential.

Matches which cross weight classes:

If the two Contestants are weighed at the scheduled weigh in and their weights fall in different weight classes, the Maximum Weight Difference Allowed shall be:

- One contestant weighs 158 pounds or less: 10 pounds
- One contestant is Middleweight: 10 pounds
- One contestant is Light Heavyweight 15 pounds
- One contestant is Heavyweight 20 pounds
- One contestant is Super Heavyweight 50 pounds



L Wayne Williams

From: Chase Hill <wvachill@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 10:00 AM
To: L Wayne Williams; Jim Frio & Associates; Doug; Delea B. Thomas
Subject: Public comment records
Attachments: comments.doc

I have compiled a list of the public comments that I received via email. I have not received any written comments by regular mail.

Thanks,

Chase

L Wayne Williams

From: Chase Hill <wvachill@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 10:26 AM
To: L Wayne Williams; Delea B. Thomas; Jim Frio & Associates; Doug
Subject: Updated Public Comments WVAC
Attachments: comments.doc

Please note that comments 16-23 were just added. I received them this morning when I got to work via email.

Chase

TABLE OF COMMENTS

Comment	From Who	Date
1.	Mark Gomez	6/25/2015
2.	Mark Gomez	6/25/2015
3.	Jerry Thomas	7/2/2015
4.	Christopher Martindale	7/6/2015
5.	Jerry Thomas	7/15/2015
6.	Tommy Wilson	7/16/2015
7.	Keith Noe	7/6/2015
8.	Keith Noe	7/7/2015
9.	Keith Noe	7/17/2015
10.	Danny Haynes	7/18/2015
11.	Mark Gomez	7/19/2015
12.	Mark Gomez	7/19/2015
13.	Mark Gomez	7/19/2015
14.	Mark Gomez	7/19/2015
15.	Mark Gomez	7/19/2015
16.	Chris Smith	7/20/2015
17.	Andrea Smith	7/20/2015
18.	Andrea Smith	7/20/2015
19.	Chris Smith	7/20/2015
20.	Chris Smith	7/20/2015
21.	Mark Gomez	7/20/2015
22.	Chris Smith	7/20/2015
23.	Andrea Smith	7/20/2015

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Athletic Commission filed the *proposed* legislative rule with the Secretary of State's Office on June 18, 2015. The public comment period closed on July 20, 2015. The Athletic Commission received 23 comments from 8 different individuals.

On July 23, 2015, the Athletic Commission conducted a public meeting to review the comments. Approximately, 19 members of the public attended the meeting. The Athletic Commission reviewed every comment and sought additional information on several topics from the promoters, referees and fighters, who attended the meeting. For example, at least five members of the public spoke to the Athletic Commission regarding Comment 5 - whether to replace the annual blood test requirement with a "First Blood" rule. As a result of reviewing the public comments, the Athletic Commission made six significant changes to the proposed rule including the definition of "Amateur", adopting the first blood rule, deleting the video monitor requirement, eliminating the \$10.00 application fee for amateurs, and changing the weigh-in deadline. The changes have been incorporated into the attached rule.

The 23 comments and the response to each comment are listed below.

Comment 1) Mark Gomez: June 25

I was disappointed to find that the current State Athletic Commission continues to violate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with its endorsement of Legislative Rule 177-2-4 Licenses regarding "Promoters." The Commission's proposed legislative rules discriminate against Americans with disabilities in requiring licensed "promoters" to be "physically fit."

I cannot envision any scenario that would require a West Virginia licensed promoter to be "physically fit" in order to perform his or her duties.

I note that these rules have been reviewed, approved and endorsed by the Office of the Attorney General, Wayne L Williams, Acting General Counsel of the State Athletic Commission.

I forward a copy of this correspondence to Attorney Kim P. Nuckles, State ADA Coordinator (adacoordinator@wv.gov) for further public comment and true professional direction for the State Athletic Commission on this matter.

I respectfully request that the State Athletic Commission remove this unlawful, offensive and discriminatory language from its Legislative Rules immediately.

Thank you for your consideration. Mark Gomez

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 1:

Rejected 3-0 (Vote)

The comment stated that requiring promoters to be "physically fit" violated the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Athletic Commission rejected the comment. The requirement in Section 4.3(b) of the Rule is taken directly from the statute. W.Va. Code § 29-5A-8(c) states that every promoter must be "physically fit and mentally sound;..."

Comment 2) Mark Gomez: June 25

WV Code 29-5A-24 Rules governing contestants and matches, states the following:

(b) The commission shall propose such rules to regulate professional and semiprofessional boxers, professional or amateur mixed martial artists . . . :
Provided,

That for professional boxers and boxing matches and exhibitions, the commission rules shall comply with the current unified rules of boxing as adopted by the Association of Boxing Commissions;

For professional mixed martial artists and mixed martial arts matches and exhibitions, the commission rules shall comply with the current unified rules of mixed martial arts as adopted by the Association of Boxing Commissions.

The Commission proposed Rule 177-2-14. Designation of Officials. Rule 177-2-14 states in part that "No referee or judge shall be so designated by the Commission who does not hold a valid certification for that position issued by the Association of Boxing Commissions."

Commissioners have publicly stated that ABC-trained officials are "the best of the best." Further, Commissioners have publicly stated that MMA officials need to be ABC trained and certified in order to insure safety. Putting money toward the proposition, the Commission held a state-funded MMA Referee and Judge Seminar in June, 2015. The participants attended a nine (9) hour training session and successful students passed a 200 question exam.

In stark contrast, Commissioners appoint individuals that are not ABC certified to officiate professional boxing matches. At the June 25, 2015 official public meeting of the State Athletic Commission, Commissioner Frio presented a proposed list of officials, none of which were "the best of the best" and ABC-certified, to officiate professional boxing bouts on the weekend of June 26, 2015. Nonetheless, the Commission approved Commissioner Frio's list of fight officials. Without doubt, ABC-trained and -certified officials have proved themselves through a rigorous hands-on training and academic curriculum. To allow professional and semi-professional boxers' safety to be in hands of untrained Referees is unconscionable. These fighters are just as deserving of the best officiating that is possible. The Commission has expressed a continued willingness to fund more ABC Referee and Judge seminars and clinics throughout the State. This is a safety issue of the utmost importance.

I respectfully request that the Commission and the Rules Committee require all WV fight officials to be ABC certified before being allowed to officiate any of the combat sports in West Virginia.

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 2:

Rejected 3-0

The comment requested that the MMA Rule require the use of fight officials who are certified by the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) for boxing events.

The comment is outside the scope of the proposed Rule. The proposed Rule only regulates amateur and professional mixed martial arts. Boxing events are regulated pursuant to the boxing rule set forth in W.Va. Code State Rules § 177-1-1, *et seq.*

Comment 3) Jerry Thomas: July 2

Gentlemen, I have reviewed the proposed Series 2- Rules & Regulations for Mixed Martial Arts and would like to commend you on a job well done !

The only comment/request that I have is that you consider changing 177-2-41.4a that is located on page 22. I am respectfully requesting that the ring size be changed to read;

The ring shall be no smaller than sixteen feet square and no larger than twenty four feet square within the ropes.

The reason for this is that our ring is 16X16 inside the ropes. Also, as you may be aware, the standard rings are 16 to 20 feet square inside the ropes and the minimum size ring listed in series 1 (Boxing rules) is sixteen feet.

If you have any questions or if you need any additional information from me, please let me know.

Thank you for considering this change.

Athletic Commission's Response To Comment 3:

Rejected 3-0

The comment wanted the size of the MMA ring to be reduced to the same size as the ring specified in the boxing rules. *See* W.Va. Code of State Rules § 177-1-41.1.

The Athletic Commission rejected the comment. The Athletic Commission follows the ABC Rules for mixed martial arts as required under W.Va. Code § 29-5A-3a(d). The ABC Rules specify the ring dimensions to be "...no smaller than twenty feet square and no larger than thirty-two feet square within the ropes;..."

Comment 4) Christopher Martindale: July 6

We definitely need to do what we can to change the rule that would stop ammy fighters that have fought in Rough n Rowdy or Tough Man because that would stop most of the people in WV from fighting ammy mma. And also we should try to follow the unified rules (hard for out of state people to come fight under different rules) thank you, Christopher W Martindale.

Athletic Commission's Response To Comment 4:

Accepted 3-0

The comment wanted the definition of amateur to be revised to allow for contestants who have fought for prize money in the Rough n Rowdy or Tough Man contests to be able to compete in amateur MMA.

The Athletic Commission revised the definition of "amateur" in response to Comment 4. The definition will be modified to read "Amateur - means a fighter who has not been licensed as a professional MMA contestant in the State of West Virginia or any other jurisdiction."

Comment 5) Jerry Thomas: July 15

Dear Commissioners;

I would like to comment on the proposed MMA rules regarding blood testing. I would like to request that the commission consider removing the annual blood test, and replace it with the "First Blood" rule during competition. I have discussed this rule with veteran fight doctors and health care professionals, who have advised me that an annual blood test is really a waste of money.

Athletic Commission's Response To Comment 5:

Accept 3-0

The comment requested the removal of the annual blood test and to follow the "First Blood" rule during bouts.

In response to significant public discussion, the Athletic Commission decided to replace the annual blood test requirement in Section 177-2-53 with a "First Blood" requirement. Upon seeing first blood, the referee will take the contestant to a neutral corner and wipe off the blood. If the bleeding stops, the fight will continue. If in the referee's discretion the bleeding cannot be stopped, the fight will be stopped.

Comment 6) Tommy Wilson: July 16

Commissioners,

I highly recommend that the commission change the definition of amateur to read:

177-2-3

3.1 "Amateur" a fighter who has been properly trained by a licensed MMA Trainer and who has not been licensed or competed as a professional in the state of WV or any other jurisdiction.

I would also recommend changing:

7.3 Minimum number of rounds:

There shall be a minimum number of eighteen (18) 5 min rounds, or thirty (30) 3 minute rounds or any combination that equals 90 total scheduled minutes of fighting.

and adding

58.4 Training requirements.

All amateurs must be properly trained by a licensed MMA Trainer for the safety and fair competition of the sport. If it is found that the fighter has not properly been trained, both fighter and trainer shall be suspended indefinitely from all combat sports.

After discussion with several pro mma fighters, trainers and promoters, including Blake Grice our ABC trainer, they all agreed that we need to police the amateurs in order to prevent the unskilled and untrained from getting into the cage. This is a major safety issue and someone will get seriously hurt if we do not enforce some kind of restriction. You could also add the responsibility of the promoter to insure that the fighters they are matchmaking for are properly trained also. You could add that the promoter could be fined or suspended pending a majority vote by the commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 6:

Rejected 3-0.

This comment included three proposed changes. First, 6a: change the definition of Amateur; 6b: Change the minimum number of rounds to a minimum number of minutes; and 6c: Include training requirements.

In response to 6a: Definition of amateur: No action required. Duplicate of Comment 4.

In response to 6b: Change the minimum number of rounds to a minimum number of minutes. The Athletic Commission rejected the request since the minimum number of rounds would be simpler and easier to administer than a minimum number of minutes. In addition, a fight card with a mixture of professional fights, amateur fights, and novice amateur fights would be complicated since all three fights have different duration requirements for the length of rounds.

In response to 6c: Training requirements. Several promoters, fighters, and referees addressed this comment. The Athletic Commission concluded that requiring promoters to verify the hours of training and the quality of training for each fighter would impose a heavy burden on the promoters. In addition, the referee has the discretion to stop any fight which presents a severe mis-match between opponents.

Comment 7) Keth Noe: July 6

I saw Chris Smith's post about a couple of rules. Guys who have fought in toughman have no advantage whatsoever in amateur mma. If they are required to have eight amateur bouts before turning pro how can they meet the requirements?

Also shin guards could be a bad idea, especially when the fight goes to the ground.

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 7:

Rejected 3-0.

This comment included two proposed changes. First, 7a: the comment questioned the requirement that a fighter have 8 amateur fights before turning pro; and 7b: the requirement of shin guards.

In response to 7a: Question regarding the requirement of a fighter to have 8 amateur fights before turning pro. The Athletic Commission retained the requirement that an MMA fighter must compete in a minimum of 8 verified amateur fights before he can be licensed as a professional fighter. In addition, pursuant to Comment 4, the Athletic Commission revised the definition of "Amateur". This revision will make it easier for contestants to compete in amateur fights.

In response to 7b: Question regarding the requirement of shin guards. The Athletic Commission rejected the comment for safety concerns. The proposed rule requires that fighters with 3 or fewer amateur fights must wear shin guards. The Athletic Commission wants to ensure safety for *novice* amateur MMA fighters. The use of shin guards for fighters with 4 or more amateur fights is prohibited.

Comment 8) Keith Noe: July 7

Another thing. "No shows" need some sort of punishment. Given your history as a promoter you know what I'm talking about. I think a 60 day suspension for amateurs. Maybe 90 or 120 for professionals.

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 8:

Rejected 3-0.

This comment is regarding "no-shows" for professional and amateur contestants. The Athletic Commission was sympathetic to promoters who will have a show disrupted if an amateur contestant fails to appear and fight as promised. However, the Athletic Commission maintained that an amateur contestant is just that, an amateur. The Athletic Commission decided

that any amateur who decided not to compete in a combat sport should be free to do so without repercussions from the Athletic Commission.

Professional fighters who have signed a contract and fail to appear will be subject to an automatic suspension for a period of 60 days. *See* Section § 177-2-15.1.

Comment 9) Keith Noe: July 17

Video monitors should be optional for events. It is going to be hard enough getting things going in this part of the state. I think it is a good thing but should be optional.

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 9:

Accepted 3-0.

The Athletic Commission decided to delete the requirement for a minimum number of video monitors at each event. However, promoters are free to utilize as many video monitors as they choose or to utilize none if they so choose or to utilize none if they so choose.

Comment 10) Danny Haynes: July 18

A couple of rules I would like to see changed include:

1) 3.1 "Amateur" - means a contestant who has not competed for prize money and has never been licensed as a professional Mixed Martial Arts Contestant by any jurisdiction.

THIS RULE MUST CHANGE OR IT WILL DESTROY AMATEUR MMA IN WEST VIRGINIA BEFORE IT GETS STARTED.

Comment - PLEASE REMOVE "HAS EVER COMPETED FOR PRIZE MONEY" FROM THE DEFINITION OF AMATEUR. These words will automatically disenfranchise and deny the right to compete to everyone (more than 10,000 fighters) that has ever fought in Rough N Rowdy Brawl style tournaments in WV since prize money was involved even if contestant was not paid. These contestants are not professional and do not have the 8 sanctioned amateur MMA fights required to turn pro.

2) Another rule that I would like to see go away is 172-2-58 under amateur specific rules requirement for shin guards with instep pads for the first 3 fights.

Thank you for your time.

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 10:

No Action Necessary.

This comment requested two proposed changes. First, 10a: to change the definition of Amateur to allow for contestants who have competed in Rough n Rowdy and Toughman contests to compete as Amateurs; and 10b: the requirement of shin guards.

In response to 10a: Change the definition of Amateur. This comment is a duplicate of Comment 4. Pursuant to Comment 4, the Athletic Commission has changed the definition of Amateur. Therefore, no further action required. *See* Comment 4.

In response to 10b: The requirement of shinguards. This comment is a duplicate of Comment 7b. For the safety of the novice amateurs, the Athletic Commission has decided to maintain the requirement in the proposed rule for fighters who have fought three or less fights to be required to wear shin guards. Fighters who have fought 4 or more fights are prohibited from wearing shin guards. *See* Comment 7b.

Comment 11) Mark Gomez: July 19

What is the definition of an Inspector, Chief Inspector, and Deputy Commissioner? I have seen these terms used on many of the State Athletic Commission's official correspondence but the Code and Rules do not address these positions? Will this year's Legislative Rules define these official fight positions?

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 11:

Rejected 3-0.

This comment questioned the duties of Inspector, Chief Inspector and Deputy Commissioner. The Athletic Commission stated that the duties of an Inspector, Chief Inspector and Deputy Commissioner are set forth in great detail in the Rule. Specifically, the duties are

enumerated in Sections 177-2-10.3, 16, 24, 26, 30, 32, 46, 47, and 50. The Athletic Commission concluded that the specific duties constitute an adequate definition of the role of the inspectors and deputy commissioner.

Mr. Gomez, who made this specific comment, was in attendance and appeared to be satisfied with the clarification.

Comment 12) Mark Gomez: July 19

Previous State Athletic Commissions have allowed Boxing USA to sanction amateur boxing events using their own infrastructure and organization of volunteer officials to produce such successful week-long national Olympic trials held in Charleston in June, 2015. These volunteer officials, gleaning years of experience, were able to simultaneously announce, direct and officiate three rings of amateur boxing with contestants as young as 8 years of age.

When reviewing the West Virginia Code, it is clear that the Legislature wanted to treat amateur boxing differently and separately from professional boxing. Review of Senate Bill 436 shows the same statutory treatment given to the newly authorized amateur mixed martial arts and its separate rule sets from professional mixed martial arts. Legislature specifically designated three specific amateur mixed martial arts organizations, the ISKA, the WKA, or the ISCF to provide amateur MMA rules. This includes the certification of their own officials. Like Boxing USA, these organizations have successfully sanctioned amateur combat sports on an international basis for many years, have many experienced and certified fight officials ready for duty and are recognized by many state combat sports commissions, including our neighbor state, the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The current Commission has taken the position that the Legislature demands that all amateur mixed martial arts events be sanctioned by the State Athletic Commission and officiated by ABC certified officials. To date, the Commission has held one MMA officials' clinic and currently only has officially appointed 10 persons to be MMA officials. In June, 2015, the Commission's attorney told Kanawha Circuit Court Judge King that the Commission "only has enough officials to hold one amateur MMA event a month." Currently, the Commission has not publicly scheduled any further amateur MMA ABC officials' clinics as the fight season quickly approaches. Fighters, gyms, and promoters are ready to start fighting. The West Virginia municipalities that regularly host fight events expect the revenue that fight events bring to their economies.

In drafting its proposed Legislative Rules, why didn't the Commission treat amateur MMA as an amateur sport, and let amateur organizations sanction West Virginia amateur MMA? Also, if the Commission decides to state-sanction every

amateur MMA event, doesn't the State of West Virginia incur liability if an official is negligent in his duties and a contestant is hurt? If other states recognize the amateur sanctioning status of the ISKA, the WKA, and the ISCF, why won't this Commission? Does the Commission believe that it can provide enough fight officials to meet the demand of the new amateur MMA sport? Thank you for your consideration. Mark Gomez

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 12:

Rejected 3-0.

This comment is regarding the ISKA, WKA and ISCF, sanctioning the amateur mixed martial art events. The Athletic Commission stated that the proposed rule adopts the rules of the Association of Boxing Commissions for amateur and professional mixed martial arts as specifically set forth in W.Va. Code § 29-5A-3a(d).

In addition, the Athletic Commission has previously litigated this same issue with Mr. Christopher Smith (a business associate of Mr. Gomez who made Comment 12) in Civil Action No.: 15-C-983, Circuit Court of Kanawha County. The Circuit Court adopted the Athletic Commission's position and rejected Mr. Smith's position that the Athletic Commission must utilize the rules from the World Kickboxing Association (WKA), International Sport Karate Association (ISKA), or International Sport Combat Federation (ISCF). However, Judge King's decision has been appealed to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals by Mr. Smith.

Comment 13) Mark Gomez: July 19

I ask the following question during the public comment period:

What statutory authority does the Commission rely to impose a \$10.00 license fee on Amateur MMA contestants in its proposed rules? I cannot find any such authorization.

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 13:

Accepted 3-0.

This comment concerns the proposed license fee for amateurs. There is no specific statutory authority to impose a license fee of \$10.00 for Amateur Contestants. The Athletic Commission will delete the license fee.

Comment 14) Mark Gomez: July 19

The Commission's proposed new amended Rule 3.4 defines "Deputy--means an individual appointed and trained by the Commission to represent the Commission in its absence."

What exactly is the training required by the Commission to become a deputy commissioner pursuant to the new Rule 3.4?

Will the Commission's proposed rules set forth a curriculum, course of study, training manual or other study materials for a person interested in becoming a Deputy Commissioner?

What other qualifications does the Commission require for consideration to be appointed a Deputy Commissioner?

Will the appointment of Deputy Commissioners be merit based or on a political basis, or other considerations?

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 14:

No Action necessary; clarification only.

This comment concerned training of a Deputy Commissioner. The Athletic Commission clarified to Mr. Gomez, who made the comment, that the only training available to become a Deputy Commissioner is on-the-job training. There is no official curriculum. The Athletic Commission asked Mr. Gomez if he had any additional comments on this issue and Mr. Gomez stated he did not. Mr. Gomez appeared to be satisfied with the clarification.

Comment 15) Mark Gomez: July 19

What is the Commission's reasoning for and purpose of retaining any portion of 177-2.5? This Legislative Rule is unfavorable to small business. This legislative rule has nothing to do with the safety of fighters or the administration of this amateur MMA sport. If the Commission does not strictly comply with this Rule,

state-wide, it is subjecting the State of West Virginia to liability for violations of promoters' civil rights. Whether the rule comes into play or not, it is bad policy.

Thank you for your consideration. Mark Gomez

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 15:

Rejected 3-0.

This comment concerned venues with a minimum number of seating. The Athletic Commission explained that the minimum seating capacity of 2,500 found in the current version of Rule 177-2-5 (2013) has already been deleted from the proposed Rule. Furthermore, the mandatory number of video monitors has also been deleted under Comment 9. However, the Athletic Commission will retain the right to approve the venue as set forth in the final sentence of Section 177-2-5.

Comment 16) Chris Smith: July 20

Below is the new statutory law §29-5A-24. (b) that just took effect in June from Senate Bill 436 allowing any of the three national amateur MMA sanctioning bodies to regulate amateur MMA in West Virginia. However, none of these sanctioning bodies are not reflected in the proposed rules. Why is this commission proposing separate rules that do not comply with the statutory law below?

The law clearly says all amateur boxing and amateur mixed martial arts matches are sanctioned and regulated by separate sanctioning bodies and rules than the West Virginia Athletic Commission. It is my understanding that the West Virginia Athletic Commissions role is to make sure the sanctioning bodies are complying with their own rules.

Right now the Athletic Commission only has 3 out of 5 commissioner slots filled but none have any background in Mixed Martial Arts. They are supposed to have at least one commissioner with at least 3 years experience in the health care industry and another commissioner with at least 3 years experience in Mixed Martial Arts but both commissioner post are still vacant.

How can this commission propose rules for amateur mixed martial arts when they have no commissioners with any mixed martial arts background? Clearly the intent of the Legislature was to allow the 3 sanctioning bodies with vast

experience and expertise to properly regulate amateur mixed martial arts in West Virginia just like USA Boxing regulates amateur boxing in WV.

§29-5A-24. Rules governing contestants and matches.

(b) The commission shall propose such rules to regulate professional and semi-professional boxers, professional or amateur mixed martial artists, professional and semiprofessional boxing matches and exhibitions and professional or amateur mixed martial arts matches and exhibitions:

Provided, That for professional boxers and boxing matches and exhibitions, the commission rules shall comply with the current unified rules of boxing as adopted by the Association of Boxing Commissions; for professional mixed martial artists and mixed martial arts matches and exhibitions, the commission rules shall comply with the current unified rules of mixed martial arts as adopted by the Association of Boxing Commissions; for amateur boxers and boxing matches or exhibitions, the commission rules shall comply with the amateur rules for boxing adopted by the United States Boxing Authority; and for amateur mixed martial artists and mixed

martial arts matches or exhibitions, the commission rules shall follow the current rules for the International Sport Karate Association, the World Kickboxing Association or the International Sport Combat Federation at any given match or exhibition. For full contact boxing and other boxing events that follow nontraditional rules, rules governing the safety of the participants and the fair and honest conducting of the matches or exhibitions are authorized.

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 16:

16a: Rejected 3-0.

16b: Motion to Clarify 3-0. No action necessary.

This comment requested two proposed changes. First, 16a: questioned the use of Association of Boxing Commissions rules for MMA as opposed to WKA, ISKA, or ISCF; and 16b: the comment wanted to know how the Athletic Commission could adopt a legislative rule for MMA when the Athletic Commission does not have a commissioner with a mixed martial arts background.

In response to 16a: The use of Association of Boxing Commissions rules for MMA as opposed to WKA, ISKA, or ISCF. The Athletic Commission reiterated its position that the issue

has been litigated in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County in Civil Action No.: 15-C-983 and that the Court adopted the Commission's position. *See* Response to Comment 12.

In response to 16b: The comment wanted to know how the Athletic Commission could adopt a legislative rule for amateur MMA when the Athletic Commission does not have a commissioner with a mixed martial arts background. First, the statutory requirement that the Athletic Commission have one commissioner with an MMA background and one commissioner with a medical background only became effective on June 15, 2015 – approximately one month ago. Second, Chairman Hill advised Mr. Smith, who made the comment, that more than 20 people have applied to the Governor to become members of the Athletic Commission. As soon as additional commissioners are appointed, the Athletic Commission will have a more extensive background in combat sports. Third, the Athletic Commission has no authority to select its own commissioners. *See* W.Va. Code § 29-5A-1.

Comment 17) Andrea Smith: July 20

Athletic Commission's Proposed Rule:

On your FISCAL NOTE SUMMARY, you refer to W.VA. CODE §29-5A-20.

§29-5A-20. Licenses for contestants, referees and managers.

No professional contestant, trainer, inspector, referee or professional manager is permitted to take part in any boxing contest or exhibition unless holding a license from the state, said license to be issued by the commission upon payment of ten dollars a year. Such fees shall accompany the application and shall be in the form of a certified check or money order and shall be issued to the treasurer of the state of West Virginia to be deposited in the general fund. Should such license not be granted, the treasurer shall refund the full amount.

“The proposed rule reflects changes in licensing fees enacted in W.Va. Code §29-5A-20. The proposed rule imposes a nominal fee of \$10.00 on Amateur MMA contestants.”

My Public Comment:

Nowhere in §29-5A-20 does it refer to MMA. It only refers to boxing (and the Commission as stated during one of your public meetings said they were not going to open up the rule making for boxing – only the MMA part). This \$10.00 fee you want to charge to Amateur MMA contestants is not compliant with the state code.

In your memorandum, why are you quoting §29-5A-6 and §29-5A-17? Those codes are for “Payment of official in charge and Referee and judges; appointment by commission; powers, payment”. Those statutes have NOTHING to do with a §29-5A-20 which is “licenses for contestants, referees and managers” to impose a \$10.00 fee you want to charge to Amateur MMA contestants. Why are you mixing a statute for LICENSES and a statute for PAYMENT OF OFFICIALS?

Athletic Commission’s Response to Comment 17:

No action necessary.

The comment stated two questions to the proposed rule. First, 17a: question concerning the Fiscal Note as it refers to W.Va. Code §29-5A-20; and 17b: question concerning the memorandum as it refers to W.Va. Code §29-5A-6 and §29-5A-17.

In Response to 17a and 17b: This comment seeks clarification on W.Va. Code §29-5A-6, §29-5A-17, and §29-5A-20 as it relates to charging amateur contestants an annual fee of \$10.00. This is a duplicate of Comment 13. Pursuant to Comment 13, the Athletic Commission has addressed this concern and will delete the license fee for amateurs. *See* Comment 13.

Comment 18) Andrea Smith: July 20

Athletic Commission’s Proposed Rule:

§177-2-3. Definitions.

The words used in this rule shall have the following meanings, unless the content indicates a different meaning:

3.1. “Amateur” – means a contestant who has not competed for prize money and has never been licensed as a professional Mixed Martial Arts contestant by any jurisdiction.

My Public Comment:

This definition of “Amateur” knocks out everyone that has ever competed in a Rough N Rowdy Brawl or Toughman style tournament. Well over 10,000 fighters have competed in these events over the years. Many of these fighters

have strong backgrounds in wrestling, boxing, kickboxing, karate, judo, taekwondo, catch wrestling, kung fu etc. These people have competed for prize money at these events so they can't be classified as "Amateur" the way the proposed rule is written but they do not have the 8 amateur fights or experience to turn professional.

What does the word DISCRIMINATE mean? It means: to unfairly treat a person or group of people differently from other people or groups.

So how does one that has fought in Rough N Rowdy Brawl or Toughman events become an amateur MMA fighter if they choose to do so? Are they not allowed to participate in the amateur MMA sport because there is a prejudice towards these fights with the definition of Title §177-2-3.1?

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 18:

No action necessary.

The comment refers to the proposed meaning of the word "Amateur". This comment is a duplicate Comment of 4. Pursuant to Comment 4, the Athletic Commission has revised the definition of Amateur. *See* Comment 4.

Comment 19) Chris Smith: July 20

Mr. Hill,

Below are some more of my public comments for the rule changes to 177 series 2 Mixed Martial Arts rules. Please make available for the public to see on the WV Secretary of States website.

Thanks,

Christopher MacCorkle Smith
A.C.R. Promotions, Inc.
Rough N Rowdy Brawl
Ruckus in the Cage
304-610-2881

1) 3.1 "Amateur" - means a contestant who has not competed for prize money and has never been licensed as a professional Mixed Martial Arts Contestant by any jurisdiction.

Comment - PLEASE REMOVE "HAS EVER COMPETED FOR PRIZE MONEY" FROM THE DEFINITION OF AMATEUR. THIS RULE MUST CHANGE OR IT WILL DESTROY AMATEUR MMA IN WEST VIRGINIA BEFORE IT GETS STARTED. These words will automatically deny the right to compete to everyone (more than 10,000 fighters) that has ever fought in Rough N Rowdy Brawl/Toughman style tournaments in WV since prize money was involved even if contestant was not paid. These contestants are not professional and do not have the 8 sanctioned amateur MMA fights required to turn pro.

2) 177-2.5. Venues.

Venues with a seating capacity of 3,500 or more must have a minimum of four video monitors displaying a continuous live feed of the match for the spectators; venues with a maximum seating capacity of 3,499 or less must have at least two video monitors displaying a continuous live feed of the match for the spectators. All such video monitors must be a minimum of six feet by six feet. No event shall take place until the venue has been approved by the commission.

Comment: This rule does nothing to enhance the safety of the fighters and should be left up to each promoter. This requirement will hurt smaller promotions as it may cost thousands per show for this service.

3) Another rule that I would like to see removed is 172-2-58 under amateur specific rules requirement for shin guards with instep pads for the first 3 fights.

Comment: Shin guards are not required in at least 3 competing states including Kentucky, Virginia and Ohio. This rule makes it more difficult to compete with these states. Nearly all fighters do not want to wear them as they get in the way while grappling.

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 19:

No action necessary.

This comment raises three questions. First, 19a: the comment refers to the proposed meaning of the word "Amateur"; 19b: refers to the video monitor requirement; and 19c: refers to the shin guard requirement.

In response to 19a: Definition of amateur. This comment is a duplicate of Comment of 4. Pursuant to Comment 4, the Athletic Commission has revised the definition of Amateur. *See* Comment 4.

In response to 19b: Video monitor requirement. This comment is a duplicate of Comment 9. The Athletic Commission decided to delete the requirement for a minimum number of video monitors at each event. *See* Comment 9.

In response to 19c: Shin guard requirement. This comment is a duplicate of Comment 7b. The Athletic Commission rejected the comment for safety concerns. *See* Comment 7b.

Comment 20) Chris Smith: July 20

Mr. Hill,

In section 177-2-16 Weigh-in. 16.2, I noticed the weigh-ins requirement is extremely restrictive for mixed martial arts (professional and amateur) and is not treated fairly as professional boxing. Please eliminate the requirement for weigh-ins to be completed no later than 2 hours prior to the start of a contest or fighter will be suspended for 6 months. The same rule says the commission in its discretion will decide whether or not to conduct day before weigh-ins or day of. I feel that the promoter shall decide whether or not to do day before or day of weigh-ins as the promoter is paying the bills.

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 20:

Accepted 3-0.

The comment requests changes to the rule pertaining to weigh-ins. After considerable discussion with promoters who were present, the Athletic Commission decided to change the requirement that weigh-ins must be completed no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the event. The Athletic Commission decided that weigh-ins must be completed no later than the first bell to start the event.

Comment 21) Mark Gomez: July 20

Public Comment

Is the commission going to continue the practice of appointing fight officials the day of the scheduled and permitted fight events?

I suggest and comment that The commission set forth rules in this years proposed legislative rules that require designated commissioners or Deputy commissioners

provide a tentative list of officials within 10 business days of issuing a permit to the fight promoter.

10 business days allows the commissioners to have ample time to sign by officials. Early assignment of fight officials allows the promoter to acquire other qualified officials if there is a problem with the official attending the event. Such advanced assignment a fight officials will facilitate the orderly administration of each state sanctioned fight event. Thank you you consideration. Mark Gomez
Sent from my iPhone

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 21:

Motion to Clarify 3-0. No action required.

The Athletic Commission explained to Mr. Gomez, who made the comment, that the Athletic Commission is notifying promoters approximately two weeks prior to the event who will be designated as officials for the event and the requested fee for each official. Notifying the promoter two weeks prior to the event allows the promoter an opportunity to object to any official who demands a higher fee than the statutory minimum fee. Event officials are not approved until a few days prior to the event in order to minimize the window in which an official could become ill or otherwise be unable to perform his duties at the event.

Comment 22) Chris Smith: July 20

Athletic Commission's Proposed Rule:

- §177-2-52, Officials Fees (at a minimum)
- 52.1 Day of Show Chief Deputy or Deputy in Charge \$75.00
- 52.2 Judges \$50.00 per day. (3)
- 52.3 Time Keeper \$50.00 per day. (1)
- 52.4 Referees \$75 per day. (2)
- 52.5. Inspectors \$50.00 per day (4)

Please see the statute below in Senate Bill 436:

§29-5A-17. Referee and judges; appointment by commission; powers, payment.

(b) Once appointed by the commission, the promoter bears the responsibility for ensuring the attendance of referee and judges at events. The commission shall provide promoters with advance notice of the person(s) appointed as referee and judges. A promoter, at his or her own expense, may request alternate referee(s) and judge(s) be appointed by the commission to serve in the event a first appointed referee or judge is unable to satisfy the role. Under no circumstances may a member of the commission or any employee of the commission serve as a referee or judge for a boxing or mixed martial arts contest conducted in this state.

Comments:

I've noticed during the public Athletic Commission meetings the Commission is naming officials down to the wire sometimes even the day before or day of the show for the events. I've noticed the official's fees have doubled for several promoters because it is down to the wire and maybe they have to save their show.

There is nothing in your rules on giving the promoter advance notice of the persons appointed as referees and judges. Can you give at least 20 days notice in advance of a show so a promoter can find his own officials if a promoter needs to find their own alternate officials according to statute §29-5A-17. Since these judges and referees have to be ABC certified, I think there has to be adequate time for a promoter to find these certified officials.

The inspectors, timekeeper and Chief Deputy don't need to be ABC certified, right? So what if your inspectors, timekeepers and Chief Deputy don't want to work for the minimum rates? I can find my own alternate officials according to §29-5A-17. How does one become an approved official as a timekeeper, inspector, or a Chief Deputy in case your officials don't want to work for the minimum fees?

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 22:

Motion to Clarify. 3-0. No action necessary.

This comment raises two questions. First, 22a: comment requested advance notice of at least 20 days be given to promoters regarding the officials for each event; and 22b: comment requested that promoters to have the ability to use some officials in certain positions that do not require ABC certification, who will work the event for the minimum statutory fee.

In response to 22a and 22b: The Athletic Commission reiterated that promoters are free to suggest alternate officials to the Commission who will work an event for the statutory minimum

fee. However, all officials must be approved by the Athletic Commission. Mr. Smith, who made the comment, appeared to be satisfied with the clarification

Comment 23) Andrea Smith: July 20

Athletic Commission's Proposed Rule:

§177-2-10. Inspectors or Deputies.

10.1 General. -- The Commission shall appoint inspectors as the Commission may deem necessary. At least one (1) inspector shall be at all Mixed Martial Arts events.

10.2. Inspector's Report. -- At each MMA event, an official or inspector of the Commission shall attend. Upon its conclusion, the Chief Deputy or the deputy in charge shall sign a detailed report showing the results of the fights and the physician's report. The inspector shall be responsible for all details of the contest and shall file all necessary reports within 48 hours after the event with the chairman of the Commission. The inspector may choose other inspectors to assist him with his duties with the approval of the Commission.

My Public Comment:

The above set of rules list at least one (1) inspector. I see the number of inspectors on this part of the rules lists 4.

§177-2-52. Officials Fees (at a minimum) 52.5. Inspectors \$50.00 per day (4)

Can you be more specific on the number of inspectors at these events? I think it should be no more than two. I've seen a lot of these inspectors hanging out in the stands watching the shows.

Why does the inspector choose to hire extra help?

How does one become an inspector? What kind of training is involved?

Athletic Commission's Response to Comment 23:

Accepted comment and clarified rule 3-0.

This comment concerned the number of required Inspectors at the events. The Athletic Commission clarified that the numbers in Sections 52.2, 52.3, 52.4 and 52.5 set forth in parentheses, are simply stray marks and will be deleted from the proposed rule. There is no mandatory requirement for a minimum of four inspectors at every event. The Athletic

Commission will appoint the number of inspectors required to allow the event to operate smoothly. For example, an event consisting of 120 contestants may require more inspectors than an event consisting of 20 contestants. Mrs. Smith appeared to be satisfied with the clarification.

PLEASE PRINT

Athletic Commission Meeting
July 23, 2015

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	<u>PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL</u>
<u>Paul Thornton</u>	<u>OFFICIAL</u>	<u>thorntpe@yahoo.com</u>
<u>MARK GOMEZ</u>	<u>ACR Promotions</u>	<u>304-410-1982</u>
<u>Andrea Smith</u>	<u>ACR Promotions</u>	<u>304-610-2881</u>
<u>Chris Smith</u>	<u>ACR Promotions</u>	<u>304-610-2881</u>
<u>Steve Dotson</u>	<u>USA Boxing</u>	<u>304-736-3898</u>
<u>GARY TERRY</u>	<u>USA Boxing</u>	<u>304-768-3214</u>
<u>MIKAEL BOSSE</u>	<u>Bosse Promotions</u>	<u>304-345-6779</u>
<u>JEREMY BATES</u>	<u>Fighter</u>	<u>606-831-0107</u>
<u>Mike Sheppard</u>	<u>Promoter</u>	<u>304-483-5503</u>
<u>Corky Salyer</u>	<u>Promoter / TRAINER</u>	<u>606-369-6140</u>
<u>Adam Collins</u>	<u>Fighter</u>	<u>606-369-6020</u>
<u>Angelo Myzone</u>	<u>Promoter</u>	<u>304-670-9406</u>
<u>Jazmin Hunt</u>		<u></u>
<u>WAYNE WILLIAMS</u>	<u>AGD</u>	
<u>RIK EDGAR</u>	<u>Arena Manager</u>	<u>REDGAR@BIGSANDYARENA.com</u>
<u>Jenny Thomas</u>	<u>WV Sports Promo</u>	<u>JENNY@WVSPORTSPROMO.com</u>

NAME

REPRESENTING

PHONE NUMBER
OR EMAIL

Jessica Pennington

Don Pennington

Robert Riley

jpenning565@gmail.com

304) 521-5624

rileyr@mctc.edu