

CHAPTER 341

COMBATIVE SPORTS COMMISSION

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341.01 [Repealed, 1999 c 223 art 2 s 80 para (c)]

341.02 [Repealed, 1999 c 223 art 2 s 80 para (c)]

341.03 [Repealed, 1975 c 136 s 77]

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341.13 [Repealed, 1999 c 223 art 2 s 80 para (c)]

341.14 [Repealed, 1975 c 136 s 77]

341.15 [Repealed, 1999 c 223 art 2 s 80 para (c)]

341.21 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Applicability.** The definitions in this section apply to this chapter.

Subd. 2. **Boxing.** "Boxing" means the act of attack and defense with the fists, using padded gloves, that is practiced as a sport under the rules of the Association of Boxing Commissions, or equivalent. Where applicable, boxing includes tough person contests.

Subd. 2a. **Combatant.** "Combatant" means an individual who employs the act of attack and defense as a boxer, tough person, or mixed martial artist while engaged in a combative sport.

Subd. 2b. **Combative sport.** "Combative sport" means a sport that employs the act of attack and defense with the fists, with or without using padded gloves, or feet that is practiced as a sport under the rules of the Association of Boxing Commissions, unified rules for mixed martial arts, or their equivalent. Combative sports include professional boxing and professional and amateur tough person and professional and amateur mixed martial arts contests.

Subd. 3. **Commission.** "Commission" means the Combative Sports Commission.

Subd. 4. **Combative sports contest.** "Combative sports contest" means a professional boxing, a professional or amateur tough person, or a professional or amateur mixed martial art bout, competition, match, or exhibition.

Subd. 4a. **Director.** "Director" means the executive director of the commission.

Subd. 4b. **HBV.** "HBV" means the hepatitis B virus with the e-antigen present in the most recent blood test.

Subd. 4c. **HCV.** "HCV" means the hepatitis C virus.

Subd. 4d. **HIV.** "HIV" means the human immunodeficiency virus.

Subd. 4e. **Individual.** "Individual" means a living human being.

Subd. 4f. **Mixed martial arts contest.** "Mixed martial arts contest" means a contest between two or more individuals consisting of any combination of full contact martial art including, but not limited to, Muay Thai and karate, kickboxing, wrestling, grappling, or other recognized martial art.

Subd. 4g. **Person.** "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, organization, or other business entity organized and existing under law, its officers and directors, or a person holding 25 percent or more of the ownership of a corporation that is authorized to do business under the laws of this state.

Subd. 5. **Professional.** "Professional" means any person who competes for any money prize or a prize that exceeds the value of \$50 or teaches, pursues, or assists in the practice of a combative sport as a means of obtaining a livelihood or pecuniary gain.

Subd. 6. [Repealed by amendment, 2008 c 300 s 20]

Subd. 7. **Tough person contest.** "Tough person contest," including contests marketed as

tough man or tough woman contests, means a contest of two-minute rounds consisting of not more than four rounds between two or more individuals who use their hands, or their feet, or both in any manner. Tough person contest does not include kickboxing or any recognized martial arts contest.

Subd. 8. [Repealed by amendment, 2008 c 300 s 20]

History: 2006 c 282 art 11 s 13; 2007 c 135 art 3 s 30; 2008 c 300 s 20

341.22 COMBATIVE SPORTS COMMISSION.

There is hereby created the Minnesota Combative Sports Commission consisting of nine members who are citizens of this state. The members must be appointed by the governor. One member of the commission must be a retired judge of the Minnesota district court, Minnesota Court of Appeals, Minnesota Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, or the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, and at least four members must have knowledge of the boxing industry. At least four members must have knowledge of the mixed martial arts industry. The governor shall make serious efforts to appoint qualified women to serve on the commission. Membership terms, compensation of members, removal of members, the filling of membership vacancies, and fiscal year and reporting requirements must be as provided in sections 214.07 to 214.09. Unless otherwise provided, the provision of staff, administrative services, and office space; the review and processing of complaints; the setting of fees; and other provisions relating to commission operations are as provided in chapter 214. The purpose of the commission is to protect health, promote safety, and ensure fair events.

History: 2006 c 282 art 11 s 14; 2007 c 135 art 3 s 31; 2008 c 300 s 21

341.23 LIMITATIONS.

No member of the commission may directly or indirectly promote a contest, directly or indirectly engage in the managing of a combatant, or have an interest in any manner in the proceeds from a combative sport contest.

History: 2006 c 282 art 11 s 15; 2008 c 300 s 22

341.24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

The governor may appoint, and at pleasure remove, an executive director and prescribe the powers and duties of the office. The executive director shall not be a member of the commission. The commission may employ personnel necessary to the performance of its duties.

History: 2006 c 282 art 11 s 16

341.25 RULES.

(a) The commission may adopt rules that include standards for the physical examination and condition of combatants and referees.

(b) The commission may adopt other rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter, including, but not limited to, the conduct of all combative sport contests and their manner, supervision, time, and place.

(c) The commission must adopt unified rules for mixed martial arts contests.

(d) The commission may adopt the rules of the Association of Boxing Commissions, with amendments.

History: 2006 c 282 art 11 s 17; 2007 c 135 art 3 s 32; 2008 c 300 s 23; 2008 c 370 s 13

341.26 MEETINGS.

The commission shall hold a regular meeting quarterly and may hold special meetings. Except as otherwise provided in law, all meetings of the commission must be open to the public and reasonable notice of the meetings must be given under chapter 13D. If compliance with section 13D.02 is impractical, the commission may conduct a meeting of its members by telephone or other electronic means so long as the following conditions are met:

(1) all members of the commission participating in the meeting, wherever their physical location, can hear one another and can hear all discussion and testimony;

(2) members of the public present at the regular meeting location of the commission can hear clearly all discussion and testimony and all votes of members of the commission and, if needed, receive those services required by sections 15.44 and 15.441;

(3) at least one member of the commission is physically present at the regular meeting location; and

(4) all votes are conducted by roll call, so each member's vote on each issue can be identified and recorded.

Each member of the commission participating in a meeting by telephone or other electronic means is considered present at the meeting for purposes of determining a quorum and participating in all proceedings.

If a telephone or other electronic means is used to conduct a regular, special, or emergency meeting, the commission, to the extent practical, shall allow a person to monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location. The commission may require the person making such a connection to pay for documented costs that the commission incurs as a result of the additional connection.

If a telephone or other electronic means is used to conduct a regular, special, or emergency meeting, the commission shall provide notice of the regular meeting location, of the fact that some members may participate by telephone or other electronic means, and that a person may monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location. The timing and method of providing notice is governed by section 13D.04.

History: 2006 c 282 art 11 s 18; 2008 c 300 s 24

341.27 COMMISSION DUTIES.

The commission shall:

(1) issue, deny, renew, suspend, or revoke licenses;

(2) make and maintain records of its acts and proceedings including the issuance, denial, renewal, suspension, or revocation of licenses;

(3) keep public records of the commission open to inspection at all reasonable times;

(4) assist the director in the development of rules to be implemented under this chapter;

(5) conform to the rules adopted under this chapter;

(6) develop policies and procedures for regulating mixed martial arts;

(7) immediately suspend an individual license for a medical condition, including but not limited to a medical condition resulting from an injury sustained during a match, bout, or contest that has been confirmed by the ringside physician. The medical suspension must be lifted after

the commission receives written information from a physician licensed in the home state of the licensee indicating that the combatant may resume competition, and any other information that the commission may by rule require. Medical suspensions are not subject to section 214.10; and

(8) evaluate the performance and compensation of the director, including eligibility for salary increases, in keeping with state procedures.

History: 2006 c 282 art 11 s 19; 2007 c 135 art 3 s 33; 2008 c 300 s 25

341.271 GIFT AUTHORITY.

The commission may apply for, receive, and expend in its own name grants and gifts of money consistent with the powers and duties specified in section 341.27. The commission may accept gifts, bequests, grants, payments for services, and other public and private money to help finance the activities of the commission.

History: 2008 c 300 s 26

341.28 REGULATION OF COMBATIVE SPORT CONTESTS.

Subdivision 1. **Regulatory authority; combative sports.** All combative sport contests are subject to this chapter. The commission shall, for every combative sport contest:

- (1) direct a commission member to be present; and
- (2) direct the attending commission member to make a written report of the contest.

All combative sport contests within this state must be conducted according to the requirements of this chapter.

Subd. 1a. **Regulatory authority; boxing contests.** All professional boxing contests are subject to this chapter. Every combatant in a boxing contest shall wear padded gloves that weigh at least eight ounces. Officials at all boxing contests must be licensed under this chapter.

Subd. 2. **Regulatory authority; tough person contests.** All professional and amateur tough person contests are subject to this chapter. All tough person contests are subject to Association of Boxing Commissions rules. Every contestant in a tough person contest shall have a physical examination prior to their bouts. Every contestant in a tough person contest shall wear padded gloves that weigh at least 12 ounces. All tough person bouts are limited to two-minute rounds and a maximum of four total rounds. Officials at all tough person contests shall be licensed under this chapter.

Subd. 3. **Regulatory authority; mixed martial arts contests; similar sporting events.** All professional and amateur mixed martial arts, ultimate fight contests, and similar sporting events are subject to this chapter and all officials at these events must be licensed under this chapter.

History: 2006 c 282 art 11 s 20; 2007 c 135 art 3 s 34,35; 2008 c 300 s 27

341.29 JURISDICTION OF COMMISSION.

The commission shall:

(1) have sole direction, supervision, regulation, control, and jurisdiction over all combative sport contests that are held within this state unless a contest is exempt from the application of this chapter under federal law;

(2) have sole control, authority, and jurisdiction over all licenses required by this chapter; and

(3) grant a license to an applicant if, in the judgment of the commission, the financial responsibility, experience, character, and general fitness of the applicant are consistent with the public interest, convenience, or necessity and the best interests of combative sports and conforms with this chapter and the commission's rules.

History: 2006 c 282 art 11 s 21; 2008 c 300 s 28

341.30 LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Licensure; individuals.** All referees, judges, promoters, trainers, ring announcers, timekeepers, ringside physicians, combatants, managers, and seconds are required to be licensed by the commission. The commission shall not permit any of these persons to participate in the holding or conduct of any combative sport contest unless the commission has first issued the person a license.

Subd. 2. **Entity licensure.** Before participating in the holding or conduct of any combative sport contest, a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or other business entity organized and existing under law, its officers and directors, and any person holding 25 percent or more of the ownership of the corporation shall obtain a license from the commission and must be authorized to do business under the laws of this state.

Subd. 3. **Background investigation.** The commission may require referees, judges, promoters, and combatants to furnish fingerprints and background information under commission rules before licensure. The commission shall charge a fee for receiving fingerprints and background information in an amount determined by the commission. The commission may require referees, judges, promoters, and combatants to furnish fingerprints and background information before license renewal. The fee may include a reasonable charge for expenses incurred by the commission or the Department of Public Safety. For this purpose, the commission and the Department of Public Safety may enter into an interagency agreement.

Subd. 4. **Prelicensure requirements.** (a) Before the commission issues a license to a promoter, corporation, or other business entity, the applicant shall:

(1) provide the commission with a copy of any agreement between a combatant and the applicant that binds the applicant to pay the combatant a certain fixed fee or percentage of the gate receipts;

(2) show on the application the owner or owners of the applicant entity and the percentage of interest held by each owner holding a 25 percent or more interest in the applicant;

(3) provide the commission with a copy of the latest financial statement of the entity; and

(4) provide the commission with a copy or other proof acceptable to the commission of the insurance contract or policy required by this chapter.

(b) Before the commission issues a license to a promoter, the applicant shall deposit with the commission a cash bond or surety bond in an amount set by the commission. The bond shall be executed in favor of this state and shall be conditioned on the faithful performance by the promoter of the promoter's obligations under this chapter and the rules adopted under it. An applicant for a license as a promoter shall submit an application a minimum of six weeks before the combative sport contest is scheduled to occur.

(c) Before the commission issues a license to a combatant, the applicant shall submit to the commission the results of a current medical examination on forms furnished or approved by the commission. The medical examination must include an ophthalmological and neurological

examination, and documentation of test results for HBV, HCV, and HIV, and any other blood test as the commission by rule may require. The ophthalmological examination must be designed to detect any retinal defects or other damage or condition of the eye that could be aggravated by combative sports. The neurological examination must include an electroencephalogram or medically superior test if the combatant has been knocked unconscious in a previous contest. The commission may also order an electroencephalogram or other appropriate neurological or physical examination before any contest if it determines that the examination is desirable to protect the health of the combatant. The commission shall not issue a license to an applicant submitting positive test results for HBV, HCV, or HIV.

History: 2006 c 282 art 11 s 22; 2008 c 300 s 29

341.31 [Repealed, 2008 c 300 s 52; 2008 c 363 art 10 s 35]

341.32 LICENSE FEES; EXPIRATION; RENEWAL.

Subdivision 1. **Annual licensure.** The commission may establish and issue annual licenses subject to the collection of advance fees by the commission for promoters, managers, judges, referees, ring announcers, ringside physicians, timekeepers, combatants, trainers, seconds, business entities filing for a license to participate in the holding of any contest, and officers, directors, or other persons affiliated with the business entity.

Subd. 2. **Expiration and renewal.** A license issued after July 1, 2007, is valid for one year from the date it is issued and may be renewed by filing an application for renewal with the commission and payment of the license fees established in section 341.321. An application for a license and renewal of a license must be on a form provided by the commission. There is a 30-day grace period during which a license may be renewed if a late filing penalty fee equal to the license fee is submitted with the regular license fee. A licensee that files late shall not conduct any activity regulated by this chapter until the commission has renewed the license. If the licensee fails to apply to the commission within the 30-day grace period, the licensee must apply for a new license under subdivision 1.

History: 2006 c 282 art 11 s 24; 2007 c 135 art 3 s 36; 2008 c 300 s 30

341.321 FEE SCHEDULE.

(a) The fee schedule for professional licenses issued by the commission is as follows:

- (1) referees, \$25 for each initial license and each renewal;
- (2) promoters, \$400 for each initial license and each renewal;
- (3) judges and knockdown judges, \$25 for each initial license and each renewal;
- (4) trainers, \$25 for each initial license and each renewal;
- (5) ring announcers, \$25 for each initial license and each renewal;
- (6) seconds, \$25 for each initial license and each renewal;
- (7) timekeepers, \$25 for each initial license and each renewal;
- (8) combatants, \$25 for each initial license and each renewal;
- (9) managers, \$25 for each initial license and each renewal; and
- (10) ringside physicians, \$25 for each initial license and each renewal.

In addition to the license fee and the late filing penalty fee in section 341.32, subdivision 2, if applicable, an individual who applies for a combatant license on the same day the combative sporting event is held shall pay a fee of \$100 at the time the application is submitted.

(b) The fee schedule for amateur licenses issued by the commission is as follows:

- (1) referees, \$10 for each initial license and each renewal;
- (2) promoters, \$100 for each initial license and each renewal;
- (3) judges and knockdown judges, \$10 for each initial license and each renewal;
- (4) trainers, \$10 for each initial license and each renewal;
- (5) ring announcers, \$10 for each initial license and each renewal;
- (6) seconds, \$10 for each initial license and each renewal;
- (7) timekeepers, \$10 for each initial license and each renewal;
- (8) combatant, \$10 for each initial license and each renewal;
- (9) managers, \$10 for each initial license and each renewal; and
- (10) ringside physicians, \$10 for each initial license and each renewal.

(c) The commission shall establish a contest fee for each combative sport contest. The contest fee is \$1,500 per event or not more than four percent of the gross ticket sales as determined by the commission when the combative sport contest is scheduled, except that the amateur combative sport contest fee shall be \$150. The commission shall consider the size and type of venue when establishing a contest fee. The commission may establish the maximum number of complimentary tickets allowed for each event by rule. An amateur combative sport contest fee is nonrefundable.

(d) All fees and penalties collected by the commission must be deposited in the commission account in the special revenue fund.

History: 2006 c 282 art 11 s 25; 2007 c 135 art 3 s 37; 2008 c 300 s 31

341.33 PHYSICAL EXAMINATION REQUIRED; FEES.

Subdivision 1. **Examination by physician.** All combatants must be examined by a physician licensed by this state within 36 hours before entering the ring, and the examining physician shall immediately file with the commission a written report of the examination. The physician's examination may report on the condition of the combatant's heart and general physical and general neurological condition. The physician's report may record the condition of the combatant's nervous system and brain as required by the commission. The physician may prohibit the combatant from entering the ring if, in the physician's professional opinion, it is in the best interest of the combatant's health. The cost of the examination is payable by the person or entity conducting the contest or exhibition.

Subd. 2. **Attendance of physician.** A person holding or sponsoring a combative sport contest shall have in attendance a physician licensed by this state. The commission may establish a schedule of fees to be paid to each attending physician by the person holding or sponsoring the contest.

History: 2006 c 282 art 11 s 26; 2008 c 300 s 32

341.34 INSURANCE.

Subdivision 1. **Required insurance.** The commission shall:

(1) require insurance coverage for a combatant to provide for medical, surgical, and hospital care for injuries sustained in the ring in an amount of at least \$10,000 and payable to the combatant as beneficiary; and

(2) require life insurance for a combatant in the amount of at least \$10,000 payable in case of accidental death resulting from injuries sustained in the ring.

Subd. 2. **Payment for insurance.** The cost of the insurance required by this section is payable by the promoter.

History: 2006 c 282 art 11 s 27; 2008 c 300 s 33

341.35 UNLICENSED EVENTS; MISDEMEANOR.

Any person or persons who send or cause to be sent, published, or otherwise made known, any challenge to fight what is commonly known as a prize fight, or engage in any public combative sport match or contest, with or without gloves, for any prize, reward, or compensation, or for which any admission fee is charged directly or indirectly, or go into training preparatory for the fight, exhibition, or contest, or act as a trainer, aider, abettor, backer, umpire, referee, second, surgeon, assistant, or attendant at the fight, exhibition, or contest, or in any preparation for same, and any owner or lessee of any ground, building, or structure of any kind permitting the same to be used for any fight, exhibition, or contest, is guilty of a misdemeanor unless the licenses required for the holding of the fight, exhibition, or contest have been issued by the commission in compliance with the rules adopted by it.

History: 2006 c 282 art 11 s 28; 2008 c 300 s 34

341.355 CIVIL PENALTIES.

When the commission finds that a person has violated one or more provisions of any statute, rule, or order that the commission is empowered to regulate, enforce, or issue, the commission may impose, for each violation, a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for each violation, or a civil penalty that deprives the person of any economic advantage gained by the violation, or both.

History: 2008 c 300 s 35

341.37 APPROPRIATION.

A commission account is created in the special revenue fund. Money in the account is annually appropriated to the commission for the purposes of conducting its statutory responsibilities and obligations.

History: 2006 c 282 art 11 s 29; 2008 c 300 s 36