

**CHAPTER 72-02.2-01.1**  
**COMMISSIONER OF COMBATIVE SPORTS AND COMMISSION OF COMBATIVE SPORTS**  
**- BOXING**

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**72-02.2-01.1-01. Definitions.**

For purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Board member" means the North Dakota state commission of combative sports, or an agent of the board acting on its behalf.
2. "Boxing" means a contest or match in which the act of attack and defense is practiced with fists by two contestants.
3. "Commissioner" means the North Dakota secretary of state acting as the commissioner of combative sports.
4. "Contestant" or "boxer" means a participant in a match who receives remuneration directly or indirectly as consideration for the participant's performance.
5. "Exhibition" means boxing or sparring where a decision is not rendered.
6. "Gong" means the bell, horn, or buzzer that has a clear tone loud enough for the contestants and referee to hear.
7. "Match" means any bout, contest, or sparring, in which participants intend to and actually inflict punches, blows, or employ other techniques to temporarily incapacitate an opponent in

a match, regardless of whether the object of the participants is to win or display their skills without striving to win.

8. "Matchmaker" means any person who brings together a professional boxer or arranges professional boxing matches.
9. "Promoter" means any person, club, corporation, or association, and in the case of a corporate promoter, includes any officer, director, employee, or stockholder thereof, who produces, arranges, or stages any professional boxing or kickboxing matches.
10. "Registry" means any entity certified by the association of boxing commissions for the purposes of maintaining records and identification of boxers.
11. "Sparring" means boxing for either practice or as an exhibition.
12. "Stalling or faking" means that a boxer is pulling punches or holding an opponent or deliberately maintaining a clinch.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective July 1, 1997; July 1, 2016.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-02. Commission of combative sports.**

The North Dakota commission of combative sports consists of nine members who must be appointed to either one-year, two-year, or three-year terms. Any vacancy in the membership of the board, caused other than by expiration of terms, must be filled only for the balance of the term of the member in whose position the vacancy occurs.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective July 1, 2016.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-03. General provisions.**

These rules govern all boxing matches, exhibitions, or sparring, unless another set of rules is specifically approved in writing for a particular match, exhibition, or sparring as an exception to normal practice by the commissioner. Kickboxing matches will be governed by rules generally recognized and accepted in the kickboxing industry and submitted to the commissioner.

The board and the commissioner have sole direction, management, control, and jurisdiction over all professional boxing or sparring matches to be conducted or held within the state of North Dakota and over all licenses to any and all persons who participate in boxing or sparring.

The commissioner will not approve the following type of boxing matches:

1. Matches containing both amateur and professional contests on the same card.
2. Matches in which more than two contestants appear in the ring at the same time.
3. Matches in which members of the opposite sex are matched against each other.
4. Any barroom type brawls, "so you think you're tough" type contests, roughneck type matches, or matches of a similar character or nature if any contestant receives remuneration directly or indirectly whether or not a contestant has prior organized amateur or professional training.
5. Matches in which there are no gloves used by the contestants.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-04. Licensing.**

An application for a license must be made in writing on a form supplied by the board and be verified under oath by the applicant. The applicable fee must be submitted with the application. A license is valid for one calendar year and expires on December thirty-first of each year. The licenses available and license fees are as follows:

1. Boxer or kickboxer - twenty-five dollars.
2. Cornerperson or second or trainer - twenty-five dollars.
3. Judge - twenty-five dollars.
4. Knockdown counter - twenty-five dollars.
5. Manager - fifty dollars.
6. Matchmaker - fifty dollars.
7. Physician - no fee.
8. Promoter - two hundred fifty dollars.
9. Referee - twenty-five dollars.
10. Timekeeper - twenty-five dollars.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective February 26, 1997; July 1, 2016.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-05. Terms and conditions of license.**

The following terms and conditions apply to licensed boxing participants:

1. Every license, excluding those for professional boxers, is subject to the following terms and conditions:
  - a. The applicant must be at least eighteen years of age;
  - b. The applicant must have at least one year of experience in amateur or professional boxing;
  - c. The applicant must submit verifications, from qualified persons, of the licensee's proficiency, if requested by the board;
  - d. The applicant must agree that training requirements may be established;
  - e. Applicants performing multiple duties must be licensed for each duty, but are not responsible for payment of more than one license fee. The license fee required of those holding more than one license is the highest of the applicable license fees;
  - f. Financial responsibility, experience, character, and general fitness of an applicant, including in the case of corporations, its officers and stockholders, are such that the participation of such applicant will be consistent with the public interest, convenience, or

necessity and the safety of boxing participants and with the best interests of boxing generally; and

- g. For the first infraction of any of the provisions of this subsection, the board may issue a verbal warning. Following a second infraction a written warning may be issued. Following a third infraction the license may be suspended up to a six-month period. However, the board may suspend a license for any serious violation that endangers the life or health of any person.
2. Every license issued to a professional boxer is subject to the following terms and conditions:
    - a. The applicant must be at least eighteen years of age;
    - b. The applicant must provide the applicant's legal and professional name, street address, city, state, country, zip code, telephone number, social security number, date of birth, height, weight, color of eyes, and any distinguishing marks;
    - c. The applicant must provide the names and addresses of the applicant's trainers and managers;
    - d. The applicant must provide the applicant's professional fight record;
    - e. The applicant must disclose whether the applicant is, or has been, under suspension during the preceding twelve months. If so, the state and the reason for the suspension must be disclosed;
    - f. The applicant must provide a picture identification which must be an identification card issued by the commissioner under this section or an official identification card issued by the boxing commission of any other state; and
    - g. The applicant must disclose the date of the most recent complete physical examination; any serious bodily injuries; any serious head injuries; any surgeries; and whether the applicant is taking any medications.
      - (1) If the board determines that a question exists as to the medical condition of a boxer, a complete physical may be required. A list of approved physicians who are qualified to perform the physical will be provided and the boxer must choose one to conduct the physical. Upon completion of the physical the physician chosen shall submit a report of the results directly to the commissioner. The boxer shall also receive a report. The report must affirmatively state the physician's opinion as to the advisability of the boxer participating in the boxing match.
      - (2) The physical performed must address the question raised about the boxer's health and include such testing as a prudent physician would perform to determine the health and fitness of an individual to engage in the sport of professional boxing. The results of all required examinations must be made a part of the boxer's permanent medical record as maintained by the board. The costs of all examinations required by this section shall not be paid by the board.
      - (3) No contestant, under any circumstances, may compete or appear in a match or noncompetitive boxing within thirty days of having suffered a knockout or a technical knockout. All such suspensions must be recorded on the boxer's record by a board official;
    - h. Upon the request of the board the applicant must provide satisfactory evidence of the applicant's ability to compete. The board may hold an informal hearing to determine whether the license should be granted or revoked at the request of the boxer or upon the

board's own motion. The board may also hold an informal hearing to determine whether to review or revoke a suspension of a license issued by the state. The boxer shall be notified of the time and place of the informal hearing and the substance of the matter to be determined. The board shall permit the boxer the opportunity to present evidence on the boxer's behalf;

- i. Boxers shall wear trunks that are belted at the waistline. The trunks may not have any buckles or other ornaments on them that would cause injury;
  - j. A boxer must use a mouthpiece designed for the contestant's mouth;
  - k. Female contestants shall wear a breast protector and groin protector and male contestants shall wear a protection cup;
  - l. All contestants shall have their hair secured in a manner that does not interfere with the vision or safety of either contestant;
  - m. Contestants shall use a minimum of cosmetics;
  - n. A female contestant must certify that she is not pregnant and that the contest will not take place during a menstrual period;
  - o. The board will honor and give faith and credit to reasonable actions of regulatory agencies in other jurisdictions. However, the board may allow a fighter suspended in another state to box in this state if permitted under the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 [Pub. L. 104-272];
  - p. If, in the judgment of the board, the licensee has been guilty of an act detrimental to the best interests of boxing generally, or to the public interest, convenience or necessity, such act is grounds for the denial or suspension of a license;
  - q. For the first infraction under this subsection, the board may issue a verbal warning. Following a second infraction a written warning may be issued. Following a third infraction the license may be suspended up to a six-month period. However, the board may suspend a license for any serious violation that endangers the life or health of any person; and
  - r. A boxer may request an informal hearing before the board to review or revoke a suspension imposed for a recent knockout, injury, or other medical reason upon the boxer's furnishing of further proof of a sufficiently improved physical condition. A boxer may also request an informal hearing before the board to review or revoke a suspension imposed for failure of a drug test or for the use of a false alias, or for falsifying, or attempting to falsify, an official identification card or document, upon the boxer's furnishing of proof that the suspension was not, or is no longer, merited by the facts.
3. Each boxer who is a resident of this state, and each boxer who is a resident of a foreign country who is applying for a boxing license in this state, must register with the commissioner for the purpose of receiving an identification card issued by the commissioner and must renew the identification card at least once every two years. The identification card must contain the following:
- a. A recent passport type photograph of the boxer, supplied by the boxer at the boxer's expense;
  - b. The social security number of the boxer, or in the case of a foreign boxer registering under the provisions of this rule, any similar citizen identification number or professional

boxing number from the boxer's country of residence. The boxer must provide proof of the social security or other identifying number satisfactory to the commissioner; and

- c. A personal identification number assigned to the boxer by a registry.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective July 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-06. Duties of promoter.**

A promoter is subject to the following requirements:

1. Any person, party, or organization acting as a promoter of a professional boxing match must obtain approval from the commissioner at least two weeks prior to the date of the match.
2. Prior to a match, the promoter must file with the board proof of adequate insurance for the protection of the contestants, officials, and the attending public. However, insurance to cover injuries incurred by a contestant as a result of a match is the responsibility of the individual contestant.
3. The promoter shall submit a completed notification of contest form to the commissioner at least five days before a match.
4. Changes in the announced or advertised programs for any main bout contest must be filed with and approved by the board at least forty-eight hours before the weighing-in time of the contest unless otherwise directed or authorized by the board. Notices of such change or substitution must also be included in any public announcement or advertisement relating to the card, and must be conspicuously posted at all box offices on the premises and announced from the ring before the opening bout, and if any of the patrons apply for refunds on tickets already purchased, the promoters shall make such refunds upon demand, provided such tickets are presented at the box office on the date of the program and before the commencement of the second bout or the main bout, whichever comes first.
5. The promoter shall submit ticket information along with a financial report to the commissioner, on a form prescribed by the commissioner, within ten days after the match, as provided in section 72-02.2-01.1-14.
6. The promoter is responsible for the selection and financial arrangements for payment for all officials, except the board members.
7. The promoter must file all contracts between the promoter and the contestants with the board and the board may review and approve such contracts to ensure that they conform to the provisions of these rules.
8. Failure to file any required report or form may result in a denial of the next match requested.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-07. Duties of referee.**

A referee is subject to the following requirements:

1. A referee may not be assigned to officiate more than thirty-two scheduled rounds in any one scheduled promotion.

2. The referee must have a physical examination before acting in the referee's official capacity. This may be done at either the official weigh-in or before the match begins by the ringside physician. A physician's approval must be given to the commissioner before entering the ring.
3. The referee shall exercise immediate authority, direction, and control over the fight for which the referee has been designated, and it is the referee's responsibility to enforce all rules.
4. Before starting a contest the referee shall ascertain from each contestant the name of the contestant's chief cornerperson, and shall gather them together for final instructions; such chief cornerperson will be responsible for the conduct of assistant corners during the contest. At the beginning of each round the referee shall hand out score sheets to each of the three judges.
5. Pursuant to these rules, the referee may stop the fight and make a decision during any stage in the fight, if the referee determines that the bout has become partial, or if a contestant is in such condition that if such contestant continues fighting, the contestant is liable to suffer a serious injury.
6. If a contestant suffers a cut or a wound that is considered dangerous, the referee has the authority to stop the fight. In these cases, the referee shall consult the head ringside physician appointed to attend the fight, on the necessity of stopping the fight.
7. The referee is responsible for deciding whether an injury had been done by a legal or illegal blow, intentional or accidental.
8. When, for whatever reason, a contestant loses a mouthpiece, the referee will proceed to return the mouthpiece when there is a lull in the action. The referee will exercise full authority, to avoid a contestant ejecting the mouthpiece intentionally, and can discount a point as a result of this behavior or disqualify the contestant.
9. At the end of each round, the referee shall collect the score sheets from the three judges, and give the score sheets to the commissioner at ringside for computation.
10. If a referee becomes incapacitated and is unable to complete the entire bout, a timeout shall be called by the commissioner, and an alternate licensed referee shall immediately be assigned to referee.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-08. Duties of judges.**

All judges are subject to the following requirements:

1. Each of the three judges must be seated on a stool midway between the ring posts of the ring, but not on the same side as another judge, and must have an unimpaired view of the ring.
2. The judges must use the "ten point must" score system. The winner of each round must be awarded ten points, and the loser of the round must be awarded nine points or less.
3. Judges shall indicate the winner of each round on the score card by marking and signing their cards in ink. Judges must be discreet at all times. There should be no discussion with anyone except with the board members or the commissioner.
4. A decision that is rendered at the termination of a match may not be changed without a hearing before the board, unless it is determined that the computation of the scorecards

shows a clerical or mathematical error giving the decision to the wrong contestant, in which case such clerical or mathematical error may be corrected by the judges.

5. If a judge becomes incapacitated, and is unable to complete the scoring of a match, a timeout shall be called by the commissioner and an alternate licensed judge must immediately be assigned to score the contest from the point at which the duties were assumed.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-09. Duties of cornerpersons.**

All cornerpersons are subject to the following requirements:

1. A contestant may not have more than three cornerpersons, (unless sanctioned by another body) one of whom must be designated as the chief corner. During the rest period, one corner must be allowed inside the ring, two corners will be allowed on the apron.
2. The corners are restricted to the corner and must not be touching the apron. The corner may not enter the ring until the timekeeper has indicated the end of the round and shall leave the ring at the timekeeper's gong, at which time the ring platform should be cleared of all obstructions.
3. A chief cornerperson may indicate to the referee that the contestant cannot continue and that the contest should be stopped. Verbal notification, hand signals, or mounting of the ring by the chief cornerperson may be used. The throwing of a towel into the ring does not indicate the defeat of the contestant.
4. A corner may not administer alcoholic beverages, narcotics, or stimulants to a contestant, pour or spray excessive water on the body of a contestant, or place ice in the trunks or cup of a contestant during the contest.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-10. Duties of timekeeper and knockdown counter.**

A timekeeper and knockdown counter are subject to the following requirements:

1. The timekeeper must possess a stopwatch. The timekeeper shall indicate the beginning and end of each round by the gong. Ten seconds before the end of each round the contestants shall be warned by the knockdown counter striking the apron.
2. If a contest terminates before the scheduled limit of rounds, the timekeeper shall inform the appropriate officials of the exact duration of the contest.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-11. Duties of physician.**

A physician is subject to the following requirements:



1. The physician shall examine each contestant before the bout at the weigh-in. After the examination, if the contestant is determined to be in acceptable physical condition, the physician must certify this on the form provided by the board.
2. The examination shall include an examination of the following:
  - a. Eyes;
  - b. Ears;
  - c. Mouth and jaw;
  - d. Nose;
  - e. Chest;
  - f. Head;
  - g. Hands;
  - h. Abdomen;
  - i. Blood pressure; and
  - j. Resting heart rate.
3. One of the two physicians, if two physicians are required by the board to be present, will be selected by the board, prior to the match, to be the head physician in charge. If the board has a physician appointed as a member, such board member may not act in the capacity of both a ringside physician and board member during the match.
4. The physician or physicians must be seated near the steps into the ring, one in each corner if two are present. The physician or physicians will remain there for the duration of the contest, unless the physician or physicians are needed in the ring.
5. The physician, or either of the physicians if two are present, may enter the ring at any time during a match, and may terminate any match if, in the physician's opinion, any contestant has received severe punishment or is in danger of serious physical injury.
  - a. In the event of any serious physical injury, such physician shall immediately render any emergency treatment necessary, recommend further treatment or hospitalization if required, and fully report the entire matter to the commissioner within twenty-four hours and, if necessary, subsequently thereafter;
  - b. Such physician may also require that the injured boxer and boxer's manager remain in the ring, or on the premises, or report to a hospital after the contest for such period of time as such physician deems advisable; and
  - c. A physician shall examine each contestant after the bout. If the contestant is determined to be in acceptable physical condition the physician shall certify this on the form provided by the board.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-12. Boxing ticket provisions.**

The following requirements apply to boxing match tickets:

1. All tickets of admission to any such boxing match must bear clearly the purchase price, and no such ticket may be sold for more than such price as printed thereon.
2. The following persons may be admitted to a match without presenting a ticket of admission, but must show appropriate identification as either approved or issued by the commissioner. No other persons may be admitted without presenting an admission ticket.
  - a. The commissioner and board members;
  - b. Persons designated by the commissioner for official duty;
  - c. Officials required to attend under provisions of state law or these rules;
  - d. The principals, managers, and corners who are involved in the match;
  - e. The emergency medical personnel on duty;
  - f. The police officers, firefighters, and other public officials actually on duty; and
  - g. Persons arranged by the promoter for other duties.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-13. Contracts and financial arrangements.**

No promoter, either directly or indirectly, may have any financial interest in a contestant competing on premises owned or leased by the promoter, or in which such promoter is otherwise interested, except pursuant to the specific written authorization of the board.

A copy of all contracts between the contestants and promoters must be given to the board prior to the weigh-in. The board may refuse to honor or approve a contract unless it is filed with the board prior to the weigh-in.

All payments to the contestant will be paid by the promoter or promoter's designee. A contestant may not be paid for services before the contest, and should it be determined by the commissioner that such contestant did not fight an honest match of the contestant's skill, the contestant may not be paid for such services.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-14. Gross revenue fee.**

There is hereby imposed a fee upon each promoter, or other principal, operating in this state who conducts any professional boxing matches held within this state for each such event. The fee must be equal to the product of the gross revenues of each such boxing or sparring match multiplied by three percent but in no event may the fee be less than five hundred dollars. For purposes of this section, gross revenues means any and all revenues, from whatever source derived, received by any promoter, or other principal, on account of any particular match, including any revenues received from any advance ticket sales, gate receipts, promotional or advertising consideration, and from any cable television and pay-per-view telecasts of such match, exclusive of any federal tax thereon.

Each promoter, or other principal, liable for such gross revenue fee shall provide an accounting to the commissioner on a form provided by the commissioner not later than ten days from the date of the particular match, prepared by the promoter or by a certified public accountant, on behalf of the

promoter, using generally accepted accounting principles, which details the source and amount of each component of gross revenues and contains a calculation showing the fee owed to the commissioner. Any source documents or records used by the promoter, or the certified public accountant, in preparing the accounting must be made immediately available to the commissioner, upon request, for verification.

The gross revenue fee due thereon must be remitted to the commissioner by no later than ten days from the date of the match. Any promoter or other principals involved in the receipt of moneys, or staging of the exhibition or match, are jointly and severally liable for the gross revenue fee provided for by this section. Any promoter who fails to calculate or remit the fee, as required, is subject to an immediate suspension of the promoter's license until the delinquent accounting or fee is submitted to the commissioner or until a hearing requested by such promoter is conducted and concluded by or on behalf of the commissioner.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective July 1, 2016.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-15. Sham or collusive matches.**

Any person, including any corporation and the officers thereof, any physician, referee, judge, timekeeper, boxer, manager, trainer, or cornerperson, who promotes, conducts, gives, or participates in any sham or collusive boxing or sparring match, shall be deprived of the person's license. A licensed promoting corporation or matchmaker may not knowingly engage in a course of conduct in which one contestant's skills or abilities is significantly in excess of the other boxer so that a mismatch results with the potential of physical harm to the boxer. If such action occurs, the board may exercise its powers to discipline.

Without otherwise limiting the discretion of the board as provided in these rules, the board may suspend or revoke a license or refuse to renew or issue a license, if it finds that the applicant, or any person who is a partner, agent, employee, stockholder, or associate of the applicant, has been convicted of a crime in any jurisdiction, or is associating or consorting with any person who has or persons who have been convicted of a crime or crimes in any jurisdiction or jurisdictions, or is consorting or associating with bookmakers, gamblers, or persons of similar pursuits, or if the applicant or applicant's associate engaged in similar pursuits, or is financially irresponsible, or has been guilty of or attempted any fraud or misrepresentation in connection with boxing, or has violated or attempted to violate any law with respect to boxing in any jurisdiction or any rules, regulation, or order of the board, or has violated any rule of boxing or which has been approved or adopted by the commissioner, or has been guilty of or engaged in similar, related, or like practices.

When the board is notified in writing of tampering with any contest or contestants, it may send a letter notifying the applicable board or commission of any other state involved.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-16. Weight and weighing ceremony.**

The time of the weigh-in must be approved by the board. Unless otherwise arranged, the boxers must be weighed at least eight but not more than twenty-four hours before the match. The contestants must be weighed in the presence of the other contestants by a board member.

A designated board member shall run the weigh-in. This board member shall take control and inform all participants of the procedure and keep the crowd out of the way.

The scales to be used at the official weighing must be available to all boxers at least two hours before the official weigh-in. For a title fight, there must be two scales, one for the official weigh-in and

one for the boxers' use. The scales must be arranged for and provided by the promoter. The official scale must be certified and calibrated for any title fights and must also be arranged for and paid by the promoter.

Only those contestants who have been previously approved for the contest may be permitted to be weighed in during the official ceremony.

A contestant who has contracted to participate in a given weight class may not be permitted to compete if the boxer's weight exceeds that class, unless the contract provides for the opposing contestant to agree to the weight differential.

If any contestant fails to reach the weight limit determined in the applicable category, at the indicated date and time for the official weigh-in, and the opposing contestant does not agree, each one of them, or both, has two additional hours to make the prescribed weight.

If the contestants fail in making the weight after the two-hour period, both managers must come to an agreement or the bout must be canceled. The boxer may then be allowed to fight an exhibition at the promoter's discretion.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-17. Conduct of matches.**

Boxing matches may not be less than twenty-four total scheduled rounds. Each bout must consist of not less than four scheduled rounds and no more than twelve rounds in length for male contestants and ten rounds for female contestants; such rounds to be no more than three minutes each for male contestants and two minutes for female contestants with one minute rest between rounds. There must be a maximum of ten minutes between bouts, except for an intermission that may not exceed twenty minutes. A contestant may not participate in more than twelve rounds within seventy-two consecutive hours.

The board may not allow a bout in which the contestants are not fairly matched. In determining if contestants are fairly matched, the following must be considered:

1. Win-loss records of the contestants.
2. Weights of the contestants.
3. Number of fights by the contestants.

At each regulated match, there must be in attendance a licensed referee who shall direct and control the bout.

At each regulated match, there must be in attendance three licensed judges who shall at the termination of each boxing match render their decisions.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-18. Bandage and glove requirements.**

A contestant's bandage for each hand must consist of soft gauze not more than twelve yards [10.97 meters] long and not more than two inches [50.8 millimeters] wide. The gauze must be held in place by not more than three feet [0.91 meters] of medical tape per hand. No tape may be applied over the knuckles of the hand.

The bandages must be adjusted in the dressing room under the supervision of a board member. The use of water or any other substance other than medical tape on the bandages is prohibited.

Unless otherwise directed by the board, each male contestant shall wear during such contest gloves weighing not less than eight ounces [226.8 grams] for any contestant who weighs one hundred eight pounds [48.99 kilograms] to one hundred fifty-six pounds [70.76 kilograms], and ten ounce [283.5 grams] gloves for any boxer over one hundred fifty-six pounds [70.76 kilograms]. A female boxer shall wear ten ounce [283.5 grams] gloves.

1. The gloves will be approved at the weigh-in by the board. They will be examined to assure they are not broken, unclean, or have padding which is misplaced or lumpy. After the approval of the gloves, they must be retained by the board until the fight.
2. In all boxing matches and exhibitions, the gloves of each boxer must be put on in the dressing room under the supervision of a board member.
3. Thumbless boxing gloves (or gloves with the thumb section locked, fastened, tied, or immovable set to the balance of the glove) of a type approved by the board must be used in all boxing matches. However, this requirement may be waived at the discretion of the board for championship matches of at least twelve scheduled rounds.
4. The laces must be tied on the outside of the back of the wrist of the gloves and must be secured and covered with athletic tape to the top of the glove.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-19. Medical and other safeguards.**

The matches may not begin until adequate safeguards to protect the health of the participants are made. Adequate safeguards must include:

1. The presence of the highest level of emergency medical personnel available in the community, i.e., EMT, EMT-intermediate, or EMT-paramedic, as defined by the North Dakota state department of health, emergency health services section. The appropriate level of emergency medical personnel present shall be determined by the commissioner.
2. The presence of at least one physician, licensed by the North Dakota state board of medical examiners and licensed as a ring physician by the board, at ringside at all times during the match. Ring physicians licensed by other state athletic boards may be allowed at ringside at the discretion of the commissioner.
3. The presence of an ambulance, dedicated solely to the participants, at the site of the match. The ambulance may be released in an emergency, only temporarily and only with the approval of the designated ring physician. The match must be held in abeyance until the ambulance and the emergency medical personnel return to the match site.
4. The use of rubber or plastic gloves acceptable to the commissioner during the match by all persons including managers, cornerpersons, timekeepers, ring physicians, and referees, coming into contact with a contestant during the course of a match, other than another contestant in the same match.
5. The prohibition of smoking or alcoholic beverages at official tables ringside.

6. The placement of camera and media people only in neutral corners. Such persons must have a pass to sit around the ring. These persons must be approved by the promoter and the commissioner before they receive passes.

The board may declare forfeited any prize, remuneration, or purse, or any part thereof, belonging to the contestants or one of them, or the share thereof of any manager if, in its judgment, such contestant or contestants are not honestly competing or the contestant or manager of a contestant, as the case may be, has committed an act on the premises in violation of any rule, order, or regulation of the commissioner. The amount so forfeited must be paid within forty-eight hours to the board, following notice to the offending contestant or manager and an opportunity for such person to respond to the forfeiture, in person or in writing, to the board.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-20. The boxing ring.**

A boxing match may not be permitted in any ring unless such ring has been inspected and approved by the board. The board shall prescribe standard acceptable size and quality requirements for rings. The following requirements also apply:

1. A ring may not be less than sixteen feet [4.88 meters] nor more than twenty-two feet [6.71 meters] square inside the ropes. The apron on the ring must be at least two feet [0.61 meters]. The ring platform may not be elevated more than four feet [1.22 meters] and must have a smooth, firm surface covered with clean canvas duck or other resilient material stretched taut and laced tightly to the ring platform, and must be completely padded both inside and outside the ropes to a thickness of at least one inch [25.4 millimeters], but not more than four inches [101.6 millimeters], with insulate or a similar material approved by the board.
2. Each ring must have four ring posts that must extend above the ring platform. The ring posts may not extend above the platform more than five feet [1.52 meters], and must be at least eighteen inches [457.2 millimeters] from the ring ropes. All ring posts, post tops, and turnbuckles must be suitably padded. Corners must have protective padding extending from the top to the bottom rope.
3. There must be four ring ropes attached to the ring posts by adjustable turnbuckles. Each rope must be at least one inch [25.4 millimeters] in diameter. Ring ropes must be covered with soft material and must be securely fastened to the ring posts. The ropes must be readily adjustable and must be kept at a proper and safe degree of tautness. Ties must be fastened to the ropes at appropriate intervals to ensure the safety of the contestants.
4. The ring must be illuminated by overhead lights that are arranged so that shadows are eliminated and heat and glare are minimized.
5. Steps must lead to the ring platform at least two diagonally opposite corners of the ring platform.
6. Any extra steps required for use by any other person must be placed in a neutral corner.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-21. Ringside equipment.**

1. The promoter or cornerperson shall supply the following items, which must be available for use as needed in the corner. The following items must be available and approved by a board member prior to the match:
  - a. Sufficient number of buckets for contestants.
  - b. Plastic water bottle and water.
  - c. Sponges.
  - d. Surgical tape.
  - e. Chairs or stools for use by the corners.
  - f. A stretcher to be kept under the ring.
  - g. A portable resuscitator with oxygen to be kept under the ring.
2. The following items may also be placed in the corner:
  - a. Vaseline, for discretionary use around the eyes.
  - b. Adrenalin (in a manufacturer's premeasured vial in a 1/1000 solution).
  - c. Anticoagulant (avitene, thrombin, thrombinplastin, or fibroplastic).

The use or administration of drugs, stimulants, or nonprescription preparations by or to a contestant other than those listed above is prohibited.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-22. Scoring system.**

The scoring system must be the "ten point must system". The winner of each round is entitled to ten points as determined by clean hitting, effective aggressiveness, defense, and ring generalship. The opponent shall receive a proportionally smaller number than ten. If the round is even, each boxer receives ten points. No fraction of points may be given. Under no circumstances may the score be less than ten to seven.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-23. Boxing knockdowns and knockouts requirements.**

The following definitions and provisions are applicable with regard to knockdowns, knockouts, and low blows:

1. Knockdown: A boxer is "down" when any part of the boxer's body, except the boxer's feet, touches the floor of the ring, or when the boxer hangs helplessly on the ring ropes or when the boxer is rising from a down position, as a result of a legal blow, according to the judgment of the referee, who is the only person authorized to determine when a boxer has suffered a knockdown. A contestant who is knocked down shall take a mandatory count of eight seconds. If either a knockdown or mandatory eight count or a combination of either occurs three times

in one round, the contest must be stopped and a technical knockout must be awarded to the opponent.

2. Eight count: A boxer who is down must be required to take a count of eight whether or not the boxer has regained the boxer's feet before the count of eight has been reached.
3. Counting: When a boxer is down, the knockdown counter shall at once commence calling off the seconds, indicating the count with an arm motion. The referee shall immediately order the other boxer to a neutral corner and shall thereafter pick up the count from the knockdown counter and indicate it with an arm motion. If a boxer is unable to continue at the count of eight, the referee shall declare the other boxer the winner.
4. Save the boxer: The bell can save the boxer only in the last round.
5. Low blow: The referee may give a boxer not more than a five-minute break if the referee believes a foul has been committed. Each boxer must be instructed to return to the boxer's respective corner by the referee until the round is ready to resume.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997; amended effective July 1, 2016.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-24. Boxing fouls.**

The following provisions apply to fouls committed in matches staged under this chapter:

1. Intentional fouls: If the fighter who is fouled cannot continue, the offender will lose the fight by disqualification. If the fight continues and subsequently the fight is stopped because the same injury has become worse, the injured boxer will be the winner.
2. Accidental fouls: If a fighter is accidentally injured and the fight cannot continue, or if the fight does continue and subsequently the injury becomes severe enough to stop the fight, then the fighter who is ahead on points will be the winner by technical decision, as long as one-half of the scheduled rounds have been completed.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07

#### **72-02.2-01.1-25. Stalling or faking prohibited.**

A referee shall warn a contestant if the referee believes the contestant is stalling or faking. If, after proper warning, the referee determines the contestant is continuing to stall or pull punches, the referee shall stop the bout at the end of the round.

If it is determined that either or both contestants are stalling or faking, or if the contestant refuses to fight, the contest shall be terminated and announced as a no contest and the one or ones in violation shall forfeit their pay as provided in this chapter.

A contestant who falls down without being struck must be immediately examined by a physician. After conferring with the physician, the referee may disqualify the contestant and require the contestant to forfeit the contestant's pay as provided in this chapter.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07



**72-02.2-01.1-26. Fight results.**

The following fight results apply to boxing matches staged under this chapter.

1. Draw: Winner cannot be determined by score cards.
2. TKO: Fighter cannot continue.
3. KO: Fighter knocked out.
4. Disqualified: Fighter disqualified for breaking of rules.
5. Split decision: Judges split vote on outcome.
6. Unanimous decision: Judges all voted in favor of one fighter.
7. Majority draw: Two of the three judges score the bout even, while the third judge scores the bout for a particular boxer.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1997.

**General Authority:** NDCC 53-01-07

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-07