

**CHAPTER 72-02.2-02**  
**COMMISSIONER OF COMBATIVE SPORTS AND COMMISSION OF COMBATIVE SPORTS**  
**- MIXED FIGHTING STYLE**

Section

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**72-02.2-02-01. Definitions.**

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

1. "Commission member" means the North Dakota commission of combative sports, or a member of the commission acting on its behalf.
2. "Commissioner" means the North Dakota secretary of state acting as the commissioner of combative sports or the commissioner's designee.
3. "Contest" means a contest of mixing fighting style.
4. "Exhibition" means an exhibition of mixed fighting style where a decision is not rendered.
5. "Fish-hooking" means the action of hooking (grasping) and pulling the inside of a participant's eyes, nose, ear, or mouth.
6. "Gong" means the bell, horn, or buzzer that has a clear tone loud enough for the contestants and referee to hear.
7. "Grounded" means when a participant's torso or any three points of the participant's body contact the floor.
8. "Match" means any contest or exhibition, 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.

9. "Matchmaker" means any person who brings together a professional mixed fighting style match or arranges professional mixed fighting style matches.
10. "Mixed fighting style competition" means an advertised or professionally promoted exhibition or contest for which any type of admission fee is charged and in which participants inflict or employ kicks, punches, blows, holds, and other techniques to injure, stun, choke, incapacitate, or disable an opponent. The techniques include a combination of boxing, kickboxing, wrestling, grappling, or other recognized martial arts.
11. "Participant" means a participant in a match who receives remuneration directly or indirectly as consideration for the participant's performance.
12. "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 mixed fighting style contests or exhibitions.
13. "Second" means an individual working in the corner also known as a cornerperson.
14. "Stalling or faking" means that one or neither opponent is trying to better that person's position.
15. "Tap out" means the physical act of tapping the opponent, the mat, or one's self to signal one's submission. When unable to physically tap out, a submission can be vocal.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-02. 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 a term, must be filled only for the balance of the term of the member in whose position the vacancy occurs.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-03. General provisions.**

These rules govern all mixed fighting style contests or exhibitions.

The commissioner and its members have sole direction, management, control, and jurisdiction over all professional mixed fighting style contests or exhibitions to be conducted or held within the state of North Dakota and over all licenses to any and all persons who participate in mixed fighting style.

The commissioner will not approve the following:

1. Matches containing both amateur and professional contests on the same card.
2. Matches in which more than two participants appear in the ring or fenced area at the same time.
3. Matches in which members of the opposite sex are competing against each other.

4. Any barroom type brawls, "so you think you're tough" type contests, roughneck type matches, or matches of similar character or nature if any participant receives remuneration directly or indirectly, whether or not a participant has prior organized amateur or professional training.
5. Matches in which there are no gloves used by the participants.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-04. Licensing - Terms and conditions.**

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. 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.

1. A license is valid from the date of issuance until December thirty-first of that year. The licenses available and fees are as follows:
  - a. Judge - twenty-five dollars.
  - b. Manager - fifty dollars.
  - c. Matchmaker - fifty dollars.
  - d. Participants - twenty-five dollars.
  - e. Physician - no fee.
  - f. Promoter - two hundred fifty dollars.
  - g. Referee - twenty-five dollars.
  - h. Second or trainer - twenty-five dollars.
  - i. Timekeeper - twenty-five dollars.
2. Terms and conditions. The following terms and conditions apply to licensed participants:
  - a. Every license, excluding those for mixed fighting style participants, is subject to the following:
    - (1) The applicant must be at least eighteen years of age;
    - (2) The applicant must submit verifications, from qualified persons, of the licensee's proficiency, if requested by the commissioner;
    - (3) The applicant must agree that training requirements may be established by the commissioner;
    - (4) 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 participants and with the best interests of mixed fighting styles generally; and

- (5) For the first infraction of any of the provisions of this subsection, the commissioner 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 commissioner may suspend a license for any serious violation without warning.
- b. Every license issued to a mixed fighting style participant is subject to the following:
- (1) The applicant must be at least eighteen years of age;
  - (2) 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;
  - (3) The applicant must provide the names and addresses of the applicant's trainers and managers, if applicable;
  - (4) The applicant must provide the applicant's complete record;
  - (5) 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;
  - (6) The applicant must provide acceptable photo identification;
  - (7) The applicant must present documented evidence that the applicant has been administered a test by a laboratory in the United States that possesses a certificate under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act [42 U.S.C. 263a], to detect the presence of bloodborne pathogens as identified by the commissioner, within the last six months prior to the application and that the results are negative;
  - (8) 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.
    - (a) If the commissioner determines that a question exists as to the medical condition of a participant, a complete physical may be required. A list of approved physicians who are qualified to perform the physical will be provided and the participant 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 participant shall also receive a report. The report must affirmatively state the physician's opinion as to the advisability of the participant fighting.
    - (b) The physical performed must address the question raised about the participant'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 mixed fighting style. The results of all required examinations must be made a part of the participant's permanent medical record as maintained by the commissioner. The costs of all examinations required by this section shall not be paid by the commissioner;
  - (9) Participants, under any circumstances, may not compete or appear in a contest or exhibition for up to ninety days after not being able to defend themselves;
  - (10) No participant may compete or appear in a contest or exhibition in less than seven days after the completion of that participant's last contest;

- (11) Upon the request of the commissioner, the applicant must provide satisfactory evidence of the applicant's ability to compete. The commissioner may hold an informal hearing to determine whether the license should be granted or revoked at the request of the participant or upon the commissioner's own motion. The commissioner may also hold an informal hearing to determine whether to review or revoke a suspension of a license issued by the state. The participant shall be notified of the time and place of the informal hearing and the substance of the matter to be determined. The commissioner shall permit the participant the opportunity to present evidence on the participant's behalf;
- (12) The commissioner will honor and give faith and credit to actions of regulatory agencies in other jurisdictions;
- (13) If, in the judgment of the commissioner, the participant has been guilty of an act detrimental to the best interests of mixed fighting style generally, or to the public interest, convenience or necessity, such act is grounds for the denial or suspension of a license;
- (14) For the first infraction under this subsection, the commissioner 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 commissioner may suspend a license for any serious violation without warning; and
- (15) A participant may request in writing an informal hearing before the commissioner to review or revoke a suspension imposed for a recent knockout, injury, or other medical reason upon the participant furnishing further proof of a sufficiently improved physical condition. A participant may also request an informal hearing before the commissioner 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 participant's furnishing proof that the suspension was not, or is no longer merited by the facts.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006; amended effective July 1, 2016.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-05. Duties of promoter.**

A promoter is subject to the following requirements;

1. Any person, party, or organization acting as a promoter of a professional mixed fighting style competition must obtain approval from the commissioner at least two weeks prior to the date of the competition.
2. Prior to the event, the promoter must file with the commissioner proof of adequate insurance for the protection of the participants, officials, and the attending public.
3. The promoter must also provide health insurance for each participant to provide medical coverage for any injuries sustained in the competition. The minimum benefit is two thousand five hundred dollars with the accidental death of at least two thousand five hundred dollars. The promoter is responsible to pay any deductibles necessary.
4. The promoter shall submit a completed notification of contest form to the commissioner at least five days before an event.

5. Changes in the announced or advertised programs for any main event contest must be filed with and approved by the commissioner at least forty-eight hours before the weigh-in time of the contest unless otherwise directed or authorized by the commissioner. 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 match 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 match or the main event, whichever comes first.
6. 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 contest or exhibition, as provided in section 72-02.2-02-13.
7. The promoter is responsible for making financial arrangements with all event officials, except for the commissioner. The commissioner will approve and assign all officials.
8. The promoter must file all contracts between the promoter and the participants with the commissioner and the commissioner may review and approve such contracts to ensure that they conform to the provisions of these rules.
9. Failure to file any required report or form may result in a denial of the next requested contest or exhibition.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-06. Duties of referee.**

A referee is subject to the following requirements:

1. A referee may not 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 contest or exhibition begins by the ringside physician. A physician's approval must be given to the commissioner before the referee enters 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 participant the name of the participant's chief second, and shall gather them together for final instructions. Such chief second will be responsible for the conduct of assistant corners during the contest.
5. At the beginning of each match the scorecards will be handed out to each of the three judges.
6. 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 matches have become partial, or if a participant is in such condition that if such participant continues fighting, the participant is liable to suffer a serious injury.
7. If a participant 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.

8. The referee is responsible for deciding whether an injury had been done by a legal or illegal blow, intentional or accidental, and must notify the judges immediately.
9. When, for whatever reason, a participant 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 participant ejecting the mouthpiece intentionally, and can deduct a point as a result of this behavior or disqualify the participant.
10. At the end of each round, the scorecards will be collected from the three judges, and given to the commissioner at ringside for computation.
11. The use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited from twelve hours prior to the fight until after the assigned duties have been completed.
12. If a referee becomes incapacitated and is unable to complete the entire match, a timeout shall be called by the commissioner, and an alternate licensed referee shall immediately be assigned to referee.
13. The referee determines and informs the appropriate officials how the fight was stopped.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-07. Duties of judges.**

All judges are subject to the following requirements:

1. Each of the three judges must be seated 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, except for a rare even round, which is scored (10-10).
3. Judges shall indicate the winner of each round on the scorecard 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 commission 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 commissioner, unless it is determined that the computation of the scorecards shows a clerical or mathematical error giving the decision to the wrong participant, in which case such clerical or mathematical error may be corrected by the judges.
5. The use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited from twelve hours prior to the fight until after the assigned duties have been completed.
6. 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 October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-08. Duties of seconds.**

All seconds are subject to the following requirements:

1. A participant may not have more than three seconds, one of whom must be designated as the chief second. During the rest period, one second must be allowed inside the ring and two seconds will be allowed on the apron.
2. The seconds are restricted to the corner and must not be touching the apron. The second 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 second may indicate to the referee that the participant cannot continue and that the contest should be stopped. Verbal notification, hand signals, throwing in the towel, or mounting of the ring by the chief second may be used.
4. A corner may not administer alcoholic beverages, narcotics, or stimulants to a participant, pour or spray excessive water on the body of a participant, or place ice in the trunks or cup of a participant during the contest.
5. No second shall enter the ring with shoes.
6. Seconds shall stay off the ring floor or canvas while the bout is in progress, may not lean on the ring or cage, and may not engage in excessive banging or verbal outbursts.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-09. Duties of timekeeper.**

A timekeeper is 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 participants shall be warned by three loud strikes.
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 October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-10. Duties of physician.**

A physician is subject to the following requirements:

1. The physician shall examine each participant at the weigh-in. If the participant is determined to be in acceptable physical condition, the physician must certify this on the form provided by the commissioner.
2. The examination shall include the following:
  - a. Eyes;
  - b. Ears;
  - c. Mouth and jaw;
  - d. Skin;



- e. Nose;
  - f. Heart;
  - g. Lungs;
  - h. Head;
  - i. Hands;
  - j. Abdomen;
  - k. Blood pressure; and
  - l. A female participant must submit to an early pregnancy testing.
3. If more than one physician is assigned to work the contest the commissioner will appoint one as the head physician.
  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 participant 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 participant and participant'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 participant after the match. If the participant is determined to be in acceptable physical condition, the physician shall certify this on the form provided by the commissioner.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

**72-02.2-02-11. Ticket provisions.**

The following requirements apply to mixed fighting style contest or exhibition tickets:

1. All tickets of admission to any such mixed fighting style contest or exhibition 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 contest or exhibition 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 commission members;
  - b. Persons designated by the commissioner for official duty;

- c. Officials attending under provisions of state law or these rules;
- d. The principals, managers, and corners who are involved in the contest or exhibition;
- 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 October 1, 2006; amended effective January 1, 2007.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-12. Contracts and financial arrangements.**

No promoter, either directly or indirectly, may have any financial interest in a participant 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 commissioner.

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

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

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-13. Gross revenue fee.**

There is hereby imposed a fee upon each promoter, or other principal, operating in this state who conducts any professional mixed fighting style contest or exhibition held within this state for each such event. The fee must be equal to the product of the gross revenues of each such mixed fighting style event 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 contest or exhibition, 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 contest or exhibition, exclusive of any federal tax thereon. All cable television and pay-per-view telecasts are subject to a fee of the gross revenue received from such cable television and pay-per-view telecasts multiplied by one percent or such other amount as may be allowed by law 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 contest or exhibition, 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 contest or exhibition. Any promoter or other principals involved in the receipt of

moneys, or staging of the contest or exhibition, 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 October 1, 2006; amended effective July 1, 2016.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-14. Sham or collusive matches.**

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

Without otherwise limiting the discretion of the commissioner as provided in these rules, the commissioner may suspend or revoke a license or refuse to renew or issue a license, if the commissioner 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, or has violated or attempted to violate any law in any jurisdiction or any rules, regulation, or order of the commissioner, or has violated any rule of mixed fighting style which has been approved or adopted by the commissioner, or has been guilty of or engaged in similar, related, or like practices.

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

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-15. Weight classes - Weigh-in and weight differences.**

1. The classes for participants competing in mixed fighting style contest or exhibition are shown in the following schedule:
  - a. Flyweight up to 125 pounds
  - b. Bantamweight over 125 to 135 pounds
  - c. Featherweight over 135 to 145 pounds
  - d. Lightweight over 145 to 155 pounds
  - e. Welterweight over 155 to 170 pounds
  - f. Middleweight over 170 to 185 pounds
  - g. Light heavyweight over 185 to 205 pounds

- h. Heavyweight over 205 to 265 pounds
- i. Super heavyweight all over 265 pounds

2. The time of the weigh-in must be approved by the commissioner. Unless otherwise arranged, the participant must be weighed at least eight but not more than twenty-four hours before the contest. The participants must be weighed in the presence of the public, the opponent, a representative of the commissioner, and an official representing the promoter, on scales approved by the commissioner.

A designated commission member shall run the weigh-in. This commission 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 participants 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 participants' 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 for by the promoter.

Only those participants who have been approved for the contest may be weighed in during the official ceremony.

A participant who has contracted in a given weight class may not be permitted to compete if the participant's weight exceeds that class, unless the contract provides for the opposing participant to agree to the weight differential. Under no circumstances shall that weight differential exceed ten percent above the originally scheduled weight class.

If any participant fails to reach the weight limit determined in the applicable category, at the indicated date and time for the official weigh-in, and even if the opposing participant does not agree with the weight differential, each one of them, or both, shall have two additional hours to make the prescribed weight, provided that weight loss in excess of two pounds is not permitted for a participant who weighs less than one hundred forty-five pounds and weight loss in excess of three pounds is not permitted for a participant who weighs over one hundred forty-five pounds.

If the participants fail in making the weight after the two-hour period, both managers and the commissioner must come to an agreement or the match must be canceled.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-16. Conduct of contests and exhibitions.**

Mixed fighting style competition may not be less than twenty rounds of mixed fighting style competition on any one program of mixed fighting style that consists of contests or exhibitions of mixed fighting style competition.

1. Mixed fighting style competition that is not a championship contest must not exceed three rounds in duration.
2. A championship contest of mixed fighting style competition must be five rounds in duration.
3. A round of mixed fighting style in a contest or exhibition of mixed fighting style competition must be five minutes in duration. A period of rest following a round of mixed fighting style in a contest or exhibition of mixed fighting style competition must be one minute in duration.

4. The commissioner may not allow a match in which the participants are not fairly matched. In determining if participants are fairly matched, the following must be considered:
  - a. Win-loss records of the participants.
  - b. Weights of the participants.
  - c. Number of fights by the participants.
5. At each regulated contest or exhibition, there must be in attendance a licensed referee who shall direct and control the match.
6. At each regulated contest or exhibition, there must be in attendance three licensed judges who shall at the termination of each mixed fighting style match render their decisions.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-17. Proper appearance and attire.**

1. Each participant must be clean and present a tidy appearance.
2. Each participant must have the person's fingernails and toenails cut and trimmed.
3. The excessive use of grease or any other foreign substance may not be used on the face, hair, or body of a participant. The referee or commission member shall cause any excessive grease or foreign substance to be removed. The commissioner shall determine whether head or facial hair presents any hazard to the safety of the participant or the opponent or will interfere with the supervision and conduct of the contest or exhibition. The participant may not compete in the contest or exhibition unless the circumstances are corrected to the commissioner's satisfaction.
4. A participant may not wear any jewelry or piercing accessories while participating in the contest or exhibition.
5. A male participant may wear mixed martial arts shorts, kickboxing shorts, or lightweight elastic polyurethane fabric bike-style shorts, any combination of the foregoing, or other clothing approved by the commissioner. A female participant may wear mixed martial arts shorts, kickboxing shorts, or lightweight elastic polyurethane fabric bike-style shorts, as well as a tight-fitting top, or any combination of the foregoing, or other clothing approved by the commissioner.
6. A participant must use a mouthpiece that has been individually fitted.
7. All participants shall have their hair secured in a manner that does not interfere with the vision or safety of either participant, including no products or ornaments.
8. Participants shall not use cosmetics, perfumes, colognes, or other fragrances.
9. Male participants shall wear groin protection.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

### **72-02.2-02-18. Bandage and glove requirements.**

1. The gloves will be furnished by promoter and approved at the weigh-in by the commissioner. They will be examined to assure they are whole, clean, and in sanitary condition. The padding must not be misplaced or lumpy. No breaking, roughing, or twisting of gloves is permitted.
2. The gloves for every contest or exhibition that is designated as a main event must be new, furnished by the promoter, and made to fit the hands of the participant.
3. In all mixed fighting style contests or exhibitions, the gloves of each participant must be put on in the dressing room under the supervision of a commission member and examined in the ring by the referee. If a glove is found to be unfit, it must be replaced with a glove that meets the requirements of this section.
4. For each contest or exhibition of mixed fighting style, the participant must wear gloves that weigh not less than four ounces and not more than eight ounces.
5. The bandages may not exceed one winding of surgeon's adhesive tape, not over one and one-half inches wide, placed directly on the hand to protect the part of the hand near the wrist. The tape may cross the back of the hand twice, but may not extend within three-fourths of an inch of the knuckles when the hand is clenched to make a fist.
6. Each participant shall use a soft surgical bandage not over two inches wide, held in place by not more than six feet of surgeon's adhesive tape for each hand. Up to one 15-yard roll of bandage may be used to complete the wrappings of each hand. Strips of tape may be used between the fingers to hold down the bandage. Bandages must be adjusted in the dressing room in the presence of a commission member and both participants.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

### **72-02.2-02-19. 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 commissioner, at ringside at all times during the match. Ring physicians licensed by other states 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 contest or exhibition. 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 site.
4. The use of rubber or plastic gloves acceptable to the commissioner during the match by all persons including managers, seconds, timekeepers, ring physicians, and referees, coming

into contact with a participant during the course of a match, other than another participant in the same match.

5. At official ringside tables smoking or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
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.
  - a. A stretcher to be kept under the ring.
  - b. A portable resuscitator with oxygen to be kept under the ring.

The commissioner may declare forfeited any prize, remuneration, or purse, or any part thereof, belonging to the participants or one of them, or the share thereof of any manager if, in the commissioner's judgment, such participant or participants are not honestly competing or the participant or manager of a participant, 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 commissioner, following notice to the offending participant or manager and an opportunity for such person to respond to the forfeiture, in person or in writing, to the commissioner.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-20. Ring or fenced area.**

A mixed fighting style match may not be permitted in any ring unless such ring has been inspected and approved by the commissioner. The commissioner shall prescribe standard acceptable size and quality requirements for rings.

The following requirements also apply:

1. Mixed fighting style contests and exhibitions may be held in a ring or in a fenced area.
  - a. A ring may not be less than sixteen feet [4.88 meters] or more than thirty-two feet [9.753 meters] square inside the ropes.
  - b. The ring floor must extend at least eighteen inches beyond the ropes. The ring floor must be padded with Ensolite or similar closed-cell foam, with at least a one-inch layer of foam padding. Padding must extend beyond the ring ropes and over the edge of the platform, with a top covering of canvas duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges must not be used.
  - c. The ring platform must not be more than four feet above the floor of the building and must have suitable steps for the use of the mixed fighting participants.
  - d. 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 commissioner. Ring posts must be at least eighteen inches away from the ring ropes.
  - e. There must be a minimum of five ring ropes, with ties at appropriate intervals, with a minimum of two ties per side, not less than one inch in diameter and wrapped in soft material. The lowest ring rope must be twelve inches above the ring floor.
  - f. There must not be any obstruction or object, including, without limitation, a triangular border, on any part of the ring floor.

2. A fenced area used in a contest or exhibition of mixed fighting style must meet the following requirements:
  - a. The fenced area must be circular or have at least four equal sides and must be no smaller than sixteen feet wide and no larger than thirty-two feet wide.
  - b. The floor of the fenced area must be padded with Ensolite or similar closed-cell foam, with at least a one-inch layer of foam padding, with a top covering of canvas duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the platform of the fenced area. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges must not be used.
  - c. The platform of the fenced area must not be more than four feet above the floor of the building and must have suitable steps for the use of the participants.
  - d. Fenceposts must be made of metal, not more than six inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to between five and seven feet above the floor of the fenced area, and must be properly padded in a manner approved by the commissioner.
  - e. The fencing used to enclose the fenced area must be made of a material that will prevent a participant from falling out of the fenced area or breaking through the fenced area onto the floor of the building or onto the spectators, including, without limitation, chain link fence coated with vinyl.
  - f. Any metal portion of the fenced area must be covered and padded in a manner approved by the commissioner and must not be abrasive to the participant.
  - g. There must not be any obstruction on any part of the fence surrounding the area in which the participants are to be competing.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-21. Ringside equipment.**

1. The promoter shall supply the following items and which must be available for use as needed in the corner. The following items must be available and approved by a commissioner prior to the match:
  - a. Two buckets for participants.
  - b. Chairs or stools for use by the corners.
2. The use or administration of drugs, stimulants, or nonprescription preparations by or given to a contestant, other than those listed below, is prohibited.
  - a. Petroleum jelly for discretionary use around the eyes.
  - b. Adrenalin in a manufacturer's premeasured vial in a 1/1000 solution.
  - c. Coagulant limited to avitene, thrombin, thrombinplastin, or fibroplastic.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02



### **72-02.2-02-22. Scoring system.**

1. Each judge of a contest or exhibition of mixed fighting style competitions that is being judged shall score the contest or exhibition and determine the winner through the use of the following system:
  - a. The better participant of a round receives ten points and the opponent proportionately less.
  - b. If the round is even, each participant receives ten points.
  - c. No fraction of points may be given.
  - d. If a point is being deducted, the referee must inform each judge at the time of foul and a point must be deducted on the judge's scorecard.
  - e. Points for each round must be awarded immediately after the end of the period of mixed fighting style in the round.
  - f. Judges will score the round based upon the following criteria:
    - (1) Effective striking.
    - (2) Effective grappling.
    - (3) Ring control.
    - (4) Effective aggressiveness and defense.
2. After each round, the scorecards will be collected from the judges and delivered to the commissioner.
3. At the conclusion of the match, the commissioner will tabulate the scores and give them to the announcer who will then inform the audience of the decision.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

### **72-02.2-02-23. Fouls.**

1. The following acts constitute a foul:
  - a. Butting with the head.
  - b. Eye gouging of any kind.
  - c. Biting.
  - d. Hair pulling.
  - e. Fish-hooking.
  - f. Groin attacks of any kind.
  - g. Putting a finger into any orifice or into any cut or laceration on an opponent.
  - h. Small joint manipulation.

- i. Striking to the spine or the back of the head. The back of the head is defined as the area behind each ear from the top of the head to the base of the neck. The spine is defined as the area from two inches to the left of the backbone to two inches to the right of the backbone.
  - j. Striking downward using the point of the elbow.
  - k. Throat strikes of any kind, including, without limitation, grabbing the trachea.
  - l. Clawing, pinching, or twisting the flesh.
  - m. Grabbing the clavicle.
  - n. Kicking the head of a grounded opponent.
  - o. Kneeing the head of a grounded opponent.
  - p. Stomping a grounded opponent.
  - q. Kicking to the kidney with the heel.
  - r. Spiking an opponent to the canvas on the opponent's head or neck.
  - s. Throwing an opponent out of the ring or fenced area.
  - t. Holding the shorts or gloves of an opponent.
  - u. Spitting at or on an opponent.
  - v. Engaging in any unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to an opponent.
  - w. Holding the ropes or the fence.
  - x. Using abusive language in the ring or fenced area.
  - y. Attacking an opponent on or during the break.
  - z. Attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee.
  - aa. Attacking an opponent after the bell has sounded the end of the period of mixed fighting style competition.
  - bb. Flagrantly disregarding the instructions of the referee.
  - cc. Timidity, including, without limitation, avoiding contact with an opponent, intentionally or consistently dropping the mouthpiece or faking an injury.
  - dd. Interference by the corner.
2. Deduction of points.
- a. If a participant fouls the opponent during a contest or exhibition of mixed fighting style competitions, the referee may penalize the participant by deducting points from the participant's score, whether or not the foul was intentional. The referee may determine the number of points to be deducted in each instance and shall base the determination on the severity of the foul and its effect upon the opponent.
  - b. When the referee determines that it is necessary to deduct a point or points because of a foul, the referee shall warn the offender of the penalty to be assessed.

- c. The referee shall, as soon as is practical after the foul, notify the judges and both participants of the number of points, if any, to be deducted from the score of the offender.
  - d. Any point or points to be deducted for any foul must be deducted in the round in which the foul occurred and may not be deducted from the score of any subsequent round.
3. Accidental.
- a. If a contest or exhibition of mixed fighting style competitions is stopped because of an accidental foul, the referee shall determine whether the participant who has been fouled can continue. If the participant'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 participant who has been fouled, the referee may order the contest or exhibition continued after a recuperative interval of not more than five minutes. Immediately after separating the participant, the referee shall inform the commissioner's representative of the determination that the foul was accidental.
  - b. If the referee determines that a contest or exhibition of mixed fighting style competitions may not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an accidental foul, the contest or exhibition must be declared a no contest if the foul occurs during:
    - (1) The first two rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for three rounds or less; or
    - (2) The first three rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for more than three rounds.
  - c. If an accidental foul renders a participant unable to continue the contest or exhibition after:
    - (1) The completed second round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for three rounds or less; or
    - (2) The completed third round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for more than three rounds, the outcome must be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops the contest or exhibition.
  - d. If an injury inflicted by an accidental foul later becomes aggravated by fair blows and the referee orders the contest or exhibition stopped because of the injury, the outcome must be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops the contest or exhibition.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

#### **72-02.2-02-24. Stalling or faking.**

A referee shall warn a participant if the referee believes the participant is stalling or faking. If, after proper warning, the referee determines the participant is continuing to stall or pull punches, the referee shall stop the match at the end of the round. If it is determined that either or both participants are stalling or faking, or if the participant 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 participant who falls down without being struck or otherwise actively participating in the contest must be immediately examined by a physician. After conferring with the physician, the referee may

disqualify the participant and require the participant to forfeit the participant's pay as provided in this chapter.

**History:** Effective October 1, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02

### **72-02.2-02-25. Results of contests.**

A contest of mixed fighting style competitions may end under the following results:

1. Submission by:
  - a. Physical tap out. When a contestant physically indicates that the contestant no longer wishes to continue.
  - b. Verbal tap out. When a contestant verbally announces to the referee that the contestant does not wish to continue.
2. Technical knockout by the referee stopping the contest. A technical knockout occurs when:
  - a. The referee stops the bout because the contestant can no longer defend himself or herself;
  - b. The ringside physician advises the referee to stop the bout; or
  - c. An injury as a result of a legal maneuver is severe enough to terminate the bout.
3. Decision via the scorecards, including:
  - a. Unanimous decision. All three judges score the bout for the same contestant.
  - b. Split decision. Two of the three judges score the bout for one contestant and one judge scores it for the opponent.
  - c. Majority decision. When two judges score the bout for the same contestant and one judge scores the bout a draw.
  - d. Draw, including:
    - (1) Unanimous draw. When all three judges score the bout a draw.
    - (2) Majority draw. When two judges score the bout a draw.
    - (3) Split draw. When all three judges score the bout differently and the score total results in a draw.
4. Technical decision. When the bout is stopped prematurely due to an injury and a contestant is leading on the scorecards.
5. Technical draw. When an injury is sustained during competition as a result of an unintentional foul which causes the injured contestant to be unable to continue and the sufficient number of rounds has been completed with the results of the scorecards being a draw.
6. Disqualification. When an injury is sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul severe enough to terminate the contest.
7. Forfeit. When a contestant fails to begin competition or prematurely ends the contest for reasons other than injury or indicating a tap out.

8. No contest. When a contest is prematurely stopped due to accidental injury and a sufficient number of rounds have not been completed to render a decision via the scorecards.
9. Corner stops the contest. When the contestant's chief second indicated either physically or verbally that the contestant does not wish to continue.

**History:** Effective October 21, 2006.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 53-01-01.1, 53-01-02