

**TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR
NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION**

Control _____ Department or Agency: Alabama Boxing Athletic Commission
Rule No.: 165-X-14

Rule Title: Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Standards

X New _____ Amend _____ Repeal _____ Adopt by Reference

Would the absence of the proposed rule significantly
Harm or endanger the public health, welfare, or safety? Yes

Is there a reasonable relationship between the state's
Police power and the protection of the public health,
Safety, or welfare? Yes

Is there another, less restrictive method of regulation
Available that could adequately protect the public? No

Does the proposed rule have the effect of directly or
Indirectly increasing the costs of any goods or services
Involved and, if so, to what degree? No

Is the increase in cost, if any, more harmful to the public
Than the harm that might result from the absence of
The proposed rule? No

Are all facets of the rulemaking process designed solely
For the purpose of, and so they have, as their primary
Effect, the protection of the public? Yes

Does the proposed rule have an economic impact? No

If the proposed rule has an economic impact, the proposed rule is required to be
accompanied by a fiscal note prepared in accordance with subsection (f) of Section 41-
22-23, Code of Alabama, 1975.

Certification of Authorized Official

I certify that the attached proposed rule has been proposed in full compliance with the
requirements of Chapter 22, Title 41, Code of Alabama, 1975, and that it conforms to all
applicable filing requirements of the Administrative Procedure Division of the Legislative
Reference Service.

Signature of certifying officer  _____

Date: April 13, 2012

(DATE FILED)
(STAMP)

Alabama Athletic Commission

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

AGENCY NAME: Alabama Athletic Commission

RULE NO. & TITLE: 165-X-14 Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Standards

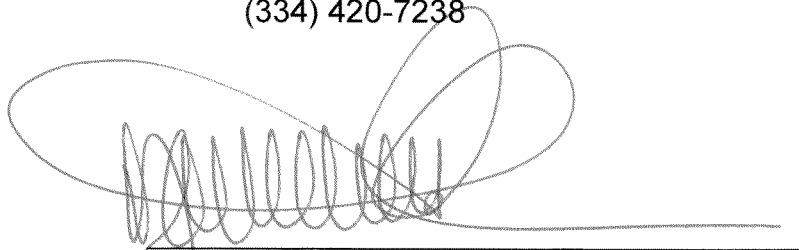
INTENDED ACTION: New

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Board proposes to promulgate rules for mixed martial arts additional requirements.

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS: Written comments will be received by the Board until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 4, 2012. Comments should be directed to Keith E. Warren, Executive Director, at 2777 Zelda Road, Montgomery, AL 36106 or via electronic mail at keith@warrenandco.com or via telephone at 334-420-7238.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE:
Monday, June 4, 2012.

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY: Keith E. Warren
Executive Director
2777 Zelda Road
Montgomery, AL 36106
(334) 420-7238

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith E. Warren', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with loops and flourishes.

Keith E. Warren, *Executive Director*
Alabama Athletic Commission

Chapter 165-X-14 Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Standards

<u>165-X-14-.01</u>	<u>National Database Registration</u>
<u>165-X-14-.02</u>	<u>Split or Different Styles</u>
<u>165-X-14-.03</u>	<u>Weight Classes of amateur mixed martial arts</u>
<u>165-X-14-.04</u>	<u>Weighing</u>
<u>165-X-14-.05</u>	<u>Competition area</u>
<u>165-X-14-.06</u>	<u>Rings</u>
<u>165-X-14-.07</u>	<u>Cages</u>
<u>165-X-14-.08</u>	<u>Equipment</u>
<u>165-X-14-.09</u>	<u>Specifications of bandages</u>
<u>165-X-14-.10</u>	<u>Mouth Pieces</u>
<u>165-X-14-.11</u>	<u>Protective Equipment</u>
<u>165-X-14-.12</u>	<u>Gloves</u>
<u>165-X-14-.13</u>	<u>Apparel</u>
<u>165-X-14-.14</u>	<u>Appearance</u>

165-X-14-.01 National Database Event Registration

1. Event Registration. All Promoters are required to register in a timely manner, their event in advance with the Association of Boxing Commissions designated national record keeper, MMA.TV, and receive approval from this agency for each specific requested bout. The Alabama Athletic Commission reserves the right for final approval or denial of any or all bouts.

Author: Casey C. Sears

Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 41-9-1020

History: **New Rule:** Filed: March 20, 2012; Effective: April 24, 2012

165-X-14-.02 Split or different style events.

1. Cards split between professional and amateur matches. Mixed cards shall be left at the discretion of the Alabama Athletic Commission. All amateur shows shall reflect the amateur status of the event in all advertising in a way approved by the licensed sanction organization. In order for a card split between professional and amateur matches to be advertised as "Professional", a minimum of three professional bouts must be scheduled. Failure to provide the minimum number of professional bouts may result in action against the promoter by the Alabama Athletic Commission. Cards split between professional and amateur matches shall require a licensed sanction organization to supervise the amateur portion of the event.

Author: Casey C. Sears

Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 41-9-1020

History: **New Rule:** Filed: March 20, 2012; Effective: April 24, 2012.

165-X-14-.03 **Weight classes of amateur mixed martial artists**

1. Amateur mixed martial artist shall be divided into the following classes:
2. Flyweight (125-and Under) with not more than a 10 pound spread
3. Bantamweight (126-135)
4. Featherweight (136-145)
5. Lightweight (146-155)
6. Welterweight (156-170)
7. Middleweight (171-185)
8. Light Heavyweight (186-205)
9. Cruiser Heavyweight (206-230)
10. Heavy Weight (231-265)
11. Super Heavyweight over (265)

Author: Casey C. Sears

Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 41-9-1020

History: **New Rule:** Filed March 20, 2012; Effective: April 24, 2012.

165-X-14-.04 **Weighing of mixed martial artists**

1. **Weigh-In Procedures.** In all contests and exhibitions, contestants shall have the option to weigh-in in the presence of each other and each other's coach. The weigh-in shall not take place less than six (6) hours nor more than thirty-six (36) hours prior to the contest or exhibition.
2. **Official Weigh-Ins** shall be conducted at a time and place designated approved by the licensed sanctioning organization hosting the contest or exhibition. The time and location must be submitted to the Alabama Athletic Commission no more than seven (7) days prior to the weigh-in for approval. Attendance to official weigh-ins is strictly limited to promotional staff, participants, coaches, licensed organization representative, and commission officials.
3. **Ceremonial weigh-ins.** may be conducted in such a manner and at such place as agreed to by all parties involved in the promotion or match, contest, or exhibition.

Author: Casey C. Sears

Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 41-9-1020

History: **New Rule:** Filed: March 20, 2012; Effective: April 24, 2012.

165-X-14-.05 Competition Area

1. Amateur contests locations. All competitions will take place either a Cage or a Ring that has been approved by the Commission. The Cage or Ring will meet the requirements set forth by the Alabama Athletic Commission and also be subject to inspection prior to each event by the designated licensed sanction organization representative.
2. Obtain Ring or Cage. The licensed sanctioning organization will provide a ring or cage for the show and that ring or cage must pass certification requirements established by the commission.
3. Ring or Cage Certification. It is the licensed sanctioning organization's responsibility to ensure that the ring or cage selected for use during each show meet the Commission's rules and regulations concerning proper certification should be resolved no less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the show.

Author: Casey C. Sears

Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 41-9-1020

History: New Rule: Filed: March 20, 2012; Effective: April 24, 2012.

165-X-14-.06 Rings

1. Ring Specifications. The ring specifications for mixed martial arts must meet the following requirements:
2. The ring requirements. The ring may be no smaller than twenty feet square and no larger than thirty-two feet square within the ropes.
 - (a) One of the corners must have a blue designation, the corner directly across must have a red designation.
 - (b) The ring floor must extend at least eighteen inches beyond the ropes. The ring floor must be padded with ensolite or a similar closed-cell foam, with at least one inch layer of foam padding.
 - (c) Padding must extend beyond the ring ropes and over the edge 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 and ridges may not be used.
 - (d) The ring platform must no be more than four feet above the floor of the building and must have suitable steps for the use of the contestants.
 - (e) Ring posts must be made of metal, not more than three inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a minimum height of fifty-eight inches above the ring floor, and must be properly padded in a manner approved by the commission. Ring posts must be eighteen inches away from the ring ropes.

- (f) There must be five ring ropes, not less than one inch in diameter and wrapped in soft material. The lowest rope must be no higher than twelve inches from the ring floor. All five ring ropes must be secured to each other in no less than two places on all four sides of the ring. On all four sides of the ring, there should be tables lining the ring, draped from corner to corner.
- (g) There must not be any obstruction or object, on any part of the ring floor.

Author: Casey C. Sears

Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 41-9-1020

History: **New Rule:** Filed: March 20, 2012; Effective: April 24, 2012.

165-X-14-.07 Cage Requirements

1. **Cage specifications.** The fighting area canvas shall be no smaller than 18 feet by 18 feet and no larger than 32 feet by 32 feet. The fighting area canvas shall be padded in a manner as approved by the Commission, with at least one inch layer of foam padding.
 - (a) Padding shall extend beyond the fighting area and over the edge of the platform. No vinyl or other plastic rubberized covering shall be permitted.
 - (b) The fighting area canvas shall not be more than four feet above the floor of the building and shall have suitable steps or ramp for use by the participants. Posts shall be made of metal not more than six inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a minimum height of 58 inches above the fighting area canvas and shall be properly padded in a manner approved by the Commission.
 - (c) The fighting area canvas area shall be enclosed by a fence made of such material as will not allow a fighter to fall out or break through it onto the floor or spectators, including, but not limited to, vinyl coated chain link fencing.
 - (d) All metal parts shall be covered and padded in a manner approved by the Commission and shall not be abrasive to the contestants. The fence shall provide two separate entries onto the fighting area canvas. Both doors shall have a "clasp and pin" or similarly approved dual locking system and steps that facilitate safe entry and exit.

Author: Casey C. Sears

Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 41-9-1020

History: **New Rule:** Filed: March 20, 2012; Effective: April 24, 2012.

165-X-14-.08 Equipment

1. Equipment Approval. All appropriate equipment shall be approved at the discretion of the Alabama Athletic Commission.

Author: Casey C. Sears

Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 41-9-1020

History: New Rule: Filed: March 20, 2012; Effective: April 24, 2012.

165-X-14-.09 Specifications for bandages on mixed martial artists' hands

1. Pre-fight hand wraps. All mixed martial arts contestants shall be required to gauze and tape their hands prior to all contests. In all weight classes, the bandages on each contestant's hand shall be restricted to soft gauze cloth not more than 15 yards in length and two inches in width, held in place by not more than 10 feet of surgeon's tape, one inch in width, for each hand. Surgeon's adhesive tape shall be placed directly on each hand for protection near the wrist.

- (a) Tape may cross the back of the hand twice and extend to cover and protect the knuckles when the hand is clenched to make a fist.
- (b) The bandages shall be evenly distributed across the hand. Bandages and tape shall be placed on a contestant's hands in the dressing room in the presence of the chief second of his or her opponent.
- (c) Under no circumstances are gloves to be placed on the hands of a contestant until the approval of the opponent's chief second is received.
- (d) Substances other than surgeon's tape and soft gauze shall not be utilized. (Example) Pre-wraps shall not be used.

Author: Casey C. Sears

Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 41-9-1020

History: New Rule: Filed: March 20, 2012; Effective: April 24, 2012.

165-X-14-.10 Mouth pieces

1. Mouth piece requirements. All contestants are required to wear a mouth piece during competition. The mouthpiece shall be subject to examination and approval by the attending physician. The round cannot begin without the mouthpiece in place. In the event that the

mouth pieces come out of a competitor's mouth during the action of a round, the referee shall wait until a break in the natural fighting action and escort the fighter to his corner to have his mouthpiece replaced. Intentionally spitting out a mouthpiece is grounds for penalization or disqualification.

Author: Casey C. Sears

Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 41-9-1020

History: New Rule: Filed: March 20, 2012; Effective: April 24, 2012.

165-X-14-.11 Protective equipment

1. Shin Guards. Approved shin guard with instep pads, supplied by the promoter, and in good condition, must be worn by all contestants.
2. Female mixed martial artists may wear a chest protector or other properly fitted sports bra during competition. Chest protectors shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Athletic Commission.
3. All contestants, male and female, shall wear groin protection during competition.
4. Contestants may choose between a MMA Cup or a traditional boxing style protector. Groin protection shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Athletic Commission.
5. A single elastic or neoprene sleeve may be worn to support either or both ankles and knees. Sleeve supports must not have any metal or plastic hinges that could injure the fighter or his/her opponent. Tape of any kind is prohibited.

Author: Casey C. Sears

Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 41-9-1020

History: New Rule: Filed: March 20, 2012; Effective: April 24, 2012.

165-X-14-.12 Gloves

1. Glove condition. The gloves shall be in good condition for all contests or they must be replaced.
2. Glove weights. All contestants shall wear gloves at least **six ounces** supplied by the promoter and approved by the ~~Alabama Athletic Commission~~ licensed sanctioning organization. No contestant shall supply his or her own gloves for participation unless approved by the ~~Alabama Athletic Commission~~ licensed sanctioning organization.
3. **Extra Gloves.** Each licensed sanctioning organization must have an extra set of gloves of the appropriate weight available to be used

in case a glove is broken or otherwise damaged during the course of the contest, match, or exhibition.

4. **Glove Certification.** It is the licensed sanctioning organization's responsibility to ensure that the gloves selected for use during each show meet the Commission's rules and regulations concerning proper certification should be resolved no less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the show.
5. **Glove Condition.** Gloves may not be broken or twisted, nor may the padding be misplaced or lumpy.

Author: Casey C. Sears

Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 41-9-1020

History: New Rule: Filed: March 20, 2012; Effective: April 24, 2012.

165-X-14-.13 Apparel

1. **Acceptable attire.** Each contestant shall wear mixed martial arts shorts, biking shorts, or kickboxing shorts. Shorts with a grip panel are not permitted. Shorts with metal parts are not permitted unless properly covered.
 - (a) Gi's, shirts, and biking pants with a grip panel are prohibited during competition for male Contestants. Female competitors must wear rashguard shirts or similarly approved apparel. Male contestants may wear rashguard shirts.
 - (b) Shoes are prohibited during competition.

Author: Casey C. Sears

Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 41-9-1020

History: New Rule: Filed: March 20, 2012; Effective: April 24, 2012.

165-X-14-.14 Appearance

1. **Appearance and hygiene.** The Alabama Athletic Commission may prevent any contestant from competing in any match or event due to the contestant's personal hygiene, length of head hair, length of facial hair, or any other aspects of personal appearance that may present a hazard to the safety of the contestant or their opponent, or that may interfere with the supervision or conduct of the event.

Author: Casey C. Sears

Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 41-9-1020

History: New Rule: Filed: March 20, 2012; Effective: April 24, 2012.