

**TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR  
NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION**

Control No. 165 Department or Agency Alabama Athletic Commission  
Rule No. 165-X-6  
Rule Title: Ring and Equipment  
         New          Amend                   X          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?          N/A         

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.

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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 9/19/2013

(DATE FILED)  
(STAMP)

ALABAMA ATHLETIC COMMISSION

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

AGENCY NAME: Alabama Athletic Commission

RULE NO. & TITLE:

165-X-1	Professional Boxing	Repealed & New
165-X-2	Professional Mixed Martial Arts	Repealed & New
165-X-3	Amateur Mixed Martial Arts	Repealed & New
165-X-4	Medical Requirements	Repealed
165-X-5	Conduct of Promotion	Repealed
165-X-6	Ring and Equipment	Repealed
165-X-7	Officials: Corner Inspectors, Referees, Judges and Timekeepers	Repealed
165-X-8	Officials: Conduct of Contest, Match, or Exhibition	Repealed
165-X-9	Forms	Repealed
165-X-10	Functions of Commission	Repealed
165-X-11	Martial Arts Definition	Repealed
165-X-12	Bout Results	Repealed
165-X-13	Mixed Martial Arts Ring and Equipment	Repealed
165-X-14	Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Standards	Repealed
165-X-15	Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Competition Rules	Repealed
165-X-16	Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Additional Competition Guidelines	Repealed
165-X-17	Foul Procedures	Repealed
165-X-18	Injuries Sustained During Competition That will Terminate the Bout	Repealed
165-X-19	Types of Bout Results	Repealed
165-X-20	Licensing for Amateur MMA Sanctioning Organizations	Repealed
165-X-21	Officials Responsibilities	Repealed
165-X-22	Medical Requirements	Repealed
165-X-23	Match Permits	Repealed
165-X-24	Additional Requirements	Repealed
165-X-25	Mixed Martial Arts Licensing Procedures	Repealed
Appendices		Repealed

INTENDED ACTION: Repealed and New

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Commission will repeal rules that are redundant and condense these rules into 3 chapters.

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS:

Oral or written comments should be addressed to the Alabama Athletic Commission at the address or phone number below and must be received no later than ~~November 7~~, 2013.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE: November 7, 2013

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY:

Ashley McGhee  
260 Commerce St Fourth Floor  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
(334-245-4374)



Brandon Owens  
Executive Director

REPEAL

STATE OF ALABAMA  
ALABAMA ATHLETIC COMMISSION  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 165-X-6  
RING AND EQUIPMENT

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165-X-6-.01 Ring And Equipment

165-X-6-.01 Ring And Equipment.

(1) **General Provisions.** Any dimension in this rule, where the unit of measurement is "inches," shall be considered only as a general and approximate guideline. Where such dimension guidelines are exceeded, the commission appointed supervisor shall have the authority to allow or disallow any such variance from the established guideline.

(2) **The Ring.**

(a) **Ring Size.** The ring must be a square and not less than 16 feet nor more than 20 feet on a side within the ropes. The ring platform (floor) must extend beyond the ropes at least 18 inches on all sides (apron).

1. A ring size greater than 20 feet on a side within the ropes shall only be allowed after unanimous agreement of all the boxers contracted to appear on the show. For purposes of the subparagraph, the term "all boxers" shall be limited to those boxers contracted to a compete in bouts of eight rounds or more.

(b) **Safety Padding.** The ring floor shall be padded with 1-inch thick slow recovery foam matting, or other soft material approved by the commission or its authorized representative, and shall extend over the edge of the ring platform with a top covering of canvas, duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Padding material that tends to gather in lumps may not be used.

(c) **Ring Mat.** The mat and covering shall be kept clean and free from disagreeable odors at all times. The corners must be covered by a pad long enough to cover all the rope joints.

(d) **Platform Height.** The ring platform shall not be more than 54 inches from the floor of the building and shall be provided with suitable steps for use by the contestants.

(e) **Ringside Tables.** Each promoter shall be responsible for employing a safety plan to protect boxers who might fall outside of elevated rings. Except where deemed impractical, the floor of those sides not so protected shall be covered with protective matting.

(f) **Ring Posts.** Ring posts shall be made of some strong material, preferably metal pipe, three inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a height of at least 58 inches above the ring floor.

(g) **Ring Certification.** Rings uses in professional boxing matches in Alabama must be certified by the chief referee and/or the commission representative in attendance at the show.

1. Any ring judged unsafe by the chief referee and/or the commission representative or not otherwise meeting basic standards as defined in commission rules, or which is deemed by the chief referee or commission representative to be improperly stabilized will not be certified.

2. Failure to obtain certification will result in immediate and summary suspension of the match permit.

(h) **Rope Lighting.** The ring shall be amply illuminated by the overhead lights, which shall be so arranged that shadow shall be eliminated and discomfort from heat and glare minimized for persons in and near the rings.

(3) **Ring Ropes.**

(a) **Rope Dimensions.** Ring ropes shall be four in number, at least one inch in diameter, the lower rope 18 inches above the ring floor and the top rope 52 inches from the ring floor. The two remaining ropes will be evenly spread between the top and bottom ropes. All four ropes shall be wrapped in soft material.

(b) **Rope Lanyards.** Each ring rope on each side of the ring shall be connected with two rope lanyards.

(4) **Bell.** The bell shall be approved by the commission and it shall be of sufficient size to enable its sound to be heard by both contestants and the referee.

(5) **Ring Equipment.** The promoter shall provide a sufficient number of water buckets for the use of all contestants. Each bucket shall be sterilized before being used. Additionally, the promoter shall provide, resin, stools, and such other articles as are required for the conduct of each bout.

(6) **Scales.** Scales shall be furnished by the promoter. The commission may require that the scales be certified. Residential bathroom scales of the type generally used in private residences will not meet certification requirements of the commission and will not be allowed for use at any weighin.

(7) **Hand Wrapping: Gauze and Tape.**

(a) Contestants desiring to stabilize the metacarpal bones may use no more than six inches of adhesive tape, not more than two inches in width, across the back of each hand, provided however that the commission inspector or representative must sign each piece of tape prior to placing gauze over such tape.

(b) Stabilization tape may not extend beyond a line one inch on the posterior side of the knuckle.

(c) Gauze shall be of soft surgical-type gauze not more than two inches in width, held in place by surgeon's tape for each hand. All contestants will have their hands wrapped in the dressing room [or some other suitable place in the general vicinity of the dressing room] under the examination of a representative from the commission. Whenever requested by any party, hand wrapping shall take place only in the presence of one or more representatives from the opposing contestants camp.

(1) In all weight classes, the bandages on each hand shall be restricted to soft gauze cloth not more than 13 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. Any commission inspector or representative must sign each hand prior to placing a glove on the hand.

(d) Under no condition will any adhesive tape be allowed to extend a position within one inch of the posterior line of knuckles. Provided however that a thin "butterfly" of tape between the fingers will be allowed to stabilize the placement of gauze.

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**Athletic Commission**

(e) Stacking the process of layering on top of the boxer's wrapped hand additional layers of gauze and tape is prohibited.

(8) **Gloves.**

(a) **Weight Allowed In Bout.** Unless otherwise approved by the commission, contestants in all weight categories up to and including welterweights (up to 147 pounds) shall use 8 ounce gloves. In heavier classes, 10 ounce gloves must be worn.

(b) **Brand-Name Certification Required.** The commission is authorized to certify boxing gloves by brand-name or manufacturer and gloves not so certified may not be used. Each promoter desiring to use for the first time in Alabama a brand of gloves or gloves manufactured by a company not previously certified for use in Alabama are advised to seek prior certification.

(c) **Glove Condition.** Gloves may not be broken or twisted, nor may the padding be misplaced or lumpy.

(d) **Glove Approval.** Gloves shall be examined by the referee and/or the commission representative prior to the start of the matches.

(e) **Glove Style.** Only gloves of the "thumb-attached" or thumbless variety will be used, and all gloves must be laced with the knot on the top [or exterior] side of the wrist. Thumbless gloves may be worn only if both boxers in a particular match agree.

(f) **Skinning of Gloves.** "Skinning" (the practice of tying gloves in such a manner as to force a portion of the padding back from the fist area to over the contestant's wrist) is prohibited. Any glove tied in such a manner will be required to be re-tied.

(g) **New Gloves: Main Event Bouts.** The promoter shall furnish new gloves for all main events.

(9) **Taping of Gloves.** Unless otherwise permitted by the commission appointed supervisor, glove laces shall not be covered by tape except under the direct supervision of a commission approved inspector or official.

**Author:** Casey C. Sears

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§41-9-1024.

**History: New Rule:** Filed March 29, 2010; effective May 3, 2010.