

523 CMR: STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

523 CMR 16.00: MIXED MARTIAL ARTS CONTESTS AND EXHIBITIONS

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16.01: Duration

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 38, the following limitations shall apply except as otherwise approved by the Commission:

- (1) A non-championship contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts must not exceed three rounds in duration.
- (2) A championship contest of mixed martial arts may be five rounds in duration.
- (3) A period of unarmed combat in a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts must be five minutes in duration. A period of rest following a period of unarmed combat in a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts must be one minute in duration.

16.02: Method of Judging

- (1) In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 36, each bout shall be judged by three judges. Each judge of a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts shall score the contest or exhibition and determine the winner through the use of the *10 Points Must System* as follows:
 - (a) The better unarmed combatant of a round receives ten points and their opponent proportionately less.
 - (b) No fraction of points may be given.
 - (c) Points for each round must be awarded immediately after the end of the period of unarmed combat in the round.
- (2) In determining a score, the judges shall consider and give weight to mixed martial arts techniques, in the following order: effective striking/grappling, effective aggressiveness, and fighting area control. The default scoring criteria shall be that which is promulgated by the Association of Boxing Commissions, except for any specific criteria the Commission may amend, remove, or add for use in Massachusetts.
- (3) The majority opinion is conclusive and, if there is no majority, the decision is a draw. Use of an overtime round must be approved by the Commission prior to the event and should be requested contemporaneously upon the filing of the fight card. In order for use of an overtime round to be approved, a provision agreeing to such must be contained in the bout agreement of the combatants.
- (4) When the Commission's representative has checked the scores, they shall inform the announcer of the decision. The announcer shall inform the audience of the decision over the speaker system.
- (5) If a fight is stopped due to an injury caused by an accidental foul, or for any other unforeseen circumstance, the round of the stoppage shall be scored and counted using the *10 Point Must System* if the round is at least half way complete. If the referee penalizes either unarmed combatant in an incomplete round, the appropriate points shall be deducted.

16.03: Acts Constituting Fouls

The following acts constitute fouls in a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts, the details of which default to the Association of Boxing Commissions' Unified Rules of MMA "FOULS":

- (1) Butting with the head.
- (2) Eye gouging of any kind.
- (3) Biting.
- (4) Hair pulling.
- (5) Fishhooking.
- (6) Groin attacks of any kind.
- (7) Putting a finger into any orifice or into any cut or laceration on an opponent.
- (8) Small joint manipulation.
- (9) Striking to the spine or the back of the head.
- (10) Striking downward using the point of the elbow:
- (11) Throat strikes of any kind, including, without limitation, grabbing the trachea.
- (12) Clawing, pinching or twisting the flesh.
- (13) Kicking the head of a grounded opponent.
- (14) Kneeing the head of a grounded opponent.
- (15) Stomping a grounded opponent.
- (16) Spiking an opponent to the canvas on his head or neck.
- (17) Throwing an opponent out of the ring or fenced area.
- (18) Holding the shorts or gloves of an opponent.
- (19) Spitting at an opponent.
- (20) Engaging in any unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to an opponent.
- (21) Holding the ropes or the fence.
- (22) Using abusive language in the ring or fenced area.
- (23) Attacking an opponent on or during the break.
- (24) Attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee.
- (25) Attacking an opponent after the bell has sounded the end of the period of unarmed combat.
- (26) Flagrantly disregarding the instructions of the referee.
- (27) Timidity, including, without limitation, avoiding contact with an opponent, intentionally or consistently dropping the mouthpiece or faking an injury.

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16.03: continued

- (28) Interference by the corner.
- (29) For amateur contests only:
 - (a) Elbowing;
 - (b) Kneeing to the head while standing; and
 - (c) Heel hooks.

16.04: Fouls: Deduction of Points

- (1) If an unarmed combatant fouls their opponent during a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts, the referee may penalize them by deducting points from their 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 their determination on the severity of the foul and its effect upon the opponent except that in the case of an intentional foul inflicting injury, as determined solely by the referee, one point must be deducted in accordance with 523 CMR 14.14(2).
- (2) The referee shall, as soon as is practical after the foul, notify the judges and both unarmed combatants of the number of points, if any, to be deducted from the score of the offender.
- (3) 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.

16.05: Fouls: Accidental

- (1) If a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts is stopped because of an accidental foul, the referee shall determine whether the unarmed combatant who has been fouled can continue or not. A recuperative interval of not more than five minutes is allowed for groin fouls only. Immediately after separating the unarmed combatants, the referee shall inform the Commission of his determination that the foul was accidental.
- (2) If the referee determines that a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts may not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an accidental foul, the contest or exhibition must be declared a no decision if the foul occurs during:
 - (a) The first two rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for three rounds or less; or
 - (b) The first three rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for more than three rounds.
- (3) If an accidental foul renders an unarmed combatant unable to continue the contest or exhibition after:
 - (a) The completed second round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for three rounds or less; or
 - (b) 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 if that round is more than half way complete.
- (4) 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.

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16.06: Results of Contests

A contest of mixed martial arts may end under the following results:

- (1) Submission by:
 - (a) Physical tap out;
 - (b) Verbal tap out; or
 - (c) Technical.
- (2) Technical knockout by the referee stopping the contest.
- (3) Decision *via* the scorecards, including:
 - (a) Unanimous decision.
 - (b) Split decision.
 - (c) Majority decision.
 - (d) Draw, including:
 1. Unanimous draw.
 2. Majority draw.
 3. Split draw.
- (4) Technical decision.
- (5) Technical draw.
- (6) Disqualification.
- (7) Forfeit.
- (8) No decision.
- (9) No contest.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 16.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.