State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION
Racing and Athletics Division
233 Richmond Street
Providence, RI 02903

RACING AND ATHLETICS REGULATION 1

BOXING

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Section 1 *Authority*

These rules and regulations governing boxing (hereinafter referred to as the "Rules") are adopted pursuant to the authority granted in R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-5-1 *et seq.* (the "Act") and in accordance with the requirements of the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996, 15 USC 6301 (the "Federal Act").

Section 2 *Purpose*

These Rules are adopted to assist the Department of Business Regulation (the "Department") in carrying out the administration and enforcement of the terms and provisions of the Act and the Federal Act. In the development of these Rules, the Department relied upon the underlying policies and purposes of the Act and the Federal Act, including, without limitation, the following:

(A) to protect the health, safety and well-being of the competitors;

(B) to protect and promote the integrity of events for the benefit of the consuming public; and

(C) to protect the collection of the tax levied upon events by the State of Rhode Island.

Accordingly, these Rules shall be liberally construed and applied to effectuate and promote the Act's and Federal Act's underlying policies and purposes. To the extent that any part of these Rules is inconsistent with the Act or Federal Act or fails to address a matter contained within the Act or Federal Act, or is inconsistent with other applicable law or the terms of any other rule or regulation promulgated by the Department, then the Federal Act, the Act, other applicable law and/or the terms of such other rule or regulation shall be deemed to apply, in that order.

Section 3 ***<u>Definitions</u>***

When used in these Rules, the following words, except as otherwise required by the context, shall have the following meaning:

(A) "Act" means R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-5-1 *et seq.*, as amended.

(B) "Boxing" means any form of boxing or other similar sport in which blows are delivered with the hands to another Competitor in a Contest, Match or Exhibition.

(C) "Boxing Commission" means an entity authorized under state law to regulate Professional Boxing Matches.

(D) "Boxing Registry" means any entity certified by the Association of Boxing Commissions for the purposes of maintaining records and identification of Professional Boxers.

(E) "Closed Circuit Television" means any telecast of an Event which is not intended to be available for viewing without the payment of a fee, collected for or based upon each event viewed, for the privilege of viewing the telecast and includes the terms "pay per view".

(F) "Competitor" means a participant in a Contest, Match or Exhibition.

(G) "Contest" and "Match" are synonymous, may be used interchangeably and mean an Event between two (2) Competitors in which the Competitors strive in good faith to win.

(H) "Department" means the Department of Business Regulation.

(I) "Director" means the Director of the Department of Business Regulation.

(J) "Division" means the Division of Racing & Athletics of the Department of Business Regulation.

(K) "Event" or "Events" means a Contest, Match or Exhibition taking place within the State of Rhode Island where Professional Boxers display or exhibit Boxing, but does not include those events specifically exempted by the provisions of Section 41-5-1 of the Act.

(L) "Exhibition" means an Event in which the Competitors show or display their skills without necessarily striving to win.

(M) "Judge" means a Person to be licensed by the Department who attends the Event and who has the responsibility of scoring or judging the performance of the Competitors in the Event.

(N) "License" includes the whole or part of any Department license, permit, certificate, approval, registration or similar form of permission required by law as a condition of conducting a Match.

(O) "Licensee" means any holder of a License.

(P) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, association, sole proprietorship, public or private organization or any other entity however formed.

(Q) "Physician" means an individual currently licensed to practice medicine in the State of Rhode Island and who has been licensed by the Department for the Event.

(R) "Professional Boxer" means one who competes for a money prize or purse by engaging in Boxing.

(S) "Promotor" means any Person to be licensed with the Department who arranges, advertises, produces, stages or conducts an Event.

(T) "Referee" means a Person to be licensed with the Department who has the general supervision of the Event and is present inside the ring during the Event.

(U) "Regular Business Hours" means the regular business hours of the Department of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Section 4 ***<u>Licenses</u>***

A. Licenses-Event

(i) No Event shall take place or be conducted unless the Promotor of the Event has applied for and received a license from the Department (the "Event License"). The application form (the "Event Application") shall be supplied by the Division, upon request, during Regular Business Hours. An Event Application shall be received by the Division at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the scheduled Event. The Event Application shall be completed in full, shall be in compliance with and include all of the information required by Sections 41-5-3 and 41-5-3.1(a) of the Act and shall also include the following:

(a) Proof of compliance with Section 41-5-3.2 of the Act with respect to ring equipment;

(b) Compliance with Section 41-5-6 of the Act with respect to the filing of a surety bond in the amount determined to be satisfactory to the Division;

(c) A copy of the approval of the city or town authorities where the Event is to be held, pursuant to Section 41-5-5 of the Act; and

(d) An application fee in the amount as specified by the Division.

(ii) Upon receipt of an Event Application, the Division shall review the Event Application to determine if it is in compliance with the requirements of the Act and these Rules. In connection therewith, the Division may require that the Promotor submit such additional information as the Division may deem necessary to enable it to complete its evaluation of the Event Application. If the Division determines that the Event Application is in compliance with the requirements of the Act and these Rules, the Division shall recommend to the Director that the Event License be issued to the Promotor. If the Director agrees with the recommendation of the Division, the Director shall issue the Event License. If the Director disagrees with the recommendation, the Director shall deny the Event License. If the Division determines that the Event Application is not in compliance with the requirements of the Act and these Rules, the Division shall recommend to the Director that the Event License be denied. If the Director agrees with the Division recommendation, the Event License shall be denied. If the Director disagrees with the recommendation of the Division, the Director shall issue the Event License.

In making his/her determination as to whether to issue or deny the Event License, the Director may in his/her sole discretion take into account any factors which he/she deems appropriate, including, without limitation, whether a substantially similar event has been licensed in this or any other state; whether there exist generally accepted standards and criteria for the conduct

and scoring of such events; and whether there exist generally recognized sanctioning bodies for events of such kind. In addition, the Director reserves the right to place such conditions on the grant of an Event License as the Director deems necessary and reasonable pursuant to these Rules, the Act and the Federal Act. The Promotor may appeal any decision of the Director to the Racing and Athletics Hearing Board in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-2-1 *et seq.*

(iii) If issued, the Event License shall be considered conditional and not deemed valid until the holder of the Event License files with the Division a sworn supplementary application (the "Supplementary Application") updating the original Event Application pursuant to the terms and provision of Section 41-5-3.1(b) of the Act. The Supplementary Application shall also contain such additional information as the Division may request.

B. Licenses-Competitors

(i) No Person shall be a Competitor in a Boxing Event unless licensed by the Department at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the starting time for the first Match or Exhibition (the "Competitor License"). The application form for the Competitor License (the "Competitor Application") shall be supplied by the Division during Regular Business Hours. The Competitor Application shall be complete in all respects and shall be in compliance with and include all the information required by Section 41-5-7.1(a) of the Act.

(ii) Upon receipt of a Competitor Application, the Division shall review it pursuant to the same procedures outlined in Section 4(A)(ii). As part of the review conducted pursuant to Section 4(A)(ii), no license shall be granted to a Professional Boxer who (a) has lost six (6) or more consecutive fights, (b) fails, in the sole discretion of the Department to receive a satisfactory physician's certification or (c) is under suspension from any Boxing Commission due to:

(a) a recent knockout or series of consecutive losses;

(b) an injury, requirement for a medical procedure, or physician denial of certification;

(c) failure of a drug test; or

(d) the use of false aliases, or falsifying or attempting to falsify, official identification cards or documents.

The Department, in its sole discretion, may allow a Professional Boxer who is under suspension in any state, for any reason other than those listed immediately above, to participate in an Event if the Department notifies in writing and consults with the designated official of the suspending state's Boxing Commission prior to the grant of the license for such individual or if the Professional Boxer appeals to the Association of Boxing Commissions (as used in the Federal Act) and the Association of Boxing Commissions determines the suspension of such Professional Boxer was without

sufficient grounds, for an improper purpose or not related to the health and safety of the Professional Boxer.

(iii) If issued, the Competitor License shall be conditional and not deemed valid until the holder of the Competitor License files with the Division a sworn supplementary application (the "Competitor Supplementary Application") updating the original Competitor Application pursuant to the terms and provisions of Section 41-5-7.1(b) of the Act. The Competitor Supplementary Application shall also contain such additional information as the Division may request. Notwithstanding the foregoing to the contrary, no Competitor Supplementary Application shall be required when the Competitor Application has been filed within the time frames established by Section 41-5-7.1(b) of the Act.

C. Licenses-Physicians, First Aid Instructors, Practical Nurses

No Person shall act as a physician, first aid instructor, practical nurse or in any other medical capacity at an Event unless licensed by the Department (the "Medical License"). The application form for a Medical License (the "Medical Application") shall be supplied by the Division during Regular Business Hours. The Medical Application shall be complete in all respects and shall include and be in compliance with the requirements of Section 41-5-11 of the Act.

D. Licenses--Referees

No Person shall act as a referee at an Event unless licensed by the Department (the "Referee License"). The application form for a Referee License (the "Referee Application") shall be supplied by the Division during Regular Business Hours. The Referee Application shall be complete in all respects.

E. Licenses--Judges

No Person shall act as a judge at an Event unless licensed by the Department (the "Judge License"). The application form for a Judge License (the "Judge Application") shall be supplied by the Division during Regular Business Hours. The Judge Application shall be complete in all respects.

F. Licenses--Timekeepers, Managers, Trainers, Seconds

No Person shall act as a timekeeper, manager, trainer or second unless licensed by the Department. The application form for the foregoing positions shall be supplied by the Division during Regular Business Hours.

Section 5 ***Termination; Suspension and Revocation of Licenses***

All Event Licenses issued pursuant to these Rules shall be valid until the termination of the Event. All other Licenses issued pursuant to these Rules shall be valid until December 31 of the year the License was issued.

Any License may be revoked or suspended prior to termination in accordance with the provisions of Section 41-5-17 of the Act. Any License suspended or revoked may be appealed to the Racing and

Athletics Hearing Board in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-2-1 *et seq.*

The Division official in attendance at the Event shall be empowered to immediately suspend or revoke any License on an emergency basis if the Division official determines that any of the Licensees, including the Event Licensee, is in material non-compliance with the conditions of the License, these Rules or the Act.

Section 6 ***Insurance***

A. Event Licensee

All Event Licensees shall furnish to the Division evidence of insurance at least thirty-six (36) hours prior to the starting time for the first Contest, Match or Exhibition of the Event as follows:

(i) Public liability insurance in such form and in such amount as the Division deems satisfactory; and

(ii) Such other policies of insurance in such form and in such amounts as the Division shall reasonably require.

All insurance shall be in force not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the starting time for the first Contest, Match or Exhibition. Failure to produce the required insurance shall be grounds for revocation of the Event License.

B. Competitor Licensee

All Competitor Licensees shall furnish within twenty-four (24) hours prior to the Event satisfactory proof of health insurance and life insurance in such form and in such amounts as the Division deems satisfactory in accordance with Section 41-5-11.2 of the Act. Failure to produce the required insurance shall be grounds for not granting a Competitor License or for the revocation of a Competitor License.

C. Sunday and Holiday Events

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6(A) and Section 6(B) to the contrary, if an Event is permitted to be held on any day on which the evidence of insurance required by Section 6.01 and Section 6.02 would by the terms of these sections not need to be furnished during Regular Business Hours, then such evidence of insurance shall be furnished to the Division at least six (6) hours before the end of Regular Business Hours on the last business day before the Event.

Section 7 ***Closed Circuit Television***

No Closed Circuit Television broadcasts of an Event shall be permitted unless the Promotor or Person who intends to broadcast the Event has first obtained a License from the Division. The application form for a Closed Circuit Television License shall be supplied by the Division during Regular Business Hours. The application shall be completed in full, shall be in compliance with the requirements of Section 41-5-3.7 of the Act and shall also include any other information the Division may require.

Section 8 ***Miscellaneous***

(A) No Person under eighteen (18) years of age shall be licensed as a Competitor.

(B) No Person may participate in a Boxing Event against or with an animal.

(C) No male Competitor may participate in a Boxing Event against a female Competitor or vice-versa.

(D) No Person over the age of thirty-five (35) shall be licensed as a Competitor without a hearing before the Division concerning his/her physical ability to perform.

(E) Any Person applying for a Competitor's License without significant professional or amateur experience may be required to show proof of proper training as a Professional Boxer.

(F) The Referee or the Division official at ringside pursuant to Section 41-5-9.1 of the Act may disqualify a Competitor before or during the Event for (i) the use of profanity, including gestures, by the Competitor, his manager, or his second or (ii)unsportsmanlike behavior including, but not limited to, arguing with a Referee or the Division official or refusing to obey either the Referee or Division official's orders.

(G) In addition to the Physician who shall be in attendance at the Event, an ambulance and/or medical personnel with appropriate resuscitation equipment shall be continuously present at ringside.

(H) The administration or use of drugs, stimulants or alcohol, either before or during an Event by any Competitor is prohibited. The Division shall revoke the Competitor License of any Competitor who uses drugs, stimulants or alcohol. For the purpose of verifying compliance with

this rule, the Director or his Division designee may require that any Competitor submit to a urinalysis or blood test prior to or after the Event, or if recommended by the Physician, any other post-Event examination. All costs associated with the foregoing tests shall be borne by the Competitor or the Promotor.

In addition, the Division may require that any Competitor submit to an H.I.V. test in accordance with Section 41-5-11.1 of the Act. The Department may, in its sole discretion, waive the H.I.V. test if the Competitor presents original or certified laboratory test results performed within thirty (30) days of submitting his completed application reflecting that he or she has been tested negative for the presence of the H.I.V. virus.

All medical reports and tests required to be performed pursuant to these Rules or the Act shall be considered confidential and shall be open to examination only to the Department or its duly authorized representatives, to the Competitor and, upon written authorization of the Competitor to all such designated Persons.

(I) No liquid refreshments of any kind may be sold at the Event except in paper containers. Chairs must be securely attached so they are not portable.

(J) Matchmakers and announcers may participate in a Boxing Event without being licensed. It shall be the responsibility of the Event Licensee to ensure that these unlicensed Persons comply with the Act and these Rules. These Persons must register with he Division by supplying their name, address, telephone number and social security number.

(K) No Event shall be ticketed in a general admission style of seating. All Events shall be ticketed by reserved seating.

Section 9 ***Variances; Waivers***

The Division, upon its own or at the request of any Licensee or of any applicant for a License, may grant variances or waivers of any portion of these Rules in the Department's sole discretion as it deems proper or necessary depending upon the facts and individual circumstances of the request.

Section 10 ***Time;Number of Matches, Contests or Exhibitions***

No Event shall commence later than 8:30 p.m. No individual Contest, Match or Exhibition shall exceed fifteen (15) three (3) minute rounds. There shall be a minimum ninety (90) second rest period between each round. The total number of Boxing Matches, Contests or Exhibitions for an Event shall be submitted to the Division for approval, in advance of the Event.

Section 11 ***Protective Equipment***

All male Competitors shall be required to wear a foul-proof groin protector. A plastic cup with an athletic supporter is adequate, but an abdominal guard is preferable. Female Competitors must wear foul-proof breast protectors. Plastic breast covers are adequate. All Competitors must wear fitted mouthpieces. In addition to the foregoing, the Division reserves the right to require Competitors to wear such other protective equipment as the Division deems necessary in furtherance of the underlying policies and purposes of these Rules and the Act.

Section 12 ***Forbidden, Tactics, Blows and Strikes***

No Competitor shall be permitted to engage in any tactics, blows or strikes as follows:

A. Hitting below the belt
B. Hitting an opponent who is down or is getting up after being down
C. Holding an opponent with one hand and hitting with the other
D. Holding or deliberately maintaining a clinch
E. Wrestling or kicking
F. Striking a Competitor who is helpless as a result of previous blows and so supported by the ropes that he does not fall if the Referee has signaled that the Competitor is knocked down
G. Butting with the head or shoulder or using the knee
H. Hitting with the open glove, the butt of the hand, the wrist or the elbow and all backhand blows
I. Purposefully going down without being hit
J. Striking deliberately at the part of the body over the kidneys
K. Deliberately using the rabbit punch
L. Jabbing the Competitor's eyes with the thumb of the glove
M. Hitting on the break
N. Hitting after the bell has sounded the end of the round
O. Hitting a Competitor whose head is between or outside of the ropes
P. Pushing a Competitor about the ring or into the ropes

For the purposes of this section, a Competitor is considered down when any part of his or her body, other than his or her feet, touches the floor, or the Competitor is hanging helplessly on the ring ropes or is rising from a down position.

Notwithstanding the foregoing to the contrary, no Competitor shall be permitted to engage in any tactics, blows or strikes which the Division considers unnecessarily dangerous. In order for the Division to evaluate the tactics, blows or strikes, the Division may require a visual depiction as well as a written explanation of the tactics, blows and strikes the Competitors will be permitted to use at the Event. The Division shall prohibit the Competitors from engaging in any tactics, blows or strikes it considers unnecessarily dangerous in furtherance of the underlying policies and purposes of these Rules and the Act.

Use of any of the above tactics, blows or strikes may result in an appropriate warning and/or loss of points as determined by the Referee. In addition, the Referee may disqualify the Competitor. Any Competitor who is disqualified may have his or her prize or purse withheld from payment. Disqualification of the prize or purse and the penalty to be imposed upon the Competitor shall be determined by the Director or the duly authorized Division official.

Section 13 ***Ring and Equipment***

The ring, platform, covering, posts, ropes and all other equipment and materials to be used, employed or relied upon by the Competitors or any other Person during a Contest, Match or Exhibition shall be inspected and examined by the Division at least four (4) hours prior to the starting time for the first Contest, Match or Exhibition, all in accordance with the requirements and procedures outlined in Section 41-5-3.5(b) of the Act.

In addition to the foregoing, the Division shall require that the ring shall be not less than eighteen (18) feet nor more than twenty-four (24) feet square within the ropes. The ring floor is to extend beyond the ropes a distance of not less than two (2) feet. The ring floor shall be padded with a soft, non-gathering material to a thickness of not less than an inch and one-half extending two (2) feet beyond the ring ropes, with a top covering tightly stretched and secured to the ring platform. The ring shall not be more than four (4) feet above the floor of the building; and shall be provided with suitable steps for the use of the Competitors and other Persons who need access. Ring posts shall be made of metal, extending from the floor of the building to a height of forty-eight (48) inches above the ring floor. The ring must be properly lighted. There shall be three (3) ropes in number, not less than one (1) inch in diameter. Ropes shall be wrapped in soft material. Rope corners shall be padded.

Section 14 ***Scoring***

All Contests, Matches and Exhibitions shall be scored on the ten (10) point must system. In this system, the winner of each round receives ten (10) points and the opponent a proportionately less number. If the round is even, each Competitor receives ten (10) points. No fraction of points may be given.

Following each round, and at the termination of the Match, Contest or Exhibition, the Referee shall pick up the ballots of the Judges. The Referee shall then deliver the ballots to the scorekeeper who shall tally all foul points and who shall make final tallies and deliver the totals to the Person assigned to check and total them. The majority opinion shall be conclusive and if there is no majority opinion then the decision shall be a draw.

Section 15 ***Weight Classes***

The following weight classes are hereby established:

Strawweight..... up to 105 lbs

Light-Flyweight ..... over 105 to 108 lbs

Flyweight ..... over 108 to 112 lbs

Super Flyweight ..... over 112 to 115 lbs

Bantamweight ..... over 115 to 118 lbs

Super Bantanweight ..... over 118 to 122 lbs

Featherweight ..... over 122 to 126 lbs

Super Featherweight ..... over 126 to 130 lbs

Lightweight ..... over 130 to 135 lbs

Super Lightweight ..... over 135 to 140 lbs

Welterweight ..... over 140 to 147 lbs

Super Welterweight ..... over 147 to 154 lbs

Middleweight ..... over 154 to 160 lbs

Super Middleweight ..... over 160 to 168 lbs

Light-heavyweight ..... over 168 to 175 lbs

Cruiserweight ..... over 175 to 195 lbs

Heavyweight ..... all over 195 lbs

No Contest may be scheduled and no Competitors may engage in a Match without the approval of the Department or the Division official if the difference in weight between the Competitors exceeds the allowance as follows:

up to 118 lbs ..... not more than 3 lbs

118-126 lbs ..... not more than 5 lbs

126-135 lbs ..... not more than 7 lbs

135-147 lbs ..... not more than 9 lbs

147-160 lbs ..... not more than 11 lbs

160-175 lbs ..... not more than 12 lbs

175-195 lbs ..... not more than 20 lbs

195 and over ..... no limit

Section 16 ***Gloves***

(A) All bouts shall be fought with gloves weighing at least twelve (12) ounces each. The gloves shall be of the webbed thumb variety. Before a fallen Competitor resumes fighting after having been knocked to, slipped to or fallen to the floor, the Referee shall wipe the Competitor's gloves free of any foreign substance.

(B) The bandages which cover the Competitor's hands shall be put on in the dressing rooms under the supervision of the Division official. The use of adhesive tape over the knuckles is prohibited. The tape must be at least one inch below the knuckles. The use of water or any other liquid or material on the tape is prohibited.

Section 17 ***Knockdowns and Counts***

(A) As soon as a Competitor has been knocked down, the official timekeeper shall begin calling the count (from 1 to 8) while the Referee directs the other Competitor to a neutral corner. After the Referee has directed the other Competitor to a neutral corner, he or she shall return to the fallen Competitor and shall count over him or her, picking up the count from the timekeeper.

(B) The Referee may, in his or her discretion, administer an eight (8) count to a Competitor who is in trouble but who is still standing. The Referee shall direct the other Competitor to a neutral corner, the beginning counting from 1 to 8, examining the Competitor in trouble as he or she counts. If, after completing the standing 8 count, the Referee determines that the Competitor is able to continue, the Match shall resume. If, after completing the standing 8 count, the Referee determines that the Competitor is unable to continue, the Referee shall stop the Match and declare the other Competitor the winner by technical knockout.

(C) The three (3) knockdown rule is in effect. The Referee shall stop a Match when any Competitor suffers three (3) knockdowns in any one (1) round. A Competitor cannot be saved by the bell in any round.

Section 18 ***Powers of Referee***

In addition to any powers of the Referee provided in other sections of these Rules, the Referee shall have the power to stop a Match at any stage during the bout if he or she considers it too one-sided, or if either Competitor is in such condition that to continue might subject him or her to serious injury. The Referee also may, in his or her discretion, request the Physician to examine a Competitor during a Match. Should the examination occur during the course of a round, the clock shall be stopped until the examination is completed. When a mouthpiece is knocked out or falls out of a Competitor's mouth, at an appropriate stopping point in the Match, time will be called, and the Referee shall require the Competitor to replace the mouthpiece. No Competitor shall be permitted to fight without a mouthpiece in his or her mouth at all times.

Section 19 ***Boxer Registry***

(A) Every Professional Boxer residing in the State shall register with the Department. Any Professional Boxer who is a resident of a foreign country, or a state in which there is no Boxing Commission, may register with the Department, if he or she so chooses. Registration forms are available from the Division during Regular Business Hours.

(B) Every Professional Boxer who registers with the Department shall receive an identification card that contains each of the following:

(i) a recent passport style photograph

(ii) the individual's social security number (or, in the case of a foreign boxer, any similar citizen identification number or professional boxer number from the country of residence of the boxer

(iii) a personal identification number assigned by the Department

Each registered boxer shall renew his/her identification card every two (2) years.

(C) Each Professional Boxer shall present his or her identification card to the Department not later than the time of the weigh-in for the Match.

Section 20 ***Conflicts of Interest***

No employee of the Department nay belong to, contract with, or receive any compensation from, any Person who sanctions, arranges or promotes Professional Boxing Matches or who otherwise has a financial interest in an active Professional Boxer currently registered with a Boxer Registry. For purposes of this section, the term "compensation" does not include funds held in escrow for the payment to another Person in connection with a Professional Boxing Match.

Section 21 ***Reporting***

Not later than forty-eight (48) business hours after the conclusion of a Professional Boxing Match, the Department shall report the results of such Match and any related suspensions to each Boxer Registry.

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