

**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 5**

**KICKBOXING**

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***Section 1***     ***Authority***

These rules and regulations governing kickboxing (hereinafter referred to as the "Rules") are adopted pursuant to the authority granted in R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-5-1 *et seq.* of the Rhode Island General Laws (the "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. In the development of these Rules, the Department relied upon the underlying policies and purposes of the 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 underlying policies and purposes. To the extent that any part of these Rules is inconsistent with the Act or fails to address a matter contained within the Act, or is inconsistent with applicable law or the terms of any other rule or regulation promulgated by the Department, then the Act, applicable law and/or the terms of such other rule or regulation shall be deemed to apply.

***Section 3***      **Definitions**

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) "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".
- (C) "Competitor" means a participant in a Contest, Match or Exhibition.
- (D) "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.
- (E) "Department" means the Department of Business Regulation.
- (F) "Director" means the Director of the Department of Business Regulation.
- (G) "Division" means the Division of Racing & Athletics of the Department of Business Regulation.

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

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

(J) "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.

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

(L) "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.

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

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

(O) "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.

(P) "Professional kickboxer" means one who competes for a money prize or purse by engaging in Kickboxing.

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

(R) "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.

(S) "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      Licenses**

**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 R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 41-5-3 and 41-5-3.1(a) and shall also include the following:

- (a) Proof of compliance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-5-3.2 with respect to ring equipment;
- (b) Compliance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-5-6 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 R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-5-5; 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 and the 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 R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-5-3.1(b). 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 Kickboxing 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 R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-5-7.1(a).

(ii) Upon receipt of a Competitor Application, the Division shall review it pursuant to the same procedures outlined in Section 4(A)(ii) of this Regulation.

(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 R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-5-7.1(b). 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 R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-5-7.1(b).

## **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:

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

(B) 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 R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-5-11.2. 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 6.01 and Section 6.02 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 R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-5-3.7 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 Kickboxing Event against or with an animal.
- (C) No male Competitor may participate in a Kickboxing 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 kickboxer.

(F) The Referee or the Division official at ringside pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-5-9.1 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 two (2) paramedics must be on standby, or in the discretion of the Division, 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 R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-5-11.1. The Division 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 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 Kickboxing 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 the 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 ten (10) two-minute rounds. There shall be a minimum one-minute rest period between each round. The total number of Kickboxing 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. Female Competitors may also wear a pelvic protective girdle which shall cover the pubic area, ovaries, coccyx and sides of the hips. All Competitors must wear fitted mouthpieces. Use of padded footgear that covers the toes is mandatory and shin protectors are optional. 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 blows or strikes to areas of the body below the waist or areas of the body above the waist considered to be forbidden, including, the back of the head, the back of the neck and the kidney and spinal areas. All strikes and blows shall be with the legal, padded parts of the hands and the feet. Spinning backfists are permitted providing that the padded portion of the glove, below the wrist lands on the other Competitor. "Bottom" fists are not allowed. "Foot sweeps" shall be permitted if done with the arch of the foot and only to the outside of the Competitor's front leg. All sweeps must be done from mid-calf to the bottom of the boot area on the other Competitor. It is also illegal to punch or kick another Competitor when he or she is down. A Competitor is down when any part of his or her body, other than his or her feet, touch the floor.

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 and 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. Disposition 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 R.I. Gen. Laws § 41-5-3.5(b).

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, nongathering 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/Minimum Kicks***

(A) Each Competitor shall execute a minimum of eight (8) legal kicks during each round. If either Competitor does not execute his or her minimum kicks, he or she may receive a warning or point deduction at the discretion of the Referee.

(B) All Contests, Matches and Exhibitions shall be scored as 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. A Judge shall give weight to executed punches and kicks. On

close or evenly scored rounds, greater weight shall be given to the Competitor with the most effective legal kicks.

(C) Following each rounds, 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:

Atomweight----112.9 lbs and under

Flyweight----113.0 to 118.9 lbs

Bantamweight----119.0 to 125.9 lbs

Featherweight----126.0 to 132.9 lbs

Lightweight----133.0 to 139.9 lbs

Light Welterweight----140.0 to 147.9 lbs

Welterweight----148.0 to 155.9 lbs

Light Middleweight----156.0 to 163.9 lbs

Middleweight----164.0 to 171.9 lbs

Light Heavyweight----172.0 to 179.9 lbs

Heavyweight----180.0 to 194.9 lbs

Super Heavyweight----195 lbs and over

If two Competitors from different weight classes are scheduled to face each other, that particular Contest, Match or Exhibition shall not be permitted when there is a difference in weight as follows:

Atomweight and Flyweight----more than 4 lbs

Bantamweight----more than 5 lbs

Featherweight----more than 6 lbs

Lightweight----more than 7 lbs

Light Welterweight and Welterweight----more than 8 lbs

Light Middleweight and Middleweight----more than 9 lbs

Light Heavyweight----more than 10 lbs

Heavyweight----more than 12 lbs

Super Heavyweight----more than 14 lbs

The appropriate weight spread to be used shall be that of the Competitor in the lower weight class.

***Section 16***    ***Gloves***

Welterweight and lighter bouts shall be fought with eight (8) ounce gloves. Light Middleweight and heavier bouts shall be fought with ten (10) ounce gloves.

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.

***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 10) 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, then begin counting from 1 to 8, examining the Competitor in trouble as he or she counts. If, after completing the standing eight count, the Referee determines that the Competitor is able to continue, the Contest, Match or Exhibition shall resume. If, after completing the standing eight count, the Referee determines that the Competitor is unable to continue, the Referee shall stop the Match, Contest or Exhibition and declare the other Competitor the winner by technical knockout.

***Section 18      Powers of Referee***

In addition to any powers of the Referee provided in other section of these Rules, the Referee shall have the power to stop a Contest, Match or Exhibition 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 any serious injury. The Referee also may, in his or her discretion, request the Physician to examine a Competitor during the Match, Contest or Exhibition. 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, time will be called, and the Referee shall wash and replace the mouthpiece. No Competitor shall be permitted to fight without a mouthpiece in his or her mouth at all times.

***Section 19      Conflicts of Interest***

No employee of the Department may belong to, contract with, or receive any compensation from, any Person who sanctions, arranges or promotes Professional Kickboxing Matches or who otherwise has a financial interest in an active Professional Kickboxer. For purpose of this section, the term “compensation” does not include funds held in escrow for payment to another Person in connection with a Professional Kickboxing Match.

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                                      April 22, 1997  
  
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