

**3773-7-21 Medical requirements for mixed martial arts contestants.**

- (A) The following test results from a certified laboratory or physician must be submitted to the commission office prior to competing in a mixed martial arts event
- (1) Negative HIV;
  - (2) Negative hepatitis B surface antigen (SA);
  - (3) Procedures to complete when failing hepatitis B surface antigen test:
    - (a) Must pass a hepatitis B "PCR" quantitative test;
    - (b) The quantitative limit must be within permissible limits according to the laboratory where test was administered;
    - (c) Test and results must have been taken be within two weeks of the event.
  - (4) Negative hepatitis C antibody;
- (B) Professional contestants must submit a dilated eye exam performed no later than twenty four hours prior to any competition by an ophthalmologist, optometrist or qualified physician
- (C) A cat scan examination of the brain will only be accepted when given within five days of the last date a contestant competes in a combat sports event. Any required post fight neurological examination after five days must be an MRI or MRI/MRA examination.
- (1) These results must be from a medical facility, certified laboratory or physician
  - (2) Must include the date of test, the address and phone number of the facility where test was conducted.
- (D) The results of an MRI or MRI/MRA examination will be accepted if conducted within five years.
- (1) When a neurological clearance is needed for a pre fight examination
  - (2) When competing in a five round title fight
  - (3) A contestant that is thirty-five years old or older
- (E) The commission, executive director or ringside physician may order a Electrocardiogram or MRI or MRI/MRA examination when a contestant:
- (1) Has lost three or more bouts in a row by KO or TKO;
  - (2) Has lost six bouts in a row;
  - (3) Has an extensive losing record.
- (F) Contestants thirty-nine and older must submit in addition to all other required medical examinations:
- (1) Complete physical history exam
  - (2) MRI/MRA brain examination
  - (3) A stress echo cardiogram examination with cardiology clearance

(4) Metabolic blood profile

(5) A chest X-ray that has been given within two years

(G) All tests must have been taken within thirty days to get a one year license. All tests taken more than thirty days but within one year the expiration date for the Ohio license will be ninety days or less from the date of issuance, depending on the expiration date of the medicals that were submitted. Test results from other states are accepted if they meet Ohio's standards.

(H) The commission will not issue a license or renew any applicants license for a contestant who is found to be blind in one eye or whose vision in one eye is so poor that an ophthalmologist, optometrist, or physician recommends that a license not be granted. This rule is effective regardless of how good the vision of the contestant may be in the other eye.

(I) The commission will not issue or renew the license of any applicants who wishes to compete in any sport regulated by the Ohio athletic commission who has suffered from any type of cerebral hemorrhage.

(J) If any applicant applying for a contestants license has suffered a serious head injury the applicant must have their application for license reviewed by the executive director or commission before any license is issued or renewed.

**3773-7-24 First aid equipment used in contestants corners.**

- (A) No spirits of ammonia may be used in the ring.
- (B) Only discretionary use of petroleum jelly may be used on the face prior to start of fight
- (C) In case of cuts, only the following are allowed all other solutions are prohibited:
  - (1) A sealed solution of adrenaline 1/1000 at ringside
  - (2) Aventine
  - (3) Thrombin
- (D) All first-aid equipment used by a second, trainer, or manager shall in all cases and at all times be subject to inspection by the assigned physician or upon the commission representative's request, and the decision as to the use shall be final.
- (E) No prescribed inhalers or any other type of aerosol inhaler may be used in the corner of any fighter. A prescribed inhaler may be given to the ringside physician prior to the start of the bout.

**3773-7-20 Amateur rule differences.**

- (A) Amateur mixed martial arts events will follow all existing rules bearing agency-level designation 3773 of the Administrative Code.
- (B) Any contestant competing as an amateur may not currently or have ever been a professional fighter with a winning record in any combat sports; this includes but is not limited to mixed martial arts, boxing, karate or any other form of a combat sport. A professional fighter in any of the listed sports that has a losing record will be evaluated on an individual basis determined by the number of bouts and the type of losses incurred. Any contestant found in violation of this will be suspended for a period of not less than one year nor more than two years.
- (C) All weigh-ins must be scheduled no earlier than ten a.m. the day of the event, unless authorized by the commission. No weight allowances for amateurs, they must compete within the weight class.
- (D) Rule differences from professional mixed martial art rules:
  - (1) Rounds: there shall be three rounds scheduled for three minutes each with a ninety second rest period between rounds with ten second warning signal prior to the start of the next round.
  - (2) Gloves: minimum size of four ounces and maximum of eight ounces.
  - (3) Neoprene, ankle wraps or elbow pads are optional. Contestants may tape their ankles.
  - (4) No elbow strikes anytime.
  - (5) No knees to the head at anytime.
  - (6) No kicks of any type to the head.
  - (7) A contestant may only strike their opponent to the head with their fists.
  - (8) No twisting leg submissions.
- (E) A mixed martial arts fighter will be required to have a minimum of five recorded amateur bouts prior to being permitted to compete as a professional mixed martial arts fighter. They may appeal to the executive director or Ohio athletic commission to have this waived.
- (F) Masters division: applies to all amateur mixed martial arts contestants' ages thirty-five and over. They must compete in this division until they have competed in a minimum of three events. After three events and a winning record they may apply to the executive director or commission to be able to compete in all levels of amateur or professional competition.

**3773-7-16 Licensing.**

- (A) All contestants, managers and seconds shall be licensed as required by the rules and regulations of agency-level 3773 of the Administrative Code.
- (B) All judges, referees, time keepers, physicians and inspectors shall be licensed as required by the rules and regulations of agency-level 3773 of the Administrative Code.
- (C) All license applicants must be a minimum of eighteen years old.

**3773-7-17      Seconds duties when working in a corner.**

- (A) There may be two licensed seconds for amateur events and three licensed seconds for professional events positioned in a designated area by a cage or fenced area or positioned in each corner of a ring. For championship bouts there may be three licensed seconds.
- (B) No person other than the contestants and referee shall enter the ring, fenced area or cage during a bout.
- (C) The referee may, in their discretion, stop a contest if an unauthorized person enters the ring, fenced area or cage during a round.
- (D) Only one second may enter the cage or fenced area to tend a fighter between rounds and at the end of the fight. In case of an open cut a medical person or cut person may also enter the cage or fenced area.
- (E) There may be no loud yelling or profanity from anyone working the corner.
- (F) If a manager or second leaves the designated area the fighter will be disqualified.
- (G) A fighter getting knocked out of a ring and onto the floor must get back into the ring within twenty seconds without assistance from anyone working their corner.
- (H) Any person violating any rule working the corner will be disqualified for the remainder of the event and suspended for a minimum of sixty days. They may appeal in writing, within thirty days from the date of the event to the athletic commission office.

**3773-7-19 Suspensions and mandatory rest period.**

- (A) Sixty day suspension for a knockout "KO".
- (B) Thirty day suspension for a technical knockout "TKO".
  - (1) Referee stoppage from submission or choke hold prior to verbal commitment or tap out.
  - (2) Referee stoppage from strikes prior to verbal commitment or tap out.
- (C) Throwing the mouthpiece into the audience during or after the event will result in a suspension of no more than sixty days. This would be in addition to any other suspension that contestant may have received.
- (D) Physician's suspension:
  - (1) Whatever length of time the physician designates after post fight check-up that will allow sufficient time for contestant to be physically able to compete.
  - (2) Until any medical requirements issued by a physician are successfully submitted and approved for release by executive director or commission.
  - (3) Failure to report or comply with post fight examination by the attending physician or their representative will result in a suspension of no more than six months.
- (E) Without a release from the executive director or commission a contestant may not compete until seven days have elapsed from their last bout. The seven day period starts the day following the event in which they competed.
- (F) If a contestant is listed on "Fight fax", MMA LC or any state or tribal athletic commission suspension lists recognized by the Ohio athletic commission.