



Regulation #14

Edmonton Combative Sports Regulation #14:

Contest Rules

Description

This regulation establishes the rules of competition for all professional combative sports events sanctioned by the Edmonton Combative Sports Commission (ECSC). It formally adopts the unified rules for both Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) and Boxing and introduces a specific protocol for medical stoppages to enhance contestant safety, particularly by empowering the ringside physician with direct authority to stop a bout.

Rationale

The purpose of this regulation is to provide a clear and consistent framework for the conduct of all professional combative sports events under the ECSC's jurisdiction. By adopting the Association of Boxing Commissions' (ABC) Unified Rules, the ECSC aligns itself with the widely accepted and standardized rules of the sport. The addition of a specific medical stoppage protocol is a critical safety measure intended to minimize delay and potential harm to contestants by allowing the ringside physician to stop a bout instantly when a contestant's health is at immediate risk.

This regulation is intended to provide transparency to contestants, promoters, and officials by clearly defining the rules of engagement and the specific, overriding authority of the ringside physician in matters of contestant health and safety.

This Regulation is to be used in conjunction with Bylaw 15594. Terms not defined here have the same meaning as in the Bylaw. Defined terms begin with an upper-case letter. Headings are for clarity.

In the event of a conflict between the contents of Bylaw 15594 and this Regulation, the Bylaw supersedes this Regulation.

I. PROCEDURE

Adoption of Unified Rules

- 14.1 The Edmonton Combative Sports Commission (ECSC) officially adopts the following rules as the standard for all professional events it sanctions within the City of Edmonton:
- **Mixed Martial Arts:** The **Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) Unified Rules of Mixed Martial Arts** are adopted in their entirety. These rules govern all aspects of MMA competition, including scoring, fouls, and the conduct of contestants and officials.
 - **Boxing:** The **Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) Unified Rules of Boxing** are adopted in their entirety. These rules govern all aspects of professional boxing, including scoring, fouls, and the conduct of contestants and officials.
 - **Muay Thai:** For all professional Muay Thai events, a promoter may elect to use one of the following two rulesets. The chosen ruleset must be clearly stated in the Event Permit application and publicized to all contestants and officials in advance of the event.
 - **The Muaythai World Council Rules and Regulations** are adopted in their entirety.
 - The **Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) Unified Rules of Muay Thai** are adopted in their entirety.

Authority for Medical Stoppage

- 14.2 Notwithstanding any provision in the adopted rules, the ECSC has established a specific protocol for medical stoppages to ensure the highest level of safety for our contestants. Any Ringside Physician assigned by the ECSC to a bout has the **unilateral authority to stop a contest** at any point, including mid-round. This authority is to be used whenever the physician, in their professional medical judgment, determines a contestant's health or safety is at immediate risk.

Stoppage Procedure During a Round

- 14.3 During a round, any Ringside Physician will immediately notify the Timekeeper. Upon receiving this signal, the Timekeeper will instantly stop the contest. For MMA and Muay Thai bouts, this will be done by sounding a long, continuous air horn. For boxing bouts, the Timekeeper will stop the contest by sounding a series of bells. This signal serves as the official notice to the referee and contestants that the bout is over due to a medical stoppage.

Stoppage Procedure Between Rounds

- 14.4 Between rounds, any Ringside Physician will signal the referee directly to indicate their wish to stop the contest.

Referee's Role

- 14.5 The referee will acknowledge the physician's or Timekeeper's signal and formally stop the contest. The referee will then declare the outcome, which may be a

Technical Knockout (TKO) due to medical stoppage, or, if a foul was involved, a disqualification or No Contest, as determined by the adopted rules. The referee's primary responsibility is to ensure the safety of the contestants after the signal and to manage the conclusion of the bout. The Ringside Physician's authority to stop the contest under this rule supersedes the referee's discretion.

Timekeeper's Role

- 14.6 The Timekeeper is granted the specific authority to immediately stop a contest as directed by a Ringside Physician, using the prescribed signals for MMA, Muay Thai, and boxing. The Timekeeper's action in this scenario is a direct result of the Ringside Physician's authority and is not subject to the discretion of the referee.

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