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Rulemaking Hearing Rule(s) Filing Form

Rulemaking Hearing Rules are rules filed after and as a result of a rulemaking hearing (Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-205).

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-229, any new fee or fee increase promulgated by state agency rule shall take effect on July 1, following the expiration of the ninety (90) day period as provided in § 4-5-207. This section shall not apply to rules that implement new fees or fee increases that are promulgated as emergency rules pursuant to § 4-5-208(a) and to subsequent rules that make permanent such emergency rules, as amended during the rulemaking process. In addition, this section shall not apply to state agencies that did not, during the preceding two (2) fiscal years, collect fees in an amount sufficient to pay the cost of operating the board, commission or entity in accordance with § 4-29-121(b).

Agency/Board/Commission:	Tennessee Athletic Commission
Division:	Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance
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Revision Type (check all that apply):

☒ Amendment ☐ Content based on previous emergency rule filed on _____
☐ New ☐ Content is identical to the emergency rule
☐ Repeal

Rule(s) (ALL chapters and rules contained in filing must be listed here. If needed, copy and paste additional tables to accommodate multiple chapters. Please make sure that **ALL** new rule and repealed rule numbers are listed in the chart below. Please enter only **ONE** Rule Number/Rule Title per row.)

Chapter Number	Chapter Title
0145-01	General Provisions
Rule Number	Rule Title
0145-01-.03	Licensing
0145-01-.08	Combatants Generally

Chapter Number	Chapter Title
0145-02	Professional Boxing
Rule Number	Rule Title
0145-02-.09	Seconds
0145-02-.10	Referees
0145-02-.12	Scoring
0145-02-.13	Knockdown and Knockout
0145-02-.20	Foul Related Injuries

Chapter Number	Chapter Title
0145-03	Kickboxing and Mixed Martial Arts
Rule Number	Rule Title
0145-03-.03	Referees
0145-03-.11	Results of Contests
0145-03-.12	Weight Classifications
0145-03-.14	Apparel

Place substance of rules and other info here. Please be sure to include a detailed explanation of the changes being made to the listed rule(s). Statutory authority must be given for each rule change. For information on formatting rules go to <https://sos.tn.gov/products/division-publications/rulemaking-guidelines>.

RULES
OF
TENNESSEE ATHLETIC COMMISSION
0145-01
GENERAL PROVISIONS

0145-01-.03, paragraph (5) is amended by allowing a report of medical examination ninety days prior to applying for the license, so that as amended, paragraph (5) shall read:

(5) All combatants applying for a license, or the renewal thereof, shall be required to submit, upon application, on a form approved by the Commission, a report of a medical examination, including but not limited to a dilated eye exam performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist and a blood test for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV, performed no earlier than ninety (90) days prior to applying for such license or renewal thereof. Professional combatants who are thirty-five (35) years of age or older shall have a neurological examination by a neurologist or neurosurgeon and submit a medical report thereof within thirty (30) days of applying for a license or renewal thereof. The Commission will not issue a license until it has the opportunity to review the report.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201, 68-115-204, and 68-115-206.

0145-01-.08 is amended by adding a provision for penalties if combatant fails to appear, so that as amended the rule in its entirety shall read:

0145-01-.08 COMBATANTS GENERALLY.

(1) The administration or use of drugs or stimulants, either before or during a bout, to or by any combatant, is prohibited. Any contestant violating this provision shall be subject to disqualification. For the purpose of verifying compliance with this rule, the Commission's administrator or his designee may require that one or both contestants in a bout submit to a urinalysis, blood test, or, if recommended by the ringside physician, any other pre or post-fight examination.

(2) All combatants shall attend the pre-fight rules meeting held the day of or the day before all professional contests, with the meeting to be conducted by the referee and the Commission's administrator or his or her designee.

(3) Combatants shall obey the referee at all times during the bout.

(4) Combatants shall act with proper sportsmanship at all times and shall obey the provisions of the Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and these rules at all times.

(5) In addition to the pre-licensing medical examination, all combatants shall complete a pre-contest medical form as provided by the Commission and be subject to a pre-contest medical examination to be performed by the ringside physician, or another physician as selected by the Commission's administrator. A pre-contest examination of a female combatant should include abdominal, breast, and pelvic examinations. Any female combatant shall provide the examining physician with the results of a pregnancy test performed on the combatant within the previous fourteen (14) days. If such results are positive, that combatant shall not be permitted to compete.

(6) Combatants failing to appear for the weigh in, any pre-fight meetings, the contest or bout, shall be subject to discipline which may include civil penalties or suspension at the discretion of the Commission.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201, 68-115-204, 68-115-402, 68-115-403, 68-115-405, and 68-115-216.

0145-02
PROFESSIONAL BOXING

Rule 0145-02-.09 is amended by increasing the number of licensed seconds permitted from three (3) to five (5), so that as amended the rule in its entirety shall read:

0145-02-.09 SECONDS.

(1) A contestant in a bout is permitted a maximum of five (5) licensed seconds to assist the contestant between rounds in his or her corner. A licensed manager may act as a second without possessing a second's license.

(2) No second shall enter the ring while a round is in progress.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201 and T. C. A. § 68-115-203.

Rule 0145-02-.10 is amended by removing the "standing eight (8) count" from the rule so that the rule shall read:

0145-02-.10 REFEREES.

(1) Each bout shall be officiated by a referee who is licensed in accordance with Rule 0145-01-.03. The referee shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this chapter relating to the conduct of such bout. He or she shall maintain effective supervision and control over the contest while it is in progress. The referee shall effectively communicate all of his or her decisions and actions concerning a bout through clear and appropriate signals and/or notifications.

(2) Prior to the start of a bout, the referee shall:

(a) Confirm that the contestants and their seconds possess current and valid licenses issued under the authority of this chapter;

(b) Confirm that a commission representative has inspected and initialed (to denote the representative's approval of) the bandages of each contestant;

(c) Examine each contestant's gloves to insure that they are not in an unsanitary, lumpy, rough, or broken condition;

(d) Observe the fitting of each contestant's gloves;

(e) Ensure that no foreign substances have been applied to the gloves, bandages, protective equipment, or body of the contestants, and that their equipment is in order; and

(f) Ensure that all persons working the ring wear surgical gloves.

(3) The referee may:

(a) Stop a contest and consult with the ringside physician on the advisability of allowing it to continue; and

(b) Warn, penalize or disqualify a contestant for:

1. Hitting below the belt;

2. Hitting an opponent who is down or is getting up after being down;

3. Holding an opponent with one (1) hand and hitting with the other;

4. Holding or deliberately maintaining a clinch;
5. Wrestling or kicking;
6. Butting with the head or shoulder or using the knee;
7. Hitting with the open glove, or with the butt of the hand, the wrist, or the elbow;
8. Purposely going down without being hit;
9. Striking deliberately at the part of the body over the kidneys;
10. The use of the pivot blow or the deliberate use of the rabbit punch;
11. Jabbing opponent's eyes with the thumb of the glove;
12. The use of abusive language in the ring;
13. Any unsportsman-like conduct or action causing injury to an opponent;
14. Hitting on the break;
15. Hitting after the bell has sounded ending the round;
16. Roughing at the ropes; or
17. Pushing an opponent about the ring, or into or through the ropes.

(4) If a referee has reason to believe that a foul which he or she did not see may have been committed, he or she may poll the judges to determine whether such foul was committed. The referee may consider any, all or none of the opinions expressed in making his or her determination. The referee may, in his or her sole discretion, ask for a replay, if television equipment is available, before rendering his or her decision.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201, T. C. A. § 68-115-210 T. C. A. § 68-115-203, and T.C.A. § 68-115-404.

Rule 0145-02-.12 is amended by removing the "standing eight (8) count" from the rule so that the rule shall read:

0145-02-.12 SCORING.

- (1) All bouts will be scored by the "ten-point must" system by a minimum of three (3) judges. In this system the winner of each round receives ten (10) points and the opponent a proportionately less number, but under no circumstances less than seven (7). When the round is even, each boxer receives ten (10) points.
- (2) A referee may participate in the scoring of a bout without possessing a judge's license. However, it is recommended that the referee take no part in the scoring of a bout in order to devote maximum attention to the proper performance of his or her supervisory responsibilities.
- (3) Whenever a referee decides to penalize a contestant because of a foul or other infraction of the rules, he or she shall notify both corners and the judges of the number of points to be deducted from such contestant at the end of the round in which the infraction occurs. The judges shall adjust their scorecards in accordance with the referee's instructions.
- (4) The scoring of a bout shall be based on four (4) factors, in the following order:
 - (a) Clean hits;
 - (b) Effective aggressiveness;

(c) Defense; and

(d) Ring generalship.

(5) In any bout fought to a decision, the outcome shall be determined by a majority of the scorers.

Example: Two (2) judges score a bout a draw; one (1) judge scores the bout in one (1) boxer's favor. The outcome is a draw.

(6) In the event that a bout terminates by a knockout or technical knockout which, in the referee's sole judgment, resulted from head blows, he or she shall instruct the judges to enter the designation "KOH" or "TKOH" (as appropriate) on their scorecards.

(7) At the conclusion of a bout, all scorecards shall be signed by the scorer and transmitted to a designated "chief judge". After reviewing the scorecards for accuracy and correctness, the chief judge shall notify the ring announcer of the official decision. Following the announcement of the decision, the scorecards shall be delivered to the Directors.

(8) In order to afford an adequate view of the bout as well as sufficient isolation from other spectators, judges may be seated in elevated chairs positioned midway between the ring posts on different sides of the ring.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201 and T. C. A. § 68-115-203

Rule 0145-02-.13 is amended by removing the ability to be saved by the bell in the final round, and adding a no standing eight (8) count and no three (3) knockdown rule, so that the rule in its entirety shall read:

0145-02-.13 KNOCKDOWN AND KNOCKOUT.

(1) A contestant shall be deemed "down" when:

(a) Any part of his or her body, except his or her feet, is on the ring floor;

(b) He or she is rising from a down position; or

(c) He or she is hanging helplessly over the ropes; provided, however, that a boxer hanging over the ropes is not officially "down" until so pronounced by the referee.

(2) When a contestant is knocked down, the timekeeper shall immediately rise and announce the elapsed seconds; and the referee shall promptly order the opponent to retire to the farthest neutral corner. The referee shall then return to the fallen contestant and audibly announce the count as he or she motions with his or her right arm downward indicating the end of each second. Should the opponent fail to remain in the neutral corner farthest for the boxer who is down, the referee shall cease counting until he or she has returned to it, and then continue the count from the point at which it was interrupted.

(3) A contestant who is knocked down must take a count of eight (8) whether or not he or she has regained his or her feet before the count has been reached. If when the count of eight (8) is reached the contestant is on his or her feet, the referee shall wipe any accumulated resin from his or her gloves, and may examine him or her sufficiently to assure himself or herself that the contestant is physically fit and mentally alert enough to continue. If so assured, the referee shall, without loss of time, order the contestants to resume boxing.

(4) If the contestant taking the count is still down when the referee calls the count of ten (10), the referee shall wave both arms, indicating that the contestant has been knocked out. When a round other than a final round shall terminate while the referee is administering the count to a contestant who has been knocked down, the count shall be continued. The timekeeper shall not ring the bell until and unless such contestant rises before the count of ten (10) and the referee orders him or her to resume boxing. If the fallen contestant shall fail to rise before the count of ten (10), he or she shall be declared the loser by knockout in the round just concluded.

(5) Should a boxer slip, fall down, or be pushed down, he or she shall be ordered to his or her feet immediately. Failure to rise may subject him or her to disqualification.

(6) A contestant who has fallen through the ropes and out of the platform ring as a result of a legal blow during the contest may not be helped by anyone, and the referee shall start the count, which in this special case will be twenty (20) seconds. Should the contestant fail to re-enter the ring before the count of twenty (20) seconds, the referee shall wave both arms to indicate that he or she has been knocked out and shall raise the hand of the opponent as the winner.

(7) When a boxer has been knocked out, none of his or her seconds shall touch him or her until the attending physician enters the ring and personally attends the fallen boxer, and issues such instructions as he or she deems appropriate to the boxer's seconds.

(8) There is no standing eight (8) count.

(9) There is no three (3) knockdown rule.

(10) A boxer who has been knocked down cannot be saved by the bell in any round.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201 and T.C.A. § 68-115-203.

Rule 0145-02-.20 is amended by adding the accidental low blow provision so that the rule in its entirety shall read:

0145-02-.20 FOUL RELATED INJURIES.

(1) If a boxer is injured by a foul (for which the referee does not disqualify his or her opponent), both boxers may be seated in their corners for a period not to exceed five (5) minutes. During such period:

(a) The boxers shall be neither attended nor talked to by their seconds; and

(b) The ringside physician shall examine the fouled boxer and, in his or her discretion, the other boxer.

(2) Should the fouled boxer be unable to continue after the rest period, the bout shall be scored in accordance with Rule 0145-02-.15.

(3) A fighter who is hit with an accidental low blow must continue after a reasonable amount of time but no more than five (5) minutes, or he or she will lose the fight.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201 and T.C.A. § 68-115-203.

0145-03
KICKBOXING AND MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

Rule 0145-03-.03 is amended by adding the instant replay provision so that the rule in its entirety shall read:

0145-03-.03 REFEREES.

(1) Each bout shall be officiated by a referee who is licensed in accordance with Rule 0145-01-.03. The referee shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this chapter relating to the conduct of such bout. He or she shall maintain effective supervision and control over the contest while it is in progress. The referee shall effectively communicate all of his or her decisions and actions concerning a bout through clear and appropriate signals and/or notifications.

(2) Prior to the start of a bout, the referee shall:

(a) Confirm that the contestants and their seconds possess current and valid licenses issued under the authority of this chapter;

(b) Confirm that a commission representative has inspected and initialed (to denote his or her approval of) the bandages of each contestant;

- (c) Observe the fitting of each contestant's gloves;
- (d) Ensure that no foreign substances have been applied to the gloves, bandages, protective equipment, or body of the contestants, and that their equipment is in order; and
- (e) Ensure that all persons working the ring wear surgical gloves.

(3) The referee may:

- (a) Stop a contest and consult with the ringside physician on the advisability of allowing it to continue;
- (b) In a kickboxing event, administer a "standing eight (8) count" to a contestant in order to observe his or her condition; and
- (c) Warn, penalize or disqualify a contestant for violation of any foul enumerated in this part.

(4) If a referee has reason to believe that a foul which he or she did not see may have been committed, he or she may poll the judges to determine whether such foul was committed. The referee may consider any, all or none of the opinions expressed in making his or her determination. The referee may, in his or her sole discretion, ask for a replay, if television equipment is available, before rendering his or her decision.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201, T.C.A. § 68-115-203, and T.C.A. § 68-115-204.

Rule 0145-03-.11 is amended by adding definitions to the provision so that the rule in its entirety shall read:

0145-03-.11 RESULTS OF CONTESTS.

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

(1) Submission by:

- (a) Physical tap out: When a contestant physically uses their body to indicate that he or she no longer wishes to continue;
- (b) Verbal tap out: When a contestant verbally announces or voluntarily/involuntarily screams in pain or distress to the referee that they do not wish to continue; or
- (c) Technical Submission: When a legal submission act results in unconsciousness or broken/dislocated bone(s)/joint(s).

(2) Technical knockout (TKO):

(a) Referee Stoppage:

- 1. Strikes;
- 2. Laceration;
- 3. Corner Stoppage; or
- 4. Did Not Answer the Bell.

(b) TKO due to Medical Stoppage:

- 1. Laceration;
- 2. Doctor Stoppage; or

3. Loss of Control of Bodily Function.

(3) Knockout (KO) by:

(a) Referee Stoppage: the referee stops the contest because the combatant cannot intelligently defend himself or herself:

1. Due to strikes.

(4) Decision via the scorecards, including:

(a) Unanimous decision: When all three (3) judges score the bout for the same contestant;

(b) Split decision: When two (2) judges score the bout for one (1) contestant and one (1) judge scores for the opponent;

(c) Majority decision: When two (2) judges score the bout for the same contestant and one (1) judge scores a draw or

(d) Draw, including:

1. Unanimous draw: When all three (3) judges score the bout a draw;

2. Majority draw: When two (2) judges score the bout a draw; or

3. Split draw: When all three (3) judges score differently and the score total results in a draw.

(5) Technical decision: When a bout is prematurely stopped due to injury from an accidental foul and a contestant is leading on the score cards.

(6) Technical draw: When an injury is sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul and the bout is allowed to continue, then later the injury requires stoppage from either a legal or illegal strike to the affected area, if the injured contestant is even or behind on the score cards at the time of stoppage, the decision is a Technical Draw.

(7) Disqualification: When an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul is severe enough to terminate the contest, multiple fouls have been assessed, and/or there is flagrant disregard for the rules and/or referee's commands.

(8) Forfeit.

(9) No contest: When a contestant is prematurely stopped due to accidental injury and no decision can be made via the score cards.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201 and T.C.A. § 68-115-203.

Rule 0145-03-.12 is amended by revising the weight differential so that the rule in its entirety shall read:

0145-03-.12 WEIGHT CLASSIFICATIONS.

The following shall constitute the applicable weight classes for all contests. The allowable weight differential (in pounds) between contestants within major classifications shall be as permitted by the Commission at its discretion. If a contestant misses the contracted weight and the two (2) competitors are in different weight classes, the heavier opponent shall not exceed five (5) lbs. of the lower weight fighter. A promoter may establish its own weight requirements for championship or title fights.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Strawweight | Through 115 lbs. |
| (b) Flyweight | 115.1 lbs. - 125 lbs. |
| (c) Bantamweight | 125.1 lbs. - 135 lbs. |

(d) Featherweight	135.1 lbs. - 145 lbs.
(e) Lightweight	145.1 lbs. - 155 lbs.
(f) Super Lightweight	155.1 lbs. - 165 lbs.
(g) Welterweight	165.1 lbs. - 170 lbs.
(h) Super Welterweight	170.1 lbs. - 175 lbs.
(i) Middleweight	175.1 lbs. - 185 lbs.
(j) Super Middleweight	185.1 lbs. - 195 lbs.
(k) Light Heavyweight	195.1 lbs. - 205 lbs.
(l) Cruiserweight	205.1 lbs. - 225 lbs.
(m) Heavyweight	225.1 lbs. - 265 lbs.
(n) Super Heavyweight	Over 265.1 lbs.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201 and T.C.A. § 68-115-203.

Rule 0145-03-.14 is amended by clarifying female combatant apparel so that the rule in its entirety shall read:

0145-03-.14 APPAREL.

(1) The ring apparel for each combatant on a program shall include two (2) pairs of trunks or permissible apparel and a custom-made individually-fitted mouthpiece or any other apparel approved by the Commission. Commission staff shall not approve ring costumes that are so similar as to possibly cause confusion as to the identity of the contenders.

(2) A combatant who is participating in a kickboxing contest or amateur event may, at the combatant's option, use padded footwear and shin protectors. Shoes shall not be worn either in mixed martial arts or kickboxing professional contests.

(3) In addition to the items described in paragraph (1), the apparel for each male combatant shall include a foul-proof groin protector, and shall be worn during all professional contests and amateur events,

(4) In addition to the items described in paragraph (1), each female combatant shall wear apparel that covers the combatant's chest. Female combatants shall wear a short sleeved (above the elbow) or sleeveless form fitting rash guard and/or sports bra(s). No loose-fitting tops and/or breast protectors shall be allowed.

(5) Each of a combatant's hands may be wrapped with soft gauze bandages not more than two inches (2") in width and fifteen (15) yards in length, held in place by not more than ten feet (10') of surgeon's tape not more than one and a quarter inch (1 1/4") in width. Gauze and binding tape may not exceed the wrist of a competitor's gloves. Tape may be placed through the fingers, but may not cover the knuckles. A single layer of elastic or flex-type tape is allowed to be applied over the completed wrap. Athletic Commission officials must approve hand taping materials and style. A combatant may use soft neoprene type sleeves to cover the knee and/or ankle joints. Sleeves may not have padding, hook-and-loop fasteners, plastic, metal, ties, straps, or any other material considered unsafe or which may create an unfair advantage. Unless a specific exemption is requested and granted by Athletic Commission officials, no other tape, gauze, or other materials may be used by a combatant.

(6) Combatants' fingernails and toenails shall be cut and trimmed.

(7) Combatants shall wear a mouthpiece at all times while the bout is in progress.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201 and T.C.A. § 68-115-203.

* If a roll-call vote was necessary, the vote by the Agency on these rulemaking hearing rules was as follows:

Board Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Signature (if required)
Christy Halbert	X				
Patrick Wrenn	X				
Matthew Reddish	X				
Dan McGrew	X				
Ben Grove				X	

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of rulemaking hearing rules, lawfully promulgated and adopted by the Tennessee Athletic Commission on June 13, 2022, and is in compliance with the provisions of T.C.A. § 4-5-222.

I further certify the following:

Notice of Rulemaking Hearing filed with the Department of State on: March 21, 2022

Rulemaking Hearing(s) Conducted on: (add more dates). June 13, 2022

Date: July 7, 2023

Signature: Jesse Gentry


Name of Officer: Jesse Gentry

Title of Officer: Chief Counsel

Agency/Board/Commission: Tennessee Athletic Commission

Rule Chapter Number(s): Rule Chapter No. 0145-01, 02 and 03.

All rulemaking hearing rules provided for herein have been examined by the Attorney General and Reporter of the State of Tennessee and are approved as to legality pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.


Jonathan Skrmetti
Attorney General and Reporter
July 11, 2023 Date

Department of State Use Only

Filed with the Department of State on: 7/13/2023

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Effective on: 10/11/2023

Jul 13 2023, 8:14 am

Secretary of State
Division of Publications


Tre Hargett
Secretary of State

Public Hearing Comments

One copy of a document that satisfies T.C.A. § 4-5-222 must accompany the filing.

No written comments were received before the rulemaking hearing.
No public comments were made during the rulemaking hearing.

Regulatory Flexibility Addendum

Pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 4-5-401 through 4-5-404, prior to initiating the rule making process, all agencies shall conduct a review of whether a proposed rule or rule affects small business.

1. **The type or types of small business and an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the rule being proposed that would bear the cost of, or directly benefit from the rule being proposed.**

The Tennessee Athletic Commission has two hundred twenty-six (226) licensed combatants, one hundred and three (103) ring officials, four hundred and thirty-five (435) seconds and eleven (11) promoters/managers. All of these licensees will benefit from the cohesive application of rules between the State of Tennessee and the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports (ABC).

2. **The projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative costs required for compliance with the rule being proposed, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparation of the report or record;**

There are no projected reporting, recordkeeping, or other administrative costs required for the compliance with the proposed rulemaking hearing rules.

3. **A statement of the probable effect on impacted small businesses and consumers;**

There are no projected reporting, recordkeeping, or other administrative costs required for the compliance with the proposed rulemaking hearing rules.

4. **A description of any less burdensome, less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose and objectives of the rule being proposed that may exist, and to what extent the alternative means might be less burdensome to small business.**

There are no known less burdensome alternatives to these rulemaking hearing rules as they relieve a burden rather than create one. These rulemaking hearing rules help eliminate conflict between the Tennessee rules and the rules of the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports (ABC) Unified Rules of Boxing and of Mixed Martial Arts. Therefore, there is no less burdensome method to achieve the purpose of these proposals because they provide less conflict between Tennessee's rules and those of out-of-state programs.

5. **A comparison of the rule being proposed with any federal or state counterparts; and**

These rulemaking hearing rules better align the Tennessee rules with the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports (ABC) Unified Rules of Boxing and of Mixed Martial Arts since the ABC Regulatory Guidelines and Rules currently contain these amendments.

6. **Analysis of the effect of the possible exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the rule being proposed.**

Exemption from these rulemaking hearing rules would not be expected to be beneficial for small businesses because adoption of these rules should have a net positive benefit for all Tennessee Athletic Commission licensees in the state.

Impact on Local Governments

Pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 4-5-220 and 4-5-228, "On any rule and regulation proposed to be promulgated, the proposing agency shall state in a simple declarative sentence, without additional comments on the merits or the policy of the rule or regulation, whether the rule or regulation may have a projected financial impact on local governments. The statement shall describe the financial impact in terms of increase in expenditures or decrease in revenues."

There is no projected impact to Local Governments.

Additional Information Required by Joint Government Operations Committee

All agencies, upon filing a rule, must also submit the following pursuant to T.C.A. § 4-5-226(i)(1).

- (A) A brief summary of the rule and a description of all relevant changes in previous regulations effectuated by such rule;

The changes in the Tennessee rules governing Boxing and Mixed Martial Arts seek to remove ambiguity, unify the Tennessee rules with the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports (ABC) Unified Rules of Boxing and of Mixed Martial Arts, and further protect the welfare and safety of licensees. The changes improve consistency with the ABC rules which allows for out-of-state contestants to more easily compete in Tennessee. In addition these amendments are required due to statutory changes in the law

- (B) A citation to and brief description of any federal law or regulation or any state law or regulation mandating promulgation of such rule or establishing guidelines relevant thereto;

The Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports (ABC) set out the national standards for boxing and mixed martial arts. The amendments proposed bring the Tennessee rules into alignment with the ABC. In addition, statutory changes to the Tennessee Athletic Commission act require certain amendments to these rules.

- (C) Identification of persons, organizations, corporations or governmental entities most directly affected by this rule, and whether those persons, organizations, corporations or governmental entities urge adoption or rejection of this rule;

These proposed rulemaking hearing rules affect the licensees involved in contests governed by these rules. These changes would be supported by the boxing, kickboxing, and mixed martial art industries as they create uniformity with the ABC's uniform rules and clarify ambiguity that exists in the current version of the rules. The Board urges adoption of these rules.

- (D) Identification of any opinions of the attorney general and reporter or any judicial ruling that directly relates to the rule or the necessity to promulgate the rule;

There is no known opinion of the attorney general and reporter or any judicial ruling that directly relates to the rule or the necessity to promulgate the rule.

- (E) An estimate of the probable increase or decrease in state and local government revenues and expenditures, if any, resulting from the promulgation of this rule, and assumptions and reasoning upon which the estimate is based. An agency shall not state that the fiscal impact is minimal if the fiscal impact is more than two percent (2%) of the agency's annual budget or five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), whichever is less;

The Tennessee Athletic Commission cannot determine any probable increase or decrease in state and local government revenues and expenditures resulting from the promulgation of these rule amendments. It is expected that these rule amendments will increase the number of events conducted in Tennessee; however, the amount of increase in revenue or expenditures to state and local government is unknown.

- (F) Identification of the appropriate agency representative or representatives, possessing substantial knowledge and understanding of the rule;

Pamela Spicer — Chief Counsel
TN Dept. of Commerce and Insurance

Roxana Gumucio-Executive Director
TN. De of Commerce and Insurance

- (G) Identification of the appropriate agency representative or representatives who will explain the rule at a scheduled meeting of the committees;

Pamela Spicer — Chief Counsel

TN Dept. of Commerce and Insurance

Roxana Gumucio-Executive Director
TN. De of Commerce and Insurance

- (H) Office address, telephone number, and email address of the agency representative or representatives who will explain the rule at a scheduled meeting of the committees; and

Pamela Spicer — Chief Counsel 500 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243
615-741-3072
Pamela.Spicer@tn.gov

- (I) Any additional information relevant to the rule proposed for continuation that the committee requests.

None.

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Sequence Number: _____

Rule ID(s): _____

File Date: _____

Effective Date: _____

Rulemaking Hearing Rule(s) Filing Form- REDLINE

Rulemaking Hearing Rules are rules filed after and as a result of a rulemaking hearing (Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-205).

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-229, any new fee or fee increase promulgated by state agency rule shall take effect on July 1, following the expiration of the ninety (90) day period as provided in § 4-5-207. This section shall not apply to rules that implement new fees or fee increases that are promulgated as emergency rules pursuant to § 4-5-208(a) and to subsequent rules that make permanent such emergency rules, as amended during the rulemaking process. In addition, this section shall not apply to state agencies that did not, during the preceding two (2) fiscal years, collect fees in an amount sufficient to pay the cost of operating the board, commission or entity in accordance with § 4-29-121(b).

Agency/Board/Commission:	Tennessee Athletic Commission
Division:	Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance
Contact Person:	Jesse Gentry
Address:	500 James Robertson Parkway
Zip:	37243
Phone:	(629) 259-0795
Email:	Jesse.Gentry@tn.gov

Revision Type (check all that apply):

☒ Amendment ☐ Content based on previous emergency rule filed on _____
☐ New ☐ Content is identical to the emergency rule
☐ Repeal

Rule(s) (ALL chapters and rules contained in filing must be listed here. If needed, copy and paste additional tables to accommodate multiple chapters. Please make sure that **ALL** new rule and repealed rule numbers are listed in the chart below. Please enter only **ONE** Rule Number/Rule Title per row.)

Chapter Number	Chapter Title
0145-01	General Provisions
Rule Number	Rule Title
0145-01-.03	Licensing
0145-01-.08	Combatants Generally

Chapter Number	Chapter Title
0145-02	Professional Boxing
Rule Number	Rule Title
0145-02-.09	Seconds
0145-02-.10	Referees
0145-02-.12	Scoring
0145-02-.13	Knockdown and Knockout
0145-02-.20	Foul Related Injuries

Chapter Number	Chapter Title
0145-03	Kickboxing and Mixed Martial Arts
Rule Number	Rule Title
0145-03-.03	Referees
0145-03-.11	Results of Contests
0145-03-.12	Weight Classifications
0145-03-.14	Apparel

Place substance of rules and other info here. Please be sure to include a detailed explanation of the changes being made to the listed rule(s). Statutory authority must be given for each rule change. For information on formatting rules go to <https://sos.tn.gov/products/division-publications/rulemaking-guidelines>.

RULES
OF
TENNESSEE ATHLETIC COMMISSION
0145-01
GENERAL PROVISIONS

0145-01-.03, paragraph (5) is amended by allowing a report of medical examination ninety days prior to applying for the license, so that as amended, paragraph (5) shall read:

(5) All combatants applying for a license, or the renewal thereof, shall be required to submit, upon application, on a form approved by the Commission, a report of a medical examination, including but not limited to a dilated eye exam performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist and a blood test for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV, performed no earlier than ~~thirty (30)~~ ninety (90) days prior to applying for such license or renewal thereof. Professional combatants who are thirty-five (35) years of age or older shall have a neurological examination by a neurologist or neurosurgeon and submit a medical report thereof within thirty (30) days of applying for a license or renewal thereof. The Commission will not issue a license until it has the opportunity to review the report.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201, 68-115-204, and 68-115-206.

0145-01-.08 is amended by adding a provision for penalties if combatant fails to appear, so that as amended the rule in its entirety shall read:

0145-01-.08 COMBATANTS GENERALLY.

(1) The administration or use of drugs or stimulants, either before or during a bout, to or by any combatant, is prohibited. Any contestant violating this provision shall be subject to disqualification. For the purpose of verifying compliance with this rule, the Commission's administrator or his designee may require that one or both contestants in a bout submit to a urinalysis, blood test, or, if recommended by the ringside physician, any other pre or post-fight examination.

(2) All combatants shall attend the pre-fight rules meeting held the day of or the day before all professional contests, with the meeting to be conducted by the referee and the Commission's administrator or his or her designee.

(3) Combatants shall obey the referee at all times during the bout.

(4) Combatants shall act with proper sportsmanship at all times and shall obey the provisions of the Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of ~~2008~~ 2016 and these rules at all times.

(5) In addition to the pre-licensing medical examination, all combatants shall complete a pre-contest medical form as provided by the Commission and be subject to a pre-contest medical examination to be performed by the ringside physician, or another physician as selected by the Commission's administrator. A pre-contest examination of a female combatant should include abdominal, breast, and pelvic examinations. Any female combatant shall provide the examining physician with the results of a pregnancy test performed on the combatant within the previous fourteen (14) days. If such results are positive, that combatant shall not be permitted to compete.

(6) Combatants failing to appear for the weigh in, any pre-fight meetings, the contest or bout, shall be subject to discipline which may include civil penalties or suspension at the discretion of the Commission.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201, 68-115-204, 68-115-402, 68-115-403, 68-115-405, and 68-115-216.

0145-02
PROFESSIONAL BOXING

Rule 0145-02-.09 is amended by increasing the number of licensed seconds permitted from three (3) to five (5), so that as amended the rule in its entirety shall read:

0145-02-.09 SECONDS.

(1) A contestant in a bout is permitted a maximum of ~~three (3)~~ five (5) licensed seconds to assist the contestant between rounds in his or her corner. A licensed manager may act as a second without possessing a second's license.

(2) No second shall enter the ring while a round is in progress.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201 and T. C. A. § 68-115-203.

Rule 0145-02-.10 is amended by removing the "standing eight (8) count" from the rule so that the rule shall read:

0145-02-.10 REFEREES.

(1) Each bout shall be officiated by a referee who is licensed in accordance with Rule 0145-01-.03. The referee shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this chapter relating to the conduct of such bout. He or she shall maintain effective supervision and control over the contest while it is in progress. The referee shall effectively communicate all of his or her decisions and actions concerning a bout through clear and appropriate signals and/or notifications.

(2) Prior to the start of a bout, the referee shall:

(a) Confirm that the contestants and their seconds possess current and valid licenses issued under the authority of this chapter;

(b) Confirm that a commission representative has inspected and initialed (to denote ~~his~~ the representative's approval of) the bandages of each contestant;

(c) Examine each contestant's gloves to insure that they are not in an unsanitary, lumpy, rough, or broken condition;

(d) Observe the fitting of each contestant's gloves;

(e) Ensure that no foreign substances have been applied to the gloves, bandages, protective equipment, or body of the contestants, and that their equipment is in order; and

(f) Ensure that all persons working the ring wear surgical gloves.

(3) The referee may:

(a) Stop a contest and consult with the ringside physician on the advisability of allowing it to continue; and

~~(b) Administer a "standing eight count" to a contestant in order to observe his condition; and~~

~~(b)~~ (e) Warn, penalize or disqualify a contestant for:

1. Hitting below the belt;

2. Hitting an opponent who is down or is getting up after being down;

3. Holding an opponent with one (1) hand and hitting with the other;

4. Holding or deliberately maintaining a clinch;
5. Wrestling or kicking;
6. Butting with the head or shoulder or using the knee;
7. Hitting with the open glove, or with the butt of the hand, the wrist, or the elbow;
8. Purposely going down without being hit;
9. Striking deliberately at the part of the body over the kidneys;
10. The use of the pivot blow or the deliberate use of the rabbit punch;
11. Jabbing opponent's eyes with the thumb of the glove;
12. The use of abusive language in the ring;
13. Any unsportsman-like conduct or action causing injury to an opponent;
14. Hitting on the break;
15. Hitting after the bell has sounded ending the round;
16. Roughing at the ropes; or
17. Pushing an opponent about the ring, or into or through the ropes.

(4) If a referee has reason to believe that a foul which he or she did not see may have been committed, he or she may poll the judges to determine whether such foul was committed. The referee may consider any, all or none of the opinions expressed in making his or her determination. The referee may, in his or her sole discretion, ask for a replay, if television equipment is available, before rendering his or her decision.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201, T. C. A. § 68-115-210 T. C. A. § 68-115-203, and T.C.A. § 68-115-404.

Rule 0145-02-.12 is amended by removing the "standing eight (8) count" from the rule so that the rule shall read:

0145-02-.12 SCORING.

(1) All bouts will be scored by the "ten-point must" system by a minimum of three (3) judges. In this system the winner of each round receives ten (10) points and the opponent a proportionately less number, but under no circumstances less than seven (7). When the round is even, each boxer receives ten (10) points.

(2) A referee may participate in the scoring of a bout without possessing a judge's license. However, it is recommended that the referee take no part in the scoring of a bout in order to devote maximum attention to the proper performance of his or her supervisory responsibilities.

(3) Whenever a referee decides to penalize a contestant because of a foul or other infraction of the rules, he or she shall notify both corners and the judges of the number of points to be deducted from such contestant at the end of the round in which the infraction occurs. The judges shall adjust their scorecards in accordance with the referee's instructions.

(4) The scoring of a bout shall be based on four (4) factors, in the following order:

(a) Clean hits;

(b) Effective aggressiveness;

- (c) Defense; and
- (d) Ring generalship.

~~(5) For scoring purposes, a "standing eight count" shall be deemed equivalent to a knockdown.~~

~~(5)(6)~~ In any bout fought to a decision, the outcome shall be determined by a majority of the scorers.

Example: Two (2) judges score a bout a draw; one (1) judge scores the bout in one (1) boxer's favor. The outcome is a draw.

~~(6)(7)~~ In the event that a bout terminates by a knockout or technical knockout which, in the referee's sole judgment, resulted from head blows, he or she shall instruct the judges to enter the designation "KOH" or "TKOH" (as appropriate) on their scorecards.

~~(7)(8)~~ At the conclusion of a bout, all scorecards shall be signed by the scorer and transmitted to a designated "chief judge". After reviewing the scorecards for accuracy and correctness, the chief judge shall notify the ring announcer of the official decision. Following the announcement of the decision, the scorecards shall be delivered to the Directors.

~~(8)(9)~~ In order to afford an adequate view of the bout as well as sufficient isolation from other spectators, judges may be seated in elevated chairs positioned midway between the ring posts on different sides of the ring.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201 and T. C. A. § 68-115-203

Rule 0145-02-.13 is amended by removing the ability to be saved by the bell in the final round, and adding a no standing eight (8) count and no three (3) knockdown rule, so that the rule in its entirety shall read:

0145-02-.13 KNOCKDOWN AND KNOCKOUT.

(1) A contestant shall be deemed "down" when:

(a) Any part of his or her body, except his or her feet, is on the ring floor;

(b) He or she is rising from a down position; or

(c) He or she is hanging helplessly over the ropes; provided, however, that a boxer hanging over the ropes is not officially "down" until so pronounced by the referee.

(2) When a contestant is knocked down, the timekeeper shall immediately rise and announce the elapsed seconds; and the referee shall promptly order the opponent to retire to the farthest neutral corner. The referee shall then return to the fallen contestant and audibly announce the count as he or she motions with his or her right arm downward indicating the end of each second. Should the opponent fail to remain in the neutral corner farthest for the boxer who is down, the referee shall cease counting until he or she has returned to it, and then continue the count from the point at which it was interrupted.

(3) A contestant who is knocked down must take a count of eight (8) whether or not he or she has regained his or her feet before the count has been reached. If when the count of eight (8) is reached the contestant is on his or her feet, the referee shall wipe any accumulated resin from his or her gloves, and may examine him or her sufficiently to assure himself or herself that the contestant is physically fit and mentally alert enough to continue. If so assured, the referee shall, without loss of time, order the contestants to resume boxing.

(4) If the contestant taking the count is still down when the referee calls the count of ten (10), the referee shall wave both arms, indicating that the contestant has been knocked out. When a round other than a final round shall terminate while the referee is administering the count to a contestant who has been knocked down, the count shall be continued. The timekeeper shall not ring the bell until and unless such contestant rises before the count of ten (10) and the referee orders him or her to resume boxing. If the fallen contestant shall fail to rise before the count of ten (10), he or she shall be declared the loser by knockout in the round just

concluded.

(5) Should a boxer slip, fall down, or be pushed down, he or she shall be ordered to his or her feet immediately. Failure to rise may subject him or her to disqualification.

(6) A contestant who has fallen through the ropes and out of the platform ring as a result of a legal blow during the contest may not be helped by anyone, and the referee shall start the count, which in this special case will be twenty (20) seconds. Should the contestant fail to re-enter the ring before the count of twenty (20) seconds, the referee shall wave both arms to indicate that he or she has been knocked out and shall raise the hand of the opponent as the winner.

~~(7) If a contestant is knocked down three (3) times in a round, he shall be declared the loser by knockout.~~

~~(7)(8)~~ When a boxer has been knocked out, none of his or her seconds shall touch him or her until the attending physician enters the ring and personally attends the fallen boxer, and issues such instructions as he or she deems appropriate to the boxer's seconds.

(8) There is no standing eight (8) count.

(9) There is no three (3) knockdown rule.

(10) A boxer who has been knocked down cannot be saved by the bell in any round.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201 and T.C.A. § 68-115-203.

Rule 0145-02-.20 is amended by adding the accidental low blow provision so that the rule in its entirety shall read:

0145-02-.20 FOUL RELATED INJURIES.

(1) If a boxer is injured by a foul (for which the referee does not disqualify his or her opponent), both boxers may be seated in their corners for a period not to exceed five (5) minutes. During such period:

(a) The boxers shall be neither attended nor talked to by their seconds; and

(b) The ringside physician shall examine the fouled boxer and, in his or her discretion, the other boxer.

(2) Should the fouled boxer be unable to continue after the rest period, the bout shall be scored in accordance with Rule 0145-02-.15.

(3) A fighter who is hit with an accidental low blow must continue after a reasonable amount of time but no more than five (5) minutes, or he or she will lose the fight.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201 and T.C.A. § 68-115-203.

0145-03 KICKBOXING AND MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

Rule 0145-03-.03 is amended by adding the instant replay provision so that the rule in its entirety shall read:

0145-03-.03 REFEREES.

(1) Each bout shall be officiated by a referee who is licensed in accordance with Rule 0145-01-.03. The referee shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this chapter relating to the conduct of such bout. He or she shall maintain effective supervision and control over the contest while it is in progress. The referee shall effectively communicate all of his or her decisions and actions concerning a bout through clear and appropriate signals and/or notifications.

(2) Prior to the start of a bout, the referee shall:

(a) Confirm that the contestants and their seconds possess current and valid licenses issued under the authority of this chapter;

(b) Confirm that a commission representative has inspected and initialed (to denote his or her approval of) the bandages of each contestant;

~~(c)~~(d) Observe the fitting of each contestant's gloves;

~~(d)~~(e) Ensure that no foreign substances have been applied to the gloves, bandages, protective equipment, or body of the contestants, and that their equipment is in order; and

~~(e)~~(f) Ensure that all persons working the ring wear surgical gloves.

(3) The referee may:

(a) Stop a contest and consult with the ringside physician on the advisability of allowing it to continue;

(b) In a kickboxing event, administer a "standing eight (8) count" to a contestant in order to observe his or her condition; and

(c) Warn, penalize or disqualify a contestant for violation of any foul enumerated in this part.

(4) If a referee has reason to believe that a foul which he or she did not see may have been committed, he or she may poll the judges to determine whether such foul was committed. The referee may consider any, all or none of the opinions expressed in making his or her determination. The referee may, in his or her sole discretion, ask for a replay, if television equipment is available, before rendering his or her decision.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201, T.C.A. § 68-115-203, and T.C.A. § 68-115-204.

Rule 0145-03-.11 is amended by adding definitions to the provision so that the rule in its entirety shall read:

0145-03-.11 RESULTS OF CONTESTS.

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

(1) Submission by:

(a) Physical tap out: When a contestant physically uses their body to indicate that he or she no longer wishes to continue;

(b) Verbal tap out: When a contestant verbally announces or voluntarily/involuntarily screams in pain or distress to the referee that they do not wish to continue; or

(c) Technical Submission: When a legal submission act results in unconsciousness or broken/dislocated bone(s)/joint(s).

(2) Technical knockout ~~(TKO) by the referee stopping the contest.:~~

(a) Referee Stoppage:

1. Strikes;

2. Laceration;

3. Corner Stoppage; or

4. Did Not Answer the Bell.

(b) TKO due to Medical Stoppage:

1. Laceration;
2. Doctor Stoppage; or
3. Loss of Control of Bodily Function.

(3) Knockout (KO) by:

(a) Referee Stoppage: the referee stops the contest because the combatant cannot intelligently defend himself or herself:

1. Due to strikes.

(4) Decision via the scorecards, including:

- (a) Unanimous decision: When all three (3) judges score the bout for the same contestant;
- (b) Split decision: When two (2) judges score the bout for one (1) contestant and one (1) judge scores for the opponent;
- (c) Majority decision; and: When two (2) judges score the bout for the same contestant and one (1) judge scores a draw or
- (d) Draw, including:
 1. Unanimous draw: When all three (3) judges score the bout a draw;
 2. Majority draw; and: When two (2) judges score the bout a draw; or
 3. Split draw: When all three (3) judges score differently and the score total results in a draw.

(5)(4) Technical decision: When a bout is prematurely stopped due to injury from an accidental foul and a contestant is leading on the score cards.

(6)(5) Technical draw: When an injury is sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul and the bout is allowed to continue, then later the injury requires stoppage from either a legal or illegal strike to the affected area, if the injured contestant is even or behind on the score cards at the time of stoppage, the decision is a Technical Draw.

(7)(6) Disqualification: When an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul is severe enough to terminate the contest, multiple fouls have been assessed, and/or there is flagrant disregard for the rules and/or referee's commands.

(8)(7) Forfeit.

(9)(8) No contest: When a contestant is prematurely stopped due to accidental injury and no decision can be made via the score cards.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201 and T.C.A. § 68-115-203.

Rule 0145-03-.12 is amended by revising the weight differential so that the rule in its entirety shall read:

0145-03-.12 WEIGHT CLASSIFICATIONS.

The following shall constitute the applicable weight classes for all contests. The allowable weight differential (in pounds) between contestants within major classifications shall be as permitted by the Commission at its discretion. If a contestant misses the contracted weight and the two (2) competitors are in different weight classes, the heavier opponent shall not exceed five (5) lbs. of the lower weight fighter. A promoter may establish its own weight requirements for championship or title fights.

(a) Strawweight	Through 115 lbs.
(b) Flyweight	115.1 lbs. - 125 lbs.
(c) Bantamweight	125.1 lbs. - 135 lbs.
(d) Featherweight	135.1 lbs. - 145 lbs.
(e) Lightweight	145.1 lbs. - 155 lbs.
(f) Super Lightweight	155.1 lbs. - 165 lbs.
(g) Welterweight	165.1 lbs. - 170 lbs.
(h) Super Welterweight	170.1 lbs. - 175 lbs.
(i) Middleweight	175.1 lbs. - 185 lbs.
(j) Super Middleweight	185.1 lbs. - 195 lbs.
(k) Light Heavyweight	195.1 lbs. - 205 lbs.
(l) Cruiserweight	205.1 lbs. - 225 lbs.
(m) Heavyweight	225.1 lbs. - 265 lbs.
(n) Super Heavyweight	Over 265.1 lbs.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201 and T.C.A. § 68-115-203.

Rule 0145-03-.14 is amended by clarifying female combatant apparel so that the rule in its entirety shall read:

0145-03-.14 APPAREL.

(1) The ring apparel for each combatant on a program shall include two (2) pairs of trunks or permissible apparel and a custom-made individually-fitted mouthpiece or any other apparel approved by the Commission. Commission staff shall not approve ring costumes that are so similar as to possibly cause confusion as to the identity of the contenders.

(2) A combatant who is participating in a kickboxing contest or amateur event may, at the combatant's option, use padded footgear and shin protectors. Shoes shall not be worn either in mixed martial arts or kickboxing professional contests.

(3) In addition to the items described in paragraph (1), the apparel for each male combatant shall include a foul-proof groin protector, and shall be worn during all professional contests and amateur events,

(4) In addition to the items described in paragraph (1), each female combatant shall wear apparel that covers the combatant's chest. Female combatants shall wear a short sleeved (above the elbow) or sleeveless form fitting rash guard and/or sports bra(s). No loose-fitting tops and/or breast protectors shall be allowed.

(5) Each of a combatant's hands may be wrapped with soft gauze bandages not more than two inches (2") in width and fifteen (15) yards in length, held in place by not more than ten feet (10') of surgeon's tape not more than one and a quarter inch (1 1/4") in width. Gauze and binding tape may not exceed the wrist of a competitor's gloves. Tape may be placed through the fingers, but may not cover the knuckles. A single layer of elastic or flex-type tape is allowed to be applied over the completed wrap. Athletic Commission officials must approve hand taping materials and style. A combatant may use soft neoprene type sleeves to cover the knee and/or ankle joints. Sleeves may not have padding, hook-and-loop fasteners, plastic, metal, ties, straps, or any other material considered unsafe or which may create an unfair advantage. Unless a specific

exemption is requested and granted by Athletic Commission officials, no other tape, gauze, or other materials may be used by a combatant.

(6) Combatants' fingernails and toenails shall be cut and trimmed.

(7) Combatants shall wear a mouthpiece at all times while the bout is in progress.

Authority: Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2016 and T.C.A. § 68-115-201 and T.C.A. § 68-115-203.

* If a roll-call vote was necessary, the vote by the Agency on these rulemaking hearing rules was as follows:

Board Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Signature (if required)
Christy Halbert	X				
Patrick Wrenn	X				
Matthew Reddish	X				
Dan McGrew	X				
Ben Grove				X	

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of rulemaking hearing rules, lawfully promulgated and adopted by the Tennessee Athletic Commission on June 13, 2022 and is in compliance with the provisions of T.C.A. § 4-5-222.

I further certify the following:

Notice of Rulemaking Hearing filed with the Department of State on: March 21, 2022

Rulemaking Hearing(s) Conducted on: (add more dates). June 13, 2022

Date: July 7, 2023

Signature: Jesse Gentry

Name of Officer: Jesse Gentry

Title of Officer: Chief Counsel

Agency/Board/Commission: Tennessee Athletic Commission

Rule Chapter Number(s): Rule Chapter No. 0145-01, 02 and 03

All rulemaking hearing rules provided for herein have been examined by the Attorney General and Reporter of the State of Tennessee and are approved as to legality pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

Jonathan Skrmetti
Attorney General and Reporter

Date _____

Department of State Use Only

Filed with the Department of State on: _____

Effective on:

Tre Hargett
Secretary of State

Public Hearing Comments**Public Hearing Comments**

One copy of a document that satisfies T.C.A. § 4-5-222 must accompany the filing.

No written comments were received before the rulemaking hearing.
No public comments were made during the rulemaking hearing.

Regulatory Flexibility Addendum

Pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 4-5-401 through 4-5-404, prior to initiating the rule making process, all agencies shall conduct a review of whether a proposed rule or rule affects small business.

1. **The type or types of small business and an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the rule being proposed that would bear the cost of, or directly benefit from the rule being proposed.**

The Tennessee Athletic Commission has two hundred twenty-six (226) licensed combatants, one hundred and three (103) ring officials, four hundred and thirty-five (435) seconds and eleven (11) promoters/managers. All of these licensees will benefit from the cohesive application of rules between the State of Tennessee and the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports (ABC).

2. **The projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative costs required for compliance with the rule being proposed, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparation of the report or record;**

There are no projected reporting, recordkeeping, or other administrative costs required for the compliance with the proposed rulemaking hearing rules.

3. **A statement of the probable effect on impacted small businesses and consumers;**

There are no projected reporting, recordkeeping, or other administrative costs required for the compliance with the proposed rulemaking hearing rules.

4. **A description of any less burdensome, less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose and objectives of the rule being proposed that may exist, and to what extent the alternative means might be less burdensome to small business.**

There are no known less burdensome alternatives to these rulemaking hearing rules as they relieve a burden rather than create one. These rulemaking hearing rules help eliminate conflict between the Tennessee rules and the rules of the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports (ABC) Unified Rules of Boxing and of Mixed Martial Arts. Therefore, there is no less burdensome method to achieve the purpose of these proposals because they provide less conflict between Tennessee's rules and those of out-of-state programs.

5. **A comparison of the rule being proposed with any federal or state counterparts; and**

These rulemaking hearing rules better align the Tennessee rules with the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports (ABC) Unified Rules of Boxing and of Mixed Martial Arts since the ABC Regulatory Guidelines and Rules currently contain these amendments.

6. **Analysis of the effect of the possible exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the rule being proposed.**

Exemption from these rulemaking hearing rules would not be expected to be beneficial for small businesses because adoption of these rules should have a net positive benefit for all Tennessee Athletic Commission licensees in the state.

Impact on Local Governments

Pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 4-5-220 and 4-5-228, "On any rule and regulation proposed to be promulgated, the proposing agency shall state in a simple declarative sentence, without additional comments on the merits or the policy of the rule or regulation, whether the rule or regulation may have a projected financial impact on local governments. The statement shall describe the financial impact in terms of increase in expenditures or decrease in revenues."

There is no projected impact to Local Governments.

Additional Information Required by Joint Government Operations Committee

All agencies, upon filing a rule, must also submit the following pursuant to T.C.A. § 4-5-226(i)(1).

- (A)** A brief summary of the rule and a description of all relevant changes in previous regulations effectuated by such rule;

The changes in the Tennessee rules governing Boxing and Mixed Martial Arts seek to remove ambiguity, unify the Tennessee rules with the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports (ABC) Unified Rules of Boxing and of Mixed Martial Arts, and further protect the welfare and safety of licensees. The changes improve consistency with the ABC rules which allows for out-of-state contestants to more easily compete in Tennessee. In addition these amendments are required due to statutory changes in the law

- (B)** A citation to and brief description of any federal law or regulation or any state law or regulation mandating promulgation of such rule or establishing guidelines relevant thereto;

The Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports (ABC) set out the national standards for boxing and mixed martial arts. The amendments proposed bring the Tennessee rules into alignment with the ABC. In addition, statutory changes to the Tennessee Athletic Commission act require certain amendments to these rules.

- (C)** Identification of persons, organizations, corporations or governmental entities most directly affected by this rule, and whether those persons, organizations, corporations or governmental entities urge adoption or rejection of this rule;

These proposed rulemaking hearing rules affect the licensees involved in contests governed by these rules. These changes would be supported by the boxing, kickboxing, and mixed martial art industries as they create uniformity with the ABC's uniform rules and clarify ambiguity that exists in the current version of the rules. The Board urges adoption of these rules.

- (D)** Identification of any opinions of the attorney general and reporter or any judicial ruling that directly relates to the rule or the necessity to promulgate the rule;

There is no known opinion of the attorney general and reporter or any judicial ruling that directly relates to the rule or the necessity to promulgate the rule.

- (E)** An estimate of the probable increase or decrease in state and local government revenues and expenditures, if any, resulting from the promulgation of this rule, and assumptions and reasoning upon which the estimate is based. An agency shall not state that the fiscal impact is minimal if the fiscal impact is more than two percent (2%) of the agency's annual budget or five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), whichever is less;

The Tennessee Athletic Commission cannot determine any probable increase or decrease in state and local government revenues and expenditures resulting from the promulgation of these rule amendments. It is expected that these rule amendments will increase the number of events conducted in Tennessee; however, the amount of increase in revenue or expenditures to state and local government is unknown.

- (F)** Identification of the appropriate agency representative or representatives, possessing substantial knowledge and understanding of the rule;

Pamela Spicer — Chief Counsel
TN Dept. of Commerce and Insurance

Roxana Gumucio-Executive Director
TN. De of Commerce and Insurance

- (G)** Identification of the appropriate agency representative or representatives who will explain the rule at a scheduled meeting of the committees;

Pamela Spicer — Chief Counsel

TN Dept. of Commerce and Insurance

Roxana Gumucio-Executive Director
TN. De of Commerce and Insurance

- (H) Office address, telephone number, and email address of the agency representative or representatives who will explain the rule at a scheduled meeting of the committees; and

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- (I) Any additional information relevant to the rule proposed for continuation that the committee requests.

None.