

General Business Law

ARTICLE 41

COMBATIVE SPORTS

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§ 1000. Definitions. As used in this article: 1. "Amateur" means any participant in a combative sport authorized pursuant to this article who is not receiving or competing for, and who has never received or competed for, any purse, money, prize, pecuniary gain, or other thing of value exceeding seventy-five dollars or the allowable amount established by the authorized amateur sanctioning entity overseeing the competition.

2. "Authorized sanctioning entity" means an entity allowed to oversee and conduct combative sports pursuant to regulations promulgated by the commission.

3. "Combative sport" means any unarmed bout, contest, competition, match, or exhibition undertaken to entertain an audience, wherein the participants primarily grapple or wrestle, or deliver blows of any kind to, or use force in any way to manipulate, the body of another participant, and wherein the outcome and score depend entirely on such activities.

4. "Commission" means the state athletic commission as provided for in section one thousand three of this article, or an agent or employee of the state athletic commission acting on its behalf.
5. "Mixed martial arts" means a combative sport wherein the rules of engagement do not limit the participants to a single, systematic, fighting discipline.
6. "Professional" means any participant in a combative sport authorized pursuant to this article, other than an amateur, who is receiving or competing for, or who has ever received or competed for, any purse, money, prize, pecuniary gain, or other thing exceeding seventy-five dollars in value.

§ 1001. Combative sports authorized. Combative sports conducted under the supervision of the commission, under the supervision of an authorized sanctioning entity, or as provided for in section one thousand twenty-one of this article, are hereby authorized. Authorized combative sports include, amateur and professional boxing, wrestling, sparring, kick boxing, single discipline martial arts and mixed martial arts, pursuant to the provisions of this article.

§ 1002. Combative sports prohibited. 1. The conduct of combative sports outside the supervision of the commission or an authorized sanctioning entity is prohibited.

2. A person advances a prohibited combative sport when, acting other than as a spectator, he or she engages in conduct which materially aids any unauthorized combative sport. Such conduct includes but is not limited to conduct directed toward the creation, establishment or performance of a prohibited combative sport, toward the acquisition or maintenance of premises, paraphernalia, equipment or apparatus therefor, toward the solicitation or inducement of persons to attend or participate therein, toward the actual conduct of the performance thereof, toward the arrangement of any of its financial or promotional phases, or toward any other phase of a prohibited combative sport. One advances a prohibited combative sport when, having substantial proprietary or other authoritative control over premises being used with his or her knowledge for purposes of a prohibited combative sport, he or she permits such to occur or continue or makes no effort to prevent its occurrence or continuation.

3. A person profits from a prohibited combative sport when he or she accepts or receives money or other property with intent to participate in the proceeds of a prohibited combative sport, or pursuant to an agreement or understanding with any person whereby he or she participates or is to participate in the proceeds of a prohibited combative sport.

§ 1003. State athletic commission. 1. The state athletic commission, as named by chapter nine hundred twelve of the laws of nineteen hundred twenty, as amended by chapter six hundred three of the laws of nineteen hundred eighty-one, is continued as a division of the department of state. The commission shall act in the best interests of combative sports. The commission is enacted to protect the health, safety and general welfare of all participants in combative sports and spectators thereof, to preserve the integrity of combative sports through the means of licensing, oversight, enforcement and the authorization of sanctioning entities, and to facilitate the development and responsible conduct of combative sports throughout the entire state. The commission shall consist of five members who shall be appointed by the governor by and with

the advice and consent of the senate. The governor shall designate one of the members as chairperson of the commission. The members of the commission shall be appointed for terms of three years. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission caused otherwise than by expiration of term shall be filled only for the balance of the term of the member in whose position the vacancy occurs.

2. The commissioners shall be paid their actual and necessary traveling and other expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties. The members of the commission shall adopt a seal for the commission, and make such rules for the administration of their office, not inconsistent herewith, as they may deem expedient; and they may amend or abrogate such rules. Three of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum to do business; and the concurrence of a majority of the commissioners present shall be necessary to render a determination by the commission. The commission is vested with the authority to adopt such rules and regulations as necessary to effectuate the provisions of this article.

§ 1004. Jurisdiction of the commission. The commission shall have and is hereby vested with the sole direction, management, control and jurisdiction over: 1. all authorized combative sports;

2. all licenses or permits granted by the commission to any and all persons or entities who participate in authorized combative sports;

3. all determinations regarding the authorization of amateur and professional sanctioning entities;

4. all gyms, clubs, training camps and other organizations that maintain training facilities to prepare persons for participation in authorized professional combative sports;

5. the promotion of professional wrestling exhibitions to the extent provided for in this article; and

6. all contracts directly related to the conduct of authorized professional combative sports in the state of New York.

7. All disclosures to the commission shall be deemed confidential.

§ 1005. Officers and employees of the commission. The secretary of state may appoint, and at his or her pleasure remove, an executive director, deputies, officers, inspectors, physicians and any such other employees as may be necessary to administer the provisions of this article and fix their salaries within the amount appropriated therefor.

§ 1006. Sanctioning entities. 1. The commission shall promulgate regulations establishing a process by which entities may be recognized and approved by the commission as authorized sanctioning entities for a period of time to be established by the commission, during which the entity will be allowed to oversee and conduct combative sports within the state of New York. The commission may, in its reasonable discretion, limit the scope of any recognition and approval of a sanctioning entity to the oversight and conduct of one or more specific combat disciplines, amateur or professional combative sports, or to any combination of the foregoing

based on the qualifications, integrity and history of the entity seeking authorization as a sanctioning entity.

2. The commission shall evaluate factors including but not limited to: (a) the entity's stated mission and primary purpose; (b) whether the entity requires participants in combative sports to use hand, foot and groin protection; (c) whether the entity has an established set of rules that requires the immediate termination of any combative sport when any participant has endured severe punishment or is in danger of suffering serious physical injury; and (d) whether the entity has established protocols to effectuate the appropriate and timely medical treatment of injured persons.

§ 1007. Licenses; general provisions. 1. Except as otherwise provided in sections one thousand six, one thousand eleven, and one thousand seventeen of this article, with respect to all authorized professional combative sports in this state, all corporations, entities, persons, referees, judges, match-makers, timekeepers, professionals, and their managers, trainers, and seconds shall be licensed by the commission. No such corporation, entity or person shall be permitted to participate, either directly or indirectly, in any authorized professional combative sport, or the holding thereof, or the operation of any training facility providing contact sparring maintained either exclusively or in part for the use of professional boxers or professional mixed martial arts participants, unless such corporation or persons shall have first procured a license from the commission. The commission shall establish by rule and regulation licensing standards for all licensees.

2. Every application for a license shall be in a form prescribed by the commission, shall be addressed to the commission, shall be subscribed by the applicant, and affirmed by him or her as true under the penalties of perjury, and shall set forth such facts as the provisions hereof and the rules and regulations of the commission may require.

3. (a) The commission shall establish reasonable fees, terms and renewal terms for licenses, permits and other authorizations issued pursuant to this article, provided, however, that all terms, renewal terms and fees in effect pursuant to chapter nine hundred twelve of the laws of nineteen hundred twenty, and any subsequent amendments thereto, immediately prior to the enactment of this article, shall remain fixed at their prior statutory levels for a period of two years from enactment of this article. The commission shall publish all fees, including the aforementioned, in a single location on its website. All fees set by the commission pursuant to this section shall be subject to the approval of the director of the budget. (b) With respect to the fees established by the commission pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision, when such fees are payable in relation to authorized combative sports constituting mixed martial arts, the following shall apply:

(i) by promoters, for contests held where the seating capacity is not more than two thousand five hundred, the promoter shall pay not more than five hundred dollars;

(ii) by promoters, for contests held where the seating capacity is greater than two thousand five hundred, but not more than five thousand, the promoter shall pay not more than one thousand dollars;

(iii) by promoters, for contests held where the seating capacity is greater than five thousand, but not more than fifteen thousand, the promoter shall pay not more than one thousand five hundred dollars;

(iv) by promoters, for contests held where the seating capacity is greater than fifteen thousand, but not more than twenty-five thousand, the promoter shall pay not more than two thousand five hundred dollars;

(v) by promoters, for contests held where the seating capacity is greater than twenty-five thousand, the promoter shall pay not more than three thousand dollars;

(vi) for referees and judges, not more than one hundred dollars;

(vii) for professional participants, managers and trainers not more than fifty dollars; and

(viii) for chief seconds, not more than forty dollars.

4. Any license, temporary work permit or other authorization issued under the provisions of this article may be revoked or suspended by the commission when the licensee, permittee or authorized entity has, in the judgment of the commission, violated any provision of this article, rule or order of the commission, demonstrated conduct detrimental to the interests of authorized combative sports generally or to the public interest, or when the commission deems it to be in the best interests of the health and safety of the licensee. (a) Any licensee who suffered a knockout or technical knockout in a combative sport may, upon the recommendation of the attending commission physician, be suspended by the commission, for a period determined by the commission, and shall forfeit his or her license to the commission during such period. Such license shall not be returned to the licensee until he or she has met all requirements, medical and otherwise, for reinstatement of such license. All such suspensions shall be recorded in his or her license by a commission official. (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if any other state shall revoke a licensee's license to compete in combative sports in that state, then the commission may act to revoke any license issued to such licensee pursuant to the provisions of this article.

§ 1008. Licenses; judges. 1. Except as otherwise provided in sections one thousand six and one thousand seventeen of this article, only a person licensed by the commission, as a combative sports judge, may judge an authorized professional combative sport within the state. Judges for any authorized professional combative sport under the jurisdiction of the commission shall be selected by the commission from a list of qualified licensed judges maintained by the commission.

2. Any participant in a professional combative sport or his or her manager may protest the assignment of a judge to a contest and the participant or manager may be heard by the commission or its designee if such protest is timely. If the protest is untimely it shall be summarily rejected.

3. Each person seeking to be licensed as a judge by the commission shall be required to submit to or provide proof of an eye examination and annually thereafter on the anniversary of the issuance of the license. The commission shall establish continuing education programs and requirements to be completed by licensed judges. Each judge must be certified as having

completed a training program as approved by the commission and shall pass an examination approved by the commission.

4. Each person seeking a license to judge authorized professional combative sports in the state shall be required to fill out a financial questionnaire certifying under penalty of perjury full disclosure of the judge's financial situation on a questionnaire to be promulgated by the commission. Such questionnaire shall be in a form and manner approved by the commission and shall provide information as to areas of actual or potential conflict of interest as well as appearances of such conflicts, including financial responsibility. Within forty-eight hours of any match, each judge of a professional combative sport shall file with the commission a financial disclosure statement in such form and manner as shall be acceptable to the commission.

§ 1009. Licenses; entities. 1. (a) Except as otherwise provided in sections one thousand six and one thousand seventeen of this article, only entities licensed by the commission may conduct an authorized professional combative sport within the state. The commission may, in its discretion, issue a license to conduct or hold authorized professional combative sports, subject to the provisions hereof, to any person or corporation duly incorporated, or limited liability company authorized, under the laws of the state of New York. (b) A prospective licensee must submit to the commission proof that it can furnish suitable premises, as determined by the commission, in which such combative sport is to be held. (c) Upon written application the commission may grant to any entity holding a license issued hereunder, the privilege of holding such a match or exhibition on a specified date in other premises, or in another location, than the premises or location previously approved by the commission, subject however to approval of the commission and the rules and regulations of the commission.

2. (a) The commission may, in its discretion and in accordance with regulations adopted by the commission to protect the health and safety of professionals in training, issue a license to operate a training facility providing contact sparring maintained either exclusively or in part for the use of professional combative sports participants. At a minimum, any such regulation shall require:

(i) first aid materials to be stored in an accessible location on the premises and for the presence on the premises of a person trained and certified in the use of such materials and procedures for cardio-pulmonary resuscitation at all times during which the facility is open for training purposes;

(ii) clean and sanitary bathrooms, shower rooms, and locker rooms;

(iii) adequate ventilation and lighting of accessible areas of the training facility;

(iv) establishment of a policy concerning the restriction of smoking in training areas, including provisions for its enforcement by the facility operator;

(v) compliance with state and local fire ordinances;

(vi) inspection and approval of surfaces on which training for combative sports will be held; and

(vii) establishment of a policy for posting all commission license suspensions and license revocations received from the commission including provisions for enforcement of such suspensions and revocations by the facility operator.

(b) A prospective entity licensee shall submit to the commission proof that it can furnish suitable facilities in which the training is to be conducted, including the making of such training facilities available for inspection by the commission at any time during which training is in progress.

§ 1010. Licenses; professionals. 1. Except as otherwise provided in sections one thousand six, one thousand eleven and one thousand seventeen of this article, only persons licensed by the commission shall compete in authorized professional combative sports.

2. Any professional applying for a license or renewal of a license to participate in combative sports under this article shall undergo a comprehensive physical examination including clinical neurological examinations by a physician approved by the commission. If, at the time of such examination, there is any indication of brain injury, or for any other reason the physician deems it appropriate, the professional shall be required to undergo further neurological examinations by a neurologist including magnetic resonance imaging or other medically equivalent procedures. The commission shall not issue a license to a professional until such examinations are completed and reviewed by the commission. The results of all such examinations herein required shall become a part of the professional's permanent medical record as maintained by the commission. The costs of all such examinations shall be assumed by the applicant or promoter with which the professional is affiliated, regardless of provider.

3. Any professional licensed under this article shall, as a condition of licensure, waive right of confidentiality of medical records relating to treatment of any physical condition which relates to his or her ability to fight. All medical reports submitted to, and all medical records of the medical advisory board or the commission relative to the physical examination or condition of professionals shall be considered confidential, and shall be open to examination only to the commission or its authorized representative, to the licensed professional or manager upon written application to examine said records, or upon the order of a court of competent jurisdiction in an appropriate case.

§ 1011. Temporary working permits. The commission may issue temporary working permits to professionals, their managers, trainers and seconds. A temporary working permit shall authorize the employment of the holder of such permit to engage in a single authorized professional combative sport at a specified time and place. The commission may require that professionals applying for temporary working permits undergo a physical examination and neurological test or procedure, including magnetic resonance imaging or medically equivalent procedure. Temporary working permits shall expire upon the completion of the single authorized professional combative sport and any subsequent evaluations or inspections required by the commission. The fee for such temporary working permit shall be established by the commission pursuant to rule.

§ 1012. Temporary training facilities. The commission in its judgment may exempt from licensing under this article any training facility providing contact sparring established and

maintained on a temporary basis for the purpose of preparing professionals for a specific authorized combative sport to be conducted, held or given within the state of New York.

§ 1013. Medical advisory board. 1. The medical advisory board created pursuant to chapter nine hundred twelve of the laws of nineteen hundred twenty, and subsequent amendments thereto is hereby continued without interruption. It shall remain a division of the state athletic commission, and shall consist of nine members to be appointed by the governor. The governor shall designate one of such members as chairperson of the advisory board. The term of a member thereafter appointed, except to fill a vacancy, shall be three years from the expiration of the term of his predecessor. Upon the appointment of a successor to the chairperson of the advisory board, the governor shall designate such successor or other member of the advisory board as chairperson. A vacancy occurring otherwise than by expiration of term, shall be filled by appointment by the governor for the remainder only of the term. Each member of the advisory board shall be duly licensed to practice medicine in the state of New York, and at the time of his or her appointment have had at least five years' experience in the practice of his or her profession. The members of the advisory board shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the commission within the amount provided by appropriation, and shall be allowed and paid necessary traveling and other expenses incurred by them, respectively, in the performance of their duties hereunder.

2. The advisory board shall have power and it shall be the duty of the board to prepare and submit to the commission for approval regulations and standards for the physical examination of professionals including, without limitation, pre-fight and post-fight examinations and periodic comprehensive examinations. The board shall continue to serve in an advisory capacity to the commission and from time to time prepare and submit to the commission for approval, such additional regulations and standards of examination as in their judgment will safeguard the physical welfare of professionals licensed by the commission. The advisory board shall recommend to the commission from time to time such qualified physicians, who may be designated and employed by the commission for the purpose of conducting physical examinations of professionals and other services as the rules of the commission shall provide. Such physicians, if so employed, shall receive compensation as fixed by the commission within amounts appropriated therefor. The provisions of section seventeen of the public officers law shall apply to any physician who:

- (a) is designated and employed by the commission; and
- (b) is rendering professional services on behalf of the commission to professionals.

3. The advisory board shall develop or recommend appropriate medical education programs for all commission personnel involved in the conduct of authorized combative sports so that such personnel can recognize and act upon evidence of potential or actual adverse medical indications in a participant prior to, during or after the course of a match.

4. The advisory board shall review the credentials and performance of each commission physician on an annual basis.

5. The advisory board shall advise the commission on any study of equipment, procedures or personnel which will, in their opinion, promote the safety of professionals.

§ 1014. Regulation of authorized professional combative sports. The commission shall promulgate regulations governing the conduct of authorized professional combative sports that:

1. establish parameters and limitations on weights and classes of professionals;
2. establish parameters and limitations on the number and duration of rounds;
3. establish the requirements for the presence of medical equipment, medical personnel, an ambulance, other emergency apparatus and an emergency medical plan;
4. establish responsibilities of all licensees before, during and after an event;
5. define unsportsmanlike practices;
6. establish conditions for the forfeiture of any prize, remuneration or purse, or any part thereof based on the conduct of professionals, their managers and seconds;
7. establish parameters and standards for required and allowed equipment items utilized by professionals;
8. establish parameters and standards for rings, combat surfaces and appurtenances thereto; and
9. establish such other rules and conditions as are necessary to effectuate the commission's purpose.

§ 1015. Conduct of authorized professional combative sports. 1. All buildings or structures used or intended to be used for conducting authorized professional combative sports shall be properly ventilated and provided with fire exits and fire escapes, and in all manner conform to the laws, ordinances and regulations pertaining to buildings in the city, town or village where situated.

2. No person under the age of eighteen years shall participate in any authorized professional combative sports, and no person under sixteen years of age shall be permitted to attend thereat as a spectator, provided, however, that a person under the age of sixteen may be permitted to attend as a spectator if accompanied by a parent or guardian.

3. Except as otherwise provided in sections one thousand six and one thousand seventeen of this article, at each authorized professional combative sport, except where conducted solely for training purposes, there shall be in attendance a duly licensed referee who shall direct and control the same. There shall also be in attendance, except where conducted solely for training purposes, three duly licensed judges who shall at the termination of each such authorized professional combative sport render their decision. The winner shall be determined in accordance with a scoring system prescribed by the commission.

4. Except as otherwise provided in sections one thousand six and one thousand seventeen of this article, the commission shall direct an employee of the commission to be present at each place where authorized professional combative sports are to be conducted. Such employee of the commission shall ascertain the exact conditions surrounding such authorized professional combative sport and make a written report of the same in the manner and form

prescribed by the commission. Where authorized professional combative sports are approved to be held in a state or city owned armory, the provision of the military law in respect thereto must be complied with.

5. Except as otherwise provided in sections one thousand six and one thousand seventeen of this article, any ring or combat surface must be inspected and approved by the commission prior to the commencement of any authorized professional combative sport.

6. Except as otherwise provided in sections one thousand six and one thousand seventeen of this article, all professionals must be examined by a physician designated by the commission before entering the ring or combat surface and each such physician shall immediately file with the commission a written report of such examination. The cost of any such examination, as prescribed by a schedule of fees established by the commission, shall be paid by the corporation conducting the authorized professional combative sport to the commission. It shall be the duty of every person or corporation licensed to conduct an authorized professional combative sport, to have in attendance at every authorized professional combative sport, at least one physician designated by the commission as the rules shall provide. The commission may establish a schedule of fees to be paid by the licensee to cover the cost of such attendance.

7. The physician shall terminate any authorized professional combative sport if in the opinion of such physician any professional has received severe punishment or is in danger of serious physical injury. In the event of any serious physical injury, such physician shall immediately render any emergency treatment necessary, recommend further treatment or hospitalization if required, and fully report the entire matter to the commission within twenty-four hours and if necessary, subsequently thereafter. Such physician may also require that the injured professional and his or her manager remain in the ring or on the premises or report to a hospital after the contest for such period of time as such physician deems advisable. Any professional licensed under this article rendered unconscious or suffering head trauma as determined by the attending physician shall be immediately examined by the attending commission physician and shall be required to undergo neurological examinations by a neurologist including but not limited to magnetic resonance imaging or medically equivalent procedure.

8. Such physician may enter the ring at any time during an authorized professional combative sport and may terminate the match if in his or her opinion the same is necessary to prevent severe punishment or serious physical injury to a professional.

9. Before a license shall be granted to a person or corporation to conduct an authorized professional combative sport, the applicant shall execute and file with the secretary of state a bond in an amount to be determined by the commission, to be approved as to form and sufficiency of sureties thereon by the secretary of state, conditioned for the faithful performance by said corporation of the provisions of this article and the rules and regulations of the commission, and upon the filing and approval of said bond the secretary of state shall issue to said applicant a certificate of such filing and approval, which shall be, by said applicant, filed in the office of the commission with its application for license, and no such license shall be issued until such certificate shall be filed. In case of default in such performance, the commission may impose upon the delinquent a penalty in the sum of not more than one thousand dollars for each offense, which may be recovered by the attorney-

general in the name of the people of the state of New York in the same manner as other penalties are recovered by law; any amount so recovered shall be paid into the treasury.

10. In addition to the bond required by subdivision nine of this section, each applicant for a license to conduct an authorized professional combative sport shall execute and file with the secretary of state a bond in an amount to be determined by the commission to be approved as to form and sufficiency of sureties thereon by the secretary of state, conditioned for and guaranteeing the payment of professionals' and professional wrestlers' purses, salaries of club employees licensed by the commission, and the legitimate expenses of printing tickets and all advertising material.

11. All persons, parties or corporations having licenses as promoters or who are licensed in accordance with section one thousand seventeen of this article shall continuously provide accident insurance or such other form of financial guarantee deemed acceptable by the commission, for the protection of licensed professionals and professional wrestlers, appearing in authorized professional combative sports or wrestling exhibitions. Such accident insurance or financial guarantee shall provide coverage to the licensed professional for: medical, surgical and hospital care, with a minimum limit of fifty thousand dollars for injuries sustained while participating in any program operated under the control of such licensed promoter and for a payment of fifty thousand dollars to the estate of any deceased athlete where such death is occasioned by injuries received in this state during the course of a program in which such licensed professional or professional wrestler participated under the promotion or control of any licensed promoter; and, medical, surgical and hospital care with a minimum limit of one million dollars for the treatment of a life-threatening brain injury sustained in a program operated under the control of such licensed promoter, where an identifiable, causal link exists between the professional licensee's participation in such program and the life-threatening brain injury. Where applicable, professional licensees shall be afforded the option to supplement the premiums for the accident insurance or financial guarantee to increase the coverage beyond the minimum limits required by this subdivision. The commission may from time to time, promulgate regulations to adjust the amount of such minimum limits. The failure to provide such insurance as is required by this subdivision shall be cause for the suspension or the revocation of the license of such defaulting entity.

12. (a) Every individual, corporation, association or club holding any professional or amateur combative sport, including any professional wrestling match or exhibition, for which an admission fee is charged or received, shall notify the athletic commission at least ten days in advance of the holding of such contest. All tickets of admission to any such professional or amateur combative sport or professional wrestling match or exhibition shall be procured from a printer duly authorized by the state athletic commission to print such tickets and shall bear clearly upon the face thereof the purchase price and location of same. (b) Pursuant to direction by the commissioner of taxation and finance, employees or officers of the commission shall act as agents of the commissioner of taxation and finance to collect the tax imposed by article nineteen of the tax law. The athletic commission shall provide the commissioner of taxation and finance with such information and technical assistance as may be necessary for the proper administration of such tax.

§ 1016. Required filings. 1. The organization that promotes, sanctions or otherwise participates in the proposition, selection, or arrangement of one or more professionals for a contest must file with the commission a written statement executed under penalty of perjury stating (a) all charges, expenses, fees, and costs that will be assessed against any professional participating in the event; (b) all payments, benefits, complimentary benefits and fees the organization or entity will receive for its affiliation with the event; (c) the name of the promoter; (d) sponsor of the event; and (e) all other sources, and such other and additional information as required by the commission. Such written statement shall be filed in a form and manner acceptable to the commission.

2. The promoter, organizer, producer or another that participates in the proposition, selection, or arrangement of one or more professionals for a contest must file with the commission a written statement under penalty of perjury detailing all charges, fees, costs and expenses by or through the promoter on the professional pertaining to the event, including any portion of the professional's purse that the promoter will receive and training expenses and all payments, gifts or benefits the promoter is providing to any sanctioning organization affiliated with the event. Such written statement shall be filed in a form and manner acceptable to the commission.

3. The promoter, organizer, producer or another that participates in the proposition, selection, or arrangement of one or more professionals for a contest must file with the commission a copy of any agreement in writing to which the promoter is a party with any professional participating in the match.

4. All contracts calling for the services of a professional in an authorized professional combative sport and entered into by licensed promoters, professionals or managers as one or more of the parties in such contracts, including those contracts which relate to the rights to distribute, televise or otherwise transmit any authorized professional combative sport over the airwaves or by cable shall be subject to the approval of the commission and copies thereof shall be filed with the commission by such corporation, professional or manager within forty-eight hours after the execution of such contract and at least ten business days prior to any bouts, or the first of any series of bouts, to which they relate. The commission may waive such filing deadline for good cause shown.

§ 1017. Professional wrestling; promoters. 1. For the purposes of this article, "professional wrestling" shall mean an activity in which participants struggle hand-in-hand primarily for the purpose of providing entertainment to spectators and which does not comprise a bona fide athletic contest or competition.

2. Every person, partnership or corporation promoting one or more professional wrestling exhibitions in this state shall be required to obtain from the commission an annual license to conduct such exhibitions subject to terms and conditions promulgated by the commission pursuant to rule and consistent with the applicable provisions of this article. Each applicant shall pay an annual fee established by the commission pursuant to rule.

3. A licensed promoter of a professional wrestling exhibition in the state shall notify the athletic commission at least ten days in advance of the holding of the exhibition. Each such promoter shall execute and file with the comptroller a bond in an amount not less than twenty thousand

dollars to be approved as to form and sufficiency of sureties thereon by the comptroller, conditioned for and guaranteeing the payment of professional wrestler's purses, salaries of club employees licensed by the commission, the legitimate expenses of printing tickets and all advertising material, payments to sponsoring organizations, and the applicable state and local sales and compensating use tax.

4. A licensed promoter of a professional wrestling exhibition shall provide for a licensed physician to be present at each exhibition, and such physician shall examine each wrestler prior to each performance, and each such pre-performance examination shall be conducted in accordance with regulations prescribed by the commission.

5. Every licensed promoter of professional wrestling who promotes six or more exhibitions in the state in a calendar year must have in place an anti-drug plan and file with the commission a written copy of the Plan. Each such plan shall address the use of a controlled substance defined in article thirty-three of the public health law, and such plan shall at minimum provide for the following: (a) dissemination of educational materials to professional wrestlers who perform for any such promoter including a list of prohibited drugs and available rehabilitation services; and (b) a referral procedure to permit any such professional wrestler to obtain rehabilitation services.

§ 1018. Prohibited conduct. 1. No corporation or person shall have, either directly or indirectly, any financial interest in a professional boxer competing on premises owned or leased by the corporation or person, or in which such corporation or person is otherwise interested except pursuant to the specific written authorization of the commission.

2. No contestant in a boxing or sparring match or exhibition shall be paid for services before the contest, and should it be determined by the commission that such contestant did not give an honest exhibition of his or her skill, such services shall not be paid for.

3. Any person, including any corporation and the officers thereof, any physician, referee, judge, timekeeper, professional, manager, trainer or second, who shall promote, conduct, give or participate in any sham or collusive authorized professional combative sports, shall be deprived of his or her license by the commission and any other appropriate legal remedies.

4. No licensed promoter or matchmaker shall knowingly engage in a course of conduct in which fights are arranged where one professional has skills or experience significantly in excess of the other professional so that a mismatch results with the potential of physical harm to the professional.

§ 1019. Penalties. 1. A person who knowingly advances or profits from a prohibited combative sport shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor, and shall be guilty of a class E felony if he or she has been convicted in the previous five years of violating this subdivision.

2. Any person who knowingly advances or profits from a prohibited combative sport shall also be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed for the first violation ten thousand dollars or twice the amount of gain derived therefrom whichever is greater, or for a subsequent violation twenty-five thousand dollars or twice the amount of gain derived therefrom whichever is greater. The

attorney general is hereby empowered to commence judicial proceedings to recover such penalties and to obtain injunctive relief to enforce the provisions of this section.

3. Any person or corporation who directly or indirectly conducts any combative sport without first having procured an appropriate license, or having been designated an authorized sanctioning entity as prescribed in this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Any person who participates in a combative sport as a referee, judge, match-maker, timekeeper, professional, manager, trainer, or second without first having procured an appropriate license as prescribed in this article, or where such combative sport is prohibited under this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Any person, partnership or corporation who promotes a professional wrestling match or exhibition in the state without first having procured an appropriate license in accordance with section one thousand seventeen of this article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

4. Any corporation, entity, person or persons, licensed, permitted or otherwise authorized under the provisions of this article, that shall knowingly violate any rule or order of the commission or any provision of this article, in addition to any other penalty by law prescribed, shall be liable to a civil penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars for the first offense and not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars for the second and each subsequent offense, to be imposed by the commission, to be sued for by the attorney-general in the name of the people of the state of New York if directed by the commission. The commission, for cause shown, may extend the time for the payment of such penalty and, by compromise, may accept less than the amount of such penalty as imposed in settlement thereof. For the purposes of this section, each transaction or statutory violation shall constitute a separate offense, except that a second or subsequent offense shall not be deemed to exist unless a decision has been rendered in a prior, separate and independent proceeding.

5. On the first infraction of rule or regulations promulgated pursuant to subdivision two of section one thousand nine of this article, which infraction may include more than one individual violation, the commission may impose a civil fine of up to two hundred fifty dollars for each health and safety violation and may suspend the training facility's license until the violation or violations are corrected. On the second such infraction, the commission may impose a civil fine of up to five hundred dollars for each health and safety violation and may suspend the training facility's license until the violation or violations are corrected. On the third such infraction or for subsequent infractions, the commission may impose a civil fine of up to seven hundred fifty dollars for each health and safety violation and may revoke the training facility's license.

6. Any individual, corporation, association or club failing to fully comply with paragraph (a) of subdivision twelve of section one thousand fifteen of this article shall be subject to a penalty of five hundred dollars to be collected by and paid to the department of state. Any individual, corporation, association or club is prohibited from operating any shows or exhibitions until all penalties due pursuant to this section and taxes, interest and penalties due pursuant to article nineteen of the tax law have been paid.

7. All penalties imposed and collected by the commission from any corporation, entity, person or persons licensed under the provisions of this article, which fines and penalties are imposed and collected under authority hereby vested shall within thirty days after the receipt thereof by the commission be paid by them into the state treasury.

§ 1020. Subpoenas by commission; oaths. The commission shall have authority to issue, under the hand of its chairperson, and the seal of the commission, subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses before the commission. A subpoena issued under this section shall be regulated by the civil practice law and rules.

§ 1021. Exceptions. The provisions of this article except as provided in subdivision twelve of section one thousand fifteen of this article shall not be construed to apply to any sparring or boxing contest or exhibition conducted under the supervision or the control of the New York state national guard or naval militia where all of the contestants are members of the active militia; nor to any such contest or exhibition where the contestants are all amateurs, sponsored by and under the supervision of any university, college, school or other institution of learning, recognized by the regents of the state of New York; nor to any business entity incorporated for the purposes of providing instruction and evaluation in a combative sport to customers for the purposes of health and fitness, personal development, self-defense or participation in amateur events conducted by an authorized sanctioning entity; nor to any such contest or exhibitions where the contestants are all amateurs sponsored by and under the supervision of the American Olympic Association or, in the case of boxing, the U.S. Amateur Boxing Federation or its local affiliates or the American Olympic Association; nor except as to the extent provided otherwise in this article, to any professional wrestling contest or exhibition as defined in this article. Any individual, association, corporation or club, except elementary or high schools or equivalent institutions of learning recognized by the regents of the state of New York, who or which conducts an amateur contest pursuant to this section must register with the U. S. Amateur Boxing Federation or its local affiliates and abide by its rules and regulations.

§ 1022. Disposition of receipts. All receipts of the commission shall be paid into the state treasury, provided, however, that receipts from the tax imposed by article nineteen of the tax law shall be deposited as provided by section one hundred seventy-one-a of the tax law.