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Commission Bulletin 2021-1

Pro-Am Events

The New York State Athletic Commission (“Commission”) is vested with the authority to supervise authorized combative sports in New York State (General Business Law, Article 41, §§1001 and §§1021). It is the sense of the Commission that events containing both professional and amateur boxing, and professional and amateur mixed martial arts (MMA) bouts are in the best interest of these sports in New York State as such events create business opportunity for licensed promoters of such events and provide athletes a platform for career growth. Therefore, the Commission repeals Bulletin 2015-6 and issues the following regarding pro-am events.

The Commission may approve events that include both professional and amateur boxing and MMA bouts, i.e. pro-am.

The Commission may approve one (1) pro-am event per day unless otherwise authorized by the Commission.

A promoter requesting to hold a pro-am event must be licensed for professional boxing or MMA before an event date will be granted.

The Commission shall regulate the professional portion of the program. A duly authorized sanctioning entity shall regulate the amateur portion of the program. All sanctioning entity personnel and officials shall vacate ring/cage side immediately following the conclusion of the amateur portion of the program.

The promoter shall ensure a credentialing system that provides differentiation between the amateur and professional parts of the program.

The professional portion of an MMA card shall consist of no less than three (3) scheduled bouts with a minimum of nine (9) rounds, and for boxing, no less than three (3) scheduled bouts with a minimum of eighteen (18) rounds for a card to be approved per sections 211.2 and 212.3 of Title 19 NYCRR.

The amateur portion of the program shall conclude before the professional portion may begin with a minimum of 30 minutes intermission and the professional portion of any program shall begin no later than 8:30 pm.

The times and places of all weighing in ceremonies shall be as determined by the Commission and all professional participants shall be weighed in on scales provided by or approved by the Commission. The Commission will only weigh in athletes competing on the professional portion of the card.

Weigh-ins and events shall be held at premises approved by the Commission. Promoters are not permitted to promote or advertise a pro-am event until the event has been approved by the Commission.

The promoter shall ensure that the Commission has its own designated room separate and apart from any other regulating entity. The promoter shall ensure that professional athletes do not share a locker/dressing room with amateur athletes.

All medical, safety, facility, ring/cage and adjacent areas shall comply with professional standards of regulation. The Commission may request an Emergency Medical Action Plan to address health and safety concerns of the athletes issued by a local Emergency Medical Authority.

The promoter shall use Commission approved forms and documents for the professional portion of the program.

During the COVID-19 Emergency it is the sense of the Commission that Department of Health Guidelines, as applicable shall apply to all aspects of a Pro-Am event conducted pursuant to this bulletin unless otherwise authorized by the Commission.

The Commission reserves the right to make any changes necessary in its discretion to ensure appropriate regulation of pro-am events.

Implemented by vote of the Commissioners on March 29, 2021. This policy shall be effective immediately and applicable to all boxing and MMA events not previously approved by the Commission.

