

Update for Combative Sports Events in Minnesota as of November 1, 2023.

General Guidelines for Minnesota Combative Sports

The following guidelines are to be followed for all combative sports events that are regulated by the Office of Combative Sports. These guidelines exist to ensure the health and safety of all fighters, officials, and staff. These guidelines are subject to modification based on guidance from the MN Department of Health (MDH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Executive Orders issued by the Governor's Office. Promoters and all other licensed participants in combative sports events are responsible to adhere to the most up to date guidance.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, sections 341.27 and 341.29, violation of these guidelines may result in disciplinary action up to and including revocation of any licenses, denial of admittance, removal from the facility, forfeiture of a bout or cancellation of an event as deemed appropriate by the Office of Combative Sports (OCS).

General regulations, event size

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), OCS will follow all national, state, county, city, tribal and venue public health guidelines or mandates.

All promoters of combative sports events must follow the same guidelines or mandates as OCS and must adhere to all capacity related restrictions.

General personal protective equipment (PPE)

Although not required, all promotion staff, OCS employees, advisory council members, officials, medical staff and trainers/seconds may choose to wear well-fitting face coverings over their noses and mouths. Those with seats around the cage or ring are encouraged to wear a face shield or other eye protection.

General sanitation

Combatants, inspectors, trainers/seconds and referees are encouraged to perform hand sanitation before and after each bout.

Hand sanitizer and disinfectant will be provided by the promoter. The amount of sanitizer and disinfectant provided must be adequate to meet the needs of the event.

Locker room surfaces should be disinfected on a regular basis with a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)- approved disinfectant with kill claim against SARS-CoV2 (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>).

Weigh-in and event specifics

Weigh-ins

All attendees may choose to wear face coverings over the nose and mouth.

OCS reserves the right to limit the number of non-essential personnel permitted to attend weigh-ins. Essential personnel includes OCS staff, assigned advisory council members, promotion staff, combatants and one trainer/second per combatant. Media, family members, and “fight teams” are not to be considered essential personnel.

All promotional staff, OCS employees, advisory council members, medical staff and combatants are encouraged to perform hand hygiene before and after each combatant weighs in.

Event night

A minimum 8-foot barrier must be placed from the outermost perimeter of the cage or ring where OCS employees, advisory council members, officials, and medical staff work. The perimeter may only be accessed by approved combatants, trainer/seconds, officials, medical staff and promotion staff.

A barrier must be placed along the path that combatants take from the locker room to the cage or ring. This barrier must be at least 6-feet wide.

Anyone within 15 feet and in the range of flying sweat, blood, or other droplets are encouraged to wear a face shield or other form of eye protection.

For mixed martial arts, a combatant competing in a non-title amateur bout may not have more than two trainer/seconds with them in the locker room and at the cage or ring. A combatant competing in an amateur title fight may not have more than three trainer/seconds with them in the locker room and at the cage or ring. A combatant competing in any professional fight may not have more than three trainer/seconds with them in the locker room and at the cage or ring. An individual working exclusively as a cutman would not count towards the maximum allowed corners.

For boxing, a combatant competing in a non-title fight may not have more than three trainer/seconds with them in the locker room and at the ring. A combatant competing in a title fight may not have more than four trainer/seconds with them in the locker room and at the ring. An individual working exclusively as a cutman would not count towards the maximum allowed corners.

Promoter will ensure that EPA-approved disinfectants with kill claim against SARS-CoV2 are available in the locker rooms so that surfaces may be wiped down if needed. OCS employees will be responsible for cleaning these areas.

Following their bout, combatants may return to the locker room to change, but must leave the locker room in a timely manner unless they need medical attention.