

Update for Combative Sports Events in Minnesota as of July 1, 2022.

COVID-19 guidelines for Minnesota combative sports

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a rapidly evolving challenge to our state. These guidelines are subject to modification based on the course of the pandemic and guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and executive orders issued by the governor's office. This fluid situation is continually being monitored and adjusted which may result in rapid guideline modifications. 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 COVID-19 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 entrance requirements

All promotion staff, OCS employees, advisory board members, combatants, officials, medical staff and trainers/seconds will complete a COVID-19 health questionnaire before entrance to any combative sports related event. Anyone answering "Yes" to any of the screening questions will not be allowed entrance to any combative sports related event. The health questionnaire will include the following set of questions:

- In the past 10 days, have you been severely ill with COVID-19?
- Have you had a positive COVID-19 test based on a sample taken in the past 5 days?
- In the past 5 days, have you had any COVID-19 symptoms that can't be explained based on another health condition?
- In the past 5 days, have you been exposed to someone with COVID-19?

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 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 are to 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>).

Cage or ring surfaces are to be disinfected between bouts using an EPA approved disinfectant.

Weigh-in and event specifics

Weigh-ins

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

All promotion staff, OCS employees, advisory board members, combatants, officials, medical staff and trainers/seconds will be required to complete a COVID-19 health questionnaire. Anyone answering “Yes” to any of the screening questions will not be allowed entrance to any combative sports related weigh-ins.

It is recommended that promoters 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 will perform hand hygiene before and after each combatant weighs in.

All surfaces are to be disinfected between each individual weigh in with an EPA approved disinfectant with kill claim against SARS-CoV2. This can be performed by OCS staff or advisory council members performing the weigh-in.

Event night

All promotion staff, OCS employees, advisory board members, combatants, officials, medical staff and trainers/seconds will be required to complete a COVID-19 health questionnaire. Anyone answering "Yes" to any of the screening questions will not be allowed entrance to any combative sports related event.

Wristbands will not be issued to trainers/seconds unless a questionnaire has been completed.

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 the combatants, trainer/seconds, officials, medical staff and promotion staff who have been screened.

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 fight may not have more than three trainer/seconds with them in the locker room and no more than two at the cage or ring. A combatant competing in a title fight may not have more than four trainer/seconds with them in the locker room and no more than three at the cage or ring.

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.

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 on a regular basis. OCS employees will be responsible for cleaning these areas.

Promoter will appoint their own staff to wipe down the cage or ring with EPA-approved disinfectant with kill claim against SARS-CoV2 after every bout.

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.