

Office of Combative Sports legislative changes

Article 5 of Jobs/Labor Omnibus HF5247

Effective July 1, 2024

Alternative rules; Kickboxing/Muay Thai

If a promoter wishes to use a ruleset that differs from the Unified Rules of Kickboxing or Unified Rules of Muay Thai when promoting a Kickboxing or Muay Thai event, they must send the Office of Combative Sports (OCS) a copy of the proposed rules at least 45 days prior to the date of the event. The commissioner may approve or deny the use of the alternative rules at their discretion.

Regulatory authority; youth events

Clarifies that any combative sports or martial arts contests between individuals under 18 years of age are exempt from OCS requirements and are not required to be licensed. Any contest between individuals under 18 years of age must be regulated/overseen by a widely recognized organization that oversees youth competition or a local government.

Prelicensure requirements; combatant experience

Individuals looking to obtain an amateur combatant license must submit proof of their qualifications that includes at a minimum: (1) any prior bout history and evidence showing that the applicant has completed at least six months of training in a combative sport; or (2) a letter of recommendation from a coach or trainer.

Individuals looking to obtain a professional combatant license must submit proof of their qualifications that includes an applicant's prior bout history showing that they have competed in at least four sanctioned combative sports contests. If the applicant has not competed in at least four sanctioned combative sports contests, the commissioner may still grant a license if the applicant provides evidence demonstrating that the applicant has sufficient skills and experience in combative sports or martial arts to compete as a professional.

Fee schedule

If a promoter does not sell tickets to their event, and instead receives a flat payment from a venue to conduct the event, the event fee will be \$1,500 or 4% of the flat payment, whichever is greater.

Medical records

If the commissioner determines that it would be in the best interest of a combatant's health, they may provide any medical information submitted by the combatant to the physician assigned to work the combative sports event that the combatant is participating in.

Data privacy

All health records collected, created or maintained by OCS are deemed to be private data.

Civil penalties

Added authority for the commissioner to issue civil penalties up to \$10,000 for violation of subdivision 7 which requires all youth combative sports or martial arts contests to be overseen by a widely recognized organization that oversees youth competition or a local government.