

# ARIZONA STATE BOXING AND MIXED MARTIAL ARTS COMMISSION

JANICE K. BREWER  
GOVERNOR



DENNIS R. O'CONNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 13, 2013

To: Current and former Licensed Promoters and Matchmakers,  
Licensed Officials, and other interested parties

Re: New Statutory Amendments

As many of you are aware, on April 10, 2013, Governor Brewer signed into law House Bill 2263 containing various amendments to the Arizona Boxing and Mixed Martial Arts statute, A.R.S. §5-221 et seq. These changes align Arizona with many of the best practices in the United States and took effect on September 12, 2013. As importantly, these amendments allow the Arizona Boxing and Mixed Martial Arts Commission to better regulate the boxing and MMA industry and protect the health and safety of the participants.

A copy of the amended statute is enclosed. Some of the key amendments are:

- An expanded definition of "mixed martial arts". A.R.S. §5-221.8.
- Exemption from Commission regulation for amateur programs authorized by the U.S. Olympic Committee. A.R.S. §5-222.A.3.
- A more detailed description of an exempt sparring session. A.R.S. §5-222.A.5.
- Basic requirements for becoming a pro MMA contestant, e.g., at least 5 valid amateur bouts. A.R.S. §5-222.B.
- Minimum standards for amateur MMA bouts, e.g., no elbows, three rounds of 3 minutes each, clear designation of amateur bouts in all promotional materials and at the event. A.R.S. §5-225.C.
- Non-refundable uniform fees for both boxing and MMA events. A.R.S. §5-225.D.
- More flexible procedures for weigh-ins. A.R.S. §5-225.E.
- EKG's for over 36 year old contestants, and recommended MRI's for over 40 year old contestants. A.R.S. §5-228.F.
- All medical exams and blood work to be submitted to the Commission no later than two days prior to the scheduled event. A.R.S. §5-228.G.

The above is a summary of highlights of the recent amendments and is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all the changes. You are encouraged to thoroughly read

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and review this new legislation and understand all changes that may affect you. A copy will also be posted on our web site, *www.azboxingandmma.gov*.

As we implement the new statutory provisions we anticipate there will be a learning curve. With your knowledge and understanding of the changes, we should be able to implement the amendments and minimize the number of problems encountered.

Very truly yours,