

From: [jrgz 2u](#)
To: [Jones, Mackenzie \(LARA\)](#)
Subject: Code of Ethics
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 10:52:24 AM
Attachments: [EthicsWBC.doc](#)

**CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to
abuse@michigan.gov**

GM Mac,

Again thank you, for opportunity to speak yesterday. Here is the latest Code of Ethics we have at the WBC. They have not been fully adopted but I believe they are going to pass as written here.

The biggest opposition we had on this proposal from the officials was the one dealing with social media. However we had a case come up earlier this year that clearly showed how one can be seen in a bad light through social media. However the photos questioned clearly showed the official and boxing persons outside the realm of boxing attending social events. Though the media saw nothing in it the official personally removed himself for a year and volunteered to attend a refresher course.

However, and I am only bringing this up since we are on the subject I am quite disturbed by one official who has posted pictures of himself wearing Kronk gear on FaceBook. If I was a fighter in the opposite corner I might have reservations of having him as a referee or judge if my opponent was from the Kronk gym. I must add that we are a close community in Detroit but if we are to grow as an industry this would be a subject discussed in new rules and business plan.

The concept was good in the proposed plan just not written so good IMO.

Take care,

Frank Garza

PS I am at your call if you have any questions or in need of an opinion.

Michigan Licensed boxing official since 1984. Licensed as a judge and a referee for professional boxing.

Served on the Michigan Athletic Board of Control from 1992-1994 Predecessor of Unarmed CC.

Awarded Special Tribute from Governor Engler for rewrite and update of rules. Also awarded Special Tribute from Governor Snyder in assisting Unarmed CC with Jim Weber Chairman

Co-authored Michigan Officials handbook, held training clinics for officials during tenure

Officiated world championship and major title bouts totally over 120 for every recognized world sanctioning body in 20 US States plus the District of Colombia and in 17 countries around the world.

Currently sit on the Officials Committee for the North American Boxing Federation and the World Boxing Council.

Been awarded 1996 IBA Referee of the year, Top 10 Referee by Ring Magazine in 2002 and Top 50 Referee in History of Boxing by World Boxing Council.

Inductee of the Lincoln Park Sports Hall of Fame, Delphos St John Alumni Hall of Fame and recently The National Boxing of Fame.

There is more that I can add but I'm hoping this is enough to have you listen to my public comments and take into consideration what I have say. Please do not take any comment I make as anything negative. On the contrary I love this sport and I owe a lot to it for it has allowed me many opportunities over the last 37 plus years to experience and be a part of events that one only dreams of.

The Department has stated that the proposed rules will improve the reliability of event officials and prevent the appearance of impropriety. Other changes include more flexibility in obtaining a professional license. I'll comment on that at the end.

On the proposed rule changes my comments are: Definitions

Contest Officials, referee, judge and timekeeper. We need to include and license the following as well, doctors, Ring Announcers, DJ's and ring card girls.

Each play a role and have responsibilities whose actions need to be accountable for the conduct of a professional boxing show.

Example: A Dr. can influence a referee to stop a bout and not be questioned or scrutinized

Ring Announcers if not held accountable can incite a crowd, create an unsafe environment by making comments not related to the event on hand, can be disruptive to the flow of the event, this happens quite a bit

DJ's can be disruptive, play non family friendly material, create unsafe environment, make it nearly impossible to carry on official ringside business prior to the event

Ring Card Girls Luckily not now but in the past have been known to engage in certain customer services.

Some States license the following and I feel we should look into that.

Down: change "hanging helplessly" to ropes prevent a boxer from going to the canvas (down), this then takes into account if a boxer is hit, falls back and the ropes prevent them from going down.

Licensing requirements: what is proven competence? Needs to be defined. I've known boxers who were 0-3 and were better than 5-0 boxers based on who they lost to.

I'd like to see a requirement that a boxer must be licensed before they can sign a contract to compete in Michigan. And that a promoter must have a signed contract between two boxers before they can advertise the bout. This would eliminate a lot of wasted time making bouts and hold a boxer accountable if they fail to show up. In addition a ticket buyer would know what he is buying and not be disappointed once inside the venue. It's really a bait and switch. *AT THIS TIME*

Contest official "duty of impartiality"

The concept is good but the way it is written not so much. Officials need a Code of Ethics. I think we would be better served if we had a written Code of Ethics like those of the NABF or WBC as well as the organizations.

After reading through this section I was reminded when I was on the Michigan Athletic Board of Control the AG once told us, never make a rule you cannot enforce. I ask, Can this section be enforced? Is there any due process? Wouldn't the majority if not all accusations be hearsay?

It prohibits an Event Official in engaging in certain acts 30 days before, during or immediately after an event. I cannot ever recall in 37 plus years as a Michigan official of knowing I was an Event official 30 days in advance.

Placing of wagers: Not that I gamble as I don't and Again I understand the concept but if I'm a boxing official only are you saying I cannot wager on MMA?

Lastly, with the promoter being responsible for the assigning of officials it's impossible to adhere to rule 6 unless the ACT is changed and I believe LARA addresses that in their impact statement and cost benefit analysis. And I'll briefly comment at the end.

I suggest this whole section be removed.

Knockouts Boxing Rule 2 standing 8 count eliminate. Change mandatory to : referee will give a mandatory count of 8 before allowing a boxer to resume, because there are times when you need to stop your count and get the ring doctor in.

10 Double knockdown decision is a technical draw.

Compensation for Event Officials

Boxing hasn't been updated in years.

See Table

Conclusion:

When you look at our rulebook for Unarmed Combat it's kind of like looking at an owners manual for a combination coffeemaker, toaster and can opener. It's not very user friendly. Boxing , MMA, Muay Thai and kick boxing may all fall under the auspices of the Unarmed Combat Commission but they all need to have their own rule book, they all need to be addressed individually, regardless if there are rules which may be redundant. They are different sports.

I just used the word "sport" and again bear in mind I'm only speaking about boxing. Sport is somewhat a misnomer. Boxing is a business. A business that can generate hundreds of thousands to hundreds of millions of dollars when done properly. Why do States like Nevada, California, Florida and Texas have these huge mega fights? Because it's treated like a business.

This State has produced some of the biggest boxing stars ever, from Tommy Hearn, James Toney, the Klitchko brothers, to Roger and Floyd Mayweather. And they made their fortunes outside this State because of the business environment. Even I for that matter. Do you know that when I work outside the State of Michigan I make more in one fight than I will make for the entire year here.

If we're going to do something let's do it right. Start thinking of boxing as a business. Come up with a plan. Maybe move it outside the department it is in now and place under Pure Michigan, Entertainment or tourism. We are literally handcuffing what could be ~~one of~~ our biggest industry.

GAMING DONE BY ONE OF

THAT'S THE KEY

On the subject of reliability of officials and appearance of impropriety, there's a need for the training of officials on all levels, from new officials to championship officials. At the World Boxing Council we have such a program and I've been part of developing a University level program for officials in Mexico City. . Be glad to share it here for our officials at no cost. In fact one official from Grand Rapids took part in an offshoot of this training and recently was assigned his first world championship.

Our officials need to be protected. Since promoters were allowed to assign their own officials our officials have been locked out of fights that have taken place in our State by officials from New York, Canada, and other places. Fights that would have given them national recognition and experience. We once had a rule that for every bout held in Michigan the referee and at least one judge would be from Michigan. We need to get back tot hat.

I recommend not filing this proposal.

In closing I suggest shutting down boxing, form a private committee outside the commission to rewrite the rules, write a business plan, which may include an executive director above the commission and present to the commission for approval. With the Commission meeting only a few times a year I don't see how they can accomplish this on their own and why we need to do this outside the commission.

From: [Wolfgang Mueller](#)
To: [Jones, Mackenzie \(LARA\)](#); [Clegg, Linda \(LARA\)](#); [Bocks, Josh \(LARA-BoardMember\)](#)
Subject: Michigan Unarmed Combat Proposed Rules Changes
Date: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 3:42:30 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

To whom it may concern,

As a former Chairperson of the Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission, I am familiar with the proposed rule changes and am happy to see the progress being made to improve the quality and safety of combat sports in Michigan. After reviewing the proposals, I have a couple of comments:

1. Rule 201, Rule 223b(2), Rule 339.223c (“accidental language”) , Rule 223c(5), and Rule 226b(a), all derive from ABC’s model rules. It does not appear that these rules are consistent with current practice and regulations relating to other unarmed combat sports in Michigan.
2. With regard to other combat sports, it is nice to see them finally addressed in the proposed rules. I would like to see the identification card requirements for professional kickboxing and muay thai specified in the rules, as I did not see specific language addressing that aspect of the sports.

I appreciate your time and look forward to these rules continuing to move through the approval process.

Thank you for taking my comments.

Wolfgang Mueller
Mueller Law Firm
41850 W. Eleven Mile, Suite 101
Novi, MI 48375
(248) 489-9653 | (248) 347-6630 (Fax)
wolf@wolfmuellelaw.com
www.wolfmuellelaw.com



From: [Collin Rogers](#)
To: [Jones, Mackenzie \(LARA\)](#)
Cc: [Matee Jedeevitak](#)
Subject: Administrative Rules for Unarmed Combat Rule Set 2020-131 LR Comments and Concerns
Date: Friday, November 19, 2021 1:11:28 PM

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Hello,

I am contacting you in regards to the Rule Set 2020-131 LR posting. I practice Muay Thai in Ann Arbor Michigan and my trainer from Thailand (Matee Jedeevitak, a 5x Muay Thai World & Stadium Champion) is very interested in the legalization of the sport in our state. I had a few questions and concerns of discrepancies between the August 27, 2019 filing of the Unarmed Combat ruleset and the proposed new ruleset. In the original Rule 339.246, Rule 246, there is not a subsection for Mixed Martial Artists requiring shin guards or headgear, albeit amateur or professional. However the new ruleset proposed in R 339.246b Rule 246b (7) lists "An amateur kickboxing and muay thai contest must wear protective headgear and shin and instep protectors." Is this rule only for Muay Thai and Kickboxing? In most other states we've had fighters compete in, the headgear was an optional selection, based on the bout participants preference. If one participant preferred that headgear be worn, both would be required. If both agreed on no headgear, it was allowed. The same could be said for shinguards in some states.

The revision of R339.101 Rule 101 (L) states ""Muay thai" means a form of boxing in which blows are delivered with the hand, any part of the leg below the hip, including the foot, and clinching. Does this infer that there will be no elbows allowed as a weapon in any occurrence of Muay Thai in the state of Michigan, be it pro or amateur? Elbow pads are an additional option that could become a required equipment under R339.246b Rule 246b as Muay Thai after all is "the art of eight limbs" (legs, knees, hands, elbows).

I have a few other questions about the Muay Thai specific ruleset. In Rule 232b (1) it is stated "A referee of a muay thai contest may penalize a muay thai contestant by deducting points from a round for any of the following fouls: "(c) Direct attacks to the knee." Does this blanket all attacks that may contact the knee I.E. low-kicks to the calf or thigh area, front-kicks to the thigh or hip, etc.? As well as "(i) Shoving, throwing, or wrestling an opponent when pushing in a legal clinch." Does this mean a contestant may not, if the opportunity presents itself, shove an opponent out of the clinch and resume attacking? This carries into my next question of the same ruleset under "(u) Tripping or sweeping an opponent." being listed as a foul. In Muay Thai fighting, tripping and/or sweeping an opponent is a high-scoring technique very often utilized to show technical precision and timing over your opponent. I see no reason why these techniques should be listed as fouls under a Muay Thai ruleset in Michigan if the wishes of the commission are to display the true nature of such a beautiful martial art and preserve the integrity of the sport. [I have attached a link to the IKF official ruleset for reference, which is globally recognized in many events.](#) It goes into much more detail with the intricacies of the clinch, sweeping, and tripping, that someone who has not fought, judged, or refereed a Muay Thai bout may not be aware of.

I very much appreciate the work you and the commission are doing towards legalizing such an important cultural sport and martial art that impacts so many people in our beautiful state of Michigan. Please let me know if I or my trainer can be of any assistance as I know it is in everyone's best interest that the sport be safe, regulated, and legalized, while also holding the vast respect and integrity that comes with the art.

Kind regards,

Collin Rogers

email: rogcollin@gmail.com

work: crogers@skymintbrands.com

phone: +1 810 224 1745