

151.8

ARTICLE 10

151.9

COMBATIVE SPORTS

151.10 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 341.21, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:

151.11 Subd. 2a. **Combatant.** "Combatant" means an individual who employs the act of attack
151.12 and defense as a professional boxer, professional or amateur tough person, ~~martial artist,~~
151.13 or professional or amateur mixed martial artist while engaged in a combative sport.

151.14 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 341.21, subdivision 2c, is amended to read:

151.15 Subd. 2c. **Combative sports contest.** "Combative sports contest" means a professional
151.16 boxing, a professional or amateur tough person, or a professional or amateur ~~martial art~~
151.17 ~~contest~~ or mixed martial arts contest, bout, competition, match, or exhibition.

151.18 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 341.21, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

151.19 Subd. 7. **Tough person contest.** "Tough person contest," including contests marketed
151.20 as tough man or tough woman contests, means a ~~contest of two-minute rounds consisting~~
151.21 ~~of not more than four rounds between two or more individuals who use their hands, or their~~
151.22 ~~feet, or both in any manner. Tough person contest includes kickboxing and other recognized~~
151.23 ~~martial art contest.~~ boxing match or similar contest where each combatant wears headgear
151.24 and gloves that weigh at least 12 ounces.

151.25 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 341.221, is amended to read:

151.26 **341.221 ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

151.27 (a) The commissioner must appoint a Combative Sports Advisory Council to advise the
151.28 commissioner on the administration of duties under this chapter.

152.1 (b) The council shall have ~~nine~~ five members appointed by the commissioner. ~~One~~
152.2 ~~member must be a retired judge of the Minnesota District Court, Minnesota Court of Appeals,~~
152.3 ~~Minnesota Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota,~~
152.4 ~~or the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. At least four~~ All five members must have knowledge
152.5 of the ~~boxing~~ combative sports industry. ~~At least four members must have knowledge of~~
152.6 ~~the mixed martial arts industry.~~ The commissioner shall make serious efforts to appoint
152.7 qualified women to serve on the council.

152.8 ~~(e) Council members shall serve terms of four years with the terms ending on the first~~
152.9 ~~Monday in January.~~

152.10 ~~(d)~~ (c) The council shall annually elect from its membership a chair.

152.11 ~~(e)~~ (d) Meetings shall be convened by the commissioner, or by the chair with the approval
152.12 of the commissioner.

152.13 ~~(f) The commissioner shall designate two of the members to serve until the first Monday~~
152.14 ~~in January 2013; two members to serve until the first Monday in January 2014; two members~~
152.15 ~~to serve until the first Monday in January 2015; and three members to serve until the first~~
152.16 ~~Monday in January 2016.~~

152.17 (e) Appointments to the council and the terms of council members shall be governed by
152.18 sections 15.059 and 15.0597.

152.19 ~~(g)~~ (f) Removal of members, filling of vacancies, and compensation of members shall
152.20 be as provided in section 15.059.

152.21 (g) Meetings convened for the purpose of advising the commissioner on issues related
152.22 to a challenge filed under section 341.345 are exempt from the open meeting requirements
152.23 of chapter 13D.

152.24 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 341.25, is amended to read:

152.25 **341.25 RULES.**

152.26 (a) The commissioner may adopt rules that include standards for the physical examination
152.27 and condition of combatants and referees.

152.28 (b) The commissioner may adopt other rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this
152.29 chapter, including, but not limited to, the conduct of all combative sport contests and their
152.30 manner, supervision, time, and place.

152.31 (c) The commissioner must adopt unified rules for mixed martial arts contests.

153.1 (d) The commissioner may adopt the rules of the Association of Boxing Commissions,
153.2 with amendments.

153.3 (e) The most recent version of the Unified Rules of Mixed Martial Arts, as promulgated
153.4 by the Association of Boxing Commissions ~~and amended August 2, 2016~~, are incorporated
153.5 by reference and made a part of this chapter except as qualified by this chapter and Minnesota
153.6 Rules, chapter 2202. In the event of a conflict between this chapter and the Unified Rules,
153.7 this chapter must govern.

153.8 (f) The most recent version of the Unified Rules of Boxing, as promulgated by the
153.9 Association of Boxing Commissions, are incorporated by reference and made a part of this
153.10 chapter except as modified by this chapter and Minnesota Rules, chapter 2201. In the event
153.11 of a conflict between this chapter and the Unified Rules, this chapter must govern.

153.12 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 341.28, is amended to read:

153.13 **341.28 REGULATION OF COMBATIVE SPORT CONTESTS.**

153.14 Subdivision 1. **Regulatory authority; combative sports.** All combative sport contests
153.15 within this state must be conducted according to the requirements of this chapter.

153.16 Subd. 1a. **Regulatory authority; professional boxing contests.** All professional boxing
153.17 contests are subject to this chapter. Every combatant in a boxing contest shall wear padded
153.18 gloves that weigh at least eight ounces. Officials at all boxing contests must be licensed
153.19 under this chapter.

153.20 Subd. 2. **Regulatory authority; tough person contests.** All professional and amateur
153.21 tough person contests are subject to this chapter. All tough person contests are subject to
153.22 ~~Association of Boxing Commissions rules~~ the most recent version of the Unified Rules of
153.23 Boxing, as promulgated by the Association of Boxing Commissions. Every contestant in a
153.24 tough person contest shall have a physical examination prior to their bouts. Every contestant
153.25 in a tough person contest shall wear headgear and padded gloves that weigh at least 12
153.26 ounces. ~~All tough person bouts are limited to two-minute rounds and a maximum of four~~
153.27 ~~total rounds.~~ Officials at all tough person contests shall be licensed under this chapter.

153.28 Subd. 3. **Regulatory authority; mixed martial arts contests; ~~similar sporting~~**
153.29 **events.** All professional and amateur mixed martial arts contests, ~~martial arts contests except~~
153.30 ~~amateur contests regulated by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL), recognized~~
153.31 ~~martial arts studios and schools in Minnesota, and recognized national martial arts~~
153.32 ~~organizations holding contests between students, ultimate fight contests, and similar sporting~~

154.1 ~~events~~ are subject to this chapter and all officials at these events must be licensed under this
154.2 chapter.

154.3 Subd. 4. **Regulatory authority; martial arts and amateur boxing.** (a) Unless this
154.4 chapter specifically states otherwise, contests or exhibitions for martial arts and amateur
154.5 boxing are exempt from the requirements of this chapter and officials at these events are
154.6 not required to be licensed under this chapter.

154.7 (b) All martial arts and amateur boxing contests must be regulated by the Thai Boxing
154.8 Association, International Sports Karate Association, World Kickboxing Association, United
154.9 States Muay Thai Association, United States Muay Thai Federation, World Association of
154.10 Kickboxing Organizations, International Kickboxing Federation, USA Boxing, or an
154.11 organization that governs interscholastic athletics under subdivision 5.

154.12 (c) Any regulatory body overseeing a martial arts or amateur boxing event must submit
154.13 bout results to the commissioner within 72 hours after the event. If the regulatory body
154.14 issues suspensions, it must submit to the commissioner, within 72 hours after the event, a
154.15 list of any suspensions resulting from the event.

154.16 Subd. 5. **Regulatory authority; certain students.** Amateur martial arts and amateur
154.17 boxing contests regulated by the Minnesota State High School League, National Collegiate
154.18 Athletic Association, National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association, National Association
154.19 of Intercollegiate Athletics, or any similar organization that governs interscholastic athletics
154.20 are not subject to this chapter and officials at these events are not required to be licensed
154.21 under this chapter.

154.22 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 341.30, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

154.23 Subd. 4. **Prelicensure requirements.** (a) Before the commissioner issues a promoter's
154.24 license to an individual, corporation, or other business entity, the applicant shall, ~~a minimum~~
154.25 ~~of six weeks before the combative sport contest is scheduled to occur,~~ complete a licensing
154.26 application on the Office of Combative Sports website or on forms ~~furnished or approved~~
154.27 prescribed by the commissioner and shall:

154.28 ~~(1) provide the commissioner with a copy of any agreement between a combatant and~~
154.29 ~~the applicant that binds the applicant to pay the combatant a certain fixed fee or percentage~~
154.30 ~~of the gate receipts;~~

154.31 ~~(2)~~ (1) show on the licensing application the owner or owners of the applicant entity and
154.32 the percentage of interest held by each owner holding a 25 percent or more interest in the
154.33 applicant;

155.1 ~~(3)~~ (2) provide the commissioner with a copy of the latest financial statement of the
155.2 applicant;

155.3 ~~(4)~~ provide the commissioner with a copy or other proof acceptable to the commissioner
155.4 of the insurance contract or policy required by this chapter;

155.5 ~~(5)~~ (3) provide proof, where applicable, of authorization to do business in the state of
155.6 Minnesota; and

155.7 ~~(6)~~ (4) deposit with the commissioner a ~~cash bond or~~ surety bond in an amount set by
155.8 the commissioner, which must not be less than \$10,000. The bond shall be executed in favor
155.9 of this state and shall be conditioned on the faithful performance by the promoter of the
155.10 promoter's obligations under this chapter and the rules adopted under it.

155.11 (b) Before the commissioner issues a license to a combatant, the applicant shall:

155.12 (1) submit to the commissioner the results of a current medical ~~examination~~ examinations
155.13 on forms ~~furnished or approved~~ prescribed by the commissioner. ~~The medical examination~~
155.14 ~~must include an ophthalmological and neurological examination, and documentation of test~~
155.15 ~~results for HBV, HCV, and HIV, and any other blood test as the commissioner by rule may~~
155.16 ~~require. The ophthalmological examination must be designed to detect any retinal defects~~
155.17 ~~or other damage or condition of the eye that could be aggravated by combative sports. The~~
155.18 ~~neurological examination must include an electroencephalogram or medically superior test~~
155.19 ~~if the combatant has been knocked unconscious in a previous contest. The commissioner~~
155.20 ~~may also order an electroencephalogram or other appropriate neurological or physical~~
155.21 ~~examination before any contest if it determines that the examination is desirable to protect~~
155.22 ~~the health of the combatant. The commissioner shall not issue a license to an applicant~~
155.23 ~~submitting positive test results for HBV, HCV, or HIV; that state that the combatant is~~
155.24 cleared to participate in a combative sport contest. The applicant must undergo and submit
155.25 the results of the following medical examinations, which do not exempt a combatant from
155.26 the requirements set forth in section 341.33:

155.27 (i) a physical examination performed by a licensed medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic
155.28 medicine, advance practice nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant. Physical examinations
155.29 are valid for one year from the date of the exam;

155.30 (ii) an ophthalmological examination performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist
155.31 that includes dilation designed to detect any retinal defects or other damage or a condition
155.32 of the eye that could be aggravated by combative sports. Ophthalmological examinations
155.33 are valid for one year from the date of the exam;

156.1 (iii) blood work results for HBsAg (Hepatitis B surface antigen), HCV (Hepatitis C
156.2 antibody), and HIV. Blood work results are good for one year from the date blood was
156.3 drawn. The commissioner shall not issue a license to an applicant submitting positive test
156.4 results for HBsAg, HCV, or HIV; and

156.5 (iv) other appropriate neurological or physical examinations before any contest, if the
156.6 commissioner determines that the examination is desirable to protect the health of the
156.7 combatant.

156.8 (2) complete a licensing application on the Office of Combative Sports website or on
156.9 forms furnished or approved by the commissioner; and

156.10 (3) provide proof that the applicant is 18 years of age. Acceptable proof is a photo driver's
156.11 license, state photo identification card, passport, or birth certificate combined with additional
156.12 photo identification.

156.13 (c) Before the commissioner issues a license to a referee, judge, or timekeeper, the
156.14 applicant must submit proof of qualifications that may include certified training from the
156.15 Association of Boxing Commissions, licensure with other regulatory bodies, three
156.16 professional references, or a log of bouts worked.

156.17 (d) Before the commissioner issues a license to a ringside physician, the applicant must
156.18 submit proof that they are licensed to practice medicine in the state of Minnesota and in
156.19 good standing.

156.20 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 341.32, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

156.21 Subd. 2. **Expiration and application.** Licenses expire annually on ~~December 31~~ June
156.22 30. A license may be applied for each year by filing an application for licensure and satisfying
156.23 all licensure requirements established in section 341.30, and submitting payment of the
156.24 license fees established in section 341.321. An application for a license and renewal of a
156.25 license must be on a form provided by the commissioner. Any license received or renewed
156.26 in the year 2022 shall be valid until June 30, 2023.

156.27 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 341.321, is amended to read:

156.28 **341.321 FEE SCHEDULE.**

156.29 (a) The fee schedule for professional and amateur licenses issued by the commissioner
156.30 is as follows:

156.31 (1) referees, \$25;

157.1 (2) promoters, \$700;

157.2 (3) judges and knockdown judges, \$25;

157.3 (4) trainers and seconds, \$80;

157.4 (5) timekeepers, \$25;

157.5 (6) professional combatants, \$70;

157.6 (7) amateur combatants, \$50; and

157.7 (8) ringside physicians, \$25.

157.8 ~~License fees for promoters are due at least six weeks prior to the combative sport contest.~~

157.9 All ~~other~~ license fees shall be paid no later than the weigh-in prior to the contest. No license

157.10 may be issued until all precicensure requirements outlined in section 341.30 are satisfied

157.11 and fees are paid.

157.12 ~~(b) The commissioner shall establish a contest fee for each combative sport contest and~~

157.13 ~~shall consider the size and type of venue when establishing a contest fee. The~~ A promoter

157.14 or event organizer of an event regulated by the Department of Labor and Industry must pay,

157.15 per event, a combative sport contest fee is of \$1,500 per event or not more than four percent

157.16 of the gross ticket sales, whichever is greater, as determined by the commissioner when the

157.17 ~~combative sport contest is scheduled.~~ The fee must be paid as follows:

157.18 ~~(c) A professional or amateur combative sport contest fee is nonrefundable and shall be~~

157.19 ~~paid as follows:~~

157.20 (1) \$500 at the time is due when the combative sport contest is scheduled; and

157.21 (2) \$1,000 is due at the weigh-in prior to the contest;

157.22 (3) if four percent of the gross ticket sales is greater than \$1,500, the balance is due to

157.23 the commissioner within 14 days of the completed contest; and

157.24 (4) the face value of all complimentary tickets distributed for an event, to the extent they

157.25 exceed 15 percent of total event attendance, count toward gross tickets sales for the purposes

157.26 of determining a combative sport contest fee.

157.27 ~~If four percent of the gross ticket sales is greater than \$1,500, the balance is due to the~~

157.28 ~~commissioner within seven days of the completed contest.~~

157.29 ~~(d) The commissioner may establish the maximum number of complimentary tickets~~

157.30 ~~allowed for each event by rule.~~

158.1 ~~(e)~~ (c) All fees and penalties collected by the commissioner must be deposited in the
158.2 commissioner account in the special revenue fund.

158.3 Sec. 10. [341.322] PAYMENT SCHEDULE.

158.4 The commissioner may establish a schedule of fees to be paid by a promoter to referees,
158.5 judges and knockdown judges, timekeepers, and ringside physicians.

158.6 Sec. 11. [341.323] EVENT APPROVAL.

158.7 Subdivision 1. Preapproval documentation. Before the commissioner approves a
158.8 combative sport contest, the promoter shall:

158.9 (1) provide the commissioner, at least six weeks before the combative sport contest is
158.10 scheduled to occur, information about the time, date, and location of the contest;

158.11 (2) provide the commissioner, at least 72 hours before the combative sport contest is
158.12 scheduled to occur, with a copy of any agreement between a combatant and the promoter
158.13 that binds the promoter to pay the combatant a certain fixed fee or percentage of the gate
158.14 receipts;

158.15 (3) provide the commissioner, at least 72 hours before the combative sport contest is
158.16 scheduled to occur, with a copy or other proof acceptable to the commissioner of the
158.17 insurance contract or policy required by this chapter; and

158.18 (4) provide the commissioner, at least 72 hours before the combative sport contest is
158.19 scheduled to occur, proof acceptable to the commissioner that the promoter will provide,
158.20 at the cost of the promoter, at least one uniformed security guard or uniformed off-duty
158.21 member of law enforcement to provide security at any event regulated by the Department
158.22 of Labor and Industry. The commissioner may require a promoter to take additional security
158.23 measures to ensure the safety of participants and spectators at an event.

158.24 Subd. 2. Proper licensure. Before the commissioner approves a combative sport contest,
158.25 the commissioner must ensure that the promoter is properly licensed under this chapter.
158.26 The promoter must maintain proper licensure from the time the promoter schedules a
158.27 combative sport contest through the date of the contest.

158.28 Subd. 3. Discretion. Nothing in this section limits the commissioner's discretion in
158.29 deciding whether to approve a combative sport contest or event.

159.1 Sec. 12. **[341.324] AMBULANCE.**

159.2 A promoter must ensure, at the cost of the promoter, that an ambulance and two
159.3 emergency medical technicians are on the premises during a combative sport contest.

159.4 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 341.33, is amended to read:

159.5 **341.33 PHYSICAL EXAMINATION REQUIRED; FEES.**

159.6 Subdivision 1. **Examination by physician.** All combatants must be examined by a
159.7 physician licensed by this state within 36 hours before entering the ring, and the examining
159.8 physician shall immediately file with the commissioner a written report of the examination.
159.9 Each female combatant shall take and submit a negative pregnancy test as part of the
159.10 examination. The physician's examination may report on the condition of the combatant's
159.11 heart and general physical and general neurological condition. The physician's report may
159.12 record the condition of the combatant's nervous system and brain as required by the
159.13 commissioner. The physician may prohibit the combatant from entering the ring if, in the
159.14 physician's professional opinion, it is in the best interest of the combatant's health. The cost
159.15 of the examination is payable by the promoter conducting the contest or exhibition.

159.16 Subd. 2. **Attendance of physician.** A promoter holding or sponsoring a combative sport
159.17 contest shall have in attendance a physician licensed by ~~this~~ the state of Minnesota. ~~The~~
159.18 ~~commissioner may establish a schedule of fees to be paid to each attending physician by~~
159.19 ~~the promoter holding or sponsoring the contest.~~

159.20 Sec. 14. **[341.345] CHALLENGING THE OUTCOME OF A COMBATIVE SPORT**
159.21 **CONTEST.**

159.22 Subdivision 1. **Challenge.** (a) If a combatant disagrees with the outcome of a combative
159.23 sport contest regulated by the Department of Labor and Industry in which the combatant
159.24 participated, the combatant may challenge the outcome.

159.25 (b) If a third party makes a challenge on behalf of a combatant, the third party must
159.26 provide written confirmation that they are authorized to make the challenge on behalf of
159.27 the combatant. The written confirmation must contain the combatant's signature and must
159.28 be submitted with the challenge.

159.29 Subd. 2. **Form.** A challenge must be submitted on a form prescribed by the commissioner,
159.30 set forth all relevant facts and the basis for the challenge, and state what remedy is being
159.31 sought. A combatant may submit photos, videos, documents, or any other evidence the

160.1 combatant would like the commissioner to consider in connection to the challenge. A
160.2 combatant may challenge the outcome of a contest only if it is alleged that:

160.3 (1) the referee made an incorrect call or missed a rule violation that directly affected the
160.4 outcome of the contest;

160.5 (2) there was collusion amongst officials to affect the outcome of the contest; or

160.6 (3) scores were miscalculated.

160.7 Subd. 3. **Timing.** (a) A challenge must be submitted within ten days of the contest.

160.8 (b) For purposes of this subdivision, the day of the contest shall not count toward the
160.9 ten-day period. If the tenth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then a combatant
160.10 shall have until the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday to submit a
160.11 challenge.

160.12 (c) The challenge must be submitted to the commissioner at the address, fax number, or
160.13 e-mail address designated on the commissioner's website. The date on which a challenge
160.14 is submitted by mail shall be the postmark date on the envelope in which the challenge is
160.15 mailed. If the challenge is faxed or e-mailed, it must be received by the commissioner by
160.16 4:30 p.m. central time on the day the challenge is due.

160.17 Subd. 4. **Opponent's response.** If the requirements of subdivisions 1 to 3 are met, the
160.18 commissioner shall send a complete copy of the challenge documents, along with any
160.19 supporting materials submitted, to the opposing combatant by mail, fax, or e-mail. The
160.20 opposing combatant shall have 14 days from the date the commissioner sends the challenge
160.21 and supporting materials to submit a response to the commissioner. Additional response
160.22 time is not added when the commissioner sends the challenge to the opposing combatant
160.23 by mail. The opposing combatant may submit photos, videos, documents, or any other
160.24 evidence the opposing combatant would like the commissioner to consider in connection
160.25 to the challenge. The response must be submitted to the commissioner at the address, fax
160.26 number, or e-mail address designated on the commissioner's website. The date on which a
160.27 response is submitted by mail shall be the postmark date on the envelope in which the
160.28 response is mailed. If the response is faxed or e-mailed, it must be received by the
160.29 commissioner by 4:30 p.m. central time on the day the response is due.

160.30 Subd. 5. **Licensed official review.** The commissioner may, if the commissioner
160.31 determines it would be helpful in resolving the issues raised in the challenge, send a complete
160.32 copy of the challenge or response, along with any supporting materials submitted, to any

161.1 licensed official involved in the combative sport contest at issue by mail, fax, or e-mail and
161.2 request their views on the issues raised in the challenge.

161.3 Subd. 6. **Order.** The commissioner shall issue an order on the challenge within 60 days
161.4 after receiving the opposing combatant's response. If the opposing combatant does not
161.5 submit a response, the commissioner shall issue an order on the challenge within 75 days
161.6 after receiving the challenge.

161.7 Subd. 7. **Nonacceptance.** If the requirements of subdivisions 1 to 3 are not met, the
161.8 commissioner must not accept the challenge and may send correspondence to the person
161.9 who submitted the challenge stating the reasons for nonacceptance of the challenge. A
161.10 combatant has no further appeal rights if the combatant's challenge is not accepted by the
161.11 commissioner.

161.12 Subd. 8. **Administrative hearing.** After the commissioner issues an order under
161.13 subdivision 6, each combatant, under section 326B.082, subdivision 8, has 30 days after
161.14 service of the order to submit a request for hearing before an administrative law judge.

161.15 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 341.355, is amended to read:

161.16 **341.355 CIVIL PENALTIES.**

161.17 When the commissioner finds that a person has violated one or more provisions of any
161.18 statute, rule, or order that the commissioner is empowered to regulate, enforce, or issue, the
161.19 commissioner may impose, for each violation, a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for each
161.20 violation, or a civil penalty that deprives the person of any economic advantage gained by
161.21 the violation, or both. The commissioner may also impose these penalties against a person
161.22 who has violated section 341.28, subdivision 4, paragraph (b) or (c).