

**DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
BOXING AND MIXED MARTIAL ARTS REGULATION
Sections 29-143j-1a---29-143j-81a**

**STATEMENT OF REASONS, CONSIDERATIONS AND DECISIONS TO
ACCEPT OR REJECT**

1. Zuffa, LLC dba Ultimate Fighting Championship's (Zuffa) comment that "all contracts" in Section 29-143j-8a be revised is rejected. Boxing and Mixed Martial Arts participants must disclose contractual obligations to the commissioner, or the commissioner's representative, in order to facilitate appropriate fund distribution post event. Contract forms are provided to the participants for convenience only, in the event participants have not executed written agreements beforehand.

The recommendation that the 72 hour time be revised has been accepted, with DESPP adding language that will authorize the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative to accept an executed contract less than 72 hours before an event.

2. Zuffa's recommendation to remove the \$100 minimum compensation amount is rejected, noting that identifying a minimum amount is in the best interests of the participants, reducing the likelihood of unfair practices that offer zero or nominal compensation. The regulation provides that the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative may review other compensation amounts as presented.
3. In response to Zuffa's question, DESPP does not collect proprietary business and/or financial information when processing license applications for promoters. Confidential business and financial information may be required when filing applications for bond or business filings with the Secretary of the State; however those filing materials do not become part of the DESPP license application. DESPP reviews and issues licenses within the confines of Connecticut law, protecting private information received in accordance with Connecticut law. No revision to Section 29-143j-11a is necessary.
4. The proposed revision to Section 29-143j-13a "combat area" and seating requirements during Boxing and Mixed Martial Arts events is rejected. The defined term "combat area", and the related seating allotments provide greater flexibility than the revisions recommended and therefore, the language will remain as written.
5. Regarding the comment that the five (5) days proposed in Sec. 29-143j-14a(c) may have a negative consequence on the ability for the event to proceed, bonding issues can be involved and therefore a shorter period of time in which to review, identify and correct bond issues may not be sufficient. In response to this comment, DESPP has added language that will give the commissioner, or commissioner's authorized representative, the discretion to approve a different time period when appropriate.

DESPP has accepted Zuffa's comment regarding Sec. 29-143j-14a(e) and has

removed the language “or when the promoter’s license expires.” DESPP rejects Zuffa’s comment to remove the requirement that the bond shall not be released until at least 60 days after the contest noting that 60 days has proven necessary to confirm that all obligations under the bond have been satisfied.

6. Zuffa’s comment that the Sec. 29-143j-16a liability language is not necessary in the regulation is rejected. The language provides notice to participants, including the promoters, of Connecticut’s liability requirements associated with Mixed Martial Arts events and such notice is appropriate within the Mixed Martial Arts’ regulations.
7. In response to Zuffa’s questions relating to Sec. 29-143j- 20a, see below:
 - (a) What if the business entity is not from Connecticut and thus does not have the ability to comply with this provision? An out of state entity can seek to be authorized to conduct business in the state of Connecticut via the Secretary of the State.
 - (b) What if the person applying for a license as a promoter has been convicted of a felony? DESPP has revised the language to require the promoter to fully disclose his/her conviction history.
 - (c) Is a list of employees really necessary for a promoter? This section has been revised to require that the promoter list the employees that will be participating in the event and identify those employees that will be designated as contacts for the event.
 - (f) The same issue raised in Sec. 29-143j-11a regarding confidential and proprietary business information. While the Commissioner should be able to evaluate the necessary information to determine whether a license should be granted or not, that information should not necessarily become part of the public domain as a result. See response to number 3 above.
8. In response to Zuffa’s question regarding Section 29-143j-30a “Is it possible to add the ability to fine someone holding a license in CT in addition to the other listed forms of discipline?” DESPP does not have the statutory authority to impose fines on participants. Therefore, the language will remain as written.

DESPP has revised the language in Sec. 29-143j-30a (a)(1) to respond to Zuffa’s comment regarding advances that may occur in boxing. The regulation now reads: “receiving payment prior to the conclusion of the contest, absent full disclosure in the contract pursuant to Sec. 29-143j-8a of the regulations.”
9. In response to Zuffa’s comments regarding due process and remedies available from the final determinations of the Commissioner, DESPP states that the appeals process is not a “contested case” under Chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes and therefore there is no right of an appeal to a higher tribunal.
10. Zuffa’s comment that officials be permitted to drink water during Boxing and Mixed Martial Arts events is accepted; “except water” has been added to the language in Sec. 29-143j-32a.
11. Regarding Zuffa’s comment questioning why the announcer “shall not be in the direct and regular employ of the promoter, except for the function of announcing the

contest or exhibition”, DESPP finds that an independent, objective announcer is best for Boxing or Mixed Martial Arts events and therefore, the language will remain as written.

- 12.** DESPP accepts Zuffa’s comment that timekeepers do not signal the beginning of the round in Mixed Martial Arts events and has added “boxing only” to the language in Sec. 29-143j-34a (d)(1).
- 13.** DESPP accepts Zuffa’s comment and has revised Sec. 29-143j-36a(f) to read:
“Before the start of each bout, the referee shall call the contestants and, if necessary, an interpreter, together for final instructions.”
- 14.** Zuffa’s comment that EEG be removed from the medical examinations listed in Sec. 29-143j-41a(3) is rejected. DESPP prefers to keep the types of examinations that may be required inclusive, so that participants are aware of the type of examinations that may be required. Subparagraph (8) of the same section provides the examination list may also include “any other test or examination the commissioner of such commissioner’s authorized representative deems appropriate.” The regulations cover both Boxing and Mixed Martial Arts events and the type of exams that may be required shall remain inclusive, avoiding participant surprise and unpreparedness. Therefore, the language will remain as written.
- 15.** DESPP rejects Zuffa’s comment that Sec. 29-143j-65a be revised to reflect that “2 seconds should be allowed into the combat area unless the contestant has a cut which needs attention, and then only 1 second and a cutman are allowed into the combat area.” The regulation as written provides that the commissioner or the commissioner’s authorized representative may alter the number of seconds that may enter the combat area between rounds, as needed. Therefore, the language will remain as written.
- 16.** DESPP rejects Zuffa’s comment requesting less than fourteen (14) days in which female contestants must provide a negative pregnancy test. The proposed regulations incorporate, by reference, the regulatory guidelines certified and published by the Association of Boxing Commissions, including the Unified Rules of Boxing and Mixed Martial Arts, which recommend the 14 day time period. Therefore, the 14 day time period in Sec. 29-143j-47a(d) will remain as written.
- 17.** Zuffa’s comment that “a straw weight 115 pound class should be added”, is rejected as the proposed regulations incorporate, by reference, the regulatory guidelines certified and published by the Association of Boxing Commissions, including the Unified Rules of Boxing and Mixed Martial Arts, which to date, have not formally adopted the straw weight class proposed. Therefore, the language in Sec. 29-143j-51a will remain as written.