

NOTICE OF INTENT

Office of the Governor

Boxing and Wrestling Commission

Boxing and Wrestling Standards

(LAC 46:XI. Chapter 5)

The Louisiana State Boxing and Wrestling Commission does hereby exercise the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(b) and 49:967(D) to adopt the following Rules. These Proposed Rules are necessary to promote the safety of contestants, other participants and spectators, to repeal sections previously moved to the general rules, to clarify and update wrestling rules pursuant to prohibited wrestling holds and moves to national and international wrestling standards and enforcement thereof. This Notice of Intent also introduces new Class "B" wrestling standards pursuant to legislation passed in the 2018 Regular Session, HB 502.

Title 46

PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS

Part XI. Boxing and Wrestling

Chapter 5. Professional Wrestling

Subchapter A. Class "A" Wrestling

§501. Ring Rules

~~A. Participants in all exhibitions must be properly trained and in fit physical condition to wrestle. The commission and the attending physician are to be the sole judges of such condition. If a participant is not physically fit, the commission shall refuse to permit the bout to take place.~~

A. In addition to the rules set forth below, Chapter 1. General Rules set forth above shall apply to Professional Wrestling.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D) and R.S. 4:64.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Commerce, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 1967, amended 1974.
Amended 2019.

§503. Time Limits for Bouts

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D) and R.S. 4:64.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Commerce, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 1967, amended 1974.
Repealed 2019.

§503. Special Wrestling Rules

A. The following special rules and regulations apply particularly to all persons and parties licensed as wrestlers, wrestling managers, wrestling commissions, wrestling promoters and wrestling matchmakers, or to any other individual issued a wrestling license by this commission.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D) and R.S. 4:64.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 2019.

§505. Weights and Time of Weighing In

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D) and R.S. 4:64.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Commerce, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 1967, amended 1974.

Repealed 2019.

§505. Commission Representative Present at Wrestling Show

A. Each wrestling match shall be attended by either a commission member or commission representative, hereinafter “commission official.” The commission official shall have the full power to act on behalf of the commission to interpret, construe, and fully enforce all the rules of the commission and each such official has the power and authority to immediately suspend, without prior notice, any licensee for any violation of the rules of the commission or of the laws of this state.

B. The commission official in charge of any wrestling contest or exhibition shall have complete authority over all phases of the event, including entrances for participants, officials, and employees; the ring and ringside, including press, radio and television accommodations; over all the dressing rooms of participants and officials; the counting and accounting for all tickets, including working press, complimentary tickets for participants, officials, and employee tickets; the collection of all fees, and the issuance of all licenses and the fees therefore.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D) and R.S. 4:64.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 2019.

§507. Officials

A. The promoter shall provide all officials for the event, including the referee. The promoter is responsible to the commission for all actions of these appointed officials. The failure to manage, appoint or properly supervise said officials may lead to the suspension of the promoter.

B. The commission official can over-rule the promoter’s choice of official and require that another official be appointed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D) and R.S. 4:64.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 2019.

§509. Conduct of the Participants

A. It shall be the duty of the referee, promoter, and his agents and employees, and the participants in any wrestling exhibition to maintain peace and order in the conduct of any exhibition.

B. No person under the age of 16 years shall participate in any professional wrestling match.

C. A wrestler shall not physically engage and/or include in the bout any spectator or third person not licensed by the commission.

D. A wrestler shall not deliberately cut or otherwise mutilate himself while participating in a wrestling contest or exhibition.

E. No wrestler shall molest, hit or abuse any spectator, referee or judge, or engage in any unsportsmanlike conduct.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D) and R.S. 4:64.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 2019

§511. Holds

A. Any hold, grip, lock or trip is allowed except as herein listed: stranglehold, scratching, eye gouging, striking with knuckles, pulling hair, kicking, butting in the face, cutting off breath by shutting nose and mouth at the same time. The inserting of fingers in the mouth, deliberate throwing of opponent over top rope or through the ropes. and wrestling outside the ring are specifically prohibited. In addition, the following moves or throws are strictly banned from all wrestling events:

1. All variations of the Pile Driver;

2. All variations of the Power Bomb;

3. The “Moonsault”, “Shooting Star”, or “450 Splash” or any variation thereof which involves one wrestler, leaping or flipping off the ropes or turnbuckles to contact the head or neck of the opponent with any part of his body;

4. The “Stungun” of any variation thereof which results in the one fighter’s head or neck being dragged, draped or “close-lined” across the ropes;

5. The striking of a wrestler’s head with any object, chair, trashcan lid, etc., and

6. No wrestler shall throw, push, shove or force another out of the ring or over the top rope.

B. The commission official may, at his sole discretion, allow wrestlers to perform prohibited holds, moves or maneuvers listed above, provided permission is sought and obtained prior to the event by both wrestlers and the requesting wrestlers have sufficient training, athletic ability and experience to perform the maneuver without endangering one another and wrestling outside the ring are specifically prohibited.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D) and R.S. 4:64.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Commerce, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 1967, amended 1974. Amended 2019

§513. Falls and Decisions

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D) and R.S. 4:64.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Commerce, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 1967, amended 1974. Repealed 2019

§513. Leaving the Ring

A. All wrestling must take place within the ropes and no wrestler shall deliberately leave the enclosed ring during the course of a bout nor shall any wrestler leave the ring in pursuit of another wrestler.

B. If a contestant crawls through the ropes or out of the ring and refuses to return at the count of ten by the referee, said contestant will be disqualified.

C. Wrestlers deliberately throwing opponents out of the ring are guilty of a foul and the referee may therefore award the exhibition to the fouled wrestler if the fouled wrestler cannot continue.

D. Any wrestler who deliberately leaves the enclosed ring during the course of an exhibition, and if the offense is repeated after once given warnings by the referee, the wrestler will be disqualified.

E. A wrestler who accidently is forced from the ring must return to the ring by the count of 10 by the referee or be disqualified;

F. The commission official may, at his sole discretion, allow wrestlers to perform prohibited holds, moves, maneuvers or leaving of the ring as listed above provided permission is sought and obtained prior to the event by both wrestlers and the requesting wrestlers have sufficient training, athletic ability and experience to perform the maneuver without endangering one another and wrestling outside the ring are specifically prohibited.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D) and R.S. 4:64.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 2019.

§515. Referee

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE Adopted in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D), R.S. 4:64 and R.S. 4:79

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Commerce, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 1967, amended 1974. Repealed 2018.

§515. Health of Participants

A. Participants in all exhibitions must be properly trained and in fit physical condition to wrestle. The commission and the attending physician are to be the sole judges of such condition. If a participant is not physically fit, the commission shall refuse to permit the bout to take place; and

B. No wrestlers shall conceal from the commission or a physician acting on behalf of the commission any known illness or disability.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D) and R.S. 4:64.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 2019

§517. Time during Temporary Stop

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Commerce, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 1967, amended 1974. Repealed 2019

§517. Items Prohibited In The Ring

A. The items allowed in the ring with the fighter are limited to his costume.

B. Razors, knives or any other sharp objects in the ring are strictly prohibited.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D) and R.S. 4:64.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 2019

§521. Medical Reports

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D) and R.S. 4:64.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Commerce, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 1967, amended 1974.
Repealed 2019

§521. Costumes [Formerly 507]

~~A. Wrestlers appearing in exhibitions must be properly clothed in neat and clean apparel. Trunks and tights must be well fitting and whole, with a high waistband. If short trunks only are used and the limbs bare, the length of the legs of the trunks shall not be less than 3 inches below the crotch, and two pairs, one over the other, must be worn. Shoes must have soft tops with soft soles, and lace with eyelets only.~~

B. Masks may be used by any wrestler, but they shall be tight on the scalp and shall not impair the wrestler's vision;

C. All apparel shall be free from sharp or abrasive objects;

D. The costume shall be free from racial commentary; shall not display lewd or offensive material, and shall not have foul or inappropriate language thereon; and

E. The commission official shall be empowered to require a wrestler to either change into another costume or add clothes to an existing costume if in the representative's opinion the wrestler's costume is inappropriate.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D) and R.S. 4:64.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Commerce, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 1967, amended 1974. Amended 2019

§523. Mats and Ropes [Formerly 509]

A. Mats shall be not less than one inch thick and must be stuffed with hair, felt, cotton or other soft material, and shall cover the entire ring platform. The mat and covering shall be clean and free from disagreeable odors at all times. ~~Ropes shall be the same as in boxing.~~

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D) and R.S. 4:64.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Commerce, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 1967, amended 1974. Amended 2019

Subchapter B. Class "B" Wrestling

§525. Wrestling Promoters Class "B" Licensing

A. There is hereby created a Class "B" wrestling license to permit promoters to promote smaller wrestling events. Wrestling promoters will not be allowed to hold both Class "A" and Class "B" licenses simultaneously.

B. There shall be no more than five (5) Class "B" wrestling licenses issued per calendar year;

C. Class "B" licenses will be issued only to persons in good standing with the commission, who have the requisite level of trustworthiness, knowledge and experience necessary to follow the statutes and rules of the commission and experience necessary to conduct such events;

D. Once a promoter has obtained a Class "B" wrestling license, he shall be limited to promoting wrestling events at venues with a capacity of 400 persons or less, or events held in a primary or secondary school pursuant;

E. Under no circumstances will the holder of a Class "B" wrestling license be permitted to promote a show for any other person and

F. The cost for a Class "B" wrestling promoter license shall be \$250.00.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S.4:64, 4:65, and 4:83(B)

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Boxing and Wrestling Commission 2019

§527. Application of Professional Boxing Rule

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Adopted in accordance with R.S. 4:61(D) and R.S. 4:64.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Commerce, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 1967, amended 1974, amended by the Office of the Governor, Boxing and Wrestling Commission, LR 31:2007 (August 2005). Repealed 2019

§527. Application of Subchapter A Wrestling Rules and Exceptions

A. The conditions described specifically in Subchapter A wrestling rules also apply to Subchapter B Class "B" wrestling events, promoters and contestants and as put forth in Chapter 1. General Rules with the following exceptions:

1. No bond is required for promoters who exclusively promote Class "B" events.
2. The five percent tax of gross receipts will not be collected.
3. The appointment of a physician, emergency personnel and ambulance will not be required at Class "B" events.
4. The presence of an event coordinator or commissioner in attendance will not be required for Class "B" events.
5. The show reservation fee of \$250 will not be required for Class "B" events.
6. Class "B" promoters will not be required to purchase health insurance as required in Chapter 1. General Rules.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 4:83(B)

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Boxing and Wrestling Commission 2019

§528. Submission of Documents for Class "B" Licenses

A. There shall be a Form 528 (A), 528 (B), and 528 (C) created by the commission and posted on the commission website for the submission of requests for Class "B" shows.

B. Along with the completed Form 528 (A) each promoter shall be required to submit:

1. one of the following:

- a. a document from the fire marshal indicating that the venue is 400 persons or less or;
- b. Form 528 (B) signed by an appropriate official from the primary or secondary school where the event is to be held;

2. one of the following:

- a. an insurance policy indicating that the promoter has secured a commercial liability policy in the amount of \$100,000

which will be in effect for the event; or

- b. Form 528 (C) indicating that the venue provides a commercial liability policy in the amount of \$100,000 which will

be in effect for the event;

3. current documentation evidencing that the individual is certified in infant/child/adult CPR;

4. for each wrestler listed as participating in the event, up to date medical testing results pursuant to medical requirements of the general rules of this title, and

5. for each wrestler who has never been licensed by the commission, either:

- a. a copy of a wrestling license issued by another state or jurisdiction; or
- b. Form 529 (A) verifying the wrestler has been cleared to participate in the event as set forth under §529. Participants.

C. Form 528 (A) along with all documents set forth above shall be submitted to the commission no less than 15 days prior to the event, there shall be no exceptions to this 15 day deadline;

D. At the time of the submission of Form 528 (A) the promoter shall submit a check payable to the commission for the sum of \$50 to pay for expenses of the examination and verification of the documents and forms.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S.4:64, 4:65, 4:83, 4:83(B) and 4:83(B)(5)

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Boxing and Wrestling Commission LR 44: 2019

§529. Participants

A. No person, who has not previously been licensed as a professional wrestler in the state of Louisiana, or other state or recognized jurisdiction, shall be entitled to participate in any event under this chapter;

B. A person, who has not previously been licensed as a professional wrestling in the state of Louisiana, or other state or recognized jurisdiction, can obtain clearance to participate in an event under this chapter by doing the following:

1. submitting Form 529 (A) to arrange an examination by the commission, which will be set at a reasonable place and time to be arranged through the commission;

a. at the examination, the commission shall determine that the applicant has the physical ability, skill and training to participate in an event;

b. if the applicant is successful, the commission shall complete Form 529(A) and issue a copy of same to the applicant;

c. if the applicant is unsuccessful, he may, within three months, apply for re-examination;

2. at the time of the submission of the 529 (A) form to the commission, the applicant shall include a cashier's check or money order in the amount of \$50 to secure the attendance of the deputy commissioner at the examination;

3. in no event shall the applicant be entitled to participate in a show within 15 days of his successful examination.

C. The commission declares that the participation of any contestant not listed on Form 528 (A) is a danger to the public health, welfare and safety requiring immediate action, and the commission may summarily suspend a promoter or wrestler's license pending a hearing, if such a violation has been committed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S.4:64, 4:65, 4:83, 4:83(B) and 49:961

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Boxing and Wrestling Commission 2019

§531. Promoter's Obligations

A. The promoter is obligated to the commission, the public and the participants to insure all rules and regulations of the commission are followed, except those specifically excluded by R.S. 4:83(B). In addition, the promoter shall, within 15 days of his event, send a report the commission which shall contain the following:

1. injuries suffered by any of the contestants, including but not limited to

a. cuts requiring stitches

b. broken bones

c. injuries requiring emergency medical treatment or hospitalization;

d. it shall be the duty of the promoter to include the name of the injured contestant as well as all other relevant

information concerning the person's treatment, etc.,

2. injuries suffered by any of the spectators;

3. number of persons attending the event;

4. a list of any violations of the rules and regulation set forth under this title, including the name of the perpetrator(s) and the specific violation(s) committed;

5. if a promoter fails to submit this report within 15 days after the event, no approval for a new event shall be granted except by application submitted directly to the commission at one of its regular monthly meetings, at which time the promoter shall also explain the reason for his failure to timely submit his report. Multiple failure to submit timely reports may lead to suspension.

6. the commission declares that the promoter's failure to operate his event in compliance with this title, and the rules and regulation of the commission, is a potential danger to the public health, welfare and safety requiring immediate action, and the commission may summarily suspend a promoter license pending a hearing, if such a violation has been committed

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S.4:64, 4:65, 4:83, 4:83(B) and 49:961

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Boxing and Wrestling Commission 2019

Anthony "Buddy" Embanato

Chairman

Family Impact Statement

In compliance with Act 1183 of the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the impact of this proposed Rule on the family has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have a no impact on family functioning, stability or autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

Poverty Impact Statement

In compliance with Act 854 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the poverty impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on child, individual, or family poverty in relation to individual or community asset development as described in R.S. 49:973.

Provider Impact Statement

In compliance with House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 170 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the provider impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on the staffing level requirements or qualifications required to provide the same level of service and no direct or indirect cost to the provider to provide the same level of service, and will have no impact on the provider's ability to provide the same level of service as described in HCR 170.

Public Comments

All interested persons are invited to submit written comments, views or positions, on these proposed rules, in writing to John Green, Jr., Secretary, Louisiana State Boxing & Wrestling Commission, 1135 Hodges St., Lake Charles, LA 70601 within twenty days of publication.