



# Arizona Boxing & Mixed Martial Arts Commission



## Unarmed Combat Sports COVID-19 Protocol

Effective *October 13, 2021*

**Purpose:** The purpose of this document is to establish uniform health & safety protocols for unarmed combat sporting events in the State of Arizona and to identify additional Promoter responsibilities relating to those events. These protocols are to be implemented, as approved by the Commission, in addition to the routine Commission requirements for all personnel anticipated to be inside the venue for an event or granted access to event-related areas. Any deviation from the approved procedures must be reviewed, considered, and approved by the Commission, prior to the event.

At this time, individuals permitted at unarmed combat sporting event shall be limited only to those individuals essential for a safe and fair contest; public spectators and non-essential personnel are **prohibited** from those areas identified by the Commission as restricted-access areas. The Commission may approve an event with public spectators on a case-by-case basis and must consider the latest guidance from the Arizona Department of Health Services and local health officials when granting such approval. The guidance may limit the maximum occupancy of an event to further mitigate risks for exposure. Additionally, venue owners or venue management staff may impose occupancy restrictions, social distancing, and/or other safety measures, which the Promoter must comply with.

This document shall not supersede the health and safety guidance provided by Federal, State, and/or local government(s) or the advice provided to a person by his/her healthcare provider. *The Commission may amend this document or require additional protocols not established herein.*

**Commission:** The Commission shall require every promoter desiring to conduct an unarmed combat sporting event in the State of Arizona to submit to the Commission for review, consideration, and approval, an operational plan containing the following: 1) recommended physical distancing guidelines; 2) protective/prevention measures and equipment; 3) testing and daily screening procedures; 4) isolation guidelines; 5) positive test procedures; 6) cleaning procedures; 7) staffing requirements; 8) weigh-in and event walkout procedures; 9) locker-room assignment and cleaning procedures; and 10) post-event follow-up procedures. A promoter may appeal a decision by the Commission or its designee to deny the promoter's operation plan, pursuant to A.A.C. R19-2-C608.

No person shall be granted access to the Commission-identified restricted-access areas, without a verified negative COVID-19 diagnostic test. While recommended for all persons at all times, individuals previously tested for COVID-19 are strongly encouraged to adhere to strict physical distancing guidelines, when possible, while ensuring use of personal protective equipment ("PPE"), in shared/common/public spaces, until departure from the event.

- Persons within Arizona receiving access to the event or event-related areas shall receive a COVID-19 test within 72 hours of scheduled weigh-ins. A negative test result is required to enter the event or event-related areas. Any person exhibiting symptoms or testing positive by approved means for COVID-19 shall be disqualified and/or removed from the area for quarantine or directed to a physician for immediate medical care.
- A person who has completed their COVID-19 vaccination, shall provide proof to the Commission that at least two weeks has concluded since the completion of the vaccine and may be exempt from the testing requirements.

The Commission may use wristbands or other acceptable means to identify individuals granted access to restricted-access areas; any person removing, damaging, sharing or by other means tampering with such mechanism shall be denied entry and may be subject to disciplinary action by the Commission.

The Commission may limit each athlete to two (2) cornermen for all bouts. Athletes are encouraged to use the same cornermen, when possible.

The Commission shall ensure the following personal protective equipment is readily available for all Commission staff and officials: gloves, masks, disinfectants, and other sanitary supplies.

- All Commission officials may properly utilize the provided PPE at all times, including in the ring or cage.

The Commission may require documented daily temperature and symptom checks for all event-related personnel, starting 72 hours in advance of arrival to the event venue, or upon arrival to the host hotel, whichever comes first.

Any person exhibiting symptoms or testing positive by approved means for COVID-19 shall be disqualified and/or removed from the area for quarantine or directed to a physician for immediate medical care. The Commission shall notify the Arizona Department of Health Services (“AZDHS”) of any person testing positive, including positive serology results.

Any person engaged in reckless behavior, including: failing to abide by these protocols; intentionally spreading bodily fluids; providing false responses to medical questions; or other unacceptable behaviors, may be denied access to the venue or event-related areas and may be disciplined by the Commission, including fines and/or denial or revocation of a Commission-issued license.

The Commission shall provide all personnel associated with the event with an informational Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) handout, upon initial medical screening with the Commission.

The Commission will follow-up with all Commission staff, fourteen (14) days post-event, to inquire of any new symptoms developing post-event.

**Promoters:** Promoters shall be responsible for ensuring adherence to these protocols, as well as the financial costs associated with ensuring all personnel are tested accordingly. This includes the costs associated with PPE equipment, cleaning supplies, all specimen collection, shipping, testing, and reporting.

Promoters shall provide the following PPE to all non-Commission personnel: gloves, masks, disinfectants, and other necessary cleaning supplies.

Promoters shall ensure proper sterilization of the venue, host hotel, and other shared areas/transportation means used by event personnel. This includes handwashing or hand-sanitizing areas readily available throughout the venue.

Promoters shall ensure no unauthorized persons (i.e. those not tested or appropriately identified) are granted access to the identified restricted-access areas.

The Commission recommends that promoters develop an isolation plan for non-local personnel testing positive for COVID-19.

The Commission recommends that promoters follow up fourteen (14) days post-event with athletes, cornermen, and staff, to ensure no new symptoms have developed. The Commission shall be notified of any persons developing new symptoms post-event.

The Commission will require a negative COVID-19 test, provided it is approved or authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”).

**Personal Protective Equipment:** The Commission and the promoter shall ensure every person granted access to the venue receives and correctly utilizes the following;

- One (1) surgical mask or cloth face covering, for each day the person will be granted access to the venue or event-related areas.

All personnel may wear a facial covering, which could include a surgical mask or cloth face covering, at all times inside the venue or event-related areas. Although all personnel are encouraged to wear latex gloves at all times inside the venue or event-related areas, it is strongly encouraged that all personnel frequently wash and/or sanitize their hands. **Exception:** Athletes will not be required to adhere to this during competition in the cage/ring.

**Disinfectant:** The Commission and the promoter shall ensure adequate disinfectant supplies are readily available at all times, ensuring common areas (i.e. cage/ring, locker-room(s), common-surface areas, etc.) are thoroughly cleaned after each use with a disinfectant solution approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the CDC. <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2/> / <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

**Medical Screening & Testing:** The Commission and the Promoter shall ensure every person granted access to the venue is screened and tested by the Commission medical team as follows:

- As stated above, it is recommended every person have his/her temperature checked and recorded daily. The information will be reviewed by the Commission Chief Ringside Physician.
  - **Athletes:** Additional temperature check will be performed post-event, prior to departing the venue.
- Upon initial screening and on the day of the event, every person will be asked a series of medical questions by the medical team. Any adverse answers will be followed up with further screening.
- Upon arrival, every person shall submit to a COVID-19 active infection test; any COVID-19 test is acceptable at the promoter's choosing, provided it is either approved or authorized by the FDA.

**Positive results:** Any person testing positive, and his/her staff/cornermen, for an active infection will be denied access to, or will be removed from, the venue. Any person with severe COVID-19 symptoms will be directed to the nearest emergency room, in accordance with AZDHS guidance.

**Post-Event:** The Commission Chief Ringside Physician recommends, when possible, that athletes self-isolate for fourteen (14) days post-event, even if test results are negative, to ensure no new symptoms develop. Any person developing symptoms post-event is recommended to follow-up with his/her primary care physician, who may consult with the Commission physician.

This document has been prepared by the Arizona Boxing & MMA Commission, in consultation with Dr. Ken Ota, D.O. (Commission Chief Ringside Physician), Dr. Don Muzzi, M.D. (Association of Ringside Physicians President), and aligned with recommendations of the World Boxing Association medical committee. The Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) and Arizona Risk Management have also contributed to this document and it has been reviewed by the Arizona Governor's Office.

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