

## **Summary of Requirements For Conducting an MMA Event In New Hampshire**

The following includes requirements for conducting an MMA event in the State of New Hampshire. In addition to these requirements, you must contact the New Hampshire Boxing and Wrestling Commission (NH BWC) Chairman/Commissioner Bobby Stephen to discuss your proposed event. Prior to scheduling your event, you must receive the approval of the NH BWC to have an event in New Hampshire. Professional business references and/or personal references, Dunn and Bradstreet review, Criminal Background Check, etc., may be required. If you have further questions, please contact NH BWC Chairman Bobby Stephen.

Chairman Stephen can be reached at:

**Bobby Stephen**  
**(603) 860-2315**  
[bobby@stephenlaw.com](mailto:bobby@stephenlaw.com)

- NH BWC regulates both Amateur and Professional MMA events in the State of New Hampshire. As such, there are two sets of rules for MMA in NH. These are the **NH Pro MMA Unified Rules and the NH Amateur MMA Rules.** It is the responsibility of the promoter to ensure that the competitors that they use in their promotions meet the requirements of the NH Amateur and Professional MMA Rules. It is at the discretion of NH BWC to determine if a competitor can fight as a professional or an amateur MMA fighter in NH.
- Schedule the date of the event with the Commission. The promoter must notify the Commission of the date and location (city/town, venue name) you are planning on for the event. Not more than one MMA event can occur on a reserved date.
- MMA events must have a minimum of **seven (7)** bouts, with a maximum of **fifteen** (15) bouts. You can get a copy of the current NH Pro and Amateur MMA rules upon request.

- Be sure the city/town allows MMA events to be held there. Contact the municipal government and ask if MMA is allowed. Tell them that the event will be sanctioned by the NH BWC. Apply for/acquire any/all required permits to hold the event. Sometimes the venue does this themselves.
- Schedule the required fire and police presence for your event. Comply with all fire and police policies and regulations/requirements.
- Provide very visible security at your event. Discuss this with NH BWC. It is the promoter's responsibility to keep the crowd under control!
- Provide EMT services for your event. You must have EMTs and at least one ambulance present at all times during the event. Some promotions have two ambulances in the event one has to make a run to the hospital. A fight show cannot continue if the EMT and/or ambulance are not present. The EMTs are the responsibility of the promotion, not the NH BWC.
- You must have at least (1) Doctor or Nurse practitioner for the weigh-ins, and (1) Doctor or Nurse Practitioner plus another Doctor or Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant (PA) or Nurse at your event. The Doctor or Nurse Practitioner will remain ringside, while the other medical person will be located at the dressing/corner rooms for the duration of the event. It is the responsibility of the promoter to arrange the medical personnel.

- Again, one (1) Doctor or Nurse Practitioner is required at the weigh-ins to conduct pre-fight physicals. The promoter schedules these medical professionals directly, and provides the names/titles of the medical professionals to Deputy Commissioners John Hagopian at (603)494-5424 or airmobile@yahoo.com. The promotion pays the medical personnel. The medical personnel are paid by the promoter. The medical personnel are the responsibility of the promotion, not the NH BWC.
- At least one (1) month prior to your event, you MUST provide the NH BWC the list of officials you will use at your event, including the medical professionals. These also include:

**Referee(s); judges (3); timekeeper; scorekeeper**

Officials must be experienced, and we encourage you to use local (NH/New England) officials with NH MMA officiating experience. The promoter should provide the NH BWC a brief resume/synopsis of each official's experience. The promotion pays the officials. The officials are the responsibility of the promotion, not the NH BWC. Officials must be licensed by the NH BWC. They can obtain a license good for one year from date of issue at the weigh-in or prior to the MMA event. The fee is \$20.00.

- The promoter must register their event with [www.mixedmartialarts.com](http://www.mixedmartialarts.com) (the official MMA database for the Association of Boxing Commissions). This will provide the promoter with information such as a determination if the fighter(s) they wish to use in their events are currently suspended in NH or elsewhere. If the promoter knows that fighters are suspended, or suffer some sort of medical issue that would preclude them from competing, THEY MUST NOT USE THE FIGHTER, even if they are not listed in the [www.mixedmartialarts.com](http://www.mixedmartialarts.com) stats database. NH BWC honors suspensions of fighters from other States.
- Pro MMA fighters must be licensed in NH. Fighters get licensed at the weigh-ins. A Professional or Amateur MMA fighter must be at least 18 years old to compete in NH. Weigh-ins for both pro and amateur MMA fighters are held the night before the event. To get a NH Pro MMA license, the fighter must complete an application and

provide the NH BWC a **\$20.00** fee for the license. A Pro NH MMA license is valid for one year from date of issue. If you have previously been issued a Pro NH MMA license, you ***must*** bring your Pro NH MMA license to the weigh-ins.

- In addition, fighters wishing to compete as professional or amateur MMA fighters in NH must provide to NH B & WC (during the weigh-ins), the medical results listed below. **EVEN IF A FIGHTER IS CURRENTLY LICENSED AS A PROFESSIONAL MMA FIGHTER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, THEY MUST PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING MEDICAL RESULTS AT EVERY WEIGH-IN:**

- 1) **EKG print out, no more than 1 year old as of day of fight;**
- 2) **Eye exam (with examination for detached retina), no more than 1 year old as of day of fight;**
- 3) **Physical exam (with Doctor stating that the fighter is fit to fight), no more than 1 year old as of day of fight;**
- 4) **HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C results, no more than 6 months old as of day of fight;**
- 5) **For female fighter, negative pregnancy test (from same day of weigh-ins);**
- 6) **Valid, government-issued photo ID which shows that the competitor is at least 18 years of age.**

**Again, all medical results must be provided to the NH BWC the night of the weigh-ins. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS! If a fighter fails to provide all of the required medical paperwork to NH BWC at the time of weigh-ins, they will be automatically suspended for 60 days.**

- Amateur fighters do not get licensed, but must provide the same medical results listed above to the NH BWC the night of the weigh-ins.
- Weigh-ins must be scheduled with the NH BWC at least 1 month prior to the event. Weigh-ins are to be scheduled for one (1) hour (ex. 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM), at a location agreed upon by the NH BWC.

- The promoter must carry an insurance policy for the event that provides, at a minimum, **\$20,000 medical coverage** for each event participant. **Event insurance to cover the attendees at the event is required as well.** A copy of the insurance certificate must be provided to the NH BWC no later than the night of the weigh-ins.
- The promoter must get a Promoter's License from the NH BWC. The current fee for this license is **\$100**. This license is valid for a single MMA event. In other words, the promoter must apply for/receive a Promoter's License for each MMA event they wish to hold. The Promoter can get the license the night of the weigh-ins. In addition, the NH BWC as agents for the State of New Hampshire collects a fee of **5% of the gross receipts** at the door. This is collected by the NH BWC during the event.
- All corners, seconds, and official must have current corners/seconds or officials licenses. These licenses are valid for one (1) year from date of issue. These can be acquired the night of the weigh-ins or day of the event upon completion of an application and payment of the licensing fee. The fee is \$20.00 for each of these types of licenses. A valid, government-issued photo ID is required at the time of licensing. Even if you have a valid NH Professional MMA fighter's license, if you wish to corner a fighter, you must get a NH corner's license, and vice versa. **It is the responsibility of the corner(s)/seconds/officials to understand the NH BWC rules and policies regarding MMA.**
- Unless **previously discussed** between the promotion and NH BWC, the following will apply regarding alcohol: If alcohol is to be served at the event, all alcohol must be served in plastic cups. No "shot girls" are allowed at MMA events. **No alcohol is to be served during the last two (2) fights of the event.**
- It is the responsibility of the promotion and the participants (fighters, corners) to keep the crowd under control. It is recommended that the promoter informs the fighters that if their fans behave unruly, the fighter will face disqualification from the bout, forfeiture of their MMA license, and may not be allowed to participate in future MMA events in NH. The promoter may be prohibited from holding future MMA events in NH as well.

- At least two (2) weeks prior to the event, the promoter must provide the NH BWC the list of fights, including the fighter's names, records, and anticipated fight weight class for review and approval. Any changes to the bouts or fighters after NH BWC have given their initial approval of the fight card must be reported to NH BWC prior to the start of the event.
- No contestant or promoter may display any type of entrance theme that includes music, video, or any type of physical display that contains any profanity, vulgar language, or any derogatory ethnic or sexist remarks. Anyone violating this rule may be suspended from competing in or promoting combat sports in New Hampshire for six (6) months.