

Professional Boxing and Professional Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Safe Start Guidance

Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued [Executive Order 2020-133](#) allowing professional sports to resume. Per the Governor's office, "Professional sports leagues and teams" is to be construed broadly and includes professional athletes engaged in individual sports.

[Executive Order 2020-160](#) was issued to combine many Executive Orders and contains the same language from Executive Order 2020-133.

To assist the professional athletes and those involved with the professional boxing and professional mixed martial arts (MMA) start safely, the Bureau of Corporations, Securities, and Commercial Licensing (CSCL) in its role to provide administrative support to the Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission (MUCC) has developed this guidance.

In addition to this guidance, events must be held in compliance with the [Michigan Unarmed Combat Regulatory Act, Act 403 of 2004](#) and the relevant executive orders listed at the end of this guidance document. Please also be aware that the online FAQ noted above and this guidance document is subject to change as future guidance and recommendations are provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health, and other authoritative entities. Further, this guidance and the online FAQs do not constitute legal advice, promoters and those involved with these professional events are encouraged to seek legal counsel to ensure their operations comply with all applicable laws, rules, and executive orders.

SECTION 1: Planning and Pre-Event - Protocols

Training & Education:

COVID-19 prevention starts at home, this means staff associated with an event should receive education on proper hygiene (hand washing, avoidance of face touching, avoidance of contamination of surfaces, proper donning and doffing of masks and gloves), proper quarantine following potential COVID-19 exposure, social distancing, and avoiding sick individuals. Recommendations from the CDC found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>.

- The above information can be disseminated via electronic form including email and webinars. However, event organizers shall ensure all participants receive the educational information.

Information:

All personnel shall be informed that they must follow Michigan social distancing guidelines, including wearing a mask.

- For the latest COVID-19 information, visit <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/>.

Closed System:

Beginning with weigh-in an event organizer shall designate and establish a closed system to minimize and prevent the chance of transmission. A closed system may include a hotel or other facility that includes:

- Ability to secure a facility, or portions of a facility, that is/are closed to the public during the entirety of the event.
- Controlling who enters the facility, including portions of the facility where event staff may be quarantining.
- Sign in sheet, with language indicating by signing in the individual attests they are symptom free.
- Known whereabouts of all individuals inside the facility, or portion of facility used for the event.
- Catalogued departures of individuals from the facility or portion of facility used for the event.
- Individuals and teams are required to be provided with secure quarantine areas.
- All capacity restrictions in EO 2020-160 must be followed.

Event Operation Plan:

Event organizers shall establish and submit to CSCL for review and approval an operation plan for the event that includes the following information:

- An outline/summary of the planned event.
- A visual method to identify personnel who have been tested and cleared to enter the closed event, such as colored wrist bands.
- Contact names and telephone numbers for key personnel.
- Hotel accommodations for all out of state participants, including officials, fighters, staff, etc.
- Health and safety procedures.
- Detailed plan for all personnel quarantined after COVID-19 tests.
- Detailed plan for isolation of individuals having symptoms of COVID-19.
- Information regarding participants' training and transportation.
- Event operational plan for fight week.
- Address of the nearest hospital with an emergency room.
- Production personnel.
- Media rooms.
- Plan for reducing touch points.
- Floor plans/schematics identifying:
 - Training areas
 - Meals
 - Quarantine areas for all individuals after testing until results are received
 - Isolation area for anyone who develops symptoms

Professional Boxing & Professional MMA Safe Start Guidance

- Boxing Ring/Cage designating all individuals in the event no less than six feet apart
- Dressing rooms for fighters/team, designated area for Inspectors, and media rooms
- Emergency Medical Services to include route from closed arena to vehicles
- Designated area of security personnel for closed event to the public
- A copy of the health questionnaire provided to participants.
- A health questionnaire should at a minimum, contain the following questions:
 - Have you had a fever in the last 24 hours that was at or above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit?
 - Have you been in contact with someone with COVID-19? If so, when?
 - In the past 2-weeks, have you travelled to or from an area that is considered high risk, and/or been under a government-mandated quarantine period?
 - Have you been diagnosed, or tested positive with COVID-19, if you have, when were you diagnosed or tested positive?
 - In the past 24 hours, have you experienced any of the following symptoms:
 - Shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, cough, fever, headache, chills, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, muscle pain, nasal congestion, runny nose, diarrhea, fatigue.
- Any person responding yes to these questions should immediately be quarantined or isolated.

SECTION 2: Testing, Screening & Cleaning

Testing & Screening:

All personnel working the event, including, but not limited to, fighters, corners, managers, promoters, promoters' staff, production staff, security, cleaning staff, Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission members and all officials, will be mandated to be COVID-19 tested, and quarantine immediately after their COVID-19 tests. Upon receiving their results, they must stay quarantined (no contact with the public), or within the closed system, until the conclusion of their respective event. The promoter and promoter's staff will be responsible for knowing the location of all their personnel working the event.

- Prior to entering the closed system, and while in the closed system, event personnel shall comply with the following:
 - COVID-19 testing overseen by a physician – all COVID-19 results will be reported directly to the promoter, compliant with HIPAA
 - Daily symptom and temperature monitoring
 - Questionnaire – all questionnaires will be reviewed by a professional medical consultant
 - Quarantine and avoid communal spaces

Cleaning:

Event organizers shall assign dedicated cleaning staff to facilities used throughout the event. Any equipment or facilities that are used, (for example, training facilities, weight rooms, media rooms, work rooms), must be thoroughly cleaned in between each use. Specific details on cleaning procedures can be found on the CDC link: [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#).

- [Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\)](#).

SECTION 3: Immediately Preceding an Event – Protocols

Closed Systems:

Closed systems should have suggested protocol in place including the following:

- A security check, consisting of only personnel that are necessary.
- After the security check, participants shall proceed to a medical screening that includes the following:
 - A medical screening including the questionnaire, temperature check, and COVID-19 test. If these events are happening at hotels, an individual shall check into their hotel room after a screening.
- Hand sanitizer should be available in all common areas.
- If staying in a hotel, food should be provided by the hotel, and discourage participating staff from leaving the hotel.
- Daily temperature checks.
- Wrist bands to identify staff that have been screened. A different color for each day is suggested.
- Different athletes, and their camps, should not travel together.

SECTION 4: Weigh-in & Event Day - Protocols

Weigh-Ins & Physicals:

Guide for weigh-ins

- Practice social distancing.
- Stagger weigh-ins incrementally.
- Establish prescheduled times for participants to report.

Guide for pre-bout physicals

- A physical shall only consist of necessary examinations.
- Physicians conducting exams must wear PPE.
- Participants may only remove masks for oral/facial examinations.
- The use of exam equipment should be minimized on participants, and single use equipment should be used as often as possible.
- Sanitize equipment after each physical (e.g. stethoscope, BP cuff, penlight).

Staff Guidance:

Professional Boxing & Professional MMA Safe Start Guidance

Event Day Guidance for Staff

- Strict social distancing should be adhered to when traveling to a venue.
- Participants should arrive incrementally to the event.
Participant and corner arrive 60 minutes or less before the event and leave immediately after its conclusion.
- Individual locker rooms shall be provided (Only three people shall be in each locker room).
- Each locker room should be sanitized including mats, chairs, etc., after a team leaves.
- Stagger locker room use.
- Masks must be worn in the locker room and other areas of the event.

Ring/Cage Protocols:

- Participants should be set back from the ring/cage.
- Social distancing should be enforced.
- PPE should be worn by participants' staff.
- Production staff should be kept at a minimum.
- TV announcers should be set back, and socially isolated.
- A ring/cage announcer should be isolated at their own table.
- Media should be limited and set back from the immediate area.

Ringside Physician Guidance:

- Physicians should minimize their time in the ring/cage.
- Physicians should only be in ring/cage when necessary.
- Physicians should wear proper PPE.
- Physicians should conduct post fight physicals and ask participants to wear mask after oral/facial examinations.

SECTION 5: Confirmed Cases

If a participant tests positive, the athlete and camp are disqualified from the event.

All personnel that test positive will be required to do the following:

- Contact the local health department in the county where the event is being held to report the suspected case(s) or exposure(s) to help facilitate effective contact/tracing/notifications and provide appropriate care.
- Close off any areas used for prolonged periods of time by the sick person. Wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting to minimize potential for other employees being exposed to respiratory droplets. If waiting 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible. During this waiting period, open outside doors and windows to increase air.

Resources:

- State Coronavirus Site: <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- OSHA: <https://www.osha.gov/>
- MI Safe Start Map: <https://www.mistartmap.info/>
- LEO - Workplace Safety Guidance (Posters, Videos, Information): https://www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-100207---,00.html#comp_116642
- LEO: <https://www.michigan.gov/leo/>
- LARA: www.michigan.gov/lara
- How to find PPE: <https://www.michiganbusiness.org/services/pure-michigan-business-connect/ppe/>
- New MI Symptoms Web Application - [create a profile](#)
 - [Review the MI Symptoms app frequently asked questions](#)
 - [Read the full press release for additional information](#)
- Executive Orders
 - [EO 2020-161](#) Safeguards to protect Michigan's workers from COVID-19
 - [EO 2020-153](#) Masks
 - [EO 2020-160](#)
- Michigan Unarmed Combat main page – www.michigan.gov/mucc
- Michigan Unarmed Combat Regulatory Act, PA403 of 2004 - <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-act-403-of-2004>
- Michigan Unarmed Combat forms - https://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-89334_92458_92718-496690--,00.html

Questions:

- Questions about creating a preparedness plan for your event, please contact the following:
 - MIOSHA: **855-SAFEC19 (855-723-3219)**.
- Any questions that you may have during the COVID-19 pandemic or regarding requirements or guidance, please email questions to the following:
 - LARA-COVID-19-Questions@michigan.gov