

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
CORPORATIONS, SECURITIES AND COMMERCIAL LICENSING BUREAU
UNARMED COMBAT
WEIGHT CLASSES FOR UNARMED COMBAT CONTESTANTS
EMERGENCY RULES

Filed with the Secretary of State on June 15, 2018

These rules take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State and shall remain in effect for 6 months.

(By authority conferred on the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs by 2004 PA 403, MCL 338.3601 to 338.3663, Executive Reorganization Order Nos. 2008-4 and 2011-4, MCL 445.2025 and 445.2030, and 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.248)

FINDING OF EMERGENCY

These rules are proposed by the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to establish emergency rules to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of contestants and competitors engaging in activities regulated by the Michigan Unarmed Combat Regulatory Act, 2004 PA 403, being MCL 338.3601–338.3663 (“the Act”), and in other unarmed combat activity by establishing weight classes for competitors.

The Michigan Unarmed Combat Regulatory Act mandates that before a contestant participates in a contest regulated by the Act, he or she is weighed and placed into the appropriate weight class. *See* MCL 338.3654a(2)(e). As of January 31, 2018, 146 PA 2017 amended the Act and rescinded the weight classes previously established in Section 54a(2)(e) of the Act and mandated that the Department establish weight classes for contestants by rule.

With the abolition of statutory weight classes under the 146 PA 2017 amendments, the Department cannot meet the requirements of Section 54a(2)(e), since no weight classes are available for contestants. While Section 54a(2)(e) requires the Department to promulgate rules to establish weight classes for contestants, the rulemaking process will take time. During that time, the health and safety of unarmed combat contestants related to the appropriate matching of contestants by weight could be in jeopardy. Placing contestants into weight classes is necessary to protect the health and safety of contestants and the integrity of unarmed combat sports by ensuring that contestants are evenly matched.

June 7, 2018

No alternative is available to safeguard the health and safety of unarmed combat contestants, until weight classes are established. Section 54a(2)(e) of the Act mandates that contestants are weighed and placed in an appropriate weight class before competing.

R 339.201 of the Unarmed Combat rules allows the Department to refuse to permit a contest when the contestants are not fairly matched. The rule specifies factors to be considered when determining if contestants are fairly matched. R 339.201 reads as follows:

R 339.201 Weight classifications for contestants.

Rule 201. The department may refuse to permit a contest in which the contestants are not fairly matched. In determining if contestants are fairly matched, the department shall consider all of the following factors:

- (a) The win-loss record of the contestants.
- (b) The weight differential.
- (c) The caliber of opponents.
- (d) Each contestant's number of contests.

The Department; however, cannot merely use R 339.201(b), because there is no guidance as to the appropriate weight differential.

The Department, in consultation with the Unarmed Combat Commission, therefore, finds that the preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare requires the promulgation of emergency rules as provided in Section 48 of the Michigan Administrative Procedures Act (APA), 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.248, without following the notice and participation procedures required by Sections 41 and 42 of the APA, as amended, being MCL 24.241, and MCL 24.242.

Rule 2. Weight classifications for contestants.

(1) Pursuant to section 54a(2)(e) of the act, MCL 338.3654a(2)(e), boxing contestants shall be divided into the following classes, and there shall not be more than a 5-pound weight differential for contestants weighing up to 126 pounds; a 7-pound weight differential for contestants weighing 126 to 175 pounds; and not more than a 15-pound weight differential for contestants weighing 175.1 pounds to 199 pounds. The weight differential applicable to the lowest weight contestant applies.

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| (a) Mini flyweight: | Up to and including 105 pounds. |
| (b) Light flyweight: | Over 105 pounds to 108 pounds. |
| (c) Flyweight | Over 108 pounds to 112 pounds. |
| (d) Super flyweight: | Over 112 pounds to 115 pounds. |
| (e) Bantamweight: | Over 115 pounds to 118 pounds. |
| (f) Super bantamweight: | Over 118 pounds to 122 pounds. |
| (g) Featherweight | Over 122 pounds to 126 pounds. |
| (h) Super featherweight: | Over 126 pounds to 130 pounds. |
| (i) Lightweight: | Over 130 pounds to 135 pounds. |
| (j) Super lightweight: | Over 135 pounds to 140 pounds. |
| (k) Welterweight: | Over 140 pounds to 147 pounds. |

- (l) Super welterweight: Over 147 pounds to 154 pounds.
- (m) Middleweight: Over 154 pounds to 160 pounds.
- (n) Super middleweight: Over 160 pounds to 168 pounds.
- (o) Light heavyweight: Over 168 pounds to 175 pounds.
- (p) Cruiserweight: Over 175 pounds to 200 pounds.
- (q) Heavyweight: Over 200 pounds.

(2) Pursuant to section 54a(2)(e) of the act, MCL 338.3654a(2)(e), mixed martial arts contestants shall be divided into the following classes, and there shall be not more than a 3-pound weight differential for contestants weighing up to 155 pounds and not more than a 5-pound weight differential for contestants weighing 155.1 pounds up to 205 pounds. The weight differential applicable to the lowest weight contestant applies.

- (a) Strawweight: Up to and including 115 pounds
- (b) Flyweight: Over 115 pounds to 125 pounds
- (c) Bantamweight: Over 125 pounds to 135 pounds
- (d) Featherweight: Over 135 pounds to 145 pounds
- (e) Lightweight: Over 145 pounds to 155 pounds
- (f) Super lightweight: Over 155 pounds to 165 pounds
- (g) Welterweight: Over 165 pounds to 170 pounds
- (h) Super welterweight: Over 170 pounds to 175 pounds
- (i) Middleweight: Over 175 pounds to 185 pounds
- (j) Super middleweight: Over 185 pounds to 195 pounds
- (k) Light heavyweight: Over 195 pounds to 205 pounds
- (l) Cruiserweight: Over 205 pounds to 225 pounds
- (m) Heavyweight: Over 225 pounds to 265 pounds
- (n) Super heavyweight: Over 265 pounds.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Shelly Edgerton
 Director
 Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

Pursuant to Section 48(1) of the Administrative Procedures Act, 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.248(1), I hereby concur in the finding of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs that the circumstances creating an emergency have occurred and the promulgation of the above rules are required in the interest of public health.

Rick Snyder, Governor

Date