

SPOTLIGHT  
Drugs and Alcohol  
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The Unarmed Combat Regulatory Act (“Act”), MCL 338.3601 *et seq.*, prohibits unarmed combat contestants and officials from having the presence of controlled substances, derivatives or metabolites of controlled substances, alcohol, enhancers, stimulants, performance-enhancing drugs, or other drugs or substances while participating in an unarmed combat contest. Over the past several years, the Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission (“Commission”) took disciplinary action under the Act against several licensees based on the presence of such substances in an amount detectible by a laboratory. The Commission hopes that this document will better inform prospective contestants, their managers, and promoters of Michigan’s laws concerning the use of drugs and alcohol during competition and to put them on notice of which substances are prohibited.

Unarmed Combat Rule 339.101(d) defines a “drug” as any “controlled substance” regulated under the Michigan Public Health Code. Specific controlled substances are listed in [schedule 1](#), [schedule 2](#), [schedule 3](#), [schedule 4](#), and [schedule 5](#) within the Public Health Code. They include but are not limited to the following:

- **Amphetamines**
- **Cocaine**
- **Ethanol**
- **Marijuana Metabolite**
- **Opiates**

Each contestant may be randomly or specifically selected by the Commission’s representative for a drug screening immediately before or after a contest at the promoter’s expense. A contestant may be specifically selected if he or she has a history of a positive test at a prior event. If a contestant refuses to be tested or tests positive for the presence of these prohibited substances, including performance-enhancing drugs such as anabolic steroids, that contestant is subject to penalties against their license. These penalties include the loss of a win and may also include a fine, the immediate suspension of their license in Michigan and in other jurisdictions, a long term license suspension, or even license revocation for repeat offenses, under Unarmed Combat [Rule 339.269](#). Event officials may also be asked to take a test at their own expense.

**\* If you take prescription medicine or a supplement or other over-the-counter medication, the Commission recommends that you review the scheduled substances with your health care provider before competing in an unarmed combat contest. The Act does not allow a contestant to apply for a “therapeutic use exemption” for the presence of therapeutic levels of marijuana or other medicine prescribed by a health care provider to treat an illness or injury. \***