

MODERNIZING ONTARIO'S BOXING REGULATIONS

The Ontario Ministry of Consumer Services has identified boxing rules and regulations under the *Athletics Control Act* that require updating in order to ensure that Ontario's professional boxing regulation (the "Regulation") is in line with the best practices from across North America.

It appears that Ontario's Regulation is outdated in three major respects:

1. Ontario has not adopted the Association of Boxing Commissions' Uniform Championship Rules for championship events;
2. Officials fees are set below what is paid in other jurisdictions, and the Regulation lacks flexibility to respond to changes in the marketplace; and,
3. The security deposit requirement for purse money imposes an unnecessary regulatory burden on promoters.

The ministry's objectives are to modernize the boxing rules and regulations while continuing to protect boxers and maintain the sport's integrity.

Subject to decisions by Cabinet, the ministry proposes to implement regulatory amendments in Fall 2009. The current Regulation remains until such time as any amendments are made and come into force.

Recommendation #1: Uniform Championship Rules

The Uniform Championship Rules were developed by the Association of Boxing Commissions (the umbrella organization for state boxing commissions) to ensure consistency in title fights across North America. These rules have been adopted either in regulations or in practice by all North American boxing regulators, and are also used by sanctioning bodies. Ontario has yet to incorporate these rules into the Regulation.

The ministry is recommending that the Regulation be amended to allow for the use of the Uniform Championship Rules, the rules of the sanctioning body organizing the event, or the Ontario rules (used for non-championship events) for championship events, at the discretion of the Athletics Commissioner.

Recommendation #2: Officials' Fees

The Regulation currently prescribes the fee amounts that the Athletics Commissioner must pay officials at promoters' expense, thereby preventing officials from earning higher fees where promoters and / or sanctioning bodies are willing to pay more.

The ministry is recommending that the section relating to the amounts of officials fees be revoked, and that the Athletics Commissioner would instead set a fee schedule. This fee schedule would be provided to promoters and officials and available to the public on the ministry's website. Payment of fees set by the Athletics Commissioner would be a legal requirement under the Act.

Recommendation #3: Security Deposits for Purse Money

To ensure boxers are fully paid for their services, the Regulation currently requires promoters to submit a security deposit to the Athletics Commissioner in the full amount of the purse 21 days before an event. Since the standard practice is for promoters to pay boxers in cash the night of an event, promoters in Ontario are required to have double the purse money – the full amount for the security deposit, and the full amount for the actual payment. This places an unnecessary regulatory burden on promoters.

The ministry recommends that the Regulation be amended to revoke this security deposit requirement. Instead, the Regulation would require promoters to submit to the Athletics Commissioner a money order for each boxer on a fight card 14 days before an event. The Athletics Commissioner would then distribute these money orders to the boxers after the event. The Athletics Commissioner could require promoters to attend this payment meeting, in the event that there is a disagreement about the amount.

Please note that unless requested and agreed otherwise by the Ministry of Consumer Services all materials or comments received from organizations in response to this consultation will be considered public information and may be used and disclosed by the Ministry to assist the Ministry in evaluating and revising the proposed regulatory amendments. This may involve disclosing materials or comments, or summaries of them, to other interested parties during and after the request for public comment process. An individual who provides materials or comments and who indicates an affiliation with an organization will be considered to have submitted those comments or materials on behalf of the organization so identified. Materials or comments received from individuals who do not indicate an affiliation with an organization will not be considered public information unless expressly stated otherwise by the individual. However, materials or comments by individuals may be used and disclosed by the Ministry to assist in evaluating and revising the proposed regulatory amendments. Personal information of those who do not specify an organizational affiliation, such as an individual's name and contact details, will not be disclosed by the Ministry without the individual's consent unless required by law. If you have any questions about the collection of this information, you can contact Lynne Gottschling at Lynne.Gottschling@ontario.ca.