

## Washington Administrative Code Notice of Permanent Rules for **Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Events**

This explanatory statement concerns the **Washington State Department of Licensing's adoption of WAC 36-14-545 Physician and ambulance or paramedical unit requirements for amateur mixed martial arts events.**

The Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.325(6)) requires agencies to complete a concise explanatory statement before filing adopted rules with the Office of the Code Reviser. This statement must be provided to anyone who gave comment about the proposed rule making.

Once persons who gave comment during this rule making have had a chance to receive this document, the Department of Licensing will file the amended rules with the Office of the Code Reviser. These rule changes will become effective 31 days after filing (approximately **March 6, 2015**).

The Department of Licensing appreciates your involvement in this rule making process. If you have any questions, please contact Damon Monroe, Agency Rules Coordinator, at (360) 902-3843 or e-mail at [dmonroe@dol.wa.gov](mailto:dmonroe@dol.wa.gov).

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### What are the agency's reasons for adopting this rule?

The current rule was in conflict with Chapter 67.08 RCW, Ambulance or paramedical unit at location, requiring all promoters to have a physician and ambulance or paramedical unit present at the event location.

### Summary of all public comments received on this rule proposal and the agency's response to those comments:

The department received two written comments in opposition:

**Comment:** "With only 1 MD at a show, if the Dr. has to go into the back to check on a fighter, the show must stop until the Dr. returns to ringside. It's imperative that a Dr. has the ability to go back after each and every fight to check on the fighters. That's why 2 Drs. Are required at all boxing matches."

**Response:** This rule will not affect or change the current requirement in rule for a promoter to have two physicians on site at a professional boxing or martial arts events; only affects promoters holding amateur mixed martial arts events; and is in line with statutory requirements.

**Comment:** "I am on the Board of Directors for an anti-bullying charitable organization that takes high risk children and enrolls them into martial arts (Bully Busters/Absolute Chaos). We are able to fund this organization by putting on mma, muay thai and

kickboxing amateur promotions. We have been promoting since 2009 and have been completely fine with either physician or a paramedics crew in attendance. If you require both a physician and an ambulance to be in attendance and someone needs the assistance of the ambulance the entire promotion will have to stop since the ambulance will be gone. This is incredibly unfair to other fighters in the show and fans who have paid money to attend the promotion. What if it's the first fight of the night? If promoters then hire two ambulances to be in attendance so that we have a backup crew we are now selfishly keeping these paramedics from being out in the public for real emergencies. You in essence are putting undue constraints on either the promoter or the paramedics. If there is a true emergency at a fight promotion that requires an ambulance a simple 911 call gets them there in a matter of minutes. You will be putting promoters in a very real position to have to reimburse large crowds and eventually financially eliminate them from putting on future promotions. I competed in these promotions for over 10 years and was never injured to the point of needing an ambulance and in 19 years involvement in martial arts I've only seen one person in need of an ambulance and in that case an ambulance was called and arrived in less than 5 minutes. I understand the state has an agenda of safety but, let's not waste resources to over compensate in the name of "safety". I am 100% against this rule change. I am requesting this email be read at the hearing."

Response: The statute requires all promoters holding professional or amateur events to have at least one physician and an ambulance or paramedical unit on site. To change this requirement would take legislative change.

**The Department has considered all comments.**

The final rule is the same as the proposed rule. Notice of the adopted rule will be distributed to all licensees, and stakeholder mailing and email lists following filing with the Office of the Code Reviser.

**WAC Changes:**

**WAC 36-14-545 Physician and ambulance or paramedical unit requirements for amateur events.** Promoters of an amateur mixed martial arts event held under an amateur mixed martial arts sanctioning organization shall have at least one physician in attendance at the event ~~or~~ and an ambulance or paramedical unit with transportation and resuscitation capabilities to be present at the event location at all times during the event.