# 99-650 COMBAT SPORTS AUTHORITY OF MAINE

**Chapter 5: RULES GOVERNING REFEREES FOR KICKBOXING CONTESTS**

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**SUMMARY:** This Chapter establishes the qualifications for and the duties of referees.

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# SECTION 1. Certification Required

All referees must obtain a certificate from the Authority prior to engaging in any act authorized by 8 M.R.S. Chapter 20 or by the Authority's rules.

# SECTION 2. Qualification for Certification

Prior to the issuance of a certificate by the Authority, referees must meet all the following requirements:

1. Every new applicant for a referee's certificate and any applicant who has been

inactive as a referee for three years or more years shall furnish satisfactory proof of

physical fitness.

B. All applicants shall:

1. Study and become thoroughly familiar with 8 M.R.S. Chapter 20 and Authority rules governing kickboxing competitions; and
2. File with the Authority a completed official application form accompanied by full payment of required fees.

# SECTION 3. Designation

The Authority shall designate the referee for every bout.

# SECTION 4. Conflict of Interest; Multiple Certifications Prohibited.

1. No otherwise certificated individual shall be certificated as a referee. Upon filing an application with the Authority for a referee's certificate, an otherwise certificated individual must surrender for cancellation of any other certificate held.
2. No individual who has been certificated/licensed or acted as a promoter in any jurisdiction during the previous 365 days will be issued a certificate as a referee.

# SECTION 5. Referees' Duties

A. Referees shall be attired in apparel approved by the Authority.

B. Prior to commencement of a bout, a referee shall:

1. Inspect the mouthpiece of each kickboxer, to ensure that mouthpieces are correctly inserted;
2. Inspect any dressing on a cut, wound, abrasion, laceration, or blood swelling on the scalp or face, to determine whether a kickboxer should be allowed to compete. Unless the dressing can be removed and the injury, cut, or wound is not so serious as to endanger the kickboxer, the referee shall not allow the kickboxer to compete;
3. Confirm kickboxers’ identities;
4. Receive confirmation that each judge has the correct identity of each kickboxer;
5. Meet with kickboxers and their chief seconds in the dressing room to:
   1. Warn the seconds that violation of applicable rules may result in their disqualification, disqualification of their kickboxer(s), and/or disciplinary action;
   2. Identify the belt/hip line and clarify that equipment shall not extend above that imaginary line unless that is explicitly authorized by Authority rule;

Explain what to do when the warning that the end of a round is near sounds and when the bell ending the round sounds;

c.

d. Explain to the chief second that he/she is expected to manage the corner, *e.g.,* clean up spills or ice, wipe off excess petroleum jelly, and ensure that the kickboxer has his/her mouthpiece in place before the start of each round;

Share how she/he will direct the kickboxers to break, *e.g.,* "punch" or "get out" and, if necessary, "hold your punches" and step in and separate the kickboxers;

e.

1. Review fouls and how she/he will issue cautions and/or deductions of points; and
2. Answer any questions from kickboxers and chief seconds;
3. Meet with each physician to:

a. Determine his/her ringside experience;

b. Determine where she/he will be located at ringside during the bout;

c. Remind every physician that he/she is not to enter the ring unless

directed to do so by the referee or the Authority;

d. Specify the signal to be used to call a physician into the ring;

e. Specify the signal to be used to call a physician to a neutral corner;

f. Direct every physician to mount the ring apron quickly if called to

examine a kickboxer, make a quick examination, and communicate

with the referee;

1. Direct the physician not to make any statement after examining a kickboxer that could change the dynamics of the bout, *e.g,* "Let it go one more round"; and
2. Answer any questions from the physician;
3. Check the condition of the ring or cage to ensure that everything is ready for the bout (buckets and stairs in red and blue corners, rope tension, ring or cage floor, and canvas condition, *etc.).*
4. When kickboxers enter the ring or cage, a referee shall:
   1. Make sure that no foreign substance that might be detrimental to an opponent has been applied to the gloves or body of a kickboxer;
   2. Inspect gloves, trunks, hair, mouthpieces, and safety equipment;
   3. Re-establish the belt line and check for jewelry;
   4. After the announcer makes introductions, call the kickboxers to center ring or cage, give final instructions, direct kickboxers to return to their corners, and clear the fighting area and its apron in preparation for the contest; and
   5. Before signaling the timekeeper to start the bout, check with each judge, the timekeeper, and the physician(s) to determine if they are ready.
5. During a bout, a referee shall:
   1. Ensure the safety of the kickboxers;
   2. Enforce all the rules that apply to the conduct of a kickboxer's second;
   3. Maintain control of the fight and issue cautions and/or point deductions as appropriate;
   4. Whenever the glove of a kickboxer touches the fighting area floor, inspect the glove and wipe it clean before the bout proceeds;
   5. If a kickboxer is cut, and it is deemed appropriate, interrupt the bout to consult the ringside physician to determine if the injured kickboxer can continue;
   6. If a ringside physician steps onto the ring apron, call time-out, and have the injured kickboxer examined by that physician;
   7. Immediately stop a contest to inform the Authority and kickboxers of any injury caused by a head butt or foul, determine if the act was intentional or accidental, and determine if the bout can continue;
   8. Instruct the judges to mark their scorecards accordingly, when he/she has assessed a foul;
   9. If a kickboxer is still down when the referee calls the count of ten or, in the opinion of the referee, a kickboxer who has been knocked down is in no condition to continue, wave both arms to indicate a KO;
   10. If both kickboxers go down at the same time, continue the count as long as one of them is still down. If both kickboxers remain down until the count of ten, stop the bout, and the decision shall be a technical draw;
   11. At the end of each round, pick up the score cards from the judges and give them to the Authority, unless the Authority has arranged some other procedure; and
   12. Exercise exclusive and final authority to stop or continue the bout, as deemed appropriate.
6. After a bout, a referee shall:
   1. Inspect the hand wraps of both kickboxers after their gloves have been removed;
   2. Call the kickboxers to center ring and raise the hand of the winner after his/her name is announced; and
   3. Maintain control of the ring, kickboxers, and seconds, until the winner has been announced and all have exited the ring.

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STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 8 M.R.S. § 523

EFFECTIVE DATE (NEW): March 26, 2025 – filing 2025-068