

REGULATIONS AND RULES OF THE SOVEREIGN NATIONS MIXED MARTIAL ARTS (SNMMA)

A. GENERAL

1. **Purpose.** These Rules are intended to further the purposes of the SNMMA, set out the norms by which the SNMMA carries out the authority granted it under the Bylaws, and provide members and mixed martial arts fighters the standards and obligations applicable to ratings, sanctioned bouts, and other SNMMA activities.

2. **Application.** These Rules apply to all actions and decisions of the SNMMA regarding ratings, sanctioning of bouts, conduct of bouts, requests for explanations or reconsideration, appeals, and related matters, and apply to all members, affected mixed martial arts fighters, and their agents. In addition, any legal claim or action against the SNMMA by a member, mixed martial arts fighter, manager, promoter, or his or its agent is governed and limited by these Rules. Any mixed martial arts fighter ranked or recognized as a champion is bound by these Rules.

3. **Interpretation.** The authority to interpret these Rules is within the sole discretion of the committee and committee chairperson assigned the matter under these Rules, and finally with the President. In the case of an appeal, that authority lies with the particular appeals panel and finally with the President. In those instances when an interpretation is warranted because of questions arising out of differences in translation, the Committee Chairperson and President shall render an interpretation, consistent with the intent of the Rule. Previous rules and interpretations thereof may be considered when appropriate for interpretation of current SNMMA rules.

4. **Preemption.** These Rules apply to all matters within the jurisdiction of the SNMMA. However, application of any Rule that is in conflict with a mandatory provision of law duly adopted and enforced by a national, state, or provincial government, federally recognized tribe, authorized national or local mixed martial arts commission shall be superseded thereby. Sovereign Nations Mixed martial arts Council brings to light the fact that tribes are sovereign nations and will re-enforce that fact throughout the existence of the SNMMA

5. **Notice.** Because there is no international official registry of addresses or related information for mixed martial arts fighters on which the SNMMA can rely, it shall use reasonable efforts to ascertain such information. Such efforts may rely on information previously submitted by mixed martial arts fighters or their agents found in the public domain. The SNMMA may notify mixed martial arts fighters through their agents, or via the SNMMA's website.

6. Definitions.

a. "ABC" means the Association of Mixed martial arts Commissions of the United States of America.

b. "Appeals" means an appeal by a member or mixed martial arts fighter of an appealable ruling by committee, committee chairperson, or officer.

c. "Appeals Panel" is that body appointed by the President to hear an appeal or appeals, and constitutes the appeals committee established in the Bylaws.

d. "SNMMA" is the Sovereign Nations Mixed Martial Arts Council.

e. "Mixed martial arts fighter's agent" is any manager, and promoter, matchmaker, or other person legally authorized by a mixed martial arts fighter to represent him in relation to a matter covered under these Rules.

f. "Bylaws" are the bylaws of the SNMMA adopted on March 2, 2009 and as thereafter amended.

g. "Category" is a weight division.

h. "Champion" is a mixed martial arts fighter recognized by the SNMMA as a title holder in his respective weight category.

i. "Contest" is a mixed martial arts match or bout.

j. "Day" means a calendar day.

k. "Leading available contender" means a mandatory contender available to fight for a title, or when there is no mandatory contender that the mixed martial arts fighter ranked highest and who is available immediately to fight for a title.

l. "Mandatory contender" means the mixed martial arts fighter recognized as the contender for a title.

m. "Medical Guidelines" mean safety guidelines. See attached Appendix A.

n. "Member" means a person in good standing with the SNMMA.

o. "Official contender" means a mandatory contender.

p. "Officials" mean people with official duties at bouts: judges, the referee, and the supervisor.

q. "Other sanctioning organizations" means any other sanctioning body recognized by the SNMMA and is a national affiliate member in good standing with SNMMA.

r. "Purse" means the gross total amount of money and any other thing of value a mixed martial arts fighter receives, and is entitled to receive, in compensation for participating in a sanctioned fight. The purse includes the total amount due to the mixed martial arts fighter, and his assigns, creditors, and contractors, and any amount he may direct or authorize, or is required, to be directed to any person or persons.

s. "Ratings" (or "rankings") mean the recognition of the relative qualification of mixed martial arts fighters in particular weight categories at a particular time.

t. "Rating Guidelines" means the "Guidelines on Ratings".

u. "Regional federation" means a regional, continental, or international association recognized by the SNMMA.

v. "Registered Promoter" means a promoter that has paid its yearly registration fee, completed a Promoter Registration Form, is in good standing, and is duly authorized by the SNMMA to promote sanctioned bouts and participate in SNMMA title fights and Purse Bids.

w. "Requests" include Requests for Ratings Information, Requests for Reconsideration and Requests for SNMMA Permits.

x. "Responsive bid" means a purse bid that fully complies with these Rules.

y. "Ruling" means a formal order or decision by a committee, committee Chairperson, the President, or any other SNMMA officer with the necessary authority, applying these rules in a particular case, and includes orders or decisions on the following:

- (1) Sanctioning or not sanctioning a bout;
- (2) Recognizing or vacating a title;
- (3) Granting or denying a request for SNMMA permit or membership;
- (4) Increasing, reducing, or otherwise modifying a mandatory defense period or its conditions;
- (5) Answering a formal request;
- (6) Granting or denying a protest concerning the conduct of a sanctioned bout;
- (7) Rendering a decision on any other request to apply or interpret these Rules;
- or
- (8) Rendering a decision on any matter otherwise directly affecting mixed martial arts fighter's ranking or status.

z. "Sanction" means the official recognition given to a bout involving the following:

- (1) A title (all championships);
- (2) Mandatory contender position;
- (3) Contender eliminator; or
- (4) Box-off.

aa. "SNMMA Permit" means permission granted in special circumstances to alter or suspend application of a rule or rules to better fulfill the purposes of this SNMMA, or provide exceptional bouts for the mixed martial arts world, and involves balancing competing interests.

bb. "Title" means a championship.

cc. "Unavailable mixed martial arts fighter" is a mixed martial arts fighter who is unavailable to defend or compete in a sanctioned bout due to an injury, medical condition, legal impediment, or commitment to compete in a different contest.

dd. "Unified Champion" means the World Champion who has the recognition of the SNMMA and of one or more of certain other sanctioning organizations in the same weight category.

ee. "World Champion" means a champion recognized by the SNMMA.

7. Amendment. These Rules may be amended by a majority vote of the Directorate at any time, or the membership at the annual convention.

8. Titles. Chapter, section, and subsection titles do not constitute rules and should not be used in any interpretation of these rules.

9. Forms. The President may approve forms to be used for the application of these rules and for membership, including, but not limited to, the registration of promoters, application for bout sanction, and special permits.

10. Gender. Terms using the male gender are applicable also to females.

11. Time. Under these Rules, time shall be computed by calendar days without regard to holidays.

B. RATINGS

1. **Committee.** The President shall appoint no fewer than three (3) and no more than five (5) members to a Ratings Committee for terms established by the President. The President may also appoint non-voting members to advise and consult with the Committee. The President shall designate the Committee's Chairman (Presiding Member). To the extent practicable, regional representation may be reflected in membership. The names of the Committee members shall be posted on the SNMMA website.

2. **Gathering Information.** The federally recognized tribes affiliated with the SNMMA may send the Committee information concerning the fights held under their jurisdictions for mixed martial arts fighters rated by the SNMMA, as well as other relevant records for mixed martial arts fighters eligible for future ratings by the Committee. The Committee may also receive and consider information provided by any member, or anyone representing a mixed martial arts fighter who wishes to be rated.

3. **Conferring.** The Committee shall confer and otherwise exchange information regarding ratings at such time and in such manner as established by the President or Executive Vice-President.

4. **Publication.** The SNMMA shall publish a periodic list of rated mixed martial arts fighters consisting of at least ten (10). The ratings should be announced and posted timely on the SNMMA website in the month following the month to which the ratings apply.

5. **Relevant Information.** The Committee may consult and consider the SNMMA Ratings Guidelines in including, removing, promoting, or demoting mixed martial arts fighters. The Committee may consider all relevant information, including, but not limited to, ring performance, regional titles, bout activity, disqualifications, win-loss records, difficulty of bouts, technical decisions, failure to make weight, and any other relevant information. The Committee may consider ranking regional title holders, other organizations title holders, taking into consideration their relevant records.

6. **Demotion and Removal.** In addition to the above, the Committee may demote or remove a mixed martial arts fighter from the ratings based on any relevant factor, including, but not limited to, ring performance, failure to maintain the required weight, loss to a non-rated mixed martial arts fighter, loss of a regional title, inactivity, violation of these Rules (including failure to pay or allow to be paid sanction fees), or any other relevant factor. A mixed martial arts fighter also may be demoted or removed due to extraordinary events or activity, including, but not limited to, proven or alleged criminal behavior, conduct that violates mixed martial arts regulations or rules, suspension by a responsible authority, or other public behavior or statements of a type that would affect the mixed martial arts fighter's ability to be licensed to compete or that are detrimental to public perception of the sport of mixed martial arts.

7. **Changed Weight.** A rated mixed martial arts fighter who changes weight categories is not assured any rating in his new weight category.

8. **Nature of Ratings.** Ratings represent the best opinion of the SNMMA as to the relative qualification of the mixed martial arts fighters in particular weight categories at a particular time and who are available and willing to fight for the SNMMA's title. Their retention by a mixed martial arts fighter is conditioned on compliance with these Rules. They do not constitute personal property, and are not transferable. Their issuance does not constitute a contract or an element of a contract.

9. **Bylaws Reference.** These rules constitute the "Norms and Procedures for Ratings" cited in the Bylaws.

C. CHAMPIONSHIPS.

1. **Belts.** The SNMMA shall adopt a World Championship Belt as a distinctive prestigious symbol for the Champion in each recognized weight category. These belts shall be awarded to the champion recognized by the SNMMA.

2. **Committee.** The President shall appoint no fewer than three (3) and no more than five (5) members to a Championship Committee, for terms established by the President. The President may also appoint non-voting members to advise and consult with the Committee. The President shall serve as an ex officio member of the Committee. The President shall designate the Committee's Chairman (Presiding Member). The names of the Committee members shall be posted on the SNMMA's website.

3. **Votes.** The Committee shall confer in such a manner and at such times as directed by the Executive Vice-President. A majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum to consider and to decide any issue. A majority vote is sufficient to take action, unless a two-thirds vote is required specifically elsewhere in these Rules.

4. **Manner of Voting.** The Executive Vice-President is empowered to request the vote of the members of the Committee in person, or by mail, telephone, telex, cable, telegram, fax, e-mail or any other similar means or any combination thereof. Notice of a vote generally should be given to committee members and to any identified parties with a cognizable and direct interest in sufficient time for them to be apprised of the issues related to the votes.

5. **Titles.** The SNMMA shall establish and recognize world championships and matches related thereto in each weight category or division established in its regulations.

6. **Application.** All mixed martial arts fighters rated by the SNMMA, or recognized by the SNMMA as champions, official contenders, Registered Promoters, or participants in a sanctioned bout, are bound by these Rules and are required to be familiar with them.

7. **Title Matches.** An SNMMA title can only be obtained as the result of a match duly authorized by the Championships Committee. Unless otherwise approved by the SNMMA.

8. **Single Title.** An SNMMA Champion can have only one world title in one division at the same time. If a World Champion wishes to fight for a title in another division, he must apply in writing to the Championships Committee for approval and must present a signed document undertaking that, in the event he wins the fight and obtains the other title, within five (5) days of the fight he will choose the title he wishes to retain and relinquish the other title. Failure to comply with any of these provisions is sufficient cause for the Championships Committee to withdraw recognition from him of either title or both titles.

9. **Non-Sanctioned Bout.** An SNMMA Champion or officially recognized contender who participates in a fight without the approval or sanction of the Championships Committee may have his title or recognized status removed by the Committee Chairman.

10. **Title Defense Periods.** Unless otherwise directed by the Championship Committee, a mixed martial arts fighter who obtains a title by defeating a champion must defend his title against the Official Contender, within twelve (12) months from the date the title was obtained; if not the Official Contender, against an opponent approved by the SNMA within one hundred eighty (180) days.

11. **Vacant Title Defense Periods.** A mixed martial arts fighter who obtains a title in an eliminatory fight for a vacant title must defend the title as follows within one hundred and eighty days (180) from the date the title was obtained.

12. **Bout Limitations.** Before the date by which he must commit to a mandatory defense of his title against a Mandatory Contender or the next Leading Available Contender designated by the Committee, a World Champion may defend his title against any opponent rated by the SNMMA in his category. Within sixty (60) days of the expiration of the mandatory defense period, a World Champion may not fight a mixed martial arts fighter who is not the Mandatory Contender, or the next highest ranked mixed martial

arts fighter (if there is no Mandatory Contender), nor may a designated contender fight during the same period for anything other than the championship. During the pendency of a required contract negotiation or purse bid period for a championship or eliminator fight, no champion, official contender, or mixed martial arts fighter directly affected by the period can sign an agreement for, or participate in, a bout different from the one that is the subject of the negotiation or bid period.

13. Rules Familiarity. Each mixed martial arts fighter, promoter, and mixed martial arts fighter's agent is under the obligation to know and be familiar with all SNMMA rules, including, but not limited to, those regarding time periods concerning obligations to defend, compete for a title, and for SNMMA Permits. If a champion fails to comply with any rule of the SNMMA, the Chairman of the Committee may declare his title vacant. Likewise, failure by an official contender to comply with any of these rules can result in removal by the Chairman of recognition as official contender.

14. Non-Title Bout Loss. A loss in any bout, including a non-title or non-sanctioned bout may result in loss of the mixed martial arts fighter's title or contender status.

15. Modifying Defense Periods. In its sole discretion, the Championships Committee may reduce, extend, or otherwise modify the periods for mandatory defenses for good cause, in response to a request either for a SNMMA Permit, or on its own initiative.

16. Unified Title. The SNMMA will recognize a World Champion as a Unified Champion when he is also recognized as world champion in a comparable weight class by one or more of the other sanctioning organizations. Likewise, it may also recognize a Unified mandatory contender. Unless otherwise provided for by the President in accordance with special terms under which a title may be obtained and retained, only one Champion shall be recognized in each weight division.

17. Unified Title Defense. A holder of a unified title is subject to all rules requirements, including those regarding mandatory defense. In the intermediate period between the mandatory defenses, a Unified Champion will be able to defend his title against any opponent chosen from the official ratings list of the SNMMA or of the organizations recognized and with the approval of those organizations. Unless the defense is against the SNMMA's Mandatory Contender, approval must be obtained through a SNMMA Permit.

18. Other Organizations. The SNMMA will endeavor to work with other sanctioning organizations to minimize any incompatibility in requirements for unified titles.

19. Unified Bout Fees. Fees for unification bouts are governed by the schedule at Appendix C, but may be reduced within the sole discretion of the President.

20. Rematches. Rematch provisions in bout contracts are not binding on the SNMMA.

21. Contested Decisions. A bout decision may be contested by a mixed martial arts fighter if within five (5) days of the decision the mixed martial arts fighter submits payment of a \$5,000 fee, and the following:

- a. A concise statement by the mixed martial arts fighter or his authorized agent setting forth the grounds on which the challenge has been brought, arguments and authority in support, and identification of other persons with a material interest likely to be affected by a decision on the challenge.
- b. For the person filing the challenge, the following information:
 - A postal address;
 - An email address (if one exists);
 - A facsimile address;
 - A telephone number; and
 - A signature of the mixed martial arts fighter on whose behalf the challenge is filed.

c. If the challenge is signed by someone other than a mixed martial arts fighter, a certified statement of authorization by the mixed martial arts fighter to file the challenge. For good cause, the President may waive all or part of the fee. The Committee may request that a special officials committee evaluate the fight and give their opinion and recommendations to the Committee. The Championship Committee, in its sole discretion, may order the mixed martial arts fighters fight a rematch.

22. **Title Vacation.** A title may be lost or vacated for any of the following reasons:

- a. Loss in a bout (see Rule C.15);
- b. Violation of SNMMA rules; or
- c. Suspension by a national, state, or provincial agency.

23. **Filling Vacant Title.** In the event that a World Championship is declared vacant, generally the two (2) highest rated available mixed martial arts fighters shall be designated by the Committee to fight for the title, and shall have no more than thirty (30) days to submit a bout agreement.

24. **Mandatory Contender Selection.** A Mandatory Contender for each weight division may be selected by the Championship Committee or through an eliminator bout. The selection may be subject to conditions. Generally, the highest rated mixed martial arts fighter in the division shall qualify to be named the official contender by the Championships Committee, unless he is, or is likely to be, unavailable to fight for the title in the period required. The Committee may remove a mixed martial arts fighter as Mandatory Contender for failure to comply with these Rules or a condition of appointment.

25. **Elimination Bout.** The Championships Chairman may notify the two highest ranked available mixed martial arts fighters of the obligation to meet in an elimination bout toward mandatorily mixed martial arts the Champion, giving those dates by which the negotiations must commence and be concluded.

26. **Box Off.** In the alternative, the Championships Chairman may order a Box Off between four (4) available ranked mixed martial arts fighters to determine the mandatory challenger in a specific weight class. The Chairman will give the selected contender's dates by which the negotiations must commence and be concluded. If a mixed martial arts fighter is unwilling to participate in a Box Off, the Chairman may designate another challenger. No extensions of time will be allowed for participation in an elimination or box off bout.

27. **Negotiation Period: Elimination Bout or Box Off.** The Championships Chairman may grant mixed martial arts fighters selected to participate in an Elimination Bout or a Box Off a negotiation period of no more than 30 (thirty) days to reach an agreement. If no agreement is reached within the time indicated, the Chairman shall call a Purse Bid.

28. **Removal for Failure to Participate.** If a mixed martial arts fighter declines to participate in an Elimination Bout or Box Off, he may be demoted in, or removed from, the rankings.

29. **Bout Fees.** The fee schedules for sanctioned contests are attached as Appendix C to these Rules.

30. **Fee Payments.** The Registered Promoter who has requested or been granted sanction of a bout is responsible for payment of all sanction fees, and must submit documentation of payment to the Chairman, together with the formal application for the sanction of the fight and a copy of the contracts between the promoter and the mixed martial arts fighters duly signed by them no later than thirty (30) days before the bout. No mixed martial arts fighter or mixed martial arts fighter's agent shall have any authority to direct a promoter to pay, nor may a promoter pay, any less than the full amount of the sanction fees owed. Fees shall be determined by the SNMMA. Failure to comply with any of these requirements may result in non-sanction of the contest and removal of recognition of any mixed martial arts fighter

participating in the bout. The Executive Vice-President or President may modify the requirements of this section in his sole discretion for good cause.

31. **Fees: Vacated Bouts.** If a fight does not occur after it has been sanctioned, neither the promoter nor the mixed martial arts fighters shall be entitled to reimbursement of any of the amounts paid for the sanction of the fight, except for duly justified causes of force majeure, to be determined in the sole discretion of the Chairman.

32. **Fee Collection.** The Executive Vice-President and the Treasurer shall be responsible for collecting all promoter registration and sanction fees related to sanctioned contests.

33. **Officials.** The SNMMA shall keep an updated list of officials qualified to act in a sanctioned bout. The President shall appoint bout officials.

34. **Insurance.** All officials appointed by the President shall be protected by a policy for accidental death for the appointed bout, and Supervisors shall be covered by a life insurance policy against accidents while carrying out duties at a sanctioned fight. Insurance must be provided by the registered promoter with SNMMA listed as additional insured.

35. **Compensation of Officials.** Officials shall be compensated as set out in Appendix C, which may be amended at the discretion of the President. No official shall receive any other compensation for services in a sanctioned bout. Officials must receive their compensation no later than the date of the bout.

36. **Supervisor.** The President shall attend, or shall appoint a member of the Directory to represent him, as the Supervisor for sanctioned bouts. The Supervisor shall assist the local commission to carry out the fight and to ensure that all SNMMA rules are followed. In exceptional circumstances, when a directorate member cannot serve as a Supervisor, the President may appoint a member who is not on the directorate. The Supervisor must report on the fight for which he was appointed within ten (10) days from the bout.

37. **Supervisor Authority.** During a sanctioned contest or its related preliminary matters, a Supervisor is empowered to resolve unforeseen issues that require an immediate decision. The Supervisor's decision in these exceptional cases is irrevocable.

38. **Travel.** The promoter shall provide or reimburse airfare as well as meals and hotel accommodation in a first class hotel for the Supervisor. Unless otherwise agreed to, the Supervisor and officials must be at the city or metropolitan area where the bout will take place two (2) days prior to the fight.

39. **Drugs.** The President may suspend any SNMMA member involved in illicit drug use or distribution.

40. **Drug Testing.** The President may determine conditions for drug tests, or appoint a committee to do the same. The SNMMA may order periodic drug tests for any mixed martial arts fighter who has tested positively for illicit drugs. No mixed martial arts fighter who has tested positively for prohibited substances can be rated, retain a title, or be permitted to fight in a sanctioned bout for a period of no less than six (6) months from the date of the positive test.

41. **SNMMA Permits.** Strict application of these rules may be suspended or modified when the SNMMA deems them justified in its sole discretion to accommodate special circumstances or to unify championships. In such cases, the SNMMA will consider a request for SNMMA Permit (or Exception) for any reasons including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. To engage in an optional title defense otherwise barred by a mandatory defense requirement, or to fight someone not the mandatory or leading available contender;

- b. To fight for a title in a different weight division for the SNMMA or for another sanctioning body;
- c. To engage in a non-title bout;
- d. To unify an SNMMA title with that of another organization;
- e. To engage in a bout of recognized importance and significance for the mixed martial arts world;
- f. To extend or otherwise modify a mandatory defense period.

42. **Considering SNMMA Permits.** SNMMA permits may be granted, denied, or granted conditionally for good cause. They shall be approved by a two-third vote of the Championship Committee and the consent of the President. The Committee and the President in their sole discretion shall consider the best interests of mixed martial arts, the purposes and policies of the SNMMA, and such other factors that may be relevant, and shall make their best effort to balance competing interests. The SNMMA is not obliged to grant a request for SNMMA Permit. When approving a request, the SNMMA may require such conditions as it deems necessary to protect the interests of the SNMMA and affected mixed martial arts fighters. Requests to engage in a title unification bout shall be given special consideration, and the committee and President may give greater weight to the reasons and arguments for such requests, in recognition of the interest of the mixed martial arts community to effectuate title unifications.

43. **SNMMA Permit Fee.** A request for special permit must be accompanied by payment to the SNMMA of a non-refundable fee of \$7,000 (US), unless the fee is waived in whole or in part by the President in his sole discretion for good cause shown.

44. **SNMMA Permit Consideration.** SNMMA permit requests shall be made in the form prescribed by the President, and a copy shall be provided by the applicant to other mixed martial arts fighters known to be materially affected by the request. The SNMMA shall use reasonable efforts to provide such other mixed martial arts fighters adequate time and opportunity to comment on the request before a final determination is made. Generally, only a champion may request a SNMMA permit. A mixed martial arts fighter who is not a champion may request a special permit, but only if allowed to do so by the President. As a condition of granting a SNMMA Permit, the Permit applicant shall agree in writing to defend, indemnify, hold harmless, and otherwise reimburse the SNMMA for any damages, fees and costs relating to a grant of the request, including, but not limited to, legal fees and other fees and costs. Permission to engage in a bout to unify a title may be considered without the necessity of filing a request for SNMMA permit.

45. **401K retirement account.** In the near future, a 401K retirement account will be set up for the SNMMA Champions and Challengers. A 1% fee will be deducted from the total fight purse from the Champion and Challenger purses to be invested into a 401K retirement account for them. The Chairman and the Treasurer shall be responsible for deducting and collecting these fees. (A minimum amount of \$500 and a maximum amount of \$150,000.) The President may modify the requirements of this section in his sole discretion for good cause. Official notification will be sent out to all registered SNMMA fighters when this account is in operation.

46. **Rated Mixed martial arts fighter.** A rated mixed martial arts fighter has no right to fight any specific mixed martial arts fighter.

D. PURSE BIDS – Right now we will not use purse bids.

E. CONTEST RULES

1. **Application.** The Contest Rules apply to all bouts sanctioned by the SNMMA. A mixed martial arts fighter may be disqualified for failure to adhere to any Contest Rule. The Rules may be modified in certain respects.
2. “Mixed martial arts “Unarmed combat which permits the use of a mix of techniques from different disciplines, including but not limited to: grappling, kicking and striking from the standing or prone positions, and other techniques are subject to the limitations set forth in this chapter.
3. Intentional Foul or Injury.
 - a. If an intentional foul causes an injury and it results in the bout being stopped in a later round, the injured contestant will win by technical decision if he or she is ahead on the scoreboards, or the bout will be declared a no contest if the injured contestant is behind or even on the scoreboards.
 - b. If a contestant injures him or herself while attempting to foul his or her opponent, the referee will not take any action in his or her favor, and the injury will be deemed the same as one produced by the fair blow.
4. All contests or exhibitions of mixed martial arts must be conducted under the supervision and authority of the Department. Except to the extent a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts is subject to the applicable provisions this regulation, all applicable laws and regulations regarding unarmed combat apply to a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts.
5. Except with the approval of the commission, non-championship contest or exhibitions of mixed martial arts shall not exceed 3 rounds, championship contests of mixed martial arts shall be for 5 rounds, and a round must be 5 minutes in duration, with a 1-minute period of res between rest periods.
6. Weight Classes for Mixed Martial Arts.
 - a. Except with the approval of the commission or its executive director, the classes for unarmed combatants who are of mixed martial artists and the weights for each class are shown in the following schedule:

Flyweight.....up to 125 lbs.

Bantamweight.....over 125 to 135 lbs.

Featherweight.....over 135 to 145 lbs.

Lightweight.....over 145 to 155 lbs.

Welterweight.....over 155 to 170 lbs.

Middleweight.....over 170 to 185 lbs.

Light Heavyweight.....over 185 to 205 lbs.

Heavyweight.....over 205 to 265 lbs.

Super Heavyweight.....over 265 lbs.

- b. After the time weigh-in, weight loss in excess of 2 pounds is not permitted for contestants weighing in at 135 lbs; weight loss in excess of 3 pounds is not permitted for contestants weighing in over 135 lbs but no more than 170 lbs; and weight loss in excess of 4 pounds is not permitted for contestants weighing in over 170 lbs.

7. Mixed Martial Arts Attire

8. The following acts constitute fouls in amateur or professional mixed martial arts contests and exhibitions.

- a. Butting with head;
- b. Eye gouging of any kind;
- c. Biting or spitting at an opponent;
- d. Hair pulling;
- e. Fish hooking;
- f. Groin attacks of any kind;
- g. Intentionally putting finger in any opponent's orifice (includes laceration);
- h. Downward point of elbow strikes;
- i. Small joint manipulation;
- j. Strikes to spine or back of the head;
- k. Heel kicks to the kidney;
- l. Throat strikes of any kind (includes grabbing trachea);
- m. Clawing, pinching, twisting the flesh gouging, grabbing the clavicle, or any "dirty fighting";

- n. Kicking the head of a grounded opponent;
 - o. Kneeing the head of a grounded opponent;
 - p. Stomping of a grounded opponent;
 - q. Holding the ropes or the fence;
 - r. Using abusive language in the ring or fenced area;
 - s. Any unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to an opponent;
 - t. Attacking an opponent on or during the break.
 - u. Attacking an opponent under the referee's care;
 - v. Timidity (avoiding eye contact, intentional and/or consistent dropping of mouthpiece, or faking an injury);
 - w. Corner interference;
 - x. Throwing an opponent out of the ring or fenced area;
 - y. Flagrant disregard of the referee's instructions;
 - z. Spiking an opponent to the canvas on his head or neck;
 - i. Throwing in the towel during competition; and
 - ii. Holding on to opponent's shorts or gloves.
9. The following acts shall be legal in amateur or professional mixed martial arts contests and exhibitions, while standing:
- a. Closed hand strikes to the head and body;
 - b. Kicking to body;
 - c. Knees to body and legs;
 - d. Throws / Take downs/sweeps;
 - e. Standing Submissions;
 - f. Chokes;

g. Arm bars;

h. Shouldering.

10. The following acts shall be legal in amateur or professional mixed martial arts contests and exhibitions, while on the ground:

a. Closed hand strikes to body and legs;

b. Submissions (chokes, arm bars, straight leg locks ONLY)

11. The following acts shall be illegal, in addition to the fouls listed above in this section, in amateur or professional mixed martial arts contests and exhibitions, while on the ground:

a. Elbows;

b. Stomps to feet;

c. Slamming;

d. Throws onto head or neck;

e. Throws against a joint;

f. Throwing out of competition area;

g. Holding ropes;

h. Any striking to head;

i. Neck cranks;

j. Heel hooks;

k. Chocking with hand on throat;

l. Smothering (hand over mouth);

m. Spine locks;

n. Hammer locks;

12. Accidental Foul

- a. If a mixed martial arts contest or exhibition is stopped because of an accidental foul, the referee shall determine whether the unarmed combatant who has been fouled can continue or not. Immediately after separating the contestants, the referee shall inform the judges and the Department's representative of his or her determination that the foul was accidental. If the unarmed combatant's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of a foul, and the foul did not involve a concessive impact to the unarmed combatant's head, the referee may order the contest or exhibition continued after a recuperative interval of up to 5 minutes.
- b. If the referee determines that the mixed martial arts contest or exhibition may not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an accidental foul, the contest or exhibition must be declared a no contest if the foul occurs during:
 - i. First 2 round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for less than 5 rounds; or
 - ii. The first 3 rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for 5 rounds.
- c. If an accidental foul renders an unarmed combatant unable to continue the mixed martial arts contest or exhibition after:
 - i. The completed second round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for less than 5 rounds; or
 - ii. The completed third round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for 5 rounds;

The outcome must be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops contest or exhibition.

- d. If an injury inflicted by an accident foul later becomes aggravated by fair blows and the referee orders the mixed martial arts contest or exhibition stopped because of the injury, the outcome must be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops the contest or exhibition.
- e. If an injury falls under subsections 3 or 4 of this section, and the referee penalizes either contestant, the point (s) shall be deducted from the final score.

13. Intentional Foul

- a. If the referee determines that the mixed martial arts contest or exhibition may not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an intentional foul, the contestant causing the injury loses by disqualification.
- b. If the referee determines that the mixed martial arts contest or exhibition may continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an intentional foul, the referee will notify the authorities and automatically deduct 2 points from the contestant who committed the foul.
- c. If injury caused by an intentional foul results in the mixed martial arts contest or exhibition being stopped in a later round,
- d. the injured contestant will win by technical decision, if he or she is ahead on the score cards; and
- e. the bout will result in a technical draw, if the injured contestant is behind or even on the scorecards.

14. Mixed martial arts contests may end under the following results:

- a. Submission by:
 - (a) Tap out
 - (b) Verbal tap out
- b. TKO by referee stopping bout
- c. Decision via scorecards:
- d. Unanimous decision – when all three judges score the contest for the same contestant;
- e. Split decision – when two judges score the contest for one contestant and one judge scores for the opponent;
- f. Majority decision – when two judges score the contest for the same contestant and one judge scores a draw;
- g. Draw:
 - i. Unanimous – when all three judges score the contest a draw
 - ii. Majority – when two judges score the contest a draw.
 - iii. Split – when all three judges score differently.
- h. Disqualifications;

- i. Forfeit;
- j. Technical Draw;
- k. Technical Decision;
- l. No contest.

15. Mixed martial arts contests and exhibitions may be held in a ring or fenced area.

- a. A mixed martial arts ring must meet the following requirements:
- b. The ring shall be no smaller than 20 feet square and no larger than 32 feet square within the ropes. The ring floor must extend at least 24 inches beyond the ropes. The ring floor must be padded with insolate or another similar closed-cell foam, with at least 1 inch layer of foam padding. Padding must extend beyond the rings ropes and over the edge of the platform, with a top covering of canvas, duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges must not be used.
- c. The ring platform must not be more than 4 feet above the floor of the building, and must be provided with suitable steps for use of unarmed combatants. Ring posts must be of metal, not more than 3 inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a minimum height of 58 inches above the ring floor, and shall be properly padded in a manner approved by the commission. Ring posts must be at least 18 inches away from the ropes.
- d. There must be four ring ropes, not less than 1 inch in diameter and wrapped in soft material. The lower rope must be 12 inches above the ring floor.
- e. There must not be any obstruction or object, including, without limitation, a triangular border, on any part of the ring floor.

16. A mixed martial arts fenced area must meet the following requirements:

- a. The fenced area must have at least 8 equal sides, or be circular, and shall be no smaller than 20 feet wide and no larger than 32 feet wide. The floor must extend at least 18 inches beyond the fence. The fenced area floor must be padded with insolate or another similar closed-cell foam, with at least a 1 inch layer of foam padding, with a top covering of canvas, duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the fenced area platform. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges must not be used.

- b. The fenced area platform must not be more than 4 feet above the floor of the building, and must be provided with suitable steps for use of unarmed combatants. Fence posts must be of metal, not more than 6 inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to between 6 and 8 feet above the fenced area floor, and shall be properly padded in a manner approved by the commission.
 - c. The fenced area shall be enclosed by a fence made of material as will not allow fighter to fall out or break through it onto the floor or spectators; including, but not limited to, vinyl-coated chain link. All metal parts shall be covered and padded in a manner approved by the commission and shall not be abrasive to the contestants. The fence shall provide two (s) entries into the fenced area.
 - d. There must not be any obstruction on any part of the fence surrounding the competition area.
- 17. Cage or ring: Must be approved by the SNMMA and regional commission of record for the event.**
- 18. Seconds.** Each contender shall be allowed no more than three (3) seconds (corner men), one of whom shall be the principal the seconds responsible for behavior in the corner during the bout.
- 19. Highlights Document.** The President may issue a document entitled “Highlights of Contest Rules” (or Contest Rules Summary), for use by officials and mixed martial arts fighters, summarizing the rules applicable to a sanctioned contest.
- 20. Officials.** If appointed by the President, the following shall represent the SNMMA at sanctioned contests: a Supervisor, a Referee, and three judges. In emergency cases when one or more of the three appointed judges is unable to carry out his duties, the Supervisor may appoint another SNMMA member, including the referee, to serve as judge.

F. REQUESTS FOR RATINGS INFORMATION, RECONSIDERATION OR APPEALS

1. **Ratings Reconsideration.** A person directly affected by a decision of the Ratings Committee may file a formal Request for Ratings Information or Request for Reconsideration, or both.

2. **Championships Reconsideration.** A person directly affected by a decision of the Championships Committee may file a formal Request for Reconsideration.

3. **Informal Requests.** A person may also make informal requests for information from the SNMMA, and such are not covered by these rules.

4. **Request for Ratings Explanation (Ali Act Request).** The following procedures apply to a mixed martial arts fighter’s request for the rationale (or explanation) his rating, when filed under the terms of United States statute (15 U.S.C. §6301 et seq.). In order for such a request to be considered to have been filed under the terms of that statute, the request must be made in the form and according to the procedures set out here.

- a. The request must be in writing and include all of the following:

(1) A statement by the mixed martial arts fighter or an authorized agent of the mixed martial arts fighter setting out the request for explanation of the SNMMA's rating of the mixed martial arts fighter. The statement must be signed by the mixed martial arts fighter.

(2) For the person making the request, the following information:

- A postal address;
- An e-mail address (if there is one);
- A facsimile address;
- A telephone number; and
- A signature of the person making the request.

b. The request must be sent to the Executive Vice-President and be designated to the SNMMA by registered mail. The addresses of the Executive Vice-President and the designated legal counsel may be found on the SNMMA's website.

c. Within seven (14) days after receipt of a request that conforms to the requirements set out above, the SNMMA will respond in writing explaining the rationale or basis for its rating of the mixed martial arts fighter in question.

d. After receiving the answer of the SNMMA in response to the request, the mixed martial arts fighter making the request, or his agent, may then file a request for reconsideration of the rating. The request for information by itself shall not be deemed to constitute either a request for reconsideration, or an appeal, of the rating.

5. Request for Reconsideration. The following procedures apply to a request for reconsideration from a mixed martial arts fighter regarding a rating or a decision by the Ratings or Championships Committee.

a. The request must be in writing and include all of the following:

(1) A statement in conformance of 5 (e) below.

(2) For the person making the request, the following information:

- A postal address;
- An e-mail address (if there is one);
- A facsimile address;
- A telephone number; and
- A signature of the person making the request.

b. The request must be sent to the SNMMA by registered mail within ten (10) days of the date of the decision for which the request is made.

c. The request must be sent to the Executive Vice-President, and to designated SNMMA legal counsel, if the request concerns a rating decision. The request must be sent to the Chairman of the Championships Committee, and to designated SNMMA legal counsel, if the request concerns a decision of the Championships Committee. The addresses of the Chairman of the Ratings Committee, the Chairman of the Championship Committee, and the designated SNMMA legal counsel shall be provided on the SNMMA's website.

d. The SNMMA will respond within fifteen (15) days after receipt of a request that conforms to the requirements set out above, or explain why a longer time to respond is warranted.

e. A request must include a concise statement of the subject of the request, the grounds on which the request has been brought, arguments in support of the request, and

identification of other persons with a material interest likely to be affected by a decision granting or denying the request.

f. The Chairman of the respective committee may require further information from the requestor, as well as from anyone whom the Chairman has reason to believe may have relevant information or comments related to the subject of the request. In the case of a request regarding a rating, the filing of a request places the affected mixed martial arts fighter's rating under review. The Chairman shall consult with his Committee and have the Committee vote on the request. He shall issue a decision on the request, setting out whatever findings, conclusions, or application of the Rules or other legal authority the Committee deems to be applicable to consideration of the request.

g. After receiving the answer of the SNMMA in response to the request, the mixed martial arts fighter making the request or on whose behalf the request was made may then file an appeal of the decision. The request by itself shall not be deemed to constitute an appeal. An appeal must comply with those sections dealing with appeals, and may not be considered unless all applicable administrative procedures have been met and all administrative reviews have been exhausted..

6. Appeals. A person may appeal any of the following actions by a Committee or the President:

- a. A decision of the Ratings Committee regarding a Request for Reconsideration;
- b. A decision by the Championships Committee regarding a Request for Reconsideration;
- c. Any other decision not subject to a Request for Reconsideration.

7. Appeals Panel. The President shall appoint an appeal panel to hear any appeal filed in accordance with the Rules. The panel shall consist of three or five disinterested members of the SNMMA, including a chairperson, knowledgeable with the SNMMA's rules. Non-members may be appointed at the discretion of the President. An appeal panel shall constitute the appeals committee authorized in the Bylaws.

8. Time and Place of Appeal. The Chairman of an appeal panel will set a time and place for considering an appeal. He will attempt to provide seven days notice to the appellant, and to any identifiable party with a cognizable and direct interest of which he is aware, of the date on which written materials are to be submitted to the panel and of the hearing, if one is held.

9. Hearing. A hearing is allowed, but not required, for an appeal. If a hearing is held, the Chairman may set the methods and terms by which panel members and affected parties who have notified the Chairman of their interest may participate.

10. Content of an Appeal. An appeal must include the following:

- a. A concise statement by the mixed martial arts fighter or his authorized agent, including a statement of the grounds on which the appeal has been brought, arguments and authority in support, and identification of other persons with a material interest likely to be affected by a decision on the appeal.
- b. For the person filing the appeal, the following information:
 - A postal address;
 - An email address (if one exists);
 - A facsimile address;
 - A telephone number; and
 - A signature of the mixed martial arts fighter on whose behalf the appeal is filed.

c. If the appeal is signed by someone other than a mixed martial arts fighter, a certified statement of authorization by the mixed martial arts fighter to file the appeal.

11. Filing an Appeal. An appeal must be filed at the office of the SNMMA, and a copy sent to the office of the SNMMA's Legal Director, within ten (10) days notice of issuance of the decision sought to be appealed. The appellant shall submit copies of all appeal documents to any identifiable party with a material interest in the outcome of the appeal. It must be accompanied by the following fee, which is intended to cover the reasonable costs of the SNMMA in conducting procedures related to the appeal:

a. \$3,000 US for members

b. \$7,000 US for non-members.

The President may waive payment of all or part of the required fee for good cause. Failure to file a Request for Reconsideration or Appeal within the time periods set out in these rules shall constitute a waiver by the mixed martial arts fighter and his agents of any and all rights and claims. No additional or alternate remedy may be sought from a court of law.

12. Documents. The Panel Chairman will distribute all materials submitted on behalf of, and in response to, the appeal to all panel members, and shall use reasonable efforts to assure that the appellant and all persons who make an appearance obtain, and have an opportunity to respond to, submitted materials.

13. Standard and Decision on Appeal. The appeal panel shall review the appealed decision. An appeals panel shall submit a preliminary decision to the President. The preliminary decision shall describe the appeal, identify those parties who participated, and provide a statement of the findings and conclusions of the panel. It shall also provide the President a record of the appeal, which may include a summary. In rendering a preliminary decision, the panel shall apply the SNMMA Rules and any applicable law. Based on the record presented to him for his review, the President may adopt in whole or in part the preliminary decision, and may modify it before approving it. He may also remand it to the appeals panel for further consideration. A preliminary decision once approved by the President becomes a final decision, and shall be sent to the appellant and any party of record.

14. Non-Binding. Preliminary and final decisions may be considered, but are not binding precedent, in any subsequent decision or appeal.

15. Report. The President, or a Director designated by him, shall report at the annual convention on each appeal for which a decision was rendered in the previous year.

16. Additional Costs. In those instances when an appeal has resulted, or may result, in unusual or extraordinary expenses to be considered properly, the Chairman of the appeals panel may require the payment by the appellant of additional reasonable costs.

17. Finality. Neither a mixed martial arts fighter nor his agent may seek relief in any court of a matter subject to appeal unless he has exhausted the administrative remedies provided in these Rules.

18. Litigation. Any mixed martial arts fighter, promoter, manager, or other person or entity who requests, benefits from, or is affected by a rating or sanction, or who asserts a claim or right, or requests relief arising from the SNMMA's Constitution, Bylaws, or these Rules (hereinafter "Parties"), hereby agrees and consents to the following:

a. Applicable Law: The laws of the MHA Nation located in New Town, State of North Dakota, United States of America, govern all aspects of SNMMA

b. Venue. MHA Nation located in New Town, State of North Dakota,.

c. Duty to Protect, Defend, Hold Harmless and Indemnify. If the SNMMA becomes a party to any legal proceeding as a result of any Party's action or omission, the Party shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the SNMMA, its employees, officers, directors, and agents, for all claims, damages, costs and expenses incurred therein by the SNMMA.

d. Limitation of Liability and Disclaimer. In no event shall the SNMMA be liable to any Party for punitive, consequential, direct, or indirect damages, including, but not limited to, lost profits, loss of earning capacity, delay, interest or attorney fees, directly or indirectly resulting from any act or omission of the SNMMA, its employees, officers, directors, or agents.

e. Exclusive Remedy. The sole and exclusive monetary remedy for any Party for alleged acts or omissions of the SNMMA shall be limited to a return of reasonable fees, expenses, or costs the Party has paid to the SNMMA giving rise to the Party's claim.

APPENDIX A

SOVEREIGN NATIONS MIXED MARTIAL ARTS COUNCIL MEDICAL AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

***This is a general guideline used by SNMMA. Regional commissions of record for each event have superseding authority for that event.**

ARTICLE 1.

a. All mixed martial arts fighters must submit to a thorough medical examination by a physician approved by the SNMMA or regional commission of record for the scheduled event. The examination shall include a complete history of the applicant and any of all of the following laboratory procedures at the discretion of such physician: x-rays, skull x-rays, flat abdominal x-rays, electrocardiogram, complete blood count, including bleeding and coagulation time, urine analysis, serological examination of syphilis, neurological and psychiatric examination, and any other test which might be indicated by the past record or present condition of the applicant. HIV and Hepatitis C. Commission of record for each event may vary in requested medical requirements for fighters.

The following minimum physical requirements and disqualification shall apply to professional mixed martial arts fighters (unless contrary to law of a given region).

1. Age: Upper Limit - 36 years

Lower Limit -18 years

Exception: If in a championship bout, the fighter is just over 36 years (Example: 36 years and 7 days), then this may be waived by discretion of the Commissioner.

2. Blood Pressure: No over 150/90. If the physician thinks that the blood pressure was raised because of the mixed martial arts fighter's anxiety, he may take several readings. If a mixed martial arts fighter suffers from hypertension above 150/90, without evidence of cardiovascular disease and can be allowed to fight.

3. No organic heart disease or history of cardiac surgery.

4. No active lung disease, e.g., pneumonia, tuberculosis, pneumothorax.

5. Fundi -- no retinopathy or detached retinas (repaired or not).

6. Vision – both eyes without the use of lens, not less than J7 for close vision or no more than 20/100 for distant vision. No contact lenses.

7. Abdomen – no hernias or organomegalia (enlarged liver or spleen) or palpable masses.

8. Oral temperature – not over 37.4° C or 100° F.
 9. No dental abscess.
 10. No skin infection.
 11. No recent wound on face or ear, which is less than 6 weeks old.
 12. No active ear infections.
 13. No absence of kidney or actual renal (kidney) disease.
 14. No body deformity that may tend to cause bodily injuries.
 15. No cranial or brain surgery.
 16. No changes in gait, mental status, or mixed martial arts performance.
 17. No hand fractures less than 6 weeks old.
 18. No history of epilepsy.
 19. No history of mental illness.
 20. No rapid dehydration. If a mixed martial arts fighter is more than 5% overweight 5 days before a fight, he should not be allowed to dehydrate himself and should not be permitted to fight. If he presents signs of dehydration or excessive loss of weight on the day of the fight, he should not be permitted to fight.
- b. All mixed martial arts fighters applying for an original given electroencephalogram, chest x-rays, serological test for syphilis and preferably a CAT SCAN of the brain. The CAT Scan of the brain shall be an obligatory exam for all classified SNMMA mixed martial arts fighters, and should be repeated when clinical circumstances so require. Any mixed martial arts fighter that presents an altered CAT Scan that indicates brain atrophy, intra or extra cerebral hemorrhage, aneurysms, or any other pathological abnormalities, shall be retired permanently from mixed martial arts.

ARTICLE 2

Mixed martial arts fighters in all have the type of examination outlined in section (a) on the day of the weigh in and again a short while before the mixed martial arts program begins. The mixed martial arts fighter shall furthermore, be checked by a physician before leaving the venue of the fight.

ARTICLE 3

In the event of any serious injury, the ringside physician shall immediately render any emergency treatment necessary, recommend further treatment or hospitalization if indicated, and fully report the entire matter to the Commission within twenty four (24) hours and subsequently thereafter, if necessary. Such physician may also require that the injured mixed martial arts fighter remain in the ring or on the premises after the contest for such period of time, as the physician deems advisable.

ARTICLE 4

Any mixed martial arts fighter who has sustained any severe injury or actual knockout, in a bout, shall, within twenty four (24) hours, be thoroughly examined by a physician approved by the Mixed martial arts Commission. Such examination shall include any or all the procedures as provided in Section (a) above, or as is specifically directed by the Commission physician or the ringside physician. Upon the physician's request, the Commission may suspend the mixed martial arts fighter until he is fully recovered, and similarly, may extend such suspension already imposed.

ARTICLE 5

All medical reports submitted to the Commission relative to the physical examination or condition of mixed martial arts fighters shall be considered confidential, and shall be open to examination only to the Commission or its authorized representative, to the licensed mixed martial arts fighter upon his written explanation to the Commission or its authorized representative, to the licensed mixed martial arts fighter upon his written application to examine said records, or upon the order of a court of competent jurisdiction in an appropriate case.

ARTICLE 6

Any contestant who has lost six (6) consecutive fights, must be automatically suspended and cannot be reenroll until he has submitted to a medical examination of the type specified in (a) above.

ARTICLE 7

Any mixed martial arts fighter who has suffered an actual knockout shall be suspended for at least sixty (60) days and shall forthwith surrender his license card to the Commission. He cannot be reinstated until he has submitted to a medical examination of the type specified in Section (a) above. If such a mixed martial arts fighter suffers a knockout in his next bout, or within three-(3) month following a previous knockout, he shall be suspended from mixed martial arts for a period six (6) months. During the six-(6) months interval he shall refrain from any contact training in the gymnasiums. It shall be the responsibility of the mixed martial arts fighter's manager to see that he complies with this rule, and any violation shall result in indefinite suspension of the mixed martial arts fighter and/or his manager. The following automatic suspension shall come into effect irrespective of the outcome of the bout:

- a) More than 10 rounds 30 days
- b) Between 6 and 10 rounds 21 days
- c) Between 1 and 6 rounds 14 days

ARTICLE 8

Semiannual and annual medical examinations must be given to all licensed judges referees by the Commission physician and such examination must be of the same type and thoroughness as is outlined in Section (a).

ARTICLE 9

In the event that a mixed martial arts fighter who has suffered a knockout or any severe injury has on such account been treated by his personal physician or has been hospitalized, he or his manager must promptly submit to the Mixed martial arts Commission a full report from such physician or hospital.

ARTICLE 10

The Commission shall appoint a panel of three physicians to especially examine any licensed mixed martial arts fighter when a question arises as to the physical ability of such licensee to engage in a scheduled match, and the findings of such panel shall be a conclusive determination of such question. Any injury of illness before a scheduled match or while in training for a match must be fully reported to the Commission within twenty four (24) hours by the licensee or his licensed manager. In such event the Commission does not request the appointment of such panel, the license must be examine by one approved physician in accordance with he procedure outlined in Section 1, above.

ARTICLE 11

Each mixed martial arts fighter shall be equipped with and use throughout a custom made individually fabricated mouth guard.

ARTICLE 12

A portable resuscitator with oxygen equipment and a stretcher shall be available at ringside. An ambulance properly equipped with resuscitation equipment and staffed by duly trained personnel to transfer any

injured mixed martial arts fighter to a hospital that is available at the site of the bout. The injured mixed martial arts fighter should be transported to a hospital, which has neurological facilities.

ARTICLE 13

DRUGS AND STIMULANTS

The administration or use of drugs or stimulants, or physiologic substances in order to increase the performance of the mixed martial arts fighter in an artificial and unfair manner, before or during the bout is forbidden. Any fighter who violates this rule shall be disqualified. Especially forbidden drugs are the stimulants, narcotics and their derivatives, psychotropic drugs, anabolic steroids, corticosteroids, diuretics, probenecid, and, furthermore, whatever other substance determined by the Medical Advising Committee of the Sovereign Nations Mixed martial arts Council, which shall issue a list of forbidden substances. This list shall be updated periodically by this Committee, and notified to the affiliated Commissions. Any substance, that is not pure water, given to a contender during the bout, is absolutely forbidden. The discretionary use of Vaseline around the eyes shall be permitted; however, the use of Vaseline, grease or any other substance on the arms, legs or body on any of the contenders is forbidden. The discretionary use of hemostatic shall be permitted, such as adrenaline solution (1/1000), approved by the ring doctor between the rounds, for the purpose of controlling the bleeding or minor cuts and laceration received from one of the contenders. It is absolutely forbidden the use, by the contenders, of iron hemostatic substances as Monsel solution and the use of such coagulants shall be considered a violation and shall be sufficient cause for an immediate disqualification.

The Medical Advisory Committee, in addition to the list of substances, shall issue and keep an updated list of hemostatics not considered harmful to the mixed martial arts fighter, and, therefore, its use shall be permitted during the bout. In all World Championship fights the anti-drug tests are obligatory; they should be taken before and/or after the fight. The sample taking shall take place in an official ceremony for both mixed martial arts fighters and in the same place. The place and time of the sample taking shall be announced to the mixed martial arts fighter and/or his representative and his trainer, jointly with the supervisor of the fight and the assigned member of the local commission, preferably at the reading of the rules ceremony. If the time of the sample taking is not indicated, it shall be understood that it shall take place at the end of the bout. The mixed martial arts fighter shall have the right to have his representative and/or trainer present at the sample taking process. Nevertheless, even if they do not make use of this right, the sample shall retain all its value. The mixed martial arts fighter shall produce the sample before the doctor assigned to the bout or his substitute, a member of the local commission, and the supervisor of the fight. When, due to circumstances beyond control, the supervisor of the fight or the member of the local commission could not attend to the sample taking, it shall be carried out with the doctor and any of the two present, and it shall retain its entire legal value. The sample shall be collected in a sterile recipient and shall be divided into two equal parts in a sterile container. The specimens should be clearly marked with the name of the mixed martial arts fighter, and sealed in the presence of the mixed martial arts fighter. After letting the mixed martial arts fighter or his representative verify the seals, a Minute shall be drafted indicating on it the date, time and place and other details on the sample collection. The first specimen as well as the second shall be sent within the first forty eight (48) hours, by the doctor assigned to the bout or his substitute, to a laboratory authorized by the local commission, which shall open and analyze the first set of samples and the result shall be privately notified to the local commission and to the SNMMA. The SNMMA shall notify the results to the mixed martial arts fighters and their representatives. The doctor shall be responsible for the sample, shall deliver them to the laboratory for analysis, demanding acknowledge of receipt. In those places where do not exist laboratory facilities, the doctor shall take the samples and deliver them to an acknowledged laboratory. The lab accepting the samples shall verify the condition of the seals and shall acknowledge, in writing, the proper receipt of the material. Once the first specimens have been examined to the satisfaction of all the parties, the second specimens may be eliminated.

In case of unconformity with the results of the analysis on the first set of samples, this lab to another laboratory authorized by the SNMMA shall send the second sets. The result of this second analysis shall be definite and shall be privately informed to the SNMMA, and shall then notify to the mixed martial arts fighters or to their representatives. In cases where is shall be deemed necessary to examine the second specimens, the mixed martial arts fighter or his representative shall be advised about from the laboratory

where same shall be processed, for the purpose of facilitating his presence or his designating a delegate to observe the sample opening and analysis details. However, in case the mixed martial arts fighter or his representative or delegate should not attend to this act, the test process shall maintain its entire value. Authorized SNMMA labs, based on the recommendations of the Medical Advisory Committee shall only process the second specimens. To this end, and for the purpose of carrying out respective analysis, the SNMMA shall try to establish contact with well-known labs of the principal countries in the world. The test and analysis cost for the first specimens shall be on the account of the fight promoter. All the costs and analysis made of the second specimens shall be on the account of the party requesting the test.

Whenever a force majeure or a fortuitous case should arise or whenever one of the contenders should not meet the adequate physical conditions for the respective sample taking, the assigned for the fight supervisor of the SNMMA shall be empowered to take the decision he shall deem most convenient with respect to the antidoping list; his decision shall be unappealable and no recourse shall be accepted. The mixed martial arts fighter who refuses to be examined shall be disqualified, and furthermore, could be suspended or fined. Mixed martial arts fighters participating in a world championship bout must indicate previous to the sample taking, if they have received medication in the preceding seventy-two (72) hours and present written evidence from their consulting physician of the therapeutically reason for its use. The physician assigned to the fight, or in his absence, his substitute, according to the list of forbidden substances approved by the SNMMA, shall give his opinion in writing concerning the mixed martial arts fighter's position related to the effects the medication could have over the fight. Either the supervisor or the representative of the Local Commission could ask the mixed martial arts fighters and/or their representative to sign the Minutes on the sample taking. In case they would refuse to do so, a record of this shall be kept and the test shall not lose its value. The mixed martial arts fighter shall be allowed to drink liquids while he waits for the sample taking. If the SNMMA supervisor or the Commission's representative suspects this liquid was taken for the purpose of altering the results of the tests, they could order the analysis of said substance. Should the laboratory analysis prove that the administered liquid did contain substances, which could alter a positive result, the result of the test shall be considered a positive one.

The volume of urine samples shall be of 75 mls. or more. If the mixed martial arts fighter cannot provide enough urine, the procedure shall be repeated after he has taken as much liquid as desired, but he shall not be allowed to leave the place where the test shall be performed, until he has provided the established amount of urine. The identification of the substances shall be done, preferably, through the combined use of high contrast chromatography and its rectification immune sample. The identification of substances could also be done by any other means indicated and accepted by the Medical Advisory Committee or the SNMMA.

The sanctions due to positive results of drug control tests shall be as follows:

- 1) If the World Champion wins the fight or retains the title in a tie, and his test results are positive, the title shall be declared vacant and the challenger (whose anti-drug result is negative) shall fight against the Leading Available Contender for the vacant title.
- 2) Should the challenger lose or tie the championship fight and his anti-drug test was positive, he shall not be permitted to fight for a title acknowledged by the SNMMA for at least six months and only after presenting medical evidence of his rehabilitation.
- 3) If the challenger wins the world championship bout and his anti-drug test is positive and the losing champion has a negative result, then, the champion shall retain his title no matter losing it, and the challenger shall be disqualified and shall not be able to fight for a SNMMA title during the next two (2) years, previous presentation of medical evidence proving his rehabilitation.
- 4) Should both mixed martial arts fighter present positive antidrug tests, the title shall be declared vacant, and the SNMMA shall appoint two (2) Leading Available Contenders to fight for the vacant title. Neither one of the mixed martial arts fighters, in these cases, shall be able to fight for a SNMMA championship during the next two (2) years, previous presentation of medical evidence proving their rehabilitation. The directors promoters, administrators, entitles, officers, physicians, mixed martial arts fighters, and, in

general, anyone related to mixed martial arts, who has been judicially proved to be through a final judgment, involved in drug trafficking, such as: distribution, sale, money laundering from trafficking, for economical advantage or by any other means which implies, directly or indirectly, the handling of these substance or their profits, shall be excluded for life from whatever activities carried out by the SNMMA. The Executive Committee shall take the respective decision. Nevertheless, when one of the aforesaid individuals or entities in this disposition comes under investigation by any competent authority, the SNMMA shall take the temporary measures, which it deems convenient, including, the suspension related to the investigated person or institution, should it be deemed necessary in order to protect the image and integrity of the SNMMA. To ignore this regulation, once approved, cannot be used as an excuse for its unfulfilling nor it exempts its application of the respective measure applied to each case. The SNMMA shall establish a permanent campaign for the prevention and education of drug problems in sports.

ARTICLE 14 HEMOSTATICS

The discretionary use of hemostatics such as adrenaline solution at 1x1000 shall be allowed in order to control the bleeding of minor cuts or lacerations, suffered by the mixed martial arts fighters during the bout. The use of hemostatics solution, or the use of any other caustic solution is prohibited. The usage of these prohibited substances constitutes a sufficient cause for a disqualification. The ringside physician is authorized to examine, at any moment, the substances being used as hemostatics during the fight.

APPENDIX B SOVEREIGN NATIONS MIXED MARTIAL ARTS COUNCIL GUIDELINES ON RATINGS

A) History

During the years, the work of ratings was according to the judgment, experience and personal opinion of the Chairman of the Ratings Committee without any parameters and general rules that could guide in the accomplishment of an objective and standardized evaluation in the determination and hierarchization of the position of the mixed martial arts fighters in the official list of ratings. The Norms and Procedures for Ratings of the SNMMA, presents over a solid, objective basis, and the guidelines followed in the elaboration of the official list of Ratings. The SNMMA will consider two times –the present and the future -the past will simply be a reference point. The goal far from being perfect but we hope the job will be better in the future and possible to establish a set rules. At the annual convention, we will introduce some modifications and improvements, which will be the result of experiences obtained through the application of the SNMMA regulations.

The present system does not pretend to be the best procedure towards the establishment of a ratings system. It simply pretends to constitute itself in a rule of general guidelines that may serve as a device to determine an objective, precise and rational form, and the position of mixed martial arts fighters in the SNMMA Ratings. As stated in our mission statement, the SNMMA shall not accept any inequalities based on race, religion, politics or nationality. The SNMMA will provide all participants involved with professional mixed martial arts the respect, moral and ethical treatment expected from a professional organization that is dedicated to serve as a role model for the great sport of mixed martial arts. SNMMA will develop and oversee a fair and ethical ranking system along with titleholders

The Five Point System (used by other organizations) for ratings evaluation will allow us to be more objective on the determination of a mixed martial arts fighter's position in the ratings. This will undoubtedly improve the objective principle of this delicate and controversial work.

B. Norms.

1. SYSTEM FOR RATINGS POSITION EVALUATION

This system is based on five (5) factors that will help the determination of the position of the rated mixed martial arts fighters in the ratings. The evaluation factors are:

- I. Record
- II. Activity
- III. Caliber of contenders
- IV. Regional Recognition
- V. SNMMA Achievement

I. **Record:** Credit will be given for the number of victories that a mixed martial arts fighter has. Similarly, credits will be deducted according to the number of defeats that a mixed martial arts fighter has in his record.

II. **Activity.** The application of this factor is to award for the activity (fights/year) of mixed martial arts fighter. The last 12 months prior to the month in which the evaluation is made.

III. **Caliber of Contenders.** Credit will be given according to the victories a mixed martial arts fighter, who is submitted to the evaluation, has over other rated mixed martial arts fighters.

The mixed martial arts fighter will be given credit for defeats against recognized (well known) mixed martial arts fighters.

IV. **International Recognition.** The application of this factor is to award credit to incentivize the realization of regional and other World titles, recognized by the SNMMA.

V. SNMMA Achievement:

Credit will be given for SNMMA Achievement and SNMMA Title Defenses.

2. OTHER RATINGS CRITERIA

- a) No mixed martial arts fighter shall be rated in more than one (1) weight division.
- b) The records of any top ten (10) rated mixed martial arts fighter must be verified.
- c) For a mixed martial arts fighter to be considered for the top ten (10) he must have had at least five (5) professional fights.
- d) For a mixed martial arts fighter to compete for a world title he must have competed in at least Seven (7) professional MMA bouts with reputable organizations.
- e) For a mixed martial arts fighter to remain in the top ten (10) he must:
 - 1) Compete at least once during a twelve (12) month period from the time a mixed martial arts fighter gets rated and must also compete within six (6) pounds of his rated weight and;

A mixed martial arts fighter who does not meet this level of competition can be lowered in the ratings. Exceptions will be made for injuries for a period of up to 90 days with proper medical documentation.

f) Mixed martial arts fighters that step aside when in a mandatory position will not be considered the mandatory challenger and will be lowered in the ratings.

g) It is the responsibility of the mixed martial arts fighter's management to notify the Ratings Committee of a mixed martial arts fighter's activity.

h) All ratings criteria are subject to exception by approval of the Ratings Committee.

3. PROMOTIONS IN THE RATINGS.

The promotions, which mixed martial arts fighters rated in the SNMMA ratings deserve, will be applied in those cases in which a rated mixed martial arts fighter obtains a victory over another mixed martial arts fighter.

In case of "Draw Decision", the mixed martial arts fighters will continue in the positions they occupied before the fight.

4. DEMOTIONS IN THE RATINGS

In order to determine the demotions caused by defeats suffered by the rated mixed martial arts fighters, the type of decisions are:

- A. Defeats in World Championship Fights.
- B. Defeats by better rated mixed martial arts fighters.
- C. Defeats by lower rated mixed martial arts fighters.
- D. Defeats by non-rated mixed martial arts fighters.

The new position that the mixed martial arts fighter should occupy is also based on and according to the type of decision, Draw Decision, Unanimous Decision and Split Decision, TKO or KO that had caused his defeat.

In addition, the mixed martial arts fighter with high rating, who is defeated by a mixed martial arts fighter with lower rating, will be automatically demoted to the position occupied by the mixed martial arts fighter who defeated him, provided the result of the fight has been Split Decision or Unanimous Decision. In those cases when the result of the fight is TKO or KO, the defeated mixed martial arts fighter will automatically be demoted to the position immediately below to that occupied by the mixed martial arts fighter who defeated him.

The rated mixed martial arts fighter who is defeated by a non-rated mixed martial arts fighter will automatically be withdrawn from the Ratings.

The Committee may demote or remove a mixed martial arts fighter from the ratings based on any relevant factor, including, but not limited to, ring performance, failure to maintain the required weight, loss to a non-rated mixed martial arts fighter, loss of a regional title, inactivity, violation of these Rules (including failure to pay or allow to be paid sanction fees), or any other relevant factor. A mixed martial arts fighter also may be demoted or removed due to extraordinary events or activity, including, but not limited to, proven or alleged criminal behavior, conduct that violates mixed martial arts regulations or rules, suspension by a responsible authority, or other public behavior or statements of a type that would affect the mixed martial arts fighter's ability to be licensed to compete or that are detrimental to public perception of the sport of mixed martial arts.

APPENDIX C TO RULES OF SOVEREIGN NATIONS MIXED MARTIAL ARTS COUNCIL SANCTION AND OTHER FEES

For world championship contests, elimination and box off contests (in US \$):

1) PROMOTER'S BOUT FEE

TOTAL PURSE OF THE MIXED MARTIAL ARTS FIGHTERS

FEE (US\$)

2) Sanctioning Fee	Percentage of Purse
Champion	3% of purse
Challenger	3% of purse
Membership	\$35 per year for fighters

If both fighters are recognized as champions, each is subject to the champion's fee. If both fighters are recognized as challengers, each is subject to the challenger's fee.

3) Promoter's License (if not previously paid)

\$1,000.00

4) Legal and Insurance \$1,000

5) Officials (to be paid to them as independent contractors)

Referee	\$250
Judge	\$200
Supervisor	\$300