



- 1 (4) Boxing match. – A match where the participants engage in the use of  
2 full contact boxing techniques (using the fist only), and where the  
3 object of a match is to win by decision, knockout (KO), or technical  
4 knockout (TKO).
- 5 (5) Commission. – The North Carolina State Boxing Commission.
- 6 (6) Contest. – A ~~boxing~~ match in which the participants strive to win.
- 7 (7) Contestant. – Any person who engages as a participant in a ~~boxing~~  
8 boxing, kickboxing, toughman, wrestling, or mixed martial arts match.
- 9 (8) Exhibition. – A ~~boxing~~ match where the participants display their  
10 ~~boxing~~ skills and technique without necessarily striving to win.
- 11 (9) Judge. – A person who has a vote in determining the winner of any  
12 match or contest.
- 13 (10) Kickboxer. – Any person who engages as a participant in a kickboxing  
14 match.
- 15 (11) Kickboxing match. – A match in which the participants engage in full  
16 contact martial arts fighting techniques using the hands and the feet,  
17 and where the object of the match is to win by decision, knockout  
18 (KO), or technical knockout (TKO).
- 19 (12) Licensee. – Any person, club, corporation, organization, or association  
20 to whom a license has been issued pursuant to the provisions of this  
21 Article.
- 22 (13) Manager. – Any person who controls or administers the ~~boxing~~  
23 boxing, kickboxing, toughman, wrestling, or mixed martial arts affairs  
24 of any contestant, and who:
- 25 a. By contract, agreement, or other arrangement with any person  
26 undertakes or has undertaken to represent in any way the  
27 interest of the contestant in any ~~professional boxing~~ contest in  
28 which the ~~boxer~~ boxer, kickboxer, wrestler, or mixed martial  
29 arts contestant is to participate as a contestant, and is entitled  
30 under that contract, agreement, or arrangement to receive  
31 monetary or other compensation for his services, without regard  
32 to the sources of the compensation. The term "manager" shall  
33 not be construed to mean any attorney licensed to practice in  
34 this State whose participation in the activities is restricted solely  
35 to representing the interests of a ~~professional boxer~~ participant  
36 as a client.
- 37 b. Directs or controls the ~~professional boxing~~ activities of any  
38 ~~professional boxer~~ participant.
- 39 c. Receives or is entitled to receive a percentage of the gross purse  
40 or gross income of any ~~professional boxing contest~~ participant  
41 in a match.
- 42 (14) Match. – Any ~~boxing or kickboxing~~ boxing, kickboxing, toughman,  
43 wrestling, or mixed martial arts contest or exhibition, and includes any

- 1 event, engagement, sparring or practice session, show or program  
2 where the public is admitted and in which there is intended to be  
3 physical contact, whether an exhibition or contest. This definition does  
4 not include training or practice sessions when no admission is charged.
- 5 (15) Matchmaker. – A person through whom matches are arranged for  
6 participants and who otherwise assists participants in procuring  
7 engagement dates for ~~boxing-a match.~~
- 8 (15a) Mixed martial arts contestant. – Any person who competes or  
9 participates in a mixed martial arts match.
- 10 (15b) Mixed martial arts match. – A match where the participants engage in  
11 full contact martial arts techniques, and a fee for viewing the match is  
12 charged or solicited, or a purse or prize is awarded to the contestant.
- 13 (16) Natural person. – An individual.
- 14 (17) Participant. – Any person who engages in a ~~match or exhibition and~~  
15 ~~performs as a boxer.~~match.
- 16 (18) Person. – An individual, group of individuals, business, corporation,  
17 limited liability company, partnership, or any other individual or  
18 collective entity.
- 19 (19) Physician. – An individual licensed to practice medicine in this State.
- 20 (20) Professional. – Any person who is licensed as a professional boxer  
21 under the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996.
- 22 (21) Promoter. – Any person who produces, arranges, stages, holds, or  
23 gives any match in North Carolina involving a professional participant.
- 24 (22) Referee. – The official who shall enter and remain in the ring for the  
25 duration of a match and shall enforce the rules and maintain order in  
26 the ring.
- 27 (23) Ring official. – Any person who performs an official function for the  
28 duration of a match.
- 29 (23a) Sanctioned amateur. – A person who competes in a sanctioned amateur  
30 match.
- 31 (23b) Sanctioned amateur match. – Any boxing or kickboxing match  
32 regulated by an amateur sports organization that has been recognized  
33 and approved by the North Carolina State Boxing Commission.
- 34 (24) Second. – Any person who will work or be present in the corner of a  
35 participant for the duration of a match.
- 36 (25) Timekeeper. – Any person who will operate the clock or watch for the  
37 duration of a match for the purpose of keeping the official time of the  
38 match.
- 39 (25a) Toughman contestant. – Any person who competes in a toughman  
40 event.
- 41 (25b) Toughman event. – An elimination program of matches in which (i)  
42 the contestants are not professional boxers, (ii) the finalist receives a  
43 purse or other article of value, (iii) the participants engage in the use of

1 full contact boxing techniques, and (iv) the object of each match is to  
2 win by decision, knockout (KO), or technical knockout (TKO).

3 (25c) Wrestling contestant. – Any person who competes or participates in a  
4 wrestling event.

5 (25d) Wrestling match. – A match where the participants engage in full  
6 contact wrestling techniques, and a fee for viewing the match is  
7 charged or solicited, or a purse or prize is awarded to the contestant.

8 (26) Ultimate warrior match. – A match where the participants use any  
9 combination of boxing, kicking, wrestling, hitting, punching, or other  
10 combative, contact techniques and which combination of techniques is  
11 not specifically authorized by and conducted pursuant to this Article."

12 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 143-652 reads as rewritten:

13 **"§ 143-652. State Boxing Commission.**

14 (a) Creation. – The North Carolina State Boxing Commission is created within  
15 the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety to regulate in North Carolina live  
16 ~~boxing and kickboxing~~ boxing, kickboxing, toughman, wrestling, or mixed martial arts  
17 matches, whether professional, amateur, sanctioned amateur, or toughman events, in  
18 which admission is charged for viewing, or the contestants compete for a purse or prize  
19 of value greater than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). The Commission shall consist of six  
20 voting members and two nonvoting advisory members. All the members shall be  
21 residents of North Carolina and shall meet requirements for membership under the  
22 Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996. The members shall be appointed as follows:

23 (1) One voting member shall be appointed by the Governor for an initial  
24 term of two years.

25 (2) One voting member shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon  
26 the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate for an  
27 initial term of one year, in accordance with G.S. 120-121.

28 (3) One voting member shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon  
29 the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
30 for an initial term of one year.

31 (4) Two voting members shall be appointed by the Secretary of Crime  
32 Control and Public Safety. One shall serve for an initial term of three  
33 years, and the other shall serve for an initial term of two years.

34 (4a) One member shall be appointed by the Tribal Council of the Eastern  
35 Band of the Cherokee for an initial term of three years.

36 (5) One nonvoting advisory member shall be appointed by the General  
37 Assembly upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of  
38 Representatives for an initial term of one year, in accordance with G.S.  
39 120-121, from nominations made by the North Carolina Medical  
40 Society, which shall nominate two licensed physicians for the position.

41 (6) One nonvoting advisory member shall be appointed by the General  
42 Assembly upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of  
43 the Senate for an initial term of one year, in accordance with G.S.

1 120-121, from nominations made by the North Carolina Medical  
2 Society, which shall nominate two licensed physicians for the position.

3 The member appointed pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of this section  
4 may serve on the Commission only if an agreement exists and remains in effect between  
5 the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee and the Commission authorizing  
6 the Commission to regulate professional boxing matches within the Cherokee Indian  
7 Reservation as provided by the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996.

8 The two nonvoting advisory members appointed pursuant to subdivisions (6) and (7)  
9 of subsection (a) of this section shall advise the Commission on matters concerning the  
10 health and physical condition of boxers and health issues relating to the conduct of  
11 exhibitions and boxing matches. They may prepare and submit to the Commission for  
12 its consideration and approval any rules that in their judgment will safeguard the  
13 physical welfare of all participants engaged in boxing.

14 Terms for all members of the Commission except for the initial appointments shall  
15 be for three years.

16 The Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety shall designate which member of  
17 the Commission is to serve as chair. A member of the Commission may be removed  
18 from office by the Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety. Each member before  
19 entering upon the duties of a member shall take and subscribe an oath to perform the  
20 duties of the office faithfully, impartially, and justly to the best of the member's ability.  
21 A record of these oaths shall be filed in the Department of the Secretary of Crime  
22 Control and Public Safety.

23 (b) Vacancies. – Members shall serve until their successors are appointed and  
24 have been qualified. Any vacancy in the membership of the Commission shall be filled  
25 in the same manner as the original appointment. Vacancies for members appointed by  
26 the General Assembly shall be filled in accordance with G.S. 120-122. A vacancy in the  
27 membership of the Commission other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the  
28 unexpired term only.

29 (c) Meetings. – Meetings of the Commission shall be called by the chair or by  
30 any two members of the Commission, and meetings shall be held at least quarterly. Any  
31 three voting members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.  
32 Action may be taken and motions and resolutions adopted by the Commission at any  
33 meeting by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Commission  
34 present at a meeting at which a quorum exists. Any or all members may participate in a  
35 regular or special meeting by, or conduct the meeting through the use of, any means of  
36 communication by which all members participating may simultaneously hear each other  
37 during the meeting. A member participating in the meeting by this means is deemed to  
38 be present in person at the meeting.

39 (d) Rule-Making Authority of the Commission. – The Commission shall have the  
40 exclusive authority to approve and issue rules for the regulation of the conduct,  
41 promotion, and performances of live boxing, kickboxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts,  
42 sanctioned amateur, amateur, and toughman matches and exhibitions in this State. The

1 rules shall be issued pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes  
2 and may include, without limitation, the following subjects:

- 3 (1) Requirements for issuance of licenses and permits required by this  
4 Article.
- 5 (2) Regulation of ticket sales.
- 6 (3) Physical requirements for contestants, including classification by  
7 weight and skill.
- 8 (4) Supervision of matches and exhibitions by licensed physicians and  
9 referees.
- 10 (5) Insurance and bonding requirements.
- 11 (6) Compensation of participants and licensees.
- 12 (7) Contracts and financial arrangements.
- 13 (8) Prohibition of dishonest, unethical, and injurious practices.
- 14 (9) Facilities.
- 15 (10) Approval of sanctioning amateur sports organizations.
- 16 (11) Procedures and requirements for compliance with the Professional  
17 Boxing Safety Act of 1996.

18 (e) Compensation. – None of the members of the Commission shall receive  
19 compensation for serving on the Commission. However, members of the Commission  
20 may be reimbursed for their expenses in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138  
21 of the General Statutes.

22 (f) Staff Assistance. – The Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety shall  
23 hire a person to serve as Executive Director of the Commission and shall provide staff  
24 assistance to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall enforce this Article  
25 through the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. If necessary, the Executive  
26 Director may train and contract with independent contractors for the purpose of  
27 regulating and monitoring events, issuing licenses, collecting fees, and enforcing rules  
28 of the Commission. The Executive Director may initiate and review criminal  
29 background checks on persons requesting to work as independent contractors for the  
30 Commission or persons applying to be licensed by the Commission."

31 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 143-653 reads as rewritten:

32 "**§ 143-653. Ultimate warrior matches prohibited.**

33 Ultimate warrior matches, whether the participants are professionals or amateurs, are  
34 prohibited. No person shall promote, conduct, or engage in ultimate warrior matches.  
35 This section shall not preclude ~~boxing and kickboxing~~ boxing, kickboxing, toughman,  
36 wrestling, or mixed martial arts as regulated in this ~~Article or professional~~  
37 ~~wrestling Article.~~"

38 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 143-654 reads as rewritten:

39 "**§ 143-654. Licensing and permitting.**

40 (a) License and Permit Required. – Except for sanctioned amateur matches, it is  
41 unlawful for any person to act in this State as an announcer, contestant, judge, manager,  
42 matchmaker, promoter, referee, timekeeper, or second unless the person is licensed to  
43 do so under this Article. It is unlawful for a promoter to present a match in this State,

1 other than a sanctioned amateur match, unless the promoter has a permit issued under  
2 this Article to do so. The Commission has the exclusive authority to issue, deny,  
3 suspend, or revoke any license or permit provided for in this Article.

4 (b) License. – All licenses issued under this Article shall be valid only during the  
5 calendar year in which they are issued, except contestant licenses shall be valid for one  
6 year from the date of issuance. A license for an announcer, contestant, judge,  
7 matchmaker, referee, timekeeper, or second shall be issued only to a natural person. A  
8 natural person shall not transfer or assign a license or change it into another name. A  
9 license for a manager or promoter may be issued to a corporation or partnership;  
10 provided, however, that all officers or partners shall submit an application for individual  
11 licensure, and only those officers or partners who are licensed shall be entitled to  
12 negotiate or sign contracts. The addition of a new officer or partner during the license  
13 period shall necessitate the filing of an application for individual licensure by the new  
14 officer or partner.

15 An applicant for a license shall file with the Commission the appropriate  
16 nonrefundable fee and any forms, documents, medical examinations, or exhibits the  
17 Commission may require in order to properly administer this Article. The information  
18 requested shall include the date of birth and social security number of each applicant as  
19 well as any other personal data necessary to positively identify the applicant and may  
20 include the requirement of verification of any documents the Commission deems  
21 appropriate. A person may not participate under a fictitious or assumed name in any  
22 match unless the person has first registered the name with the Commission. Any  
23 applicant seeking licensure as a promoter shall provide major medical coverage from an  
24 insurance company licensed by the State Department of Insurance to provide medical  
25 insurance in this State in an amount not less than two thousand five hundred dollars  
26 (\$2,500) for each fighter.

27 (b1) Upon payment of the required fee as provided in G.S. 143-655(a), the  
28 Commission shall issue a federal identification card to each boxer as required by the  
29 federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996.

30 (b2) All promoters shall report all bout agreements and payments to officials to  
31 the Commission.

32 (c) Surety Bond. – An applicant for a promoter's license must submit, in addition  
33 to any other forms, documents, or exhibits requested by the Commission, a surety bond  
34 payable to the Commission for the benefit of any person injured or damaged by (i) the  
35 promoter's failure to comply with any provision of this Article or any rules adopted by  
36 the Commission or (ii) the promoter's failure to fulfill the obligations of any contract  
37 related to the holding of a ~~boxing event match~~. The surety bond shall be a cash bond or  
38 be issued by a company licensed by the State Department of Insurance to do bond  
39 business in this State in an amount to be no less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000). The  
40 amount of the surety bond shall be negotiable upon the sole discretion of the  
41 Commission. All surety bonds shall be upon forms approved by the Secretary of Crime  
42 Control and Public Safety and supplied by the Commission.

1 (d) Permit. – A permit issued to a promoter under this Article is valid for a single  
 2 match. An applicant for a permit shall file with the Commission the appropriate  
 3 nonrefundable fee and any forms or documents the Commission may require."

4 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 143-655 reads as rewritten:

5 **"§ 143-655. Fees; State Boxing Commission Revenue Account.**

6 (a) License Fees. – The Commission shall collect the following license fees:

7

8	Announcer	\$ 50.00
9	Contestant	\$ 25.00
10	Judge	\$ 50.00
11	Manager	\$100.00
12	Matchmaker	\$200.00
13	Promoter	\$300.00
14	Referee	\$ 50.00
15	Timekeeper	\$ 50.00
16	Second	<del>\$ 25.00.</del> <u>\$ 25.00</u>
17	<u>Federal I.D. card</u>	<u>\$25.00.</u>

18 The annual license renewal fees shall not exceed the initial license fees.

19 (b) Permit Fees. – The Commission may establish a fee schedule for permits  
 20 issued under this Article. The fees may vary depending on the seating capacity of the  
 21 facility to be used to present a match. The fee may not exceed the following amounts:

22

23	Seating Capacity	Fee Amount
24	Less than 2,000	<del>\$100.00</del> <u>\$150.00</u>
25	2,000 – 5,000	<del>\$200.00</del> <u>\$250.00</u>
26	<del>Over</del> <u>For each additional 5,000</u>	<del>\$300.00.</del> <u>\$350.00.</u>

27 In addition to the permit fees required in this subsection, the Commission may charge a  
 28 fee equal to ten percent (10%) of the total purse of each professional boxing event.

29 (c) State Boxing Commission Revenue Account. – There is created the State  
 30 Boxing Commission Revenue Account within the Department of Crime Control and  
 31 Public Safety. Monies [moneys] collected pursuant to the provisions of this Article shall  
 32 be credited to the Account and applied to the administration of the Article."

33 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 143-658 reads as rewritten:

34 **"§ 143-658. Violations.**

35 (a) Civil Penalties. – The Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety may  
 36 issue an order against a licensee or other person who willfully violates any provision of  
 37 ~~this Article,~~ Article or rules adopted by the Commission, imposing a civil penalty of up  
 38 to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a single violation or of up to twenty-five thousand  
 39 dollars (\$25,000) for multiple violations in a single proceeding or a series of related  
 40 proceedings. No order under this subsection may be entered without giving the licensee  
 41 or other person 15 days' prior notice and an opportunity for a contested case hearing  
 42 conducted pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.



1 The clear proceeds of civil penalties imposed pursuant to this subsection shall be  
2 remitted to the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund in accordance with G.S. 115C-457.2.

3 (b) Criminal Penalties. – A willful violation of any provision of this Article or  
4 rules adopted by the Commission shall constitute a Class 2 misdemeanor. The Secretary  
5 of Crime Control and Public Safety may refer any available evidence concerning  
6 violations of this Article to the proper district attorney, who may, with or without such a  
7 reference, institute the appropriate criminal proceedings.

8 (c) Injunction. – Whenever it appears to the Secretary of Crime Control and  
9 Public Safety that a person has engaged or is about to engage in an act or practice  
10 constituting a violation of any provision of this Article or any rule or order hereunder,  
11 the Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety may bring an action in any court of  
12 competent jurisdiction to enjoin those acts or practices and to enforce compliance with  
13 this Article or any rule or order issued pursuant to this Article.

14 (d) Repealed by Session Laws 1998-212, s. 19.11(e)."

15 **SECTION 8.** This act is effective when it becomes law.