

Statement of Policy – Charity Boxing Events

The State Athletic Commission (Commission) is sometimes asked to sanction or even participate in charity boxing events. The event may include former professional boxers, celebrities or even Commission staff who have been asked to step into the ring and “spar” to benefit a particular cause.

These events are not clearly amateur or professional boxing or “Tough Guy/Tough Man” competition. Section 1701 of the Boxing Act, 5 Pa.C.S. § 1701, defines the term “tough guy contest” to mean any competition which involves any physical contact bout between two or more individuals who attempt to knock out the opponent by employing boxing, wrestling, martial arts tactics, kicking, choking or other techniques or any combination thereof. “Tough Guy” contests are explicitly prohibited under the Boxing Act and a person commits a misdemeanor of the first degree if he promotes, sponsors or participates in any manner in the staging of or the conduct of any tough guy contest.

The Boxing Act defines a professional boxer as “a person who has received or competed for or is receiving or competing for any purse or other article of value ... either for participating in any boxing contest or exhibition or for the expenses of training therefor.” An amateur boxer is “a person who has never received nor competed for any purse or other article of value, either for participating in any boxing contest or exhibition or for the expenses of training therefor”

The Boxing Act also defines a “contest” as “a boxing engagement in which the boxers strive earnestly in good faith to win.” An “exhibition” is “a boxing engagement in which the boxers show or display their skill without necessarily striving to win.”

A professional boxing event (whether a contest or exhibition) must be held within this Commonwealth *only* in accordance with the provisions of the Boxing Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission. 5 Pa.C.S. § 701. This includes an event permit, licensure for all participants and promoters, compliance with medical examination, weight classes, gloves, bout duration and the health and safety regulations of the Commission. An amateur boxing event (contest or exhibition) also must be held within this Commonwealth *only* in accordance with the provisions of the Boxing Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission. 5 Pa.C.S. § 907. This includes a permit for the event from the Commission, issued only to bona fide recognized amateur athletic associations, nonprofit organizations or other groups or individuals approved by the commission. With the written approval of the Commission, amateur contests or exhibitions are held in accordance with the rules of the amateur body sanctioning the event.

While there are safety concerns surrounding any unofficial “boxing” event, those may be mitigated by imposing several conditions on charity events, so that there is little or no risk to the participants.

Charity boxing events which comply with all the following requirements will be considered by the Commission **on a case by case basis** to be exempt from the Boxing Act and Commission oversight:

- The Commission must be notified in writing at least ten days prior to the event.
- No participant may show or display his/her professional boxing skills
- No participant may strive earnestly in good faith to win
- No winner may be declared
- No purse or payment of any kind to participants (including percentage of ticket sales)
- Participants must use protective head gear, mouth guards and at oversized (least 16 oz) boxing gloves
- Participants may “spar” for timed rounds as set by the Commission
- Admission may be charged, but the net proceeds must go to a recognized nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization that is registered as a charity with the Department of State. Check the Department of State website at <http://www.charities.pa.gov/> in advance of the event to make sure the charity is registered.
- The sponsor of the event **MUST** supply to the Commission with a copy of the check that is given to the charity associated with the event or a receipt indicating the amount donated.
- The Commission reserves the right to audit all revenues and expenses from the event
- The event may not be promoted as any sort of official boxing, MMA or adult entertainment event
- A Pennsylvania licensed referee must be utilized
- An ambulance with paramedics must be on site during the entire event
- A physician must be at ringside during the entire event

Event Information – to be provided by sponsor of event (please type or print)

Sponsor name and address: _____

Name of event: _____

Location of event: _____

Date and time of event: _____

Name of PA-licensed referee
that will be used for event: _____

Name of physician (MD.DO)
that will be present at event: _____

As the sponsor of the event, I have thoroughly read the above requirements for a charity boxing event and affirm that I will comply with all the above rules and regulations.

I understand that any false statement is made subject to the penalties set forth in 18 Pa.C.S. §4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Signature of sponsor

Date

March 25, 2011
Revised June 24, 2015