



# OFFICIAL RULES

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# **U.S. MUAY THAI OPEN**

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## § 1: DEFINITIONS

**Amateur:** A Muay Thai athlete who has never competed for any money prize or a prize that exceeds the value of thirty-five dollars, *or* teaches, pursues, or assists in the practice of boxing or mixed martial arts as a means of obtaining a livelihood or financial gain.

**Bout:** Participation in any event or contest, sanctioned or otherwise, in which people compete in Muay Thai, Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), kickboxing, San Shou, or boxing

**Caution:** A caution is a referee's advice or admonishment to a competitor. Its purpose is to curtail or prevent undesirable practices or address minor rule infractions.

**Coach:** A person who is involved in instructing the Competitor during competition

**Champion:** The last remaining undefeated athlete in a particular weight division

**Consolidated Weight Division:** Any two or more weight divisions combined into one

**Competitor:** A Registrant who competes in the Tournament

**Doping:** The occurrence of one or more of the anti-doping rule violations set forth in Article 2.1 through Article 2.8 of the *World Anti-Doping Code*.

**Experience Class:** A group of competitors with similar levels of experience

- Class A: 10+ bouts
- Class B: 4-9 bouts
- Class C: 0-3 bouts

**Involuntary Transfer:** The USMTO changes the Registrant's Weight Division or Experience Class in order to meet the needs of the Tournament

**Muay Thai Skill:** The delivery of blows to the upper, middle, and lower regions of the body using fists, elbows, knees, and shins. Muay Thai movements trigger the extensive rotation of the hips with each punch, kick, elbow, knee, and block. Muay Thai skill also involves the delivery of punches, kicks, elbows, and knees while clinching.

**Registrant:** A person who has completed the official registration form and has paid the Registration fee

**Spectator:** A person in attendance who is not a competitor, not a registered coach, nor a member of the USMTO Official Staff

**Standby List:** A sequential list of Registrants who seek to participate in the USMTO but cannot do so because of Tournament capacity restrictions

**Strike:** Any deliberate blow delivered by a competitor that lands on any unprotected part of the opponent's body, with exception to the groin.

**USMTO:** The U.S. Muay Thai Open™ single elimination tournament

**Warning:** An admonishment given to a competitor who commits a foul during a bout

**Weight Division:** A group of competitors with a similar weight and experience. The lb. (pound) will be the official weight designation of the USMTO.

**Voluntary Transfer:** The Registrant elects to change his/her registered Weight Division or Experience Class. The USMTO will disapprove voluntary transfers if doing so would negatively affect the tournament's bracketing.

## § 2: REGISTRATION

2.1 Eligibility: Amateur athletes ages eight (8) years and up are eligible to participate in the USMTO.

2.2 Registration: Athletes must apply to compete in the USMTO online at [www.usmuaythaiopen.com/registration](http://www.usmuaythaiopen.com/registration). Applicants will not become official registrants until they pay the registration fee in full.

2.2.1 The USMTO will waive registration fees for USMTO Champions who compete in the next immediate USMTO tournament.

2.2.2 Refund Policy: The USMTO will issue refunds in the following circumstances only:

- a) To any registrant who is unable to compete because they are the sole registrant in their chosen weight class. Prior to issuing a refund, the USMTO will attempt to involuntarily transfer the affected registrants, however, all transfers must be in accordance with the sanctioning body's maximum weight discrepancy standard. If sanctioning body's weight discrepancy standard disallows a registrant's involuntary transfer, then the USMTO will promptly issue the registrant a full refund of their registration fee.
- b) Medical withdrawals caused by an injury that occurred prior to weigh-in. In order to receive a refund, the registrant must submit a doctor's note, discharge papers, or other official documentation that is satisfactory to the USMTO. The USMTO may verify the authenticity of documents prior to issuing a refund.
- c) Disqualified registrants or competitors will not receive a refund of their registration fee(s).

2.3 Prior training: The USMTO features highly skilled athletes who routinely train in a formal setting; therefore, only registrants who possess formal training may participate in USMTO tournaments.

2.4 Voluntary transfers: Registrants may request a Voluntary Transfer to a different Weight Division or Experience Class at no charge, as long as the USMTO receives the request within 48 hours of their event registration.

2.4.1 Registrants who request a Voluntary Transfer outside of the 48-hour period may do so, however, they are required to pay a transfer fee. Fees vary depending on when the USMTO receives the transfer request. The fee schedule is as follows:

- Requests received within 48 hours of registration: FREE
- Requests received more than eight (8) days or more from the weigh-in day: \$15
- Requests received between seven (7) and one (1) day of the weigh-in: \$25
- Requests received on the day of weigh-in: \$50

2.5 Registering for multiple divisions: Athletes may register for a maximum of two divisions, however, the divisions must be adjoining. The USMTO Bracketing Committee must approve all multiple division registrations.

2.5.1 Athletes who suffer a KO or TKO during competition will receive an automatic safety suspension and will be disqualified from further competition.

2.6 Consolidated weight divisions: Fourteen (14) days prior to the weigh-in, and in order to ensure that competitors have sufficient opportunities to compete, the USMTO Bracketing Committee will consolidate or split over-crowded or unoccupied weight divisions. A consolidated weight division will replace the weight divisions absorbed. The USMTO will re-open weight divisions in accordance with rule 2.7.

2.6.1 The USMTO Bracketing Committee will reassign registrants who inadvertently apply to “closed” or “full” weight divisions into similar divisions, but competitors may have to compete at a slightly higher or lower weight division (This will be an “Involuntary Transfer”).

2.7 If the USMTO re-opens any previously closed division or class, involuntarily transferred registrants will have first priority to transfer back into the division or class they originally selected. Any transfer made under this provision will not be subject to the voluntary transfer fee.

2.8 “Underdog” Provision: Exceptional Novice Class athletes with three years of periodic Muay Thai training may elect to compete in the Open Class. Registrants wishing to elect must declare that they have in-fact received three years of periodic Muay Thai training from a competent trainer, and they must declare that they understand and accept the increased risks associated with competing against superior athletes. The USMTO prohibits Open Class athletes from competing in the Novice Class.

2.9 The USMTO may prematurely close registration if the number of competitors is too large and may pose a logistical problem due to the venue’s capacity restrictions. The USMTO will maintain a “Standby List” for would-be competitors in this instance. Standby list candidates will receive admission based on their registration date; earlier candidates will have priority.

2.9.1 In order to provide standby candidates with the opportunity to participate in the tournament, registrants who choose not participate in the event should notify the USMTO as soon as possible.

### § 3: RINGSIDE EQUIPMENT

3.1 The USMTO or the sanctioning body will provide the following ringside equipment during each bout:

- Seats: two (2) seats for the Seconds of each corner and one (1) stool for each athlete
- (3) Tables and nine (9) chairs for officials
- One (1) gong, bell, or other signaling device
- One (1) stopwatch
- Judges scorecards
- One (1) stretcher
- One (1) wheelchair

3.2 Coaches are required to have the following items ringside during each bout:

- One (1) corner tote or bucket
- One (1) plastic bottle for the athlete's hydration and mouth rinsing
- One (1) plastic spray bottle
- Two (2) towels

### § 4: DRESS CODE

4.1 Authorized Dress: The competitor must wear Muay Thai style shorts (see Fig.1). All competitors must wear either a red or blue sleeveless shirt or singlet depending on the corner of the ring they will compete from (see Fig.2). The USMTO will provide official shirts to all competitors.

Fig.1



Fig.2



4.2 Traditional garb: Competitors may wear the sacred headband (MongKon) to pay homage their trainer. In addition, competitors may neatly wear a Krueng-Wrang (prajiad/arm band) with an amulet or charm around the upper arms, biceps.

4.3 Jewelry: Competitors will not wear any jewelry or other foreign objects during the bout.



4.4 Dangerous articles: The USMTO prohibits hair beads or other adornments that could cause danger to a competitor or his/her opponent.

4.5 Dress infraction: The referee may exclude competitors who violate the dress code.

## § 5: ATHLETE EQUIPMENT

5.1 Mouthpieces: Competitors will wear a form-fitting mouthpiece during a bout.

5.1.1 Competitors will not intentionally remove their mouthpiece during the bout.

5.1.2 If a competitor has his mouthpiece knocked out, the referee will take the competitor to their corner to have the mouthpiece cleaned and then returned to its proper position. The second may not talk to his/her competitor during this procedure.

5.2 Groin protectors: Male competitors are required to wear a jock straps (Fig.4) or athletic supporter (Fig. 5). Female competitors have the option to wear a groin protector (see Fig.6). All competitors must supply their own groin protectors.

Fig.4



Fig.5



Fig.6



5.3 Headgear: The use of open-faced competition-grade headgear is mandatory for all competitors.

5.4 Competitors may wear personally owned headgear if the headgear meets the standards set forth by the sanctioning body. The USMTO may make headgear available to competitors for purchase; however, the supply will be limited. Competitors will remove headgear immediately after the bout is over and before the decision. The USMTO strongly advises competitors to wear

personally-owned, open-faced headgear for sanitary reasons, and so that they can guarantee a good fit.

5.5 Elbow pads: The use of elbow pads are mandatory for competitors who compete in an experience class that allows the use of elbows for strikes.

5.5.1 The USMTO prohibits competitors from wearing personally owned elbow pads. The USMTO will provide elbow pads to all competitors.

5.5.2 The USMTO advises competitors to wear personally owned cloth shin guards if the equipment meets the standards set forth by the sanctioning body (Fig 7). The USMTO may make shin guards available to competitors for purchase; however, the supply will be limited.

Fig. 7



5.6 Body protectors: **Only** Novice class competitors **14 years old and younger** will wear body protectors (provided by the USMTO) (Fig.8).

Fig.8



5.6.1 Female Chest Protection: Female competitors may use specialty chest protectors (Fig. 9) , however, they must supply their own.

Fig. 9





5.7 Lubricants: Competitors may use conservative amounts of petroleum jelly and boxing lineament, however, any excess must be removed prior the start of the bout.

5.7.1 Competitors may apply petroleum jelly to their face in order to reduce the risk of cuts. The USMTO prohibits the application of petroleum jelly, lineament, or any foreign substance to any equipment (gloves etc.).

5.8 Ankle or foot supports: Competitors may wear a maximum of two of either kind of supporter.

5.9 Eyewear: The USMTO strictly prohibits the wearing of eyeglasses, however, competitors may wear soft contact lenses.

## § 6: BANDAGES & GLOVES

6.1 Bandage specifications: Competitors are required to use a soft surgical bandage no longer than 180 inches and whose width does not exceed 5 cm, or a “Velveau” bandage no longer than 180 inches on each hand. The USMTO forbids the use of any other bandage.

6.2 No competitor will place bandages on the foot, or any other part of the body other than the hands.

6.3 Competitors may use gauze and tape to wrap their hands, however, they may not apply the tape directly to the skin or to any part of the knuckle.

6.4 Authorized Gloves: The USMTO will provide gloves to each competitor; competitors may not wear their own gloves.

6.4.1 The following table lists the approved glove sizes:

§ 6.4.1: USMTO GLOVE SIZES				
Division	Tyke	Junior & Cadet	Senior 147 lbs. or less	Senior 148 lbs. or more
Size of glove	10 oz	12 oz	10	12

6.5 Glove specifications: USMTO will establish specifications for the manufacture of boxing gloves for use during the competition. Manufacturers wishing to obtain USMTO’s approval for their gloves must submit a sample for inspection and final approval by the USMTO Executive team. After such final approval, The USMTO will provide manufacturers with an official notice to signify the approval.

6.6 Glove supervision: The USMTO will appoint one or two knowledgeable officials to supervise glove and bandage fitting. Officials will enforce the USMTO’s rules pertaining to gloves and they will delegate inspection duties to other officials if necessary.

6.7 Glove removal: Competitors will remove their gloves immediately after the bout is over and before the announcement of the decision.

## § 7: PRE-MEDICAL, WEIGH-IN, & WEIGHT DIVISIONS

- 7.1 Pre- Medical Screening: A qualified physician will examine and screen each competitor prior to the weigh-in and will render a decision as to whether a competitor is physically fit to compete in USMTO.
- 7.2 Weight Divisions: See **Appendix A** for the weight divisions table (designated in lbs.)
- 7.3 The Weigh-in: The weigh-in will take place one day prior to the official start of the tournament.
- 7.4 Weigh-in Supervision: USMTO authorized officials will supervise the weigh-in. A delegate of the competitor's team may be present at the weigh-in, but they may not interfere in the proceeding.
- 7.5 Post weigh-in transfers: Post weigh-in transfers are prohibited; Competitors will only participate in the weight division determined at the time of the official weigh-in.
- 7.6 Failure to make weight: If a competitor fails to make the appropriate weight at the time of the official weigh-in, the USMTO will allow the competitor one (1) additional opportunity to re-weigh, however the re-weigh must take place before the weigh-in station closes. Athletes who fail to make weight may request a voluntary transfer to a weight division appropriate to their weight. Athletes in this circumstance may not transfer to a vacant weight division. The USMTO will disqualify the competitor if they are unable to transfer into an established weight-division.
- 7.7 Weighing instruments: The USMTO will utilize two hospital-grade scales to determine official weights. The USMTO will calibrate all instruments prior to weigh-in.
- 7.8 The USMTO will acknowledge the weight shown on the official USMTO scale.
- 7.9 Weigh-in attire: The USMTO prohibits weighing-in in underwear only, or stripping nude.

## § 8: THE BRACKET & BYES

- 8.1 The Bracket: At the conclusion of the weigh-in, the USMTO Bracketing Committee will establish the brackets for all divisions and classes. Sanctioning body officials are permitted oversee the bracketing process.
- 8.2 No adult weight division bracket will contain more than 16 competitors and no youth bracket (ages 17 and under) will contain more than four (4) competitors. The Bracketing Committee will split over-crowded weight divisions (Example: Division "119.1 A" and "119.1 B").
- 8.3 Methodology: The USMTO will use a computerized, random-selection method to determine the first-series bouts and byes.

8.4 Byes: If there are an odd number of competitors in a weight division, the USMTO's Bracketing Committee will even the division by drawing a bye at random.

8.5 Competitors who receive a bye in the first series will be first to compete in the second series.

8.6 Order of the program: Competitors in lighter weight divisions will compete before heavier ones.

## § 9: ROUNDS

9.1 Wai Kru: Due to time constraints, competitors will refrain from the performing the "Wai Kru"; however, "sealing of the ring" prior to the beginning of the bout is permitted.

9.2 Rounds: Bouts will consist of three (3), 2-minute rounds with one (1) minute of rest in between each round.

9.3 Special provisions for Tykes: Tykes will compete in three (3), 1:30- rounds with one (1) minute of rest.

9.4 Stoppage: Any stoppage of a bout for warnings, cautions, counting, adjustments of clothing or equipment, or for any other reason deemed appropriate by the referee will not affect the round duration.

9.5 Draws: In event that the judges' bout ruling results in a draw, the USMTO will add one (1) additional round to the bout. The winner of the additional round will be the winner of the bout.

## § 10: THE SECOND (COACHES)

10.1 All seconds must submit a completed Coach's Registration Form along with the coach's registration fee to the USMTO prior to participating in the tournament.

10.2 Applicability: Seconds must abide by the rules set forth in this section; non-compliance will be punishable by the disqualification of seconds or competitors by USMTO officials.

10.2.2 The referee will reserve the right to remove seconds who violate USMTO rules. Any removed second must immediately vacate the competition area and they must not return without the consent of the referee.

10.3 Number of seconds: Each competitor is entitled to two (2) seconds ringside. Seconds must register with the USMTO prior to the first day of competition.

10.3.1 While the tournament is underway, competitors may replace their second with any **registered** second at their discretion.

10.4 Ring occupancy: Both seconds may mount the ring's apron, but only one (1) may enter the ring.

10.4.1 No second will remain on the ring platform during the bout.

10.5 Additional duties: Seconds will remove seats, towels, buckets, etc. from the ring platform before the beginning of each round.

10.6 "Throwing in the towel": A second will signal the referee to end the bout by throwing a towel into the ring when she/he considers their competitor to be in danger.

10.6.1 No second will "throw in the towel" while the referee is in the course of counting.

10.6.2 One (1) second will be possession of the towel at all times during the bout.

10.7 Interference: Seconds may not incite spectators by words or signals, nor will they advise or encourage a competitor during a bout.

10.8 The USMTO will arrange a meeting with the seconds in order to disseminate the rules of the USMTO.

## § 11: THE REFEREE

11.1 Referee Duties: The Referee's primary concern is of the competitors' safety. The Referee's main duties are to:

- Officiate in the ring during the bout
- Detect and enforce violations of USMTO rules
- Notify competitors of any infraction via verbal explanation or gesture
- Maintain control of the contest at all times
- Prevent needless injuries
- Inspect the competitor's clothing and equipment
- Any other duties deemed necessary by the USMTO

11.2 Commands: Competitors will obey the Referee's commands at all times. The Referee will issue three (3) standard commands to competitors during the bout:

- "Stop" - Competitors must cease sparring
- "Box" - Competitors must continue sparring
- "Break" - Competitors must separate and step away from the opponent

11.3 Referees will not interrupt a round where a competitor receives a hard strike to the head that renders them incapable of mounting an immediate defense; Referees will provide competitors with a reasonable amount of time to recover and to mount a defense.

11.4 Referees will refrain from stopping a bout based solely on one competitor being the recipient of the majority of the scoring hits, while failing to score for him or herself.

11.5 Issuance of “cautions”: Referees will not stop a bout to issue a caution, but they will use a reasonable amount of time to address the competitor of concern.

11.6 Issuance of “warnings”: If Referee intends to warn a competitor, they will stop the bout and demonstrate the foul committed. Referee will then notify the Judges by pointing to the offending boxer, and then to each of the three (3) Judges.

11.7 Powers to Terminate the Bout: The Referee will terminate a bout if they have reasonable cause to believe that a competitor is incapable of competing in a bout, and further participation may cause unnecessary injury to that competitor.

11.8 Powers to Disqualify (DQ): The Referee will DQ a competitor if they have a reasonable cause to believe that the competitor:

- Is intentionally defying the rules or committing fouls
- Engages in unsportsmanlike conduct
- Fails to comply with the Referee’s commands
- Behaves in a disrespectful or aggressive manner towards any official
- Deliberately fails to retreat to a neutral corner or delays to do so after a knockdown.
- Incurs an excessive number of fouls or warnings (three [3] or more)
- Is not genuine in their performance (“flopping”, purposefully granting the opponent an easy victory)

11.8.1 If a Referee DQs a competitor or stops a bout, he/she will immediately inform the Judges of the circumstances surrounding the decision to DQ or stop.

11.8.2 Winning by DQ: Referees will declare a DQ competitor to be the loser of the bout.

11.8.3 If the Referee determines that an intentional foul caused an injury to a competitor and that competitor cannot continue because of the injury sustained, then the Referee will DQ the offending competitor.

11.9 Interpretation of the Rules: Referee’s will interpret the rules insofar as they are applicable or relevant to the contest and they may take action based on their discretion in order to address any circumstance not covered by the official rules.

## § 12: JUDGES

12.1 Duties of Judges: Judges will independently analyze each competitor and will decide the winner of a bout according to the USMTO rules and conventional Muay Thai standards.

12.2 Judges will notate points awarded to each competitor on an official scorecard at the end of each round.

12.2.1 At the conclusion of the bout, the judges will tally the points, nominate a winner, and sign his/her scorecard.



12.2.2 The scorecard will be a public record; Information seekers should inquire to the USMTO in writing.

12.3 Judges will not leave their seat until the announcer delivers the verdict to the public.

12.4 Judges will not speak to anyone except for the referee during the bout; however, upon the bout's completion, they may notify the referee of any incident that may have gone unnoticed during a bout (example: misconduct of a second, loose ropes, slippery mat, etc.).

12.5 Powers to Overrule: The Principal Judge will have the power to overrule a lesser Judge's opinion.

12.6 Protests: Athletes or their designee will direct disputes of Judges' decisions to the sanctioning body only. The USMTO will not have the authority to overturn bout decisions.

## § 13: THE TIMEKEEPER

13.1 Duties of Timekeeper: The main duty of the Timekeeper is to regulate the number and duration of the rounds, and the intervals between rounds.

13.2 Time Measurement: The Timekeeper will use a digital time keeping device to measure time.

13.3 Signaling: In order to indicate the beginning and end of each round, the Timekeeper will strike a gong or bell, or create a distinct audible tone using an approved signaling device.

13.3.1 The Timekeeper will present an audible signal ten (10) seconds before the start of a round; all Seconds will depart the ring at the sounding of the signal.

13.4 The Referee will count at a pace of one (1) count per second.

13.4.1 The Referee will count and make a gesture with his/her hand in a method that the knocked-down athlete could reasonably decipher each hand signal to represent a passing second.

13.4.2 Knockdown Procedure: During "Knockdowns", the Timekeeper will assist the Referee by raising her/his hand while making hand gestures that represent the passing of time.

13.5 Mandatory Eight-count: When an athlete becomes "down" as the result a forceful strike, the Referee will make an interrupted verbal count to eight (8); the Referee will not stop the count before she/he reaches eight (8) regardless if the athlete recovers before the count reaches eight (8).

13.6 Continuations: If a downed athlete recovers after a count of eight (8), but falls again immediately after without first being struck, then the Referee will issue a new count beginning with the number eight (8).



13.7 Suspending the Count: The Referee will suspend the count if an opponent fails to depart to the neutral corner and she/he will continue to suspend it until the opponent moves fully into the corner. Referees will continue their count from the point of interruption.

13.8 Pausing: The Timekeeper will pause time for temporary stoppages and/or when instructed to do so by the Referee.

13.9 "Saved-by-the-bell: If a athlete is "down" and the Referee is in the course of counting, the Timekeeper will not signal the end of a round if time expires during the count. In such situations, Timekeepers will only signal the end of the round when Referee issues the command "BOX" or terminates the bout.

## § 14: RING DOCTOR & RELATED PROCEDURES

14.1 A licensed medical doctor will serve as Ring Doctor and they will sit at ringside for the duration of every bout.

14.2 The main duties of the Ring Doctor are as follows:

- Examine the health of athletes
- Certify that athletes are fit to compete before the weigh-in and during competition
- Provide medical opinions pertaining to the injuries sustained to the athletes upon the Referee's request.
- Make no delay in terminating the bout when she/he has a reasonable cause to believe that an athlete would not be able to compete due to a medical condition.
- Examine each athlete post-bout and certify that they are in good health.

14.3 A Ring Doctor will signal the termination of a bout by notifying the Referee, mounting the ring's apron, or notifying the Timekeeper to strike the gong/bell.

14.4 Unconscious Athlete: If an athlete goes unconscious, the Referee and the Ring Doctor will make no delay in rendering medical assistance to the unconscious athlete. All others present must remain outside of the ring unless summoned by the Ring Doctor or Referee.

14.5 Hospital Evaluation: If an athlete goes unconscious for more than one (1) minute, medical staff will transport the athlete to the nearest hospital (if possible to the neurosurgery department) for treatment and further evaluation.

14.5.1 Athletes covered by §14.5 will contact the USMTO or its designee within the first 24 hours of the occurrence, and inform the USMTO of any changes to their medical condition.

14.6 Head Hits: The Ring Doctor will make no delay in examining an athlete who suffers a KO because of a head hit, or when the Referee stops a bout because an athlete receives hits to the head that render the athlete defenseless or incapable of continuing the bout.

14.7 Precautionary Cooling off: The Ring Doctor may advise any athlete who receives numerous hits to the head, or has been knocked down several times, to refrain from competition or training for a period of at least 30 days.

## § 15: POINTS, SCORING & DECISIONS

15.1 Wining by Points: Judges will tally each athlete's points at the end of the bout; the athlete with the most points will win the bout.

15.1.1 Awarding of Points: Judges will award athletes for strikes that land on an opponent's unprotected body by way of punches, kicks, knees, or elbow strikes; *however*, athletes will not earn points if their opponent blocks or guards against it.

15.1.2 See **Appendix B** for a description of the prohibited strikes for each experience class.

15.2 Ten-Point System: Judges will award a maximum of 10 points for each round; Judges will not award fractions of points.

15.2.1 Scoring Rounds: Judges will award 10 points to the athlete who wins the round; the loser will receive proportionately less using the following method:

- Athletes who win the round by a **small** margin will receive 10 points, while the opponent will receive 9 points.
- Athletes who win the round by a **large** margin will receive 10 points, while the opponent will receive 8 or 7 points.

15.2.2 Judges will award 10 points to each athlete if neither athlete is dominant.

15.3 Muay Thai Skill Demonstration: At the end of each round, the athlete who demonstrates the most apparent Muay Thai skill will earn points and his/her opponent less in proportion. When athletes are equal in merit, each will receive equal points.

15.3.1 In determining the athlete with the most apparent Muay Thai skill, Judges will consider:

- The quantity of strikes with Muay Thai skill
- The quantity of strikes delivered with force and with Muay Thai skill
- The demonstration of traditional Muay Thai style

15.4 Other Considerations: Judges may consider the following additional factors in their decision-making:

- Less exhaustion or less bruising.
- More aggression
- Less rule infractions
- Showing a strong defense - blocking, parrying, sidestepping, etc. and by causing the opponent's strikes to miss.

15.5 Non-awarding of Points: Judges will not award points to athletes who:

- Strike with a lack of Muay Thai skill
- Has their strikes blocked by an opponent's arms or legs
- Strike with a lack of force, even if those hits land on target
- Throws an opponent without striking
- Strikes while committing a foul

15.6 Point Deductions: The Referee will recommend point deductions for athletes who commit fouls. Judges may collectively decide to award deducted points to the effected opponent at their discretion.

15.7 No Decision: Judges will issue a "no decision" ruling if both athletes cheat or fail to compete in a genuine manner. The USMTO will consider both athletes to be the loser in the event of a "No Decision".

15.8 No Contest: Judges will issue a "no contest" ruling if the ring becomes damaged, which prevents the bout from continuing, or if an external event occurs during the bout, causing it to be permanently stopped.

15.9 Final Authority: The sanctioning body will have the final authority to overturn protested decisions.

## § 16: FOULS

16.1 General Provision: An athlete who commits a foul will be subject to a verbal warning by the Referee. If the athlete repeats a foul, the Referee will deduct one (1) point from their scorecard. If the athlete further commits the same foul, the Referee may at their discretion, terminate the bout, DQ offender, and award the opponent with a win. Referees may DQ an athlete for excessive fouling.

16.2 Repeat Offenses: Referees will issue a mandatory warning to athletes who have received one (1) caution related to the same type of foul.

16.2.1 Athletes may receive a maximum of one (1) warning per infraction, per bout. Referees will deduct points for subsequent warnings for the same infraction.

16.3 Double Jeopardy: A Referee who previously issues a **warning** for a particular foul cannot issue a **caution** for the same type of offense

16.4 Judges Discretion: Judges reserve the right to assess the seriousness of fouls and may impose an appropriate scoring penalty for any foul witnessed by him/her, regardless if the Referee observed such foul.

16.5 Ability to Consult Judges: Referees who have a reasonable cause to believe that a athlete has committed a foul that she/he was unable to observe, may consult the Judges to determine if a foul did occur.

16.6 Low Blows: A low blow is a strike to the groin area. See **Appendix C** for the low blow procedure.

16.7 See **Appendix D** for the full list of fouls.

## § 17: KNOCKDOWNS

17.1 Definition: An athlete is “down” when:

- A strike causes an athlete to touch the floor with any part of his/her body other than the foot
- An athlete hangs helplessly on the ropes as the result of a strike
- An athlete falls partially or completely outside of the ropes as a result of a strike
- An athlete is in a semi-conscious state as a result of a strike

17.2 Opponent’s Responsibilities: if an athlete is down, his/her opponent must immediately retreat to a neutral corner designated by the Referee. He/she may only continue the bout after the opponent has recovered and has received the Referee’s command to “BOX”.

17.3 The Knockdown Count: The Referee will begin to count aloud from one (1) to ten (10), in approximately one (1) second after the moment of the knockdown. Downed athletes may continue the bout at any time within ten (10) counts.

17.3.1 The Knockout (KO): The Referee will terminate the bout upon issuing a knocked down athlete a ten-count (10); the standing opponent will earn a KO and a win.

17.3.2 If the Referee identifies an emergency situation after a knockdown and she/he summons the Ring Doctor before reaching the count of ten (10), then the standing athlete will win the bout by KO.

17.4 No “Saved by the bell”: The Referee will continue to count should an athlete go down at end of round. If the Referee reaches a count of ten (10), then the standing opponent will be awarded a KO and a win.

17.5 Technical Knockout (TKO) – The Referee will award an athlete with a TKO and a win if the opponent:

- Voluntarily forfeits for any reason while the bout is underway
- Coach “throws in the towel” on their behalf
- Receives three (3) eight-counts during one bout
- Fails to resume the bout immediately after the rest period in between rounds
- By a Referee’s opinion, is grossly outmatched, receiving excessive punishment, or is unfit to continue
- By the Referee or Ring Doctor’s opinion, is unfit to continue the bout due to medical reasons or an injury sustained as a result of a legitimate strike
- Fails to resume the bout after rising from a knockdown

- Is knocked out of the ring and is unable to return into the ring without assistance within thirty (30) seconds

17.6 Double KO: If both athletes suffer a KO then the Referee will declare both athletes to be the loser by KO.

17.7 Double Knockdowns: If both athletes go down at the same time, the Referee will continue the count as long as one of them is still down.

## § 18: AWARDS

18.1 General Provision: Athletes are not eligible to receive an award, symbolic artifact, or designation unless they have competed and won at least one bout.

18.2 Medals: Second and Third place competitors will receive a commemorative medal.

18.3 Belts: Division winners will receive a commemorative championship belt.

18.4 Duplication: No person or entity will duplicate a USMTO award without the expressed written consent of the USMTO and its parent company, Siam Fight Productions, LLC.

18.5 Replacements: The USMTO will not offer replacement awards to winners if they lose or damage them.

## § 19: SPORTSMANSHIP

19.1 Respect: athletes will touch gloves at the beginning of a bout to foster a friendly rivalry and respect between opponents; Athletes who touch gloves during rounds do so at their own risk.

19.2 Athletes will shake hands or offer the opponent a sportsmanlike gesture after the Judges' decision.

19.3 Prohibited Conduct: No person will engage in a physical altercation with another person while they are present at the USMTO, except during and official contest overseen by the sanctioning body and approved by the USMTO. Anyone violating this provision is subject to immediate ejection and suspension from future USMTO events.

19.4 Dishonesty: No person shall willfully misrepresent an athletes bout record, or make a false statement or representation about an athlete that has the potential to influence the tournament. The USMTO will disqualify and suspend first-time violators from all USMTO events for a calendar year beginning on the date the offense was proven false. A second violation will trigger a lifetime ban from all USMTO or USMTO subsidiary events.

19.5 The USMTO has adopted the regulations set forth by the World Anti- Doping Agency (WADA).



19.6 WADA Penalties: The USMTO will disqualify any athlete, coach, or official guilty of the prohibitions set forth by the WADA. In addition, guilty parties will face an indefinite suspension from future Siam events including the USMTO.

## **§ 20: INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR MUAYTHAI GYM RANKING (IAMG RANKING)**

20.1 The USMTO is an active participant in the International Amateur Muaythai Gym Ranking program (IAMG Ranking). The IAMG Ranking will rank each gym based on their athletes' performance at the USMTO. The ranking program's purpose to identify and reward gyms that consistently produce winning athletes. Official records and gym rankings will be available to the public at [www.muaythai gymrank.com](http://www.muaythai gymrank.com).

## **§ 21: UNITED STATES MUAY THAI FEDERATION (USMF)**

Effective June 1, 2017, all competitors and coaches must be a registered member of the USMF. For more information about the USMF, visit: [www.unitedstatesmuaythaifederation.org](http://www.unitedstatesmuaythaifederation.org)

- These rules will rescind all previously published rules of the USMTO.



APPENDIX A- WEIGHT DIVISIONS

# U.S. MUAY THAI OPEN



Designated in lbs.

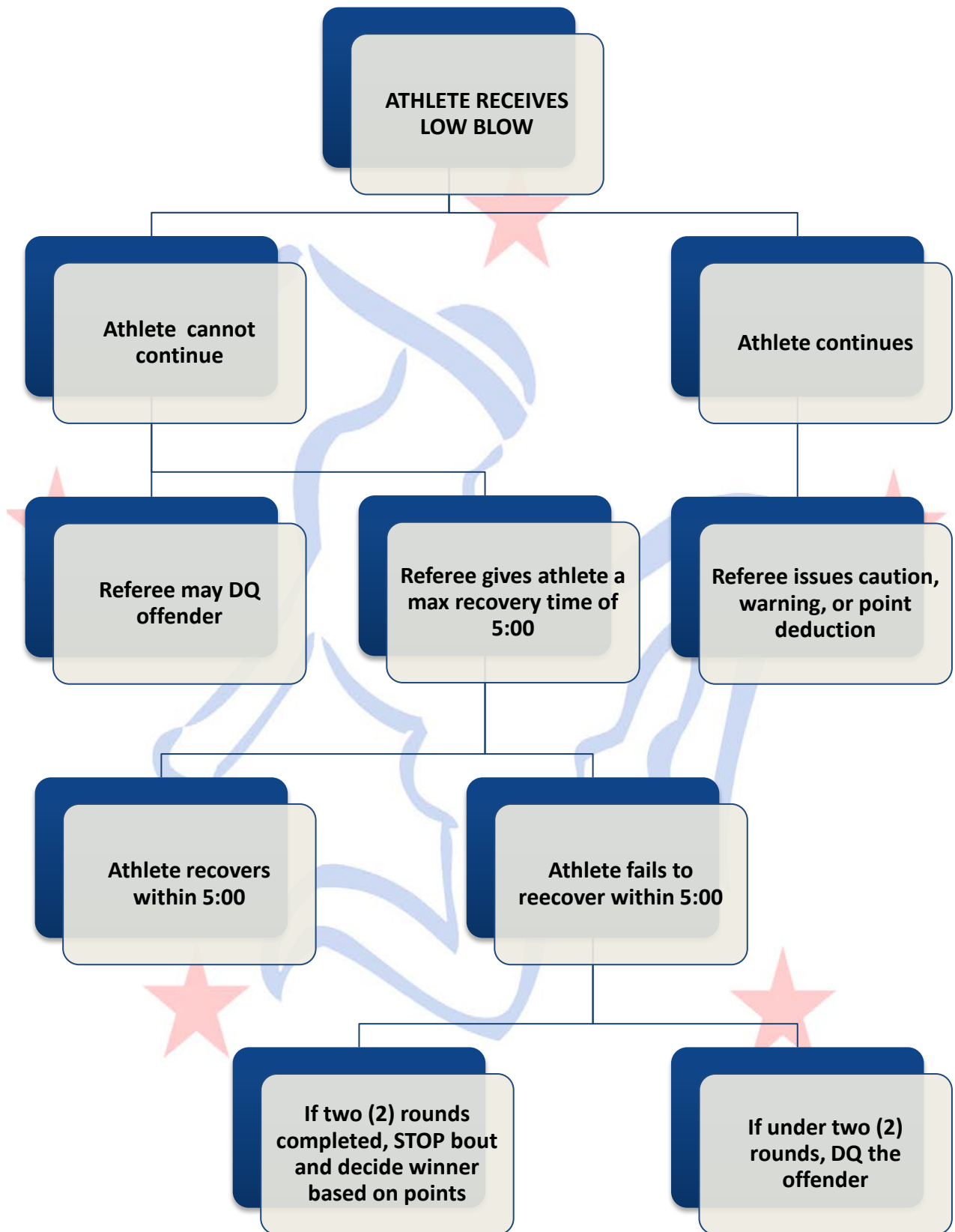
Age Range	Adult Males (18 years old +)	Adult Females (18 years old +)	Junior Males (15, 16, & 17 years old)	Junior Females (15, 16, & 17 years old)	Cadet Boys (11,12, 13, & 14 years old)	Cadet Girls (11,12, 13, & 14 years old)	Tykes Boys (8,9 &10 years old)	Tykes Girls (8,9 &10 years old)
Age Range	109.0 – 119.0	95.0- 99.0	99.1 – 109.0	92.5 – 99.0	60.1 -66.0	60.1- 66.0	50.1- 60.0	50.1- 60.0
	119.1 – 125.0	99.1 – 105	109.1 – 119.0	99.1 – 109.0	66.1 – 72.0	66.1 – 72.0	60.1 – 66.0	60.1 – 66.0
	125.1 – 132.0	105.1 – 112	119.1 – 125.0	109.1 – 119.0	72.1 – 79.0	72.1 – 79.0	66.1 – 73.0	66.1 – 73.0
	132.1 – 140.0	112.1 – 119	125.1 – 132.0	119.1 – 125.0	79.1 – 86.0	79.1 – 86.0	73.1 – 79.0	73.1 – 79.0
	140.1 – 148.0	119.1 – 125	132.1 – 140.0	125.1 – 132.0	86.1 – 92.5	86.1 – 92.5	79.1 – 86.0	79.1 – 86.0
	148.1 – 156.5	125.1 – 132	140.1 – 148.0	132.1 – 140.0	92.6 – 99.1	92.6 – 99.1	86.1 – 92.5-	86.1 – 92.5-
	156.6 – 165.0	132.1 – 140	148.1 – 156.5	140.1 – 148.0	99.2 – 106	99.2 – 106	92.6 – 99.0	92.6 – 99.0
	165.1 – 178.0	140.1 – 147	156.6 – 165.0	148.1 – 156.5	106.1 – 112.5	106.1 – 112.5	99.1 – 106	99.1 – 106
	178.1 – 190.0	147.1 – 156.5	165.1 – 178.0	156.6 – 165.0	112.6 – 119.0	112.6 – 119.0	106.1 – 112.5	106.1 – 112.5
	190.1 – 200.0	156.6 – 165	178.1 – 190.0	165.1 – 178.0	119.1 – 125.0	119.1 – 125.0	112.6 – 119.0	112.6 – 119.0
	200+	165.1 – 178.5	190.1 – 200.0	178+	125.1 – 132.0	125.1 – 132.0	119.1 – 125.0	119+
	Division		178.6 +	200+		132.1 – 140.0	132.1 – 140.0	125+
					140.1 – 148.0	140+		
					148.1 – 156.5			
					156.6+			

## APPENDIX B – PROHIBITED STRIKES

PROHIBITED STRIKES: OPEN CLASS				
	<b>Adult OPEN (18 years and older)</b>	<b>Junior OPEN (15,16,17 years)</b>	<b>Cadets OPEN (14-11 years)</b>	<b>Tykes Open (8-10 years)</b>
<b>ROUND LENGTH</b>	3 x 2 min rounds	3 x 2 min rounds	3 x 2 min rounds	3 x 90 second rounds
<b>PROHIBITED STRIKES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knees to the head</li> <li>• Any strike directly to the spine</li> <li>• Any strike directly to the knee</li> <li>• Any strike to the groin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knees to the head</li> <li>• Any strike directly to the spine</li> <li>• Any strike directly to the knee</li> <li>• Any strike to the groin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knees to the head</li> <li>• Any strike directly to the spine</li> <li>• Any strike directly to the knee</li> <li>• Any strike to the groin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knees to the head</li> <li>• Any strike directly to the spine</li> <li>• Any strike directly to the knee</li> <li>• Any strike to the groin</li> </ul>
<b>REQUIRED EQUIPMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open-faced head protector</li> <li>• Shin guards</li> <li>• Elbow pads</li> <li>• Groin protector (Male)</li> <li>• Mouth guard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open-faced head protector</li> <li>• Shin guards</li> <li>• Elbow pads</li> <li>• Groin protector (Male)</li> <li>• Mouth guard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open-faced head protector</li> <li>• Shin guards</li> <li>• Elbow pads</li> <li>• Groin protector (Male)</li> <li>• Mouth guard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open-faced head protector</li> <li>• Shin guards</li> <li>• Elbow pads</li> <li>• Groin protector (Male)</li> <li>• Mouth guard</li> </ul>

PROHIBITED STRIKES: NOVICE CLASS				
	<b>Adult Novice (18 years and older)</b>	<b>Junior Novice (15,16,17 years)</b>	<b>Cadets Novice (14-11 years)</b>	<b>Tykes Novice (8-10 years)</b>
<b>ROUND LENGTH</b>	3 x 2 min rounds	3 x 2 min rounds	3 x 2 min rounds	3 x 90 second rounds
<b>PROHIBITED STRIKES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knees to the head</li> <li>• Any strike directly to the spine</li> <li>• Any strike directly to knee</li> <li>• Any strike to the groin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knees to the head</li> <li>• <b>Elbow Strikes</b></li> <li>• Any strike directly to the spine</li> <li>• Any strike directly to knee</li> <li>• Any strike to the groin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knees to the head</li> <li>• <b>Elbow Strikes</b></li> <li>• Any strike directly to the spine</li> <li>• Any strike directly to knee</li> <li>• Any strike to the groin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knees to the head</li> <li>• <b>Elbow Strikes</b></li> <li>• Any strike directly to the spine</li> <li>• Any strike directly to knee</li> <li>• Any strike to the groin</li> </ul>
<b>REQUIRED EQUIPMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open-faced head protector</li> <li>• Shin guards</li> <li>• Elbow pads</li> <li>• Groin protector (Male)</li> <li>• Mouth guard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open-faced head protector</li> <li>• Shin guards</li> <li>• Groin protector (Male)</li> <li>• Mouth guard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chest protector</b></li> <li>• Open-faced head protector</li> <li>• Shin guards</li> <li>• Groin protector (Male)</li> <li>• Mouth guard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chest protector</b></li> <li>• Open-faced head protector</li> <li>• Shin guards</li> <li>• Groin protector (Male)</li> <li>• Mouth guard</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX C – LOW BLOW PROCEDURE



## APPENDIX D- FOULS

USMTO §16: PROHIBITED CONDUCT (FOULS)			
STRIKES	REPULSIVE BEHAVIOR	MANEUVERS	OBSTRUCTION
Strikes to the back of the head	Attempting to strike an opponent after the referee has ordered a "BREAK"	Attempting to "pile-drive" an opponent's head into the canvas	Facing away from an opponent to avoid a strike
Strikes to the spine	Biting	Grasping an opponent's lower back while hyperextending their spine	Holding the opponent's leg while moving forward & without striking
Strikes to the throat	Hair pulling	Hip throws, shoulder, or leg throws	Holding the ropes or making any unfair use of the ropes
Side-kicks to the front of the opponent's knee	Head-butting	Locking the opponent's arm or head	Intentionally falling down on a on an opponent
Striking an opponent who is down or who is in the act of rising from the mat	Intentionally spitting out the mouthpiece	Shoving, throwing, or wrestling an opponent, except when pushing in a clinch	Intentionally falling down to avoid being struck
Kneeing at the face or groin of the opponent*	Pressing an opponent's eye with the thumb	Throwing, bending the back of opponent with Judo or Wrestling Striking	Not stepping back when ordered to "BREAK"
Striking after the bell has sounded	Making unnecessary contact with, or behaving aggressively towards the referee	Tripping or sweeping an opponent**	Preventing the opponent from returning to the ring after falling out
	Spitting at an opponent		
	Trash-talking during the bout		
	Violations of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) or the USMTO Anti-Doping Code.		

\* If a competitor receives an unintentional knee strike to the head or groin and cannot immediately continue the bout, then the referee will pause the bout for five (5) minutes to allow the affected competitor to recover. If the competitor fails to recover after five (5) minutes, the referee will declare them the loser of the bout.

\*\* Kicking an opponent's foot to cause them to lose balance is permissible as long as the striker uses the top of the foot and/or the front of the shin.



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