



MUAY THAI

OFFICIAL RULES



OFFICIAL RULES

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REVISION HISTORY

06/12/2026

- Details regarding US Open Technical Bouts
- Class-D to now include head contact for adults (18+)
- Section renumbering

05/20/2025

- Name change of the “Pro” division to the “Elite” Division due to regulatory reasons
- Debuts a new semi-contact Development Class (“Class-D”) (New §5)
- § 1 Adjustments to the Experience Class ranges A, B, & C
- Minor changes to the refund/deferral policy to aid in clarification
- § 6 Explanation of Class-D sporting regulations (strikes, equipment, etc.)
- Section renumbering

12/05/2024

- Adds a “Special Acknowledgements” section to credit contributors across the Muay Thai community whose ideas positively contributed towards the formation of these rules.
- §1: Definitions
 - Simplifies the definition of an “Amateur”
 - Revises the definition of a “bout/exhibition” using language from the Arizona Administrative Code (19 A.A.C. 2)
 - Adds “Unarmed Combat” to the definitions section
 - Adds “Controlled Contact Bout” to the definitions section
- §2: Registration
 - Numerous sections renumbered
 - §2.1 Eligibility: Adds that athletes must be “in good standing with the US Open and the overseeing sanctioning entity and not under medical or disciplinary suspension, etc. Adds that United States citizenship is not required.
 - §2.3 the formal training recommended is removed. The risk of the activity is explained in the registration waiver.
 - §2.3 The first usage of the term “Registration Categories” to aid in the understanding of the concept.
 - §2.3.1 adds an “Application Review” clause.
 - §2.4(2) Allows for refunds for Elite Division athletes if they are in a lone bracket and unable to be matched.
 - §2.5.1 removed due to a new redundancy with the revised §2.1
 - §2.8 Underdog Provision removes the requirement for “three years of periodic Muay Thai training”
 - §2.4.1 Registration Protection: In terms of the deadline for refund requests being the start of Bracket Consolidation, defines the Consolidation period as beginning “one month before the date of the first weigh-in”.
- §4: Weigh-ins & Weight Divisions
 - §4.2.1 Clarifies the number of weigh-ins for competitions less than two days in duration and competitions greater than two days in duration.
- §5: Sporting Regulations
 - Revised Bantamweight chart to fix a clerical error
- §7: Medical
 - Adds a clause indicating that all athletes must successfully pass a medical/physical exam administered and certified by a licensed medical doctor.
 - Renumbering

- §9: Bandages & Gloves
 - Effective 12/05/24, Combat Corner is no longer an approved glove provider. The only remaining authorized glove is the US Open® Officially Licensed glove which shall be available at each site location.
- §22: Rules Amendments & Revisions
 - Adds the new section “Rules Amendments & Revisions” to explain the US Open rule making process
- §23: Applicability/Severability renumbered to §23

06/30/2024

- §1 Amends the definition of a “bout” to include light or modified contact contests where a winner is declared.
- §13.5 – Includes “No Shows” or a failure to appear ringside within five minutes of being called by a tournament official as grounds for disqualification.
- US Open Code of Conduct: Authorizes suspensions for the filing of false disputes or chargebacks related to a US Open product or service.

04/12/2023

- Removes all previous provisions of §3
- Renaming §3 from “Sportsmanship” to “Code of Conduct”
- §3.1 requires participants’ compliance with the [US Open Code of Conduct](#)
- §4.5.2 Allows a scheduled bout to continue if an athlete fails to make weight during the second weigh-in (if conditions are met). If the bout is allowed to continue, adds a one (1) point penalty in the first round for the athlete who failed to make weight during the second weigh-in.

11/28/2022 Revision

- Renaming and rebranding of the U.S. Muay Thai Open ® to the US Open™ Muay Thai Championships.
- Removal of the "USMTO" acronym throughout the document.
- §1 adds the definition of “Professional”
- §1 adds “Pro” as an experience class
- §2.1 removes “amateur” from the eligibility rule.
- §2.2.2 excludes Pro Class registrants and Coaches from refunds or deferrals.
- §5 specifies the sporting rules and equipment for “Pro” athletes.
- §6.3 caps weight divisions to 32 competitors and removes references to the splitting of divisions.
- § 21.6 authorizes third-party cash and other grand prizes for division Champions.
- Appendix A – Weigh Divisions: Adds a footnote to show that certain divisions are subject to the sanctioning entity’s maximum weight discrepancy.

05/20/2022 Revision

- §2.1 removes the requirement for athletes and coaches to be a “member in good standing” of a sporting federation or association.
- Deletion of §2.2.2(b) Medical Withdrawals – now covered under new §2.2.3 “Registration Protection”
- Added §2.2.3 “Registration Protection”: In addition to the general refund policy, Registration Protection shall allow an athlete to receive a “no questions asked” refund of their registration fee. Covered registrants may request a registration fee refund before the start of bracket consolidation (one month prior to the weigh-in). Registrants must opt-in for Registration Protection at the time of their registration

- §2.4.1 revises the transfer fee schedule
- §3.2 establishes a US Open Athlete Code of Conduct
- §3.4 removes references to external sporting federations or associations
- §9.1 adds "boxing hand wrap" as an approved bandage
- Deletion of §22 "Regional Series"
- Renumbering of §22 to §23

03/17/22 Revision

- § 1 further clarifies the definition of a "bout" by elaborating on what constitutes a "modified-contact scrimmage"
- § 2 codifies the US Open policy on registration deferrals
- §8.3 better explains the type of head protector allowed for competition
- §12.6.1 replaces "second" with "coach"
- Rules regarding "Mandatory 8-Counts", "Suspending the Count", and "Continuations" moved to §18: Knockdowns.
- §18: Knockdowns renumbered
- Simplified grammar throughout the document

02/10/22 Revision

- General grammatical edits for increased clarity.
- § 1 clarifies the definition of "Bout" to include any modified-contact scrimmage that takes place in front of an audience.
- § 2.2.2(c) amends the refund rule to grant the organizing committee the authority to issue a fee refund its discretion if it is in the best interest of the US Open.
- § 2 repeals the rule that allowed the organizing committee to waive registration fees for US Open champions earned in the directly preceding tournament.
- § 4.2.1: Establishes weight control checks on every third day of competition.
- § 4.5: Reduces the maximum allowable weight cut after a failure to make weight to two (2) lbs. (previously 4.5 lbs.).
- § 9.4 Amends the equipment rules to require each athlete to obtain and use US Open authorized gloves.
- § 10.5 Allows competitors to wear kinesiology tape.
- § 12.1 Requires the head coach to register their assistant coaches.
- § 12.1 Limits the number of corner passes that may be issued based on each club/team's size.
- §21.5 Allows the US Open to design and implement loyalty and rewards programs designed to reward clubs/teams for their activity and participation in US Open events

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

These Official Rules are the result of a collective effort from talented and passionate contributors listed below. Their insightful feedback, suggestions, and attention to detail have been invaluable in shaping the US Open. We are truly grateful for their contribution. The US Open welcomes feedback to help us make this the best Muay Thai tournament in the world!

Thiago Azeredo – Founding Executive Team Member & Founding Tournament Director

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Brandon Jones – Founding Executive Team Member

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Boxing and MMA Commission of the State of Arizona

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§ 1: DEFINITIONS

Amateur: A Muay Thai athlete who has never competed for any money prize.

Professional: A Muay Thai athlete who is age eighteen or older, who has competed in at least one verifiable bout, where prior to that bout, there was an agreed-upon contract for compensation.

Bout/Exhibition: means any demonstration of technique or training in unarmed combat, which is attended by members of the public, including any such demonstration involving the sale of tickets or collection of admission fees¹. **Please be advised that some exhibitions described as being “light contact”, “modified contact”, or “point” style may still qualify as a “bout”.** Contact the US Open if you are unsure if certain experience counts as a bout.

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 a US Open event

Development Class (“Class-D”): Beginning in the fall 2025, the US Open shall feature a standalone Development Class (“Class-D”) for new athletes who are seeking ring experience in a forgiving semi-contact environment with reduced power and emphasis on precision and technique rather than power or damage.

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*.

Doctor: A person generally classified a Medical Doctor (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) who is appointed by the US Open and who possesses a valid license to practice medicine from the regulating state.

US Open Experience Class: A group of competitors with similar levels of experience.

- Elite: At least one professional bout
- Open (Class A): 13+ amateur bouts, no professional bouts
- Intermediate (Class B): 6-12 amateur bouts, no professional bouts
- Novice (Class C): 0-5 amateur bouts, no professional bouts
- Development (Class D): 0-2 amateur bouts, no professional bouts
- Technical Bouts have their own special categories:
 1. **Entry Class:** 0-5 amateur bouts of prior experience
 2. **Experienced Class:** 6+ amateur bouts of prior experience

¹ Derived from the Arizona Administrative Code 19 A.A.C. 2

Involuntary Transfer: The US Open changes the Registrant’s Weight Division or Experience Class 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 for full force 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 submitted an official athlete or coach registration form and has paid the registration fee

Spectator: A person in attendance who is not a competitor, a registered coach, a member of the US Open Staff, sanctioning staff, vendors, or sponsors.

Standby List: A sequential list of Registrants who seek to participate in the US Open but cannot do so because of tournament or bracket 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.

Unarmed Combat: means any professional or amateur training, contest, or exhibition regulated by a duly formed state commission, whether conducted for profit, including boxing, kickboxing, MMA, Muay Thai, or Toughman competition².

US Open: The U.S. Open Muay Thai Championships single elimination tournament

US Open Code of Conduct: A related document that provides the definitions of expected conduct, disciplinary authority, prohibited conduct, and outlines the procedures through which disciplinary hearings are set, sanctions determined, and appeals heard.

US Open Technical Bout (Hereinafter: “Technical Bout”): A US Open Technical Bout is a sanctioned bout with special rules that only permit strikes that are light-contact in nature. Technical bouts differ from the standard US Open Championships in that it is designed as a steppingstone, to give fighters an opportunity to compete in a more forgiving environment. Technical bouts are a great way for newer fighters to gain ring experience and for newer coaches to gain leadership experience, but with a lessened risk of injury. These bouts are designed to build confidence, to educate, and to be fun and rewarding.

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) shall be the official weight designation of the US Open.

Voluntary Transfer: The Registrant elects to change his/her registered Weight Division or Experience Class. The US Open shall disapprove voluntary transfers if doing so would negatively affect the tournament’s bracketing.

² Derived from the Arizona Administrative Code *19 A.A.C. 2*

§ 2: REGISTRATION

2.1 Eligibility: Athletes ages eight (8) years and older are eligible who are in good standing with the US Open and the overseeing sanctioning entity and who are not under medical or disciplinary suspension, etc. may compete in the US Open. United States citizenship is not required. Memberships or affiliations with external federations or associations are not required.

2.2 Registration: Athletes must register to compete in the US Open online at www.usmuaythaiopen.com. Applicants shall not become official registrants until they submit the registration fee.

2.3 Registration Categories: Categories are essential for ensuring fairness in competition. The US Open categories seek to balance physical attributes including age, weight, gender, and experience level.

2.3.1. Application Review: The US Open shall review each registrant's application for discrepancies and false claims, and if necessary, shall involuntarily transfer registrants into the proper category. Registrants may appeal this type of involuntary transfer to the Tournament Director; however, Registrants shall be responsible for providing evidence to support their claim. The Tournament Director, at their sole discretion, shall rule on the issue and their ruling shall be final.

2.4 General Refund Policy: US Open entry, coach, transfer, and other fees are non-refundable except for the following circumstances:

- (1) Any registrant who is unable to compete because they are the sole registrant in their chosen weight class may receive a refund of their registration fee and fees for optional add-ons, except for the Registration Protection Fee. Prior to issuing a refund, the US Open shall attempt to involuntarily transfer the affected registrants, however, all transfers must be in accordance with the sanctioning entity's maximum weight discrepancy standard. If sanctioning entity's weight discrepancy standard disallows a registrant's involuntary transfer, then the US Open shall promptly issue the registrant a full refund of their registration fee.
- (2) Registrants who purchase **Registration Protection** at the time of their registration may request a refund of their registration fee and any optional add-ons, except for the Registration Protection Fee. **Registrants covered by Registration Protection must request any refund no later than one month before the initial weigh-in.** Registrants must opt-in for Registration Protection at the time of their registration. **Registrants in the Class-D and Elite Class are ineligible for Registration Protection or a refund, except in cases where they are in a lone bracket and are unable to be matched.**
- (3) The US Open Organizing Committee may refund fees at its discretion to a registrant, where in the committee's opinion, doing so would be in the best interest of the US Open. Disqualified registrants shall not receive a refund of their registration or fees for optional add-ons.
- (4) Coach Registration fees and Transfer fees are non-refundable.

2.4.2 Deferral Policy: Registrants may request a deferral to the next available event no later than one (1) month prior to the first weigh-in. The US Open may deny deferral requests made

with this one (1) month period. **Registrants in the Technical Bouts, Class-D, and Elite Class are ineligible for a deferral. Coaches are ineligible for a deferral.**

2.5 Voluntary transfers: Registrants may request a Voluntary Transfer to a different weight division or experience class at no charge if the US Open receives the request within 48 hours of their registration.

2.5.1 Registrants who request a voluntary transfer outside of the 48-hour period may do so, however, they must pay a transfer fee per each request. Fees vary depending on when the US Open receives the transfer request. The fee schedule is as follows:

- a) Requests received within 48 hours of registration: FREE
- b) Requests received one month prior to the initial weigh-in: \$15
- c) Requests received within one month of the tournament: \$25
- d) Requests received within seven (7) days of the initial weigh-in: \$45
- e) Requests received on the day of the initial weigh-in: \$75
- f) The Class-D and Technical Bouts transfer fees shall be
 1. \$10 per request prior to the weigh-in day
 2. \$20 on the day of weigh-in

2.6 Registering for multiple divisions: Athletes may register for a maximum of two divisions; however, the divisions must be adjacent. The US Open Bracketing Committee must approve all multiple-division registrations.

2.7 Consolidated weight divisions (AKA “Bracket Consolidation”): One month prior to the weigh-in, and to ensure that competitors have sufficient opportunities to compete, the US Open Bracketing Committee shall consolidate or split over-crowded or unoccupied weight divisions. A consolidated weight division shall replace the weight divisions absorbed. The US Open shall re-open weight divisions per rule 2.7.

2.7.1 The US Open Bracketing Committee shall 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 shall be an “Involuntary Transfer”).

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

2.8 “Underdog” Provision: Exceptional Novice or Intermediate Class athletes may choose to compete in a more advanced amateur class. Registrants wishing to compete in a more advanced class must declare that they understand and accept the increased risks associated with competing against athletes with superior skills. No athlete shall compete in a lesser class.

2.9. The maximum number of competitors in one bracket shall be twenty (20).

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

2.9.2 In order to provide standby candidates with the opportunity to take part in the tournament, registrants who choose not to participate in the event should notify the US Open as soon as possible.

§ 3: CODE OF CONDUCT

3.1. All participants, officials, staff, volunteers, contractors, vendors, and agents of the US Open shall comply with the US Open Code of Conduct found on the [official website](#). The US Open Code of Conduct provides the definitions of expected conduct, disciplinary authority, prohibited conduct, and outlines the procedures through which disciplinary hearings are set, sanctions determined, and appeals heard.

§ 4: WEIGH-IN & WEIGHT DIVISIONS

4.1 Weight Divisions: See **Appendix A** for the weight divisions table (designated in lbs.)

4.2 The Weigh-in: An initial weigh-in shall take place one day prior to the official start of the tournament.

4.2.1 Weight control: For competitions less than two days in duration, athletes shall participate in one weigh-in, which shall occur either one day prior, or on the morning of first day's contest. For competitions greater than two days in duration, athletes shall participate in two weigh-ins: The first to take place one day prior to the competition and other to take place on the morning of the last day's contest. Athletes' weights must be within the minimum and maximum weight allowed for their division.

4.3 Weigh-in Supervision: US Open authorized officials shall supervise the weigh-in and weight control verifications. A club/team delegate may be present at the weigh-in, but they may not interfere in the proceeding.

4.4 Post weigh-in transfers: Post weigh-in transfers are prohibited; Competitors shall only enter the weight division determined at the conclusion of the official weigh-in.

4.5 Failure to make weight: If a competitor fails to make their designated weight at the time of the official weigh-in, the US Open shall allow the competitor one (1) additional opportunity to re-weigh within one hour of the initial weigh-in. The re-weigh must take place before the weigh-in station permanently closes. No athlete shall be allowed to cut more than 2 lbs. to make re-weigh.

4.5.1. Athletes who fail to make weight may request a voluntary transfer to a weight division that corresponds with their recorded weight. The transfer shall not be complete unless the athlete or their designee submits the appropriate fee. Athletes in this circumstance may not transfer to a vacant weight division. The US Open shall disqualify the competitor if they are unable or unwilling to transfer into an active weight-division or if the athlete failed to appear at a required weigh-in.

4.5.2 If an athlete fails to make weight at the second weigh-in, the bout may only continue with the consent of both opponents and if the weight discrepancy between both athletes is less than

five (5) lbs. (2.27 kg). In this circumstance, the athlete who failed to make weight shall forfeit one (1) point in the first round as a penalty for failing to make weight.

4.6 Weighing instruments: The US Open shall use hospital-grade scales to determine official weights. The US Open shall calibrate all instruments prior to weigh-in.

4.7 The US Open shall acknowledge the weight shown on the official US Open scale only.

4.8 Weigh-in attire: The US Open prohibits weighing-in in underwear only or stripping nude.

§ 5: DEVELOPMENT CLASS (“CLASS-D”)

5.1 Eligibility: Athletes with zero (0) to two (2) bouts of experience, as defined by the US Open Official Rules, may compete in Class-D. Note: Participation in a Class-D contest shall count as a “bout” as defined by the US Open Official Rules.

5.1.1 Applicability: Except for the rules detailed in this section, Class-D competitors are subject to all US Open Official Rules and the US Open Code of Conduct.

5.2 Class-D competitors shall compete in a maximum of two contests per day.

5.3 Class-D Rounds: Class-D competitors shall compete in three (3) 90-second rounds with 60-second rest periods.

5.3.1 Class-D Prohibited Strikes: The following is a list of the prohibited strikes in the Class-D Division:

- a) Any strike delivered with a perceived intent to stagger or injure the opponent based on the referee’s interpretation.
- b) Strikes against a staggard opponent
- c) Deliberate strikes to the face or head
- d) Deliberate elbow strikes
- e) Any strike that constitutes a foul per the US Open Official Rules

5.4 Judging: Class-D competitors shall be judged based on a combination of strike quality (Muay Thai technique), volume, and defense. Judges shall not consider power and/or damage in their evaluations.

5.5 Equipment: All Class-D competitors shall compete wearing equipment that conforms to the requirements listed in the Equipment Section (§9) of these Official Rules.

- a) US Open® branded boxing gloves
- b) Open-faced Head Protector
- c) Chest Protector (US Open provided or personally owned)
- d) Shin Guards
- e) Mouth Guard
- f) Groin Guard

5.5.1 Glove Sizes: All boxing gloves shall conform to US Open standard glove sizes.

| § 10.4.1: US OPEN GLOVE SIZES | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Athlete's Weight | 146 lbs. (66.22 kg) or less | 147 lbs. (66.67 kg) or more |
| Size of glove | 10 oz. | 12 oz. |

5.5.2 Attire: All Class-D competitors shall compete wearing:

- a) Muay Thai shorts
- b) A shirt of their choosing that covers the entire torso

5.6 Age & Weight Divisions: Class-D competitors shall conform to the US Open standard for Age & Weight Division. (Appendix A)

5.6.1 Weigh-in: Class-D weigh-in shall conform to the US Open standard for weigh-in.

5.6.2 Weight Division Transfers: Class-D competitors may change weigh divisions; however, must pay a \$10 transfer fee for each request.

5.7 Bracketing & Byes: The Class-D draw shall conform to the US Open standard for bracketing and byes.

5.8 Awards: Class-D competitors shall receive a participation medal.

§ 6: TECHNICAL BOUTS

6.1 Eligibility: Any amateur athlete age 8 and up may participate in a Technical Bout. Note: Participation in a Technical Bout shall count as a "bout" as defined by the US Open Official Rules.

6.1.1 Applicability: Except for the rules detailed in this section, Technical Bout competitors are subject to all US Open Official Rules and the US Open Code of Conduct.

6.2 Technical Bout Rounds shall consist of : Youth (less than 18): 3 x 1:30; Adult (18+) 3 x 2:00, and each shall have one minute rest periods.

6.3 Technical Bouts Prohibited Strikes: The following strikes are strictly forbidden in US Open Technical Bouts to ensure a safe, developmental environment:

- a) **NO** deliberate strikes to the face or head for youth athletes (under 18).
- b) Light strikes to the head are allowed for **adult** athletes (18+)
- c) **NO** deliberate elbow strikes.
- d) **NO** strikes delivered with the **intent** to stagger or injure your opponent.
- e) **NO** strikes against an opponent who is already staggered.
- f) Any other strike that constitutes a foul per the US Open Official Rules

6.4 Judging: Technical Bout competitors shall be judged based on a combination of strike quality (Muay Thai technique), volume, and defense. Judges shall not consider power and/or damage in their evaluations.

6.5 Equipment: Technical Bout competitors shall compete wearing the following equipment that conforms to the requirements listed in the Equipment Section (§9) of these Official Rules.

- g) Any brand of boxing gloves
- h) Open-faced Head Protector
- i) Chest Protector (US Open provided or personally owned)
- j) Shin Guards
- k) Mouth Guard
- l) Groin Guard

6.5.1 Glove Sizes: Technical Bouts will feature the following glove specifications.

| § 6.5.1: US OPEN GLOVE SIZES | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Category | Youth (less than 17 years old | 147 lbs. (66.67 kg) or more |
| Size of glove | 10 oz. | 12 oz. |

6.5.2 Attire: Technical Bout competitors shall compete wearing:

- c) Muay Thai shorts
- d) A shirt of their choosing that covers the entire torso

6.6 Age & Weight Divisions: Technical Bout competitors shall conform to the US Open standard for Age & Weight Division. (Appendix A)

6.6.1 Weigh-in: Technical Bout weigh-in shall conform to the US Open standard for weigh-in.

6.6.2 Weight Division Transfers: Technical Bout competitors may change weigh divisions; however, must pay a \$10 transfer fee for each request.

6.7 Medical: Formal pre-fight medical forms may not be required in certain jurisdictions. Refer to the event announcements for medical requirements specific to your event.

6.8 Bracketing & Byes: The Technical Bout draw shall conform to the US Open standard for bracketing and byes.

6.9 Awards: Technical Bout competitors shall receive a participation medal and a Fighter Report Card ® with feedback on their skill, timing, balance, defense and other techniques.

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§ 7: SPORTING REGULATIONS AT-A-GLANCE

| ADULT DIVISIONS: 18+ 2:00 min x 3 Rounds | | | JUNIOR DIVISIONS: 15-17 2:00 min x 3 Rounds | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| INTERMEDIATE [B] | ELITE & OPEN [A] | NOVICE [C] | INTERMEDIATE [B] | OPEN [A] | NOVICE [C] |
| ✓ All Legal Strikes | ✓ All Legal Strikes | ✗ NO Elbow Strikes | ✓ All Legal Strikes | ✓ All Legal Strikes | ✗ NO Elbow Strikes |
| Required Equipment | Required Equipment | Required Equipment | Required Equipment | Required Equipment | Required Equipment |
| Elbow Pads Head Protector Shin Guards Groin Protector Mouth Guard | Elbow Pads Head Protector Shin Guards Groin Protector Mouth Guard | Head Protector Shin Guards Groin Protector Mouth Guard | Elbow Pads Head Protector Shin Guards Groin Protector Mouth Guard | Elbow Pads Head Protector Shin Guards Groin Protector Mouth Guard | Head Protector Shin Guards Groin Protector Mouth Guard |
| BANTAM DIVISIONS: 11 & 12 1:30 min x 3 Rounds | | | INTERMEDIATE DIVISIONS: 13 & 14 1:30 min x 3 Rounds | | |
| INTERMEDIATE [B] | OPEN [A] | NOVICE [C] | INTERMEDIATE [B] | OPEN [A] | NOVICE [C] |
| ✗ NO Elbow Strikes | ✓ All Legal Strikes | ✗ Elbow Strikes NO Head Strikes | ✗ NO Elbow Strikes | ✓ All Legal Strikes | ✗ NO Elbow Strikes |
| Required Equipment | Required Equipment | Required Equipment | Required Equipment | Required Equipment | Required Equipment |
| Head Protector Shin Guards Groin Protector Mouth Guard | Elbow Pads Head Protector Shin Guards Groin Protector Mouth Guard | Chest Protector Head Protector Shin Guards Groin Protector Mouth Guard | Head Protector Shin Guards Groin Protector Mouth Guard | Elbow Pads Head Protector Shin Guards Groin Protector Mouth Guard | Chest Protector Head Protector Shin Guards Groin Protector Mouth Guard |
| PEE-WEE DIVISIONS: 8 - 10 1:30 min x 3 Rounds | | | Class-D (Development) 1:30 min x 3 Rounds | | |
| INTERMEDIATE [B] | OPEN [A] | NOVICE [C] | All Competitors | | |
| ✗ Elbow Strikes NO Head Strikes | ✗ NO Elbow Strikes | ✗ Elbow Strikes NO Head Strikes | Experience Limit: 0-2 Bouts | | |
| Required Equipment | Required Equipment | Required Equipment | Required Equipment | | |
| Head Protector Shin Guards Groin Protector Mouth Guard | Head Protector Shin Guards Groin Protector Mouth Guard | Chest Protector Head Protector Shin Guards Groin Protector Mouth Guard | ✗ Head Strikes | Chest Protector Head Protector Shin Guards Groin Protector Mouth Guard | |
| | | | ✗ Elbow Strikes | | |
| | | | ✗ Excessive Power/Damage | | |

§ 8: THE BRACKET & BYES

8.1 After the weigh-in, the US Open Bracketing Committee shall establish the brackets for all divisions and classes. Sanctioning officials are permitted oversee the bracketing process.

8.2 Methodology: The US Open shall use a computerized, random-selection method to decide the first-series bouts and byes.

8.3 No weight division bracket shall have more than 36 competitors.

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

8.5 The US Tournament Director may only override the computer-generated bout order to alleviate critical conflicts. The Tournament Director shall not override the computer-generated draw, bye, or bout order when doing so would provide any participant with a special personal privilege or advantage.

§ 9: MEDICAL

9.1 No athlete may compete in the US Open unless they successfully pass a medical/physical exam pre-administered and certified by a Licensed Medical Doctor as defined by these rules. Any documentation required to be filed under this article shall be in a manner and on a form or forms prescribed by the supervising sanctioning entity. Athletes shall furnish all information required by statute and such other information the sanctioning entity may deem appropriate. Medical requirements may change depending on the jurisdiction, so please refer to the event announcements for medical requirements specific to your event.

9.2 Blood Testing: Competitors ages sixteen (16) and older must undergo a blood screening and be free from Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). No athlete required to undergo blood testing may compete in the US Open unless they provide lab test results showing a negative presence of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV and said results are certified by the US Open's licensed Doctor. Testing frequency and other requirements may change depending on local laws or sanctioning rules. Please refer to the event announcements for specific requirements.

9.3 Pregnancy Screening: All female athletes ages fifteen (15) and older must undergo a hCG urine pregnancy test. The US Open shall offer the tests free of charge.

9.4 Pre-Medical Screening: A qualified physician shall examine and screen each competitor prior to the weigh-in and shall decide as to whether a competitor is physically fit to compete in US Open.

9.5 Medical Suspensions: No athlete may participate in the US Open while on a medical suspension issued by a duly empowered sanctioning entity.

§ 10: ATHLETE EQUIPMENT

10.1 Mouthpieces: Competitors shall wear a form-fitting mouthpiece during bouts.

10.1.1 Competitors shall not intentionally remove their mouthpiece during the bout.

10.1.2 If a competitor has his mouthpiece knocked out, the referee shall take the competitor to their corner to have the mouthpiece cleaned then returned to its proper position. The second may not to instruct or coach the competitor during this procedure.

10.2 Groin protectors: Male competitors must wear a jock strap (Fig.4) or athletic supporter (Fig. 5). Female competitors have the choice to wear a groin protector (see Fig.6). All competitors must supply their own groin protectors.

Fig.4

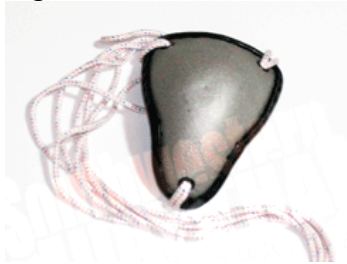


Fig.5



Fig.6



10.3 Head Protector: The use of a competition-grade head protector is mandatory for all competitors. The head protector must not have features that offer protection to the nose, cheek, mouth and chin areas (open-faced).



Fig. 7

10.4 Elbow pads: Cloth elbow pads are mandatory for amateur competitors who compete in an experience class that allows the use of elbows for strikes. US Open® Officially Licensed elbow pads shall be available for purchase at each site location.

10.5 Shin Guards: Cloth shin guards are mandatory for all amateur competitors. US Open® Officially Licensed shin guards shall be available for purchase at each site location.



(Fig 8).

10.6 Body protectors: Certain competitors must wear a chest protector (Fig 8). The US Open shall supply chest protectors to all competitors. See § 5 for more details.

Fig. 8



Fig. 9

10.6.1 Female Chest Protection: Female competitors may use specialty chest protectors (Fig. 10); however, they must supply their own.



Fig. 10

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

10.7.1 Competitors may apply petroleum jelly to their face to reduce the risk of cuts; however, the US Open prohibits the application of petroleum jelly, lineament, or any foreign substance to any equipment (gloves etc.).

10.8 Competitors may wear soft ankle or foot supports.

10.9 Eyewear: The US Open prohibits the wearing of eyeglasses; however, competitors may wear soft contact lenses.

§ 11: BANDAGES & GLOVES

11.1 Bandage specifications: Competitors must use a soft surgical bandage or boxing hand wrap no longer than 180 inches and whose width does not exceed 5 cm. The US Open forbids the use of any other bandage.

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

11.3 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.

11.4 Authorized Gloves: Except for Technical Bouts, each competitor shall obtain and only utilize US Open® Officially Licensed gloves which shall be available at each site location.

11.4.1 The following table lists the approved glove sizes:

| § 11.4.1: US OPEN GLOVE SIZES | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Athlete's Weight | 146 lbs. (66.22 kg) or less | 147 lbs. (66.67 kg) or more |
| Size of glove | 10 oz. | 12 oz. |

11.6 Glove supervision: The sanctioning entity shall appoint one or two officials to supervise glove and bandage fitting and to enforce the US Open's rules on gloves and other equipment.

§ 12: DRESS CODE

12.1 Authorized Dress: Each competitor must wear Muay Thai style shorts (see Fig. 11). Class A, B, & C, athletes shall wear an official US Open jersey. No attire may display profanity or images considered offensive by the US Open.

Fig. 11



12.2 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.

12.3 Jewelry: Competitors shall not wear any jewelry or other foreign objects during the bout.

12.4 Dangerous articles: The US Open prohibits adornments that could disrupt the competitor or their opponent.

12.5 Competitors may wear athletic tape, however, athletes may not apply tape to any part of the hand or foot and any tape must be removed if deemed excessive by an official.

12.6 Dress infraction: Dress infraction: The referee may warn competitors who violate the dress code. Failure to correct dress code violations may result in disqualification.

§ 13: ROUNDS

13.1 Wai Kru: Due to time constraints, competitors shall refrain from the performing the “Wai Kru;” however, “sealing of the ring” prior to the beginning of the bout is permitted.

13.2 Rounds: Class A, B, and C bouts shall consist of three (3), 2-minute rounds with one (1) minute of rest in between each round. See Section §5 for Class-D rules.

13.3 Special provisions for Class A, B, and C Bantam and Pee- wee weight divisions: (3), 1:30-rounds with one (1) minute of rest.

13.4 Stoppage: Any stoppage of a bout for warnings, cautions, counting, adjustments of clothing or equipment, or for any other reason considered proper by the referee shall not affect the round duration.

13.5 Draws: If the judges’ ruling results in a draw, the US Open shall add one (1) additional round to the bout. The winner of the added round shall be the winner of the bout.

§ 14: COACHES (SECONDS)

14.1 Each club/team’s head coach or designee must pre-register their coaching staff with the US Open. The US Open shall limit the number of assistant coaches and corner passes per club/team based on the club/team’s size (Fig 12). Registration shall not be complete until the coach registration fee is paid. Each registered coach shall receive a corner pass credential that shall grant access to the competition area. The corner pass shall remain property of the US Open and may be rescinded by the US Open.

| Fig 12. Assistant Coach Limits | |
|--|---|
| # of Registered Athletes per club/team | Maximum # of Assistant Coaches Allowed (excluding head trainer) |
| 1-4 | 2 |
| 5-9 | 4 |
| 10+ | 6 |

14.2 Number of ringside coaches: Each competitor is entitled to a maximum number of two (2) ringside coaches.

14.2.2. A registered coach may corner any registered athlete regardless of club/team affiliation.

14.3 Applicability: Coaches shall abide by the US Open Official Rules; non-compliance shall be punishable by the disqualification of coaches or competitors by US Open officials.

14.3.1 The referee shall reserve the right to remove coaches who violate US Open rules. Any removed second must immediately vacate the competition area and they must not return without the consent of the referee.

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

14.4.1 No coached shall remain on the ring's apron during the bout.

14.5 Additional duties: Coaches shall remove seats, towels, buckets, etc. from the ring platform before the start of each round.

14.6 "Throwing in the towel": A second shall signal the referee to end the bout when they consider their competitor to be in danger.

14.6.1 No coach shall "throw in the towel" during the referee's count.

14.7 Coaches shall not incite spectators by words or signals.

14.8 The US Open shall arrange a meeting with the coaches to explain the rules of the US Open and/or the sanctioning entity.

§ 15: THE REFEREE

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

- a) Officiate in the ring during the bout
- b) Detect and enforce violations of US Open rules
- c) Notify competitors of any infraction via verbal explanation or gesture
- d) Always keep control of the contest
- e) Prevent needless injuries
- f) Inspect the competitor's clothing and equipment
- g) Any other duties considered necessary by the US Open

15.2 Commands: Competitors shall always obey the Referee's commands. The Referee shall issue three (3) standard commands to competitors during the bout:

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

15.3 Issuance of "cautions": Referees shall not stop a bout to issue a caution, but they shall use a reasonable amount of time to address the competitor of concern.

15.3.1 Issuance of "warnings": If Referee intends to warn a competitor, they shall stop the bout and describe the foul committed. Referee shall then notify the Judges by pointing to the offending boxer, and then to each of the three (3) Judges.

15.4 Powers to End the Bout: The Referee shall end a bout if they have reasonable cause to believe that further participation may cause unnecessary injury to a competitor.

15.4.1 Referees shall not end a round where a competitor receives a hard strike to the head that makes them temporarily incapable of mounting an immediate defense; Referees shall provide competitors with a reasonable amount of time to recover and to mount a defense.

15.4.2 Referees shall refrain from stopping a bout based solely on one competitor being the recipient of the most strikes, while not scoring for themselves.

15.4.3 The Referee shall interrupt the bout and summon the Doctor if they have a reasonable cause to believe that the athlete is suffering from medical distress.

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

- a) Is intentionally defying the rules or committing fouls
- b) Engages in unsportsmanlike conduct
- c) Does not follow the Referee's commands
- d) Behaves in a disrespectful or aggressive manner towards any official
- e) Incurs an excessive number of fouls or warnings (three [3] or more)
- f) Is not genuine in their performance ("flopping", purposefully granting the opponent an easy victory)
- g) "No Show" - Fails to appear for a scheduled bout after three notifications made by a tournament official to the athlete or coach, or if an athlete fails to appear within five minutes of being called to compete by a tournament official.

15.5.1 If a Referee DQs a competitor or stops a bout, they shall immediately inform the Judges of the circumstances surrounding the decision to DQ or stop.

15.5.2 Referees shall declare a DQ competitor to be the loser of the bout.

15.5.3 If the Referee decides that an intentional foul caused an injury to a competitor and that competitor cannot continue because of the injury sustained, then the Referee shall DQ the offending competitor.

15.6 The Referee shall count at a pace of one (1) count per second.

15.6.1 The Referee shall count and make a gesture with his/her hand in a method that the knocked-down athlete could decipher each hand signal to stand for a passing second.

15.9 Interpretation of the Rules: Referees shall enforce the rules in an impartial manner and consistent with principles of their professional training. Referees may exercise their discretion in addressing any situation not covered by the official rules.

§ 16: JUDGES

16.1 Duties of Judges: Judges shall independently analyze each competitor and shall decide the winner of a bout according to US Open rules and conventional Muay Thai standards.

16.2 Judges shall use annotate scores awarded to each competitor on an official scorecard at the end of each round. The US Open permits digital score keeping.

16.2.1 After the bout, the chief judge shall tally the score, declare a winner, and certify the scorecard.

16.2.2 The scorecard shall be a public record; Information seekers should inquire to the US Open in writing.

16.3 Judges shall not leave their seat until the announcer delivers the verdict to the public.

16.4 Judges shall 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, potential ring hazards, etc.).

16.5 Powers to Overrule: The chief judge shall have the power to overrule a lesser Judge's decision.

16.6 Protests: Athletes or their designee shall direct disputes of Judges' decisions to the supervising sanctioning entity only. The US Open shall not have the authority to overturn bout decisions.

§ 17: THE TIMEKEEPER

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

17.2 Time Measurement: The Timekeeper shall use a digital time keeping device to measure time.

17.3 Signaling: To signal the beginning and end of each round, the Timekeeper shall strike a gong or bell or create a distinct audible tone using an approved signaling device.

17.4 The Timekeeper shall present an audible signal ten (10) seconds before the start of a round; all Seconds shall leave the ring at the sounding of this signal.

17.5 Knockdown Procedure: During “Knockdowns”, the Timekeeper shall aid the Referee by raising her/his hand while making hand gestures that stand for the passing of time.

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

17.7 “Saved-by-the-bell: If an athlete is “down” and the Referee is counting, the Timekeeper shall not signal the end of a round if time expires during the count. In such situations, Timekeepers shall only signal the end of the round when Referee issues the command “BOX” or ends the bout.

§ 18: THE DOCTOR

18.1 A Doctor shall remain ringside for the duration of every bout.

18.2 The main duties of the Doctor are as follows:

- a) Examine the health of athletes
- b) Certify that athletes are fit to compete before the weigh-in and during competition
- c) Provide medical opinions pertaining to the injuries sustained to the athletes upon the Referee’s request.
- d) Make no delay in ending 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.
- e) Examine each athlete post-bout and certify that they are in good health.
- f) Supervise and delegate responsibilities to subordinate medical staff.

18.3 The Doctor shall signal the termination of a bout by notifying the Referee, mounting the ring’s apron, or by notifying the Timekeeper to strike the gong/bell.

18.4 Unconscious Athlete: If an athlete goes unconscious, the Doctor and other medical staff shall make no delay in giving medical aid to the unconscious athlete. All others present must remain outside of the ring unless summoned by the Doctor or Referee.

18.5 Hospital Evaluation: If an athlete goes unconscious, the Doctor may authorize emergency transport to the nearest hospital for treatment and evaluation.

18.5.1 Athletes subject to §16.5 shall contact the US Open or its designee within the first 24 hours of the occurrence and inform the US Open of any changes to their medical condition.

18.6 Head Hits: The Doctor shall make no delay in examining an athlete who suffers a KO because of a head hit, or when the Referee stops a bout based on a reasonable cause to believe that the athlete is in medical distress.

18.7 Precautionary Cooling off: The 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.

§ 19: SCORING & DECISIONS

19.1 Scoring Generally: Muay Thai scoring is based on objective and subjective opinions. Although subjectivity shall remain an inherent feature of the sport, US Open judges shall strive to make decisions based on observable and articulable evidence. Judges have the authority to make decisions based on their discretion influenced by their knowledge, skills, training, and experience.

19.2 Assigning Score: Judges shall reward athletes for blows that land on an opponent's body by way of punches, kicks, knees, or elbow strikes; *however*, athletes shall not receive credit if their opponent blocks or guards against it.

19.3 “Muay Thai Skill”: In circumstances where neither athlete is dominant, judges shall give preference to the athlete who showed the clearest Muay Thai skill as defined by these Official Rules.

19.3.1 Other Considerations: Judges may also consider the following factors in their decision-making:

- a) Level of energy or exhaustion
- b) Level of bruising.
- c) Level of aggression
- d) Number of rule infractions
- e) Showing a strong defense: blocking, parrying, sidestepping, etc. and by causing the opponent's strikes to miss.

19.4 Score System: The “10-9-8” score system shall be judges' official quantitative measure of athletes' relative performances in a round.

19.4.1 Judges shall decide an athlete's score based on the following criteria:

- a) Judges shall award a superior athlete a score of “10” and their opponent a score of “9” when based on the evidence, the superior athlete displayed slight dominance over their opponent.
- b) Judges shall award a superior athlete a score of “10” and their opponent a score of “8” when based on the evidence, the superior athlete displayed undisputable dominance over their opponent.
- c) Judges shall award a superior athlete a score of “10” and their opponent a score of “7” when based on the evidence, the superior athlete displayed tremendous dominance over their opponent.

19.4.2 Winning by Score: Judges shall sum each athlete's score at the end of the bout; the athlete with the greatest score shall win the bout.

19.5 Deductions: The referee shall recommend score deductions for athletes who commit fouls.

19.6 No Decision: Judges shall issue a “no decision” ruling if both athletes cheat or fail to compete in a genuine manner. The US Open shall consider both athletes to be the loser in case of a “No Decision”.

19.7 No Contest: Judges shall issue a “no contest” ruling if an external event occurs during the bout and it that causes the referee to permanently stop the bout. Judges shall tally the available score and issue a ruling to declare a winner.

19.8 Judging Appeals: The US Open shall not accept requests for judging appeals. Athletes and coaches may request an appeal to the supervising sanctioning entity only. The appeals process may differ depending on the sanctioning entity; therefore, interested parties should direct all appeals-related questions to the applicable sanctioning entity.

19.8.1 Continuance of Competition: A competition that is underway shall not be stopped because of a judging appeal. The supervising sanctioning entity shall consider and settle appeals according to its own policies and procedures.

19.8.2 Overturned Decisions: The supervising sanctioning entity shall have the sole authority to overturn appealed decisions.

19.8.3 The supervising sanctioning entity shall notify the US Open in writing of all appeals and score changes. The US Open shall amend the national database to reflect any appeal decision.

§ 20: KNOCKDOWNS

20.1 Definition: An athlete is “knocked down” when:

- a) An athlete receives a strike, and it causes the athlete to touch the floor with any part of his/her body other than the foot
- b) An athlete hangs helplessly on the ropes because of a strike
- c) An athlete falls partially or completely outside of the ropes because of a strike
- d) An athlete is in a semi-conscious state because of a strike and the athlete is unable to defend themself.

20.2 The Knockdown Count: The Referee shall begin to count aloud from one (1) to ten (10) after a knockdown. Downed athletes must continue the bout within a count of ten (10).

20.2.1 Mandatory Eight-count: When an athlete becomes down, the Referee shall interrupt the bout to issue a verbal count to eight (8). The Referee shall not stop the count before they count to eight (8) regardless of if the athlete recovers before the count reaches eight (8).

20.2.2 Continuations: If a downed athlete recovers during a count to eight (8), but immediately falls again without first being struck by an opponent, then the Referee shall resume the count from eight (8). If the athlete does not recover before a count to ten (10), then the athlete shall lose the match by way of a “knockout”.

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

20.4 Suspending the Count: The Referee shall suspend the count if an opponent does not retreat to the neutral corner and she/he shall continue to suspend it until the opponent moves fully into the corner. Referees shall continue their count from the point of interruption.

20.5 The Knockout (KO): The Referee shall stop the bout upon issuing a downed athlete a ten-count, afterwards, the standing opponent shall earn a KO and a win.

20.6 If the Referee believes that a downed athlete is suffering from a potential medical emergency and they summon the Doctor before reaching the count of ten (10), then the referee shall stop the bout and award the standing athlete a win by TKO.

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

- a) Voluntarily forfeits for any reason while the bout is underway
- b) Coach “throws in the towel” on their behalf
- c) Receives three (3) eight-counts during one bout
- d) Does not resume the bout immediately after the rest period in between rounds
- e) By a Referee’s opinion, is grossly outmatched, receiving excessive punishment, or is unfit to continue
- f) By the Referee or Doctor’s opinion, is unfit to continue the bout due to medical distress or an injury sustained because of a legitimate strike
- g) Refuses to make an honest effort to compete
- h) Is knocked out of the ring and is unable to return into the ring without aid and within thirty (30) seconds

20.8 Double Knockdowns: If both athletes go down at the same time, the Referee shall continue the count if one athlete is still down.

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

20.9 No “Saved by the bell”: If the timekeeper signals the end of a round while the Referee is counting for a downed athlete, the referee shall disregard the signal and continue the count. If the Referee reaches a count of ten (10) and the downed athlete does not stand, then the standing opponent shall earn a KO and a win.

§ 21: FOULS

21.1 General Provision: An athlete who commits a foul shall be subject to a verbal reprimand by the Referee. If the athlete repeats a foul, the Referee shall deduct one point from the athletes score. If the athlete further commits the same foul, the Referee may at their discretion, end the bout, DQ offender, and award the opponent with a win. Referees may DQ an athlete for excessive fouling.

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

21.2.1 Athletes may receive a maximum of one (1) warning per infraction, per bout. Referees shall deduct points for later warnings for the same infraction.

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

21.4 Judges Discretion: Judges reserve the right to assess the seriousness of fouls and may impose a suitable scoring penalty for any foul seen by them, regardless if the Referee observed such foul.

21.5 Ability to Consult Judges: Referees who have a reasonable cause to believe that an athlete has committed a foul that they were unable to see, may consult the Judges to determine if a foul did occur.

21.6 Low-Blows: A low-blow is a strike to the groin area. The supervising sanctioning entity shall follow their low-blow procedure.

21.7 See **Appendix B** for the full list of fouls.

§ 22: RINGSIDE EQUIPMENT

22.1 The following ringside equipment shall be placed ringside during each bout:

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

22.2 Coaches must have the following items ringside during each bout:

- a) One (1) corner tote or bucket
- b) One (1) plastic bottle for the athlete's hydration and mouth rinsing
- c) One (1) plastic spray bottle
- d) Two (2) clean towels
- e) Wound care instruments

§ 23: AWARDS & RECOGNITION

23.1 General Provision: Athletes are not eligible to receive an award, symbolic artifact, or designation unless they have won at least one US Open or Technical bout.

23.2 The US Open Organizing Committee shall decide the type, design, and criteria for awards for each division.

23.3 Duplication: No person or entity shall duplicate a US Open award without the expressed written consent of the US Open.

23.4 Replacements: The US Open shall not offer replacement awards if the original is lost, stolen, or damaged after issuance.

23.5 The US Open Organizing Committee may design and implement loyalty and rewards programs designed to reward clubs/teams for their activity and participation in US Open events. Clubs/teams may voluntarily choose to join these programs. The organizing committee shall publish the eligibility rules, terms, and conditions associated with each program.

23.6 Grand Prizes: The US Open may allow a third party to award Elite Division Champions and amateur division champions (Novice, Intermediate, & Open) with cash and other grand prizes including, but not limited to: endorsement deals, scholarships, and education and travel stipends. The US Open shall announce the details of any such third-party issued grand prizes via through event announcements.

§ 24: RULES AMENDMENTS & REVISIONS

24.1 The US Open shall conduct a comprehensive review of its rules and procedures at least annually. This review shall be led by a designated committee comprising representatives from various departments and select members of the Muay Thai community. The committee shall assess the effectiveness of existing rules, their alignment with current industry standards and legal requirements, and their impact on operational efficiency. Feedback shall be solicited through surveys and open forums to identify areas for improvement. Based on the findings of this review, the committee shall recommend necessary modifications or additions to the rulebook, ensuring that they remain relevant, clear, and conducive to the organization's goals.

§ 25: APPLICABILITY/SEVERABILITY

25.1. These rules apply to the extent that they do not conflict with local laws or sanctioning rules. Local laws and/or sanctioning rules may supersede portions of these rules. Should any part of these rules be deemed illegal or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder shall remain in force. These rules shall rescind all previously published rules of the US Open.

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APPENDIX A- WEIGHT DIVISIONS

| Age Range | Masters Male (40 years old +) | Masters Females (40 years old +) | Adult Males (18 years old +) | Adult Female (18 years old +) | Junior Males (15, 16, & 17 years old) | Junior Females (15, 16, & 17 years old) | Intermediate Boys (13 & 14 years old) | Intermediate Girls (13 & 14 years old) | Bantam Girls & Boys (11 & 12 years old) | Pee-wee Boys (8,9 &10 years old) | Pee-wee Girls (8,9 &10 years old) |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Weight Division | 109.0 – 119.0 | 95.0- 99.0 | 109.0 – 119.0 | 95.0- 99.0 | 99.1 – 109.0 | 92.5 – 99.0 | 60.1 -66.0 | 60.1 -66.0 | 60.1- 66.0 | 50.1 - 55.0 | 50.1 - 55.0 |
| | 119.1 – 125.0 | 99.1 – 105 | 119.1 125.0 | 99.1 – 105 | 109.1 –119.0 | 99.1 – 109.0 | 66.1 – 72.0 | 66.1 – 72.0 | 66.1 – 72.0 | 55.1 – 60.0 | 55.1 – 60.0 |
| | 125.1 – 132.0 | 105.1 – 112 | 125.1 –132.0 | 105.1 – 112 | 119.1 – 125.0 | 109.1 – 119.0 | 72.1 – 79.0 | 72.1 – 79.0 | 72.1 – 79.0 | 60.1 – 66.0 | 60.1 – 66.0 |
| | 132.1 – 140.0 | 112.1 – 119 | 132.1 – 140.0 | 112.1 – 119 | 125.1 – 132.0 | 119.1 – 125.0 | 79.1 – 86.0 | 79.1 – 86.0 | 79.1 – 86.0 | 66.1 – 73.0 | 66.1 – 73.0 |
| | 140.1 – 148.0 | 119.1 – 125 | 140.1 – 148.0 | 119.1 – 125 | 132.1 – 140.0 | 125.1 – 132.0 | 86.1 – 92.5 | 86.1 – 92.5 | 86.1 – 92.5 | 73.1 – 79.0 | 73.1 – 79.0 |
| | 148.1 – 156.5 | 125.1 – 132 | 148.1 – 156.5 | 125.1 – 132 | 140.1 – 148.0 | 132.1 – 140.0 | 92.6 – 99.1 | 92.6 – 99.1 | 92.6 – 99.1 | 79.1 – 86.0 | 79.1 – 86.0 |
| | 156.6 – 165.0 | 132.1 – 140 | 156.6 – 165.0 | 132.1 – 140 | 148.1 – 156.5 | 140.1 – 148.0 | 99.2 – 106 | 99.2 – 106 | 99.2 – 106 | 86.1 – 92.5- | 86.1 – 92.5- |
| | 165.1 – 172.0 | 140.1 – 147 | 165.1 – 172.0 | 140.1 – 147 | 156.6 – 165.0 | 148.1 – 156.5 | 106.1 – 112.5 | 106.1 – 112.5 | 106.1 – 112.5 | 92.6 –99.0 | 92.6 –99.0 |
| | 172.1 – 181.0 | 147.1 – 156.5 | 172.1 –181.0 | 147.1 –156.5 | 165.1 – 172.0 | 156.6 – 165.0 | 112.6 – 119.0 | 112.6 – 119.0 | 112.6 – 119.0 | 99.1 – 106 | 99.1 – 106 |
| | 181.1 – 190.0 | 156.6 – 165 | 181.1 – 190.0 | 156.6 – 165 | 172.1 – 181.0 | 165.1 – 172.0 | 119.1 – 125.0 | 119.1 – 125.0 | 119.1 – 125.0 | 106.1 –112.5 | 106.1 – 112.5 |
| | 190.1 – 200.0 | 165.1 – 178.5 | 190.1 – 200.0 | 165.1 – 172 | 181.1 – 190.0 | 172.1 – 181.0 | 125.1 – 132.0 | 125.1 – 132.0 | 125.1 – 132.0 | 112.6 – 119.0 | 112.6 – 119.0 |
| | 200.1 –215 | 178.6 + | 200.1 – 215 | 172.1 – 178 | 190.1 – 200.0 | | 132.1 – 140.0 | 132.1 – 140.0 | 132.1 – 140.0 | 119.1 – 125.0 | 119+ |
| | 215.1 +* | | 215.1 +* | 178 +* | 200.1 – 215 | | 140.1 – 148.0 | 140.1+* | 140+* | 125+* | |
| | | | | 215.1+ * | | 148.1 – 156.5 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 156.6 +* | | | | | |

*Subject to the sanctioning entity’s maximum weight discrepancy.

APPENDIX B- FOULS

| US Open §19.7: 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 maneuvers | 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 US Open 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 shall pause the bout for five (5) minutes to allow the affected competitor to recover. If the competitor does not recover after five (5) minutes, the referee shall declare them the loser of the bout.

** Kicking an opponent’s foot to cause them to lose balance is permissible if the striker uses the top of the foot or the front of the shin.

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