

**NEVADA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION RING OFFICIALS**  
**CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT**

1. CODE OF ETHICS

Ring officials, including inspectors, referees, judges, timekeepers and ringside physicians perform an essential function and have a special responsibility to the public and the sport of unarmed combat. Ring officials must uphold high standards of performance by exhibiting integrity, neutrality, respect, sensitivity, professionalism, discretion and tactfulness at all times.

A license granted to a ring official is a privilege license. To obtain a ring official's license, a person must exhibit special skills. The actions of each ring official reflect on all other ring officials as well as the State of Nevada. A ring official's performance impacts public confidence in the sport of unarmed combat.

In order to enhance the public's faith in the integrity and impartiality of ring officials, adequate guidelines are required to show the appropriate separation between the roles of the ring officials and any other licensee or their associates. The professionalism, integrity and ethics of the ring official are fundamental to the future of the sport. As such, a ring official must be especially careful not to engage in any conduct which would discredit unarmed combat.

Although ring officials are independent contractors and not employees of the Commission, a ring official must remain impartial and not perform any act which would lead to the appearance of impropriety or be a direct conflict of interest, or lead to improper expectations from a licensee.

Therefore:

A ring official must commit himself or herself to avoid conflicts or the appearance of impropriety between the ring official's private interests and those of any licensee or their associates. The ring officials must resist temptation and outside pressure to use his or her position to benefit himself or herself.

A ring official must never ask or accept any consideration or favorable treatment from any licensee or their associates. This includes, but is not limited to, tickets, credentials, upgrades, memorabilia, souvenirs, photos, gifts, autographs, meals, programs, drinks, banners, promotional material or anything not available to the general public.

A ring official must recognize that anything which may lead to a conflict of interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided. Accordingly, a ring official must not seek or accept any gift, service, favor, employment, engagement, emolument or economic opportunity which would tend to give an impression that it would improperly influence a reasonable person in the ring official's position to depart from the faithful and impartial discharge of the ring official's duties.

A ring official shall not accept any salary, retainer, augmentation, compensation or favor from any private source for the performance of the ring official's duties. No ring official should fraternize excessively with any contestant, manager, promoter, sanctioning body representative, trainer or second before, during or after any contest.

If a ring official acquires, through its official duties or relationships, any information which by law or practice is not at the time available to the public generally, the ring official shall not release the information or use the information to further a pecuniary interest of him/herself or any other person or business entity.

A ring official must not suppress any report or other official document because it might tend to unfavorably affect a pecuniary interest of another.

A ring official must self-report any positive result on a drug screen for any illegal drug and/or if he or she has become chemically dependent or engaged in the abuse of drugs and/or alcohol. A ring official must self-report any DUI's, arrests, convictions, bankruptcy, financial judgments, license denials, and any other information that may potentially reflect negatively on the licensee and/or the Commission.

The ring official must not predict or express an opinion about the outcome of a bout to anyone, and should be especially careful not to exhibit any partiality, support, or show any favoritism at any time, prior to, during, or after the contest. No ring official should communicate any information about any contest through any form of media including social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) prior to, during, or after the event without Commission approval.

During a contest, a ring official should not comment on their view of how the contest is progressing or take part in any unnecessary conversations with contestants, managers or seconds or their associates. A ring official should never publically criticize the performance of any contestant.

A ring official must never place wagers or bet or receive a benefit from any bet directly or indirectly on a contest. It is unethical for any ring official to bet on unarmed combat at any time.

A ring official must not make false or misleading statements regarding their qualifications, rating, credentials, experience, training or competence. Officials should work with each other and their governing bodies in a constructive and cooperative manner.

A ring official must treat other officials with professional dignity and courtesy and recognize that it is inappropriate to publicly criticize the performance of any other ring official. Any concern regarding the performance of another official should be addressed to the Executive Director, Chief Inspector or representative of the Commission.

A ring official should not publicly criticize the appointment of any other ring official.

Any ring official that accepts an assignment out of state must be cognizant of the fact that their actions reflect on the sport of unarmed combat in the State of Nevada. Accordingly, a ring official must not engage in any activity that would deviate from the ethical standards expected in Nevada, regardless where the ring official is.

In the event that a ring official feels that they may have a conflict or cannot be completely fair and impartial to both contestants, they must decline the appointment. Any decision impacted by personal bias is dishonest and unacceptable.

Ring officials must accept responsibility for all actions taken.

## 2. CODE OF CONDUCT

Ring officials have a responsibility to keep their skills sharp and must continually seek self-improvement through study and practice. A ring official should have a basic knowledge of the laws and regulations concerning unarmed combat. Ring officials shall master both rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner, in accordance with the high standards of the profession.

Ring officials are assigned at the discretion of the Commission and/or Executive Director. Assignments are based on prior experience, competence, ability, recent performances, professional attitude, and compliance with the code of conduct and ethics, as well as the estimated difficulty of the contest. No ring official has the "right" to any assignment. Requesting or lobbying the staff, Executive Director or Commission for specific officiating assignments is inappropriate.

Ring officials must uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interactions with colleagues, licensees and the public.

Ring officials must possess superior communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal.

Ring officials must be prepared to perform their official functions both physically and mentally.

Ring officials must dress neatly and appropriately to ensure a professional appearance.

Ring officials should refrain from using alcohol on the day of the contest. If a ring official has been prescribed any medication which may affect the ring official's ability to fully perform their duty, the ring official should inform the Executive Director no later than 45 minutes prior to the first scheduled contest so a medical determination can be made regarding the ring official's ability to officiate.

Ring officials must wear any vision correction eyewear which has been prescribed by a vision professional. Dark eyeglasses may not be worn during a bout unless prescribed as necessary by a vision professional.

Ring officials should be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations. Ring officials should remain at ringside until the end of the last contest, and be prepared to substitute at any time in a contest for another assigned official, unless they are excused by the Executive Director.

A ring official should not encourage, assist or permit unauthorized persons including friends and family members who are not representatives of the Commission to gain entrance to the event, and/or sit with them in the assigned seating, and/or to enter other restricted areas.

### 3. DISCLOSURES

A ring official must disclose information concerning a gift, loan, pecuniary interest or commitment in a private capacity to the interests of a person that is a licensee or an associate of a licensee. The disclosure should be made to the Executive Director or to the representative of the Commission.

### 4. DISCIPLINE

Violation of any of the provisions of the Code of Ethics and Conduct by any ring official may be considered a failure or refusal to comply with a valid order of a representative of the Commission or conduct which is deemed by the Commission to reflect discredit to unarmed combat in violation of NAC 467.885(4 & 5). As a result, the Commission may take disciplinary action against a ring official which can include revocation, suspension and/or fines.

By signing below, I hereby attest that I have read and understand this document, and agree to comply with the terms and conditions contained in the Nevada Athletic Commission Code of Ethics and Conduct.

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Print Name

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Signature

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Date