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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Legislative Budget  
Office

R-133-3520

**To:** The Honorable Robert McColley  
Ohio Senate

**From:** Nick Thomas, Research Analyst *NT*

**Date:** April 13, 2020

**Subject:** Multi-state survey: State Athletic Commission

This memorandum is in response to your request for information on laws in Ohio and the surrounding states related to licensing bodies overseeing boxing and other forms of unarmed combat. Please see the tables below. The roles of these boards and the requirements related to unarmed combat from state to state appear to be largely the same.

Athletic Commission – Promoters License						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
License required?	Yes ( <i>R.C. 3773.32, 3773.35, and 3773.36</i> )	Yes ( <i>Ind. Code Ann. 4-33-22-14 and 4-33-22-17</i> )	Yes ( <i>KRS 229.025 and 229.035</i> )	Yes ( <i>MCLS 338.3630</i> )	Yes ( <i>5 Pa.C.S 902</i> )	Yes ( <i>W. Va. Code 29-5A-3</i> )
Education or training	No	No	No	No	No	No

Athletic Commission – Promoters License						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Experience	Must be “knowledgeable of in the proper conduct of such matches or exhibitions” (R.C. 3773.36)	No	No	No	No	Requires applicants to possess the requisite “skill, knowledge, and ability to promote, hold, and conduct” an unarmed combat event (W. Va. Code 29-5A-8)
Exam	No	No	No	No	No	No
Continuing education	No	No	No	No	No	No
Initial licensure fee	Boxing – \$150 Wrestling – \$200 MMA – \$150 Tough Person – \$150 <sup>1</sup>	\$300 (68 IAC 24-3-2)	\$300 (201 KAR 27:008) <sup>2</sup>	\$300 or \$800 (MCLS 338.3633) <sup>3</sup>	\$100 (58 Pa. Code 13.4)	\$125 (W. Va. Code 29-5A-3)

<sup>1</sup> <https://aco.ohio.gov/Portals/0/LicAppnew2018.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/201/027/008.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/UCC050\\_7-19\\_-\\_new\\_format\\_662042\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/UCC050_7-19_-_new_format_662042_7.pdf).

Athletic Commission – Promoters License						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
License duration	1 year ( <i>R.C. 3773.36</i> )	1 year ( <i>Ind. Code Ann. 4-33-22-14</i> )	1 year ( <i>201 KAR 27:008</i> )	1 year ( <i>MCLS 338.3633</i> )	Expires on the 31 <sup>st</sup> of December after the license is issued ( <i>5 Pa.C.S. 911</i> )	1 year ( <i>W. Va. Code 29-5A-3</i> )
Renewal fee	Boxing – \$150 Wrestling – \$200 MMA – \$150 Tough Person – \$150 <sup>4</sup>	\$300 ( <i>68 IAC 24-3-2</i> )	\$300 ( <i>201 KAR 27:008</i> ) <sup>5</sup>	\$300 or \$830 ( <i>MCLS 338.3633</i> ) <sup>6</sup>	\$100 ( <i>58 Pa. Code 13.4</i> )	\$125 ( <i>W. Va. Code 29-5A-3</i> )

Athletic Commission – Contestant’s License						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
License required?	Yes ( <i>R.C. 3773.32 and 3773.41</i> )	Yes ( <i>Ind. Code Ann. 4-33-22-28</i> )	Yes ( <i>KRS 229.025</i> )	Yes ( <i>MCLS 338.3633a</i> )	Yes ( <i>5 Pa.C.S. 905</i> )	West Virginia gives its Athletic Commission the sole authority to

<sup>4</sup> <https://aco.ohio.gov/Portals/0/LicAppnew2018.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/201/027/008.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/UCC050\\_7-19\\_-\\_new\\_format\\_662042\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/UCC050_7-19_-_new_format_662042_7.pdf).

Athletic Commission – Contestant’s License						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
						regulate unarmed combat and authorizes the Commission to license individuals wishing to participate in such events. Unlike other states, it does not appear to explicitly prohibit individuals from engaging in such events without a license from the Commission, though this appears to be implied. ( <i>W. Va. Code 29-5A-3a and 29-5A-8</i> )
Education or training	No	No	No	No	No	No

Athletic Commission – Contestant’s License						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Experience	Yes ( <i>R.C. 3773.42</i> )	No	No	No	No	No
Exam	No	No	No	No	No	No
Continuing education	No	No	No	No	No	No
Initial licensure fee	\$40 <sup>7</sup>	\$50 ( <i>68 IAC 24-3-2</i> )	\$25 ( <i>201 KAR 27:2008</i> )	\$45 for processing fee and \$45 for license fee ( <i>MCLS 338.3633a</i> )	\$22 ( <i>58 Pa. Code 13.4</i> )	Pro boxer – \$25 ( <i>W. Va. CSR 177-1-4</i> )
License duration	1 year ( <i>R.C. 3773.42</i> )	2 years ( <i>Ind. Code Ann. 4-33-22-28</i> )	1 year, January 1 to December 1 ( <i>201 KAR 27:2008</i> )	1 year ( <i>MCLS 338.3633a</i> )	December 31 in the year of issuance ( <i>5 Pa.C.S. 911</i> )	1 year ( <i>W. Va. CSR 177-1-4</i> )
Renewal fee	\$40 <sup>8</sup>	\$50 ( <i>68 IAC 24-3-2</i> )	\$25 ( <i>201 KAR 27:2008</i> )	\$45 or \$120 ( <i>MCLS 338.3633a and 338.3633c</i> ) <sup>9</sup>	\$22 ( <i>58 Pa. Code 13.4</i> )	\$25 ( <i>W. Va. CSR 177-1-4</i> )

<sup>7</sup> <https://aco.ohio.gov/Portals/0/pdf/BoxerMMAAppnew.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> <https://aco.ohio.gov/Portals/0/pdf/BoxerMMAAppnew.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/UCC010\\_7-19\\_-\\_new\\_format\\_662035\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/UCC010_7-19_-_new_format_662035_7.pdf).

Athletic Commission – Professional Boxer’s, Mixed Martial Artist, and Amateur Mixed Martial Artist License						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
License required?	No separate license for professional boxer, mixed martial artists, and amateur mixed martial artists. All just receive contestant’s license. ( <i>R.C. 3773.32 and 3773.41</i> )	No separate license for professional boxer, mixed martial artists, and amateur mixed martial artists. All just receive contestant’s license. ( <i>Ind. Code Ann. 4-33-22-28</i> )	No separate license for professional boxer, mixed martial artists, and amateur mixed martial artists. All just receive contestant’s license. ( <i>KRS 229.025</i> )	No separate license for professional boxer, mixed martial artists, and amateur mixed martial artists. All just receive contestant’s license. ( <i>MCLS 338.3633a</i> )	Pro mixed martial artists and kickboxers appear to receive a boxer’s license. Amateur mixed martial artists are licensed. Amateur kickboxers are not. ( <i>58 Pa. Code 25.1, 27.2, 29.1, and 29.23</i> )	All forms of unarmed combat are defined as boxing, so all contestants receive a boxers’ license. The license fees for semi-pro and amateur boxers are lower, however. ( <i>W. Va. Code 29-5A-3</i> )
Education or training	No	No	No	No	No	No
Experience	Yes ( <i>R.C. 3773.42</i> )	No	No	No	No	No
Exam	No	No	No	No	No	No
Continuing education	No	No	No	No	No	No

Athletic Commission – Professional Boxer’s, Mixed Martial Artist, and Amateur Mixed Martial Artist License						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Initial licensure fee	\$40 <sup>10</sup>	No	No	No	Same as boxer’s license for pro, \$10 for amateur mixed martial artists. No fee for amateur kick boxers. (58 Pa. Code 25.1, 27.2, 29.1, and 29.23)	Pro boxer – \$25 Semi-pro boxer – \$10 Amateur boxer – \$20 (W. Va. CSR 177-1-4)
License duration	1 year (R.C. 3773.42)	No	No	No	Expires December 31 (5 Pa.C.S. 911)	1 year (W. Va. CSR 177-1-4) <sup>11</sup>
Renewal fee	\$40 <sup>12</sup>	No	No	No	Same as license fee (58 Pa. Code 25.1, 27.2, 29.1, and 29.23)	Same as license fee (W. Va. CSR 177-1-4)

<sup>10</sup> <https://aco.ohio.gov/Portals/0/pdf/BoxerMMAAppnew.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> <https://athleticcommission.wv.gov/SiteCollectionDocuments/072419%20Athlete%20Form1%20-%20edited.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> <https://aco.ohio.gov/Portals/0/pdf/BoxerMMAAppnew.pdf>.

Athletic Commission – Judge, Matchmaker, Manager, Timekeeper, Trainer, or Second License						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
License required?	Yes – essentially the same as contestant license ( <i>R.C. 3773.32, 3773.41, and 3773.42</i> )	Yes (Ind. Code Ann. 4-33-22-17)	Yes (KRS 229.025)	Yes – participant’s license required ( <i>MCLS 338.3633b</i> )	Yes ( <i>5 Pa.C.S. 905</i> )	Yes ( <i>W. Va. Code 29-5a-8</i> )
Education or training	No	No	No	No	No	No
Experience	Yes ( <i>R.C. 3773.42</i> )	No	No	No	No	No
Exam	No	The Indiana Athletic Commission is authorized to test the qualifications of an applicant ( <i>Ind. Code Ann. 4-33-22-29</i> )	No	No	No	W. Va. Athletic Commission may require that the applicant establish that the applicant possesses the “requisite skill, knowledge, and ability” ( <i>W. Va Code 29-5A-8</i> )
Continuing education	No	No	No	No	No	No

Athletic Commission – Judge, Matchmaker, Manager, Timekeeper, Trainer, or Second License						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Initial licensure fee	\$40 <sup>13</sup>	Judge – \$75 Manager – \$50 Timekeeper – \$30 Trainer – \$30 Second – \$25 (68 IAC 24-3-2)	\$25 (201 KAR 27:2008)	\$30 processing fee and: Judge – \$70 Matchmaker – \$150 Timekeeper – \$70 (MCLS 338.3633b)	Judge – \$35 Matchmaker – \$50 Manager – \$35 Timekeeper – \$25 Trainer – \$20 Second – \$20 (58 Pa. Code 13.4)	Judge – \$30 Manager, pro – \$50 Manager, amateur – \$0 Timekeeper – \$30 Trainer – \$20 Second – \$20 Other official – \$30 (W. Va. CSR 177-1-4) <sup>14</sup>
License duration	1 year (R.C. 3773.42)	Judge – 2 years All others – 1 year (68 IAC 24-3-2)	1 year, January 1 to December 1 (201 KAR 27:2008)	1 year (MCLS 338.3633b)	Expires December 31 (5 Pa.C.S. 911)	Unclear, but likely 1 year (W. Va. CSR 177-1-4)

<sup>13</sup> <https://aco.ohio.gov/Portals/0/LicAppnew2018.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> <https://athleticcommission.wv.gov/forms/Documents/090619%20Non-Athlete%20FormP.pdf>.

Athletic Commission – Judge, Matchmaker, Manager, Timekeeper, Trainer, or Second License						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Renewal fee	\$40 <sup>15</sup>	Same as application fee (68 IAC 24-3-2)	\$25 (201 KAR 27:2008)	Judge – \$130 Matchmaker – \$210 Timekeeper – \$130 <sup>16</sup>	Same as initial fee (58 Pa. Code 13.4)	Same as initial fee (W. Va. CSR 177-1-4)

Athletic Commission – Referee						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
License required?	Yes (R.C. 3773.32, 3773.41, and 3773.42)	Yes (Ind. Code Ann. 4-33-22-17 and 4-33-22-29)	Yes (KRS 229.025)	Yes (referees receive participant licenses) (MCLS 338.3633b)	Yes (5 Pa.C.S. 905)	Allows W. Va. Athletic Commission to issue license for referees (W. Va. Code 29-5A-8)
Education or training	Yes (R.C. 3773.42(A))	No	No	No	No	No

<sup>15</sup> <https://aco.ohio.gov/Portals/0/LicAppnew2018.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/UCC035\\_7-19\\_-\\_new\\_format\\_662037\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/UCC035_7-19_-_new_format_662037_7.pdf); [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/UCC060\\_7-19\\_-\\_new\\_format\\_662043\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/UCC060_7-19_-_new_format_662043_7.pdf).

Athletic Commission – Referee						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Experience	Yes ( <i>R.C. 3773.42(B)</i> )	No	No	No	No	No
Exam	No	Indiana Athletic Commission may test the qualifications of a referee applicant ( <i>Ind. Code Ann. 4-33-22-29</i> )	No	No	No	W. Va. Athletic Commission may establish that the applicant possesses the “requisite skill, knowledge, and ability” ( <i>W. Va Code 29-5A-8</i> )
Continuing education	No	No	No	No	No	No
Initial licensure fee	\$40 <sup>17</sup>	\$100 ( <i>68 IAC 24-3-2</i> )	\$25 ( <i>201 KAR 27:2008</i> )	\$30 processing fee and \$150 ( <i>MCLS 338.3633b</i> )	\$35 ( <i>58 Pa. Code 13.4</i> )	\$30 ( <i>W. Va. CSR 177-1-4</i> )
License duration	1 year ( <i>R.C. 3773.42</i> )	2 years ( <i>Ind. Code Ann. 4-33-22-29</i> )	1 year, January 1 to December 1 ( <i>201 KAR 27:2008</i> )	1 year ( <i>MCLS 338.3633b</i> )	Expires December 31 ( <i>5 Pa.C.S. 911</i> )	Unclear, likely 1 year ( <i>W. Va. CSR 177-1-4</i> )

<sup>17</sup> <https://aco.ohio.gov/Portals/0/LicAppnew2018.pdf>.

Athletic Commission – Referee						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Renewal fee	\$40 <sup>18</sup>	\$100 (68 IAC 24-3-2)	\$25 (201 KAR 27:2008)	\$210 <sup>19</sup>	Same as initial license (58 Pa. Code 13.4)	Same as initial license (W. Va. CSR 177-1-4)

Athletic Commission – Athlete Agent						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
License required?	Athlete agents are required to register with the Ohio Athletic Commission (R.C. 4771.02 and 4771.06)	Yes, athlete agents are required to register with the Attorney General’s Office (Ind. Code Ann. 25-5.2-2-2)	Athlete agents are required to register with the Kentucky Department of Professional Licensing, which is a separate entity from the Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission, which oversees unarmed combat	It does not appear that athlete agents are issued distinct licenses in Michigan (MCLS 750.411e). They would likely be required to receive a “personnel agency license” issued by the Michigan Department of Licensing and	Athlete agents are required to register with the State Athletic Commission (5 Pa.C.S. 3301)	Yes, athlete agents are required to register with the West Virginia Secretary of State (W. Va. Code 30-39-4)

<sup>18</sup> <https://aco.ohio.gov/Portals/0/LicAppnew2018.pdf>.

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/UCC035\\_7-19\\_-\\_new\\_format\\_662037\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/UCC035_7-19_-_new_format_662037_7.pdf).

Athletic Commission – Athlete Agent						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
			events ( <i>KRS 164.6907</i> )	Regulatory Affairs ( <i>MCLS 339.1003</i> )		
Education or training	Yes ( <i>R.C. 4771.07</i> )	Yes ( <i>Ind. Code Ann. 25-5.2-2-3</i> )	No	No	No	No
Experience	Yes ( <i>R.C. 4771.07</i> )	No ( <i>Ind. Code Ann. 25-5.2-2-3</i> )	No	No	No	No
Exam	No	No	No	Yes <sup>20</sup>	No	No
Continuing education	No	No	No	No	No	No
Initial licensure fee	\$500 ( <i>O.A.C. 3773-1-05</i> )	\$700 ( <i>10 IAC 4-3-1</i> )	\$300 ( <i>KRS 164.6915</i> )	\$70 <sup>21</sup>	\$200 for individual agent; \$400 for other legal entity ( <i>5 Pa.C.S. 3308</i> )	\$50 ( <i>W. Va. Code 30-39-9</i> )
License duration	2 years ( <i>R.C. 4771.08(C)</i> )	2 years ( <i>Ind. Code Ann. 25-5.2-2-4</i> )	2 years ( <i>KRS 164.6911</i> )	No	2 years ( <i>5 Pa.C.S. 3306</i> )	2 years ( <i>W. Va. Code 30-39-6</i> )

<sup>20</sup> [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Personnel\\_Agency\\_517656\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Personnel_Agency_517656_7.pdf).

<sup>21</sup> [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Personnel\\_Agency\\_517656\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Personnel_Agency_517656_7.pdf).

Athletic Commission – Athlete Agent						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Renewal fee	\$500 ( <i>O.A.C. 3773-1-05</i> )	\$700 ( <i>10 IAC 4-3-1</i> )	\$300 ( <i>KRS 164.6915</i> )	\$70 <sup>22</sup>	Same as initial license ( <i>5 Pa.C.S. 3308</i> )	\$10 ( <i>W. Va. Code 30-39-9</i> )

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<sup>22</sup> [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Personnel\\_Agency\\_517656\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Personnel_Agency_517656_7.pdf).