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§ 6301. Definitions

For purposes of this chapter:

(1) Boxer

The term “boxer” means an individual who fights in a professional boxing match.

(2) Boxing commission

(A)¹ The term “boxing commission” means an entity authorized under State law to regulate professional boxing matches.

(3) Boxer registry

The term “boxer registry” means any entity certified by the Association of Boxing Commissions for the purposes of maintaining records and identification of boxers.

(4) Licensee

The term “licensee” means an individual who serves as a trainer, second, or cut man for a boxer.

(5) Manager

The term “manager” means a person who receives compensation for service as an agent or representative of a boxer.

(6) Matchmaker

The term “matchmaker” means a person that proposes, selects, and arranges the boxers to participate in a professional boxing match.

(7) Physician

The term “physician” means a doctor of medicine legally authorized to practice medicine by the State in which the physician performs such function or action.

(8) Professional boxing match

The term “professional boxing match” means a boxing contest held in the United States between individuals for financial compensation. Such term does not include a boxing contest that is regulated by an amateur sports organization.

(9) Promoter

The term “promoter” means the person primarily responsible for organizing, promoting, and producing a professional boxing match. The term “promoter” does not include a hotel, casino, resort, or other commercial establishment hosting or sponsoring a professional boxing match unless—

(A) the hotel, casino, resort, or other commercial establishment is primarily responsible for organizing, promoting, and producing the match; and

(B) there is no other person primarily responsible for organizing, promoting, and producing the match.

(10) State

The term “State” means each of the 50 States, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and any territory or possession of the United States, including the Virgin Islands.

(11) Effective date of the contract

The term “effective date of the contract” means the day upon which a boxer becomes legally bound by the contract.

(12) Boxing service provider

The term “boxing service provider” means a promoter, manager, sanctioning body, licensee, or matchmaker.

(13) Contract provision

The term “contract provision” means any legal obligation between a boxer and a boxing service provider.

(14) Sanctioning organization

The term “sanctioning organization” means an organization that sanctions professional boxing matches in the United States—

(A) between boxers who are residents of different States; or

(B) that are advertised, otherwise promoted, or broadcast (including closed circuit television) in interstate commerce.

(15) Suspension

The term “suspension” includes within its meaning the revocation of a boxing license.

(Pub. L. 104-272, §2, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3309; Pub. L. 106-210, §7(a), May 26, 2000, 114 Stat. 327.)

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 106-210, §7(a), which directed amendments to subsec. (a) of this section, was executed as if it directed amendments to this section rather than to subsec. (a) of this section to reflect the probable intent of Congress because this section does not contain a subsec. (a). See 2000 Amendment notes below.

AMENDMENTS

2000—Par. (9). Pub. L. 106-210, §7(a)(1), inserted last sentence. See Codification note above.

Par. (10). Pub. L. 106-210, §7(a)(2), inserted “, including the Virgin Islands” before the period at end. See Codification note above.

Pars. (11) to (15). Pub. L. 106-210, §7(a)(3), added pars. (11) to (15). See Codification note above.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 104-272, §23, formerly §15, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3314, as renumbered §23 by Pub. L. 106-210, §4(1), May 26, 2000, 114 Stat. 322, provided that: “The provisions of this Act [enacting this chapter] shall take effect on January 1, 1997, except as follows:

“(1) Section 9 [now section 17, enacting section 6308 of this title] shall not apply to an otherwise authorized boxing commission in the Commonwealth of Virginia until July 1, 1998.

“(2) Sections 5 through 9 [enacting sections 6304 to 6308 of this title] shall take effect on July 1, 1997.”

SHORT TITLE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-210, §1, May 26, 2000, 114 Stat. 321, provided that: “This Act [enacting sections 6307a to 6307h of this title, amending this section and sections 6303, 6305, 6306, and 6308 to 6313 of this title, and enacting and amending provisions set out as notes under this section] may be cited as the ‘Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act.’”

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 104-272, §1, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3309, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996.’”

FINDINGS

Pub. L. 106-210, §2, May 26, 2000, 114 Stat. 321, provided that: “The Congress makes the following findings:

¹ So in original. No subpar. (B) has been enacted.

“(1) Professional boxing differs from other major, interstate professional sports industries in the United States in that it operates without any private sector association, league, or centralized industry organization to establish uniform and appropriate business practices and ethical standards. This has led to repeated occurrences of disreputable and coercive business practices in the boxing industry, to the detriment of professional boxers nationwide.

“(2) State officials are the proper regulators of professional boxing events, and must protect the welfare of professional boxers and serve the public interest by closely supervising boxing activity in their jurisdiction. State boxing commissions do not currently receive adequate information to determine whether boxers competing in their jurisdiction are being subjected to contract terms and business practices which may violate State regulations, or are onerous and confiscatory.

“(3) Promoters who engage in illegal, coercive, or unethical business practices can take advantage of the lack of equitable business standards in the sport by holding boxing events in States with weaker regulatory oversight.

“(4) The sanctioning organizations which have proliferated in the boxing industry have not established credible and objective criteria to rate professional boxers, and operate with virtually no industry or public oversight. Their ratings are susceptible to manipulation, have deprived boxers of fair opportunities for advancement, and have undermined public confidence in the integrity of the sport.

“(5) Open competition in the professional boxing industry has been significantly interfered with by restrictive and anticompetitive business practices of certain promoters and sanctioning bodies, to the detriment of the athletes and the ticket-buying public. Common practices of promoters and sanctioning organizations represent restraints of interstate trade in the United States.

“(6) It is necessary and appropriate to establish national contracting reforms to protect professional boxers and prevent exploitive business practices, and to require enhanced financial disclosures to State athletic commissions to improve the public oversight of the sport.”

PURPOSES OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-210, §3, May 26, 2000, 114 Stat. 322, provided that: “The purposes of this Act [see Short Title of 2000 Amendment note above] are—

“(1) to protect the rights and welfare of professional boxers on an interstate basis by preventing certain exploitive, oppressive, and unethical business practices;

“(2) to assist State boxing commissions in their efforts to provide more effective public oversight of the sport; and

“(3) to promote honorable competition in professional boxing and enhance the overall integrity of the industry.”

§ 6302. Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are—

(1) to improve and expand the system of safety precautions that protects the welfare of professional boxers; and

(2) to assist State boxing commissions to provide proper oversight for the professional boxing industry in the United States.

(Pub. L. 104-272, §3, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3310.)

§ 6303. Boxing matches in States without boxing commissions

(a) No person may arrange, promote, organize, produce, or fight in a professional boxing match

held in a State that does not have a boxing commission unless the match is supervised by a boxing commission from another State and subject to the most recent version of the recommended regulatory guidelines certified and published by the Association of Boxing Commissions as well as any additional relevant professional boxing regulations and requirements of such other State.

(b) For the purpose of this chapter, if no State commission is available to supervise a boxing match according to subsection (a) of this section, then—

(1) the match may not be held unless it is supervised by an association of boxing commissions to which at least a majority of the States belong; and

(2) any reporting or other requirement relating to a supervising commission allowed under this section shall be deemed to refer to the entity described in paragraph (1).

(Pub. L. 104-272, §4, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3310; Pub. L. 106-210, §7(e), May 26, 2000, 114 Stat. 328.)

AMENDMENTS

2000—Pub. L. 106-210 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsec. (b).

§ 6304. Safety standards

No person may arrange, promote, organize, produce, or fight in a professional boxing match without meeting each of the following requirements or an alternative requirement in effect under regulations of a boxing commission that provides equivalent protection of the health and safety of boxers:

(1) A physical examination of each boxer by a physician certifying whether or not the boxer is physically fit to safely compete, copies of which must be provided to the boxing commission.

(2) Except as otherwise expressly provided under regulation of a boxing commission promulgated subsequent to October 9, 1996, an ambulance or medical personnel with appropriate resuscitation equipment continuously present on site.

(3) A physician continuously present at ringside.

(4) Health insurance for each boxer to provide medical coverage for any injuries sustained in the match.

(Pub. L. 104-272, §5, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3310.)

§ 6305. Registration

(a) Requirements

Each boxer shall register with—

(1) the boxing commission of the State in which such boxer resides; or

(2) in the case of a boxer who is a resident of a foreign country, or a State in which there is no boxing commission, the boxing commission of any State that has such a commission.

(b) Identification card

(1) Issuance

A boxing commission shall issue to each professional boxer who registers in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, an identi-