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Instant Replay Policy for Mixed Martial Arts Competitions

In July 2017, the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports (the “ABC”) approved the use of instant replay in mixed martial arts competitions to “insure fairness in the match and a proper outcome at the conclusion of the fight.” See generally,

<http://www.abcboxing.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2017-conference-minutes.pdf>.

The New York State Athletic Commission (the “Commission”) is vested with the sole direction, management, control and jurisdiction over all authorized combative sports within the State of New York (General Business Law § 1004). The Commission is enacted to protect the health, safety and general welfare of all participants in combative sports and spectators thereto, to preserve the integrity of combative sports through means of licensing, oversight, enforcement and the authorization of sanctioning entities, and to facilitate the development and responsible conduct of combative sports throughout the state (General Business Law § 1003(1)).

All professional mixed martial arts contests and exhibitions in New York State shall be contested according to the Unified Rules of Mixed Martial Arts as adopted and amended by the ABC, unless otherwise authorized or directed by the Commission. The authority to render final determinations based on the application and interpretation of the Unified Rules of Mixed Martial Arts rests with the Commission. See generally, 19 NYCRR § 212.1.

Pursuant to the above-cited authority, the Commission has adopted the instant replay, as described below:

1. When adequate technology is available, instant replay may be used by the in-ring referee to examine the fight ending sequence to determine the correct outcome of a bout.
2. Instant replay may be used after the fight has officially concluded and before the final official outcome of the fight is announced in the ring.
3. Only the in-ring referee is authorized to initiate instant replay review.
4. The in-ring referee him/herself must watch the instant replay footage of the fight ending sequence on a video monitor provided for such purpose.
5. The in-ring referee may consult with the alternate referee to determine the correct outcome of a bout.



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6. Only the in-ring referee is authorized to make the final official in-ring determination of the outcome of the bout following the instant replay review.
7. The fight cannot be resumed after the instant replay review.
8. Nothing in this policy shall restrict the Commission's authority to review video evidence to determine the correct outcome after the final official outcome of a bout has been announced in the ring.

Implemented by vote of the Commissioners October 4, 2017.