

UNITED STATES FIGHT LEAGUE



PROMOTER GUIDELINES

I. WHO ARE PROMOTERS

Promoters host Pankration Shows and Tournaments as either “stand alone” events or in conjunction with other authorized MMA, Boxing, Kickboxing or Muay Thai events*.

Promoters must complete the training as outlined in this manual consisting of USFL in code of conduct, promoter requirements & responsibilities, and matchmaking. A background check is also required and persons convicted of certain crimes are not permitted to be promoters. Promoters who are licensed by other regulatory organizations may utilize a matchmaker as their designate as long as that matchmaker qualifies for a USFL promoters license.

Promoters directly pay a per diem to officials and book medical support such as ringside physician and ambulance.

II. PROMOTER RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Booking an event:**

A. Insurance: A \$1,000,000 liability insurance policy including the USFL as additionally insured must be presented to the USFL within one week of the event. The USFL will confirm with the insurance carrier that the policy is still valid prior to the event.

B. Physician: The name of attending physician must be provided to the USFL.

C. Ambulance: The promoter must provide the name of ambulance company to the USFL within one week of the scheduled event. Doctor & Ambulance must meet each states/ jurisdictions specific requirements. If ambulance is not required by state or jurisdiction, an evacuation plan must be submitted to lead official.

D. Media: All media coverage must be pre approved by the USFL prior to event. The USFL will conduct a vetting process ruling out those who are at risk in conducting inflammatory reports.

E. Matchmaking: All bouts must conform to USFL age, weight and gender guidelines. A bout line up must be presented to the USFL at least 72 hrs prior to a show. Each athlete must complete a bout agreement form listing opponents name, age and weight prior to the line up being completed. USFL must approve any changes to the schedule. Promoters of tournaments must utilize an approved USFL pairing official to bracket their event.

D. Support and security plan: Promoters must provide names and assignments of required security and support staff to the USFL within 72 hrs of their event.

- **Venue and set up**

Competition venue specifications:

All buildings or structures used or intended for use to conduct, hold, give a contest or match, or exhibition shall be safe and shall conform to the laws, ordinances, and regulations pertaining to the buildings in the jurisdiction where the building or structure is situated. A USFL Inspector may be required to physical pre inspect some venues at promoters expense.

Ring:

1. The ring shall be not less than 20 x 20 feet square and no larger than 32 x 32 feet within the rings. The ring floor shall extend beyond the ropes not less than 20 inches. The fighting area mat or canvas shall be padded in a manner as approved by USFL and CSAC. Padding must extend beyond the ring ropes and over the edge of the platform.
2. The ring platform shall not be more than four feet above the floor of the building, and shall be provided with suitable steps for use of contestants. Ring posts shall be of metal, not more than four inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a height of 58 inches above the ring floor, and shall be properly padded.
3. Ring ropes shall be at least five in number, not less than one inch in diameter; the lower rope 5 – 8 inches above the ring floor. The lower rope shall have applied around it a padding of a thickness of not less than one-half inch and of a type and construction to be approved by the USFL.
4. An adult safety person must post on each side of the ring if platform is elevated 3 feet or over. Smaller athletes may be at risk of falling through the ropes even if five are used.

Cage:

1. The fighting area canvas shall be no smaller than 20 feet by 20 feet and no larger than 32 feet by 32 feet. The fighting area mat or canvas shall be padded in a manner as approved by USFL and CSAC.
2. The fighting area mat or canvas shall not be more than four feet above the floor of the building and shall have suitable steps or ramp for use by the participants. Posts shall be made of metal not more than six inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a minimum height of 58 inches above the fighting area canvas and shall be properly padded in a manner approved by USFL.
3. The fighting area canvas area shall be enclosed by a fence made of such material as will not allow a fighter to fall out or break through it onto the floor or spectators, including, but not limited to, vinyl coated chain link fencing. All metal parts shall be covered and padded in a manner approved by USFL and shall not be abrasive to the contestants.
4. The fence shall have two separate entries onto the fighting area canvas.
5. The promoter should thoroughly inspect the enclosure making sure that the cage door opens and closes and is able to be secured. The enclosure should be put together correctly providing a smooth and stable surface free from defect.

Open Mat:

1. Must be a minimum of 20 x 20 feet and a maximum of 32 x 32 feet Judo, JiuJitsu or wrestling style mat padded in a manner as approved by USFL, with at least one inch layer of foam padding.
2. Padding shall extend a minimum of 3 feet beyond the fighting area.
3. The mats should be affixed or taped together without space, clean and in good condition.
4. Elevated mats shall not be more than 3 feet above the floor of the building , have suitable steps or ramp for participants and have a minimum of 5 feet beyond the fighting area

Officials' Area and Equipment Requirements:

1. Judges should have clear seating areas with opposing views of the competition area without obstruction with scoring table placed in an area with an unobstructed view of all referees.
2. Table and seating area is provided for scorekeeper, timekeeper, striking judges, and medical personnel.
3. Medical officials have close and immediate access to enter cage or ring without impediment.
4. Bio hazard cleaning supplies (Bleach, paper towels, special purpose trash can) are available and accessible.
5. Ensure at least three chairs or mat spaces for coaches and one clean towel is in each corner.
6. Make certain the aisle leading to each corner is clear of obstructions.
7. A staff member is assigned to ensure spectators stay clear of competition area.
8. Promoters must provide Blue and Red tape for gloves for shows/ dual meets and ankle bands for tournaments.

Placement of EMT's:

1. There should be no stairs or elevators between the competition area and the Ambulance. If this is physically impossible the ambulance crew must know about this in advance.
2. No obstructions that would prevent stretcher, doctor or other emergency personnel to reach the athlete. This includes spectators.
3. No obstruction that would prevent stretcher, EMT's or Physician from moving athlete to ambulance.
4. Security should be instructed to provide crowd control and secure the evacuation route in case of emergency evacuation, including calling elevators when needed.
5. The lead EMT must have clear view of the Ring so the EMT Team can be summoned by hand signal in case of emergency evacuation.
6. The physician should meet with the EMT team prior to the start of the first bout to be certain of their placement on the field of play and establish what signal would be given when they are needed to come to evacuate a athlete and/or transfer the athlete.
7. If jurisdiction does not require a on-site ambulance, a evacuation plan to include access and egress areas for ambulance and stretcher if summoned.

Dressing Room/Pre Fight Holding Area:

1. Dressing rooms are utilized in shows/ dual meets with pre-scheduled bouts.
2. Staging area is utilized in multi bout elimination tournaments.
3. Dressing rooms and Staging areas should have enough space to warm up and be located near bathrooms.
4. Adequate space for fighters and coaches to dress, gear up, tape hands and relax.
5. Garbage can or bags available.
6. If ice and/or water are offered by promotion, they should be available at the area during this time.
7. Youth athletes should be separated from adult athletes if a mixed age event.

III. REFEREE CONFIGURATIONS

Promoters may select one of the referee configurations for their event:

1. **Open View Scoring** – Score is visible as match progress
2. **Closed Scoring** – Score is announced after bout

IV. PROMOTERS STAFFING RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Security: An adult representative of the host site will be available at all times to provide the following;

- Act as a security liaison when fans, coaches, visitors need to have behavior monitored, or curtailed. Head Official will be notified of name and club of disruptive persons behavior when possible.
- Address emergency needs, such as overflowing mat side trash cans, restroom issues, unforeseen items that are not in our control of the USFL.
- The promoter must assign security personal to keep spectators away from the competition area and enforce the flash photography limitation. The referee may call time and stop the action to warn offenders if this occurs during a match.

2. Assistant for weigh-in:

- A person provided by the promoter to assist the USFL official in conducting weigh-ins.

3. Staging area personnel:

- Staff to help control athletes in the staging area or dressing room. Staff will assist USFL officials in ensuring athletes and coaches are ready to appear once called for their bout.

4. Announcer or MC, DJ or Band if used:

Must ensure no profanity or distressful lyrics.

7. Pairing Official: (Tournaments)

A USFL approved individual training in bracketing tournaments.

V. MEDICAL REQUIRMENTS

Certified Physician and approved first responder ambulance.

Promoters shall ensure all medical screening and waiver forms are distributed to and completed by athletes prior to weigh in. Promoters shall also collect injury report forms from medical staff and promptly send to the USFL following the event.

VI. INSURANCE REQUIRMENTS

- \$1,000,000 liability insurance policy also covering the USFL. Must add USFL as additionally

insured if events are covered by an existing gym policy.

- All Athletes must be USFL licensed which carries a \$100,000 secondary medical policy with \$500 deductible. Promoters do not pay for medical policy, which is part of athletes licensing.
- All athletes should have private medical insurance. USFL insurance is designed as a “safety net” only.

VII. REFEREE FEES AND ACOMIDATIONS

Tournament:

Promoter will pay referees and Inspector a minimum of \$20 per hour.

Shows:

Promoter will pay the team of officials (Referees, Inspector, Judges) a minimum of:

\$100 plus:

\$40 per match (for first 10 matches = \$400)

\$30 per match (for each match after 10)

Mixed events with limited youth bouts may contact USFL for officials pre diem.

Officials and promoter may agree on a further detailed breakdown of individual payments.

Promoters are expected to accommodate USFL staff and referees if overnight or long distance travel is required.

****See current fee schedule for current list of fees.**

VIII. ADDITIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY USFL

- Use of athlete database and pairing/ bracketing system.
- Approval of matchmaking
- Recording of results
- All results count towards athlete rankings and statistics.
- Assignment of officials
- Technical assistance as required or requested

IX. PAIRING AND MATCHMAKING - Youth athletes must be coached under a licensed trainer to participate in sanctioned events.

- Pairing is a term to describe bracketing a tournament. Tournaments can be random draw or seeded. Seeded tournaments are bracketed so the top two seeded athletes will not face each other until the finals as long as they remain undefeated. Seeding can be drawn out to the top 4 athletes with the higher the seed the further out the likelihood of meeting prior to the finals, semi finals or quarter finals.
- Tournaments of significance such as a National Championships may use fixed age and weight groups with seeded brackets.
- Most tournaments utilize the Madison System of pairing where age and weight divisions are pooled into USFL allowable parameters based on age and weight at weigh in.
- Matchmaking is a term to describe setting up a pre-determined line up of bouts as in a show. Matchmaking should be based on the USFL rankings where the higher ranked (numbered) athletes should be matched up against athletes with a similar ranking. On occasion, a non-ranked athlete may be matched against a higher ranked when the lower ranked has a history of excellence in similar combative sports or upon strong recommendation of their coach.
- Rankings are primarily based on head to head wins over a higher ranked athlete. For example, if a #5 ranked athlete defeats a #2 ranked athlete, #5 will become #2 and #2 will fall back to #3. In the cases where an athlete moves up an age or weight group they may be ranked at 1

or 2 number lower than their previous rank. If no other criteria, rankings can also be based on tournament performance.

- Class C “Grappling only” rules may be approved if a match falls outside the USFL age and weight parameters.

Weight and Age Classes

Divisions

- Ages above 11 years old will be gender separate. Older girls may petition to compete in mixed gender divisions. All Star show divisions shall promote gender separate at all ages.
- The tournament director reserves the right to modify divisions within the allowable age and weight parameters to ensure competition.

Skill levels

- Some events may allow beginner, intermediate and advanced/open divisions.
- All Competitors may petition to move up one skill level, age group or one weight division upon approval of USFL as long as the move is within maximum age and weight class limits.

Weight Classes

Weight Classes are either fixed or formed by the Madison system.

A. Madison System weight classes - Weight and divisions are formed after weighing in with the lightest competitors bracketed with the maximum age and weight limits and ending with the heaviest competitors. This is the preferred method to conduct local tournaments and reduces the chance of sole competitors in age and weight groups.

Maximum Allowable Weight Spread:

- Under 50lbs: 5lbs max differential
- 50 to 90lbs: 7lbs max differential
- 90 to 140lbs: 10lbs max differential
- 140 to 170lbs: 15lbs max differential
- 170 to 220lbs: 20lbs max differential
- Athletes under 10 yrs and under may have a maximum of 5lb weight differential.
- Weight groups have an allowable age spread of 2 years.
- Certain waivers to increase parameters in age by 3 years may be considered, specifically for older high school age groups.
- Kids who exceed the allowable pairing parameters in weight may participate in Class C bouts. Waivers may be considered on very limited criteria for Class B.

Fixed Weight Classes – Used for shows and larger significant tournaments.

USFL Age and Weight Divisions:

a. Athletes may petition to go up in age group but are still limited to within the two year age differential unless a waiver permits the 3 year exception.

- b. Athletes may petition to go up in weight class but limited to the maximum allowable weight differentials as in the Madison system.
- c. Age groups – Defined as the age of participant on the day of competition.
- d. Weight Group – Listed weight designates maximum weight allowed per category

Example of Fixed Age and Weight Groups

- **Rookie boys & girls - 8 & 9 yrs**
45lbs, 50lbs, 55lbs, 60lbs, 65lbs, 70lbs, 75lbs...
 - **Novice boys & girls – 10 & 11 yrs**
60lbs, 65lbs, 70lbs, 75lbs, 80lbs, 85lbs, 90lbs, 95lbs, 100lbs...
 - **Schoolboy – 12 & 13yrs**
75lbs, 80lbs, 85lbs, 90lbs, 100lbs, 110lbs, 120lbs, 130lbs, 140lbs, 155lbs...
 - **Schoolgirl – 12 & 13 yrs**
70lbs, 75lbs, 80lbs, 85lbs, 90lbs , 100lbs, 110lbs, 120lbs...
 - **Cadet boys – 14 & 15 yrs**
90lbs, 100lbs, 110lbs, 120lbs, 130lbs, 140lbs, 155lbs, 170lbs, 185lbs...
 - **Cadet girls – 14 & 15 yrs**
90lbs, 100lbs, 110lbs, 120lbs, 130lbs, 140lbs...
 - **Junior Boys – 16 - 17 yrs**
115lbs, 125lbs, 135lbs, 145lbs, 155lbs, 170lbs, 185lbs, 205lbs, 220lbs & 265lbs
 - **Junior girls – 16 - 17 yrs**
105lbs, 115lbs, 125lbs, 135lbs, 145lbs, 160lbs...
- A ½ pound allowance is permitted to compensate for undergarments, which must be worn.

***Girls may petition for a waiver to participate in mixed gender bouts after age 11.

***Athletes may petition to go up in age or weight class but must still fit within the maximum limits.

Length of bouts

- Tournaments shall generally consist of one round per bout. Rookie, Novice and Schoolboy/ Girls age groups compete in one 3 minute period while Cadet and Junior age groups compete in one 4 minute period.
- Shows shall generally consist of three 2 minute periods with a 1 minute rest period between rounds.
- A maximum of 5 single rounds bouts may be fought in a single day tournament or show.
- Athletes must be afforded a minimum of 15 minutes between bouts.

Exhibition Bouts:

Certain exhibition bouts may be permitted if participants do not fall within the allowable pairing parameters. Participants (parents) and promoter must sign a waiver acknowledging participation in a non-regulated bout and waive any coverage or responsibility of the USFL while participating in such bout. Exhibition bouts cannot include any Martial Arts techniques that require regulatory oversight, even if they do so only in appearance.

X. PROMOTERS SHALL ENFORCE THE CODE OF CONDUCT TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITY:

Youth Pankration regional coordinators, Coaches and Officials must promote good moral behavior, discipline, patriotism and citizenship through Martial Arts. It is imperative that coaches and officials make this of paramount importance in the promotion of this sport.

Failure to follow or abide by promoters responsibilities:

Promoters who are unwilling or unable to fulfill their responsibilities and conditions as outlined in this manual will lose their licensing and ability to promote USFL events. The USFL may elect to place a promoter on a one year probationary period for certain offenses.

**Some offenses may be punished under state or county penal code without action by the USFL.*

CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Responsibility for enforcement of this Code of Conduct shall reside with the Promoters committee of United States Fight League

B. For implementation of this Code of Conduct, spectators who are directly associated with a particular Athlete shall comply with the same criteria as for Parents'/Guardians', and the same enforcement action shall apply.

C. The Board of Directors of The United States Fight League shall take whatever measures necessary to enforce this Code of Conduct, up to and including any of the following actions:
(a) Removal of an Athlete, Coach, promoter or official from the program due to his or her failure to comply with this Code of Conduct.

1.0) GENERAL PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

1.1) Trustworthiness. All participants shall:

- (a) Be honest, and never deceive, cheat or steal;
- (b) Have the courage to do the right thing;
- (c) Work to build a good reputation;
- (d) Demonstrate loyalty to family, friends, teammates, and country.

1.2) Respect. All participants shall:

- (a) Treat others with respect, and be considerate of the feelings of others;
- (b) Demonstrate a tolerance toward differences;
- (c) Use good manners, and avoid offensive language and taunting;
- (d) Never slander, degrade, threaten, hurt or hit anyone; and
- (e) Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements.

1.3) Responsibility. All participants shall:

- (a) Use self-control and self-discipline;
- (b) Be accountable for all choices and actions;
- (c) Demonstrate reliability; and

(d) Exhibit supportive behavior and a positive attitude.

1.4) Fairness. All participants shall:

- (a) Adhere to all laws, rules, policies, and guidelines;
- (b) Be open-minded and demonstrate the ability to listen to others;
- (c) Not pass blame carelessly;
- (d) Share equitably and take turns for a particular situation as appropriate; and
- (e) Never take advantage of others.

1.5) Caring. All participants shall:

- (a) Demonstrate compassion, kindness, and forgiveness; and
- (b) Provide assistance to others in need when appropriate.

1.6) Citizenship. All participants shall:

- (a) Respect authority and demonstrate cooperation; and
- (b) Properly care for all equipment, uniforms, facilities, and venues.

2.0) ATHLETES' CODE OF CONDUCT

2.1) General. All Athletes shall recognize that being a member of the USFL carries with it responsibilities and rewards, and they shall not only embrace those responsibilities, but also conduct themselves both at and off the competition venue in a way that exhibits respect for others and them self.

2.2) Specific Principles. All Athletes shall therefore resolve themselves to conduct them self with dignity as an athlete and as a citizen of the USFL, recognizing and accepting that they shall:

- (a) Accept accountability for all behavior and its outcomes;
- (b) Honor obligations and promises;
- (c) Exercise self-control;
- (d) Be willing to be fair with others in dealings on and off the Mat, Ring, cage Etc.;
- (e) Take pride in themselves and their accomplishments, but never at the expense of demeaning another person or group;
- (f) Respect the efforts of others;
- (g) Respect authority;
- (h) Compete by the spirit, not just the letter, of the rules of the sport/event; and
- (i) Strive to make the USFL better through support and contribution as a member and as a citizen.

3.0) PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' CODE OF CONDUCT

3.1) General. All parents' and guardians' shall pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for their child participating in the activities of United States Fight League by following this Code of Conduct.

3.2) Specific Principles. All parents' and guardians' shall therefore resolve to conduct themselves with dignity as a member of the USFL, recognizing and accepting that they shall:

- (a) Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all competitors, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other youth sports event;
- (b) Place the emotional and physical well-being of their child and the other Athletes ahead of a personal desire to win;
- (c) Support efforts to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment;
- (d) Support coaches and officials working with their child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all;
- (e) Demand a sports environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and refrain from their use at all youth sports events;
- (f) Do their very best to make youth sports fun, and remember that it is a sport for youth;
- (g) Encourage their child to treat other competitors, coaches, spectators, officials, and others with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability; and
- (h) Promise to help their child enjoy the youth sports experience in whatever way possible, such as being a respectable fan.

4.0) COACHES' CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1) General. The primary function of a coach is to facilitate the youth sports environment, and educate Athletes through participation and competition. Each Athlete shall be treated as though he or she is the coaches' own child, and his or her welfare shall be considered uppermost at all times. All coaches shall be aware that they have a tremendous influence on the well being of the Athletes, and thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

4.2 Specific Principles. All Coaches shall therefore resolve to conduct themselves with dignity as a member of the USFL, recognizing and accepting that they shall:

- (a) Uphold the honor and dignity of the profession;
- (b) Set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct in all personal contact with athletes, sports officials, parents/guardians, spectators, and the public;
- (c) Take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse;
- (d) Avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with Athletes;
- (e) Master the contest rules and teach them to his or her team members;
- (f) Not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules;
- (g) Exert an influence to enhance un-sportsmanship conduct by spectators or others, or to indulge in conduct which would incite competitors or spectators against the officials;
- (h) Respect and support the decision of the officials;
- (i) Meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after a particular contest.
- (j) Encourage safe and practical competition practices to include reasonable weight management and discourage unnecessary weight cutting practices.