Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: Iowa Administrative Code 875—Chapter 174
"Elimination Tournaments"

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 90A.7
State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Executive Order 10

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

October 24, 2024 10:30 to 11 a.m.	Lake Conference Room 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100 Des Moines, Iowa

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis. Written or oral comments in response to this Regulatory Analysis must be received by of Labor Services Division no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

Mitchell Mahan
Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing
6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321-1270
Phone: 515.443.1051
Email: mitchell.mahan@dia.iowa.gov

Purpose and Summary

This proposed rulemaking repromulgates Chapter 174 in accordance with the goals and directives of Executive Order 10. Proposed Chapter 174 regulates boxing tournaments in which participants may fight more than once during the event. It limits the length of bouts, requires certain protective equipment, provides rules for the bout, and governs the conduct of officials.

Analysis of Impact

1. Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:
- Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:

Promoters of boxing elimination tournaments bear the costs.
- Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:

Participants in the covered contests benefit.

2. Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:
- Quantitative description of impact:

No quantitative impact is discerned.
- Qualitative description of impact:

No qualitative impact is discerned.

3. Costs to the State:
- Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:

There are no specific financial costs to implement or enforce this rulemaking outside of any costs associated with the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing's statutory duties. This rulemaking does not add to the costs of the Department beyond existing personnel assigned to implement this chapter.

- Anticipated effect on state revenues:

There is no anticipated effect on state revenues.

4. Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:

Inaction would result in less safety in the covered events.

5. Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:

No less costly or less intrusive methods are known.

6. Alternative methods considered by the agency:

- Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:

No alternative methods were seriously considered.

- Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:

Not applicable.

Small Business Impact

If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:

- Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.
- Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.
- Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?

There is no special allowance for small businesses.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 875—Chapter 174 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 174
ELIMINATION TOURNAMENTS

875—174.1(90A) Purpose and scope. These rules apply to elimination tournaments, which are boxing matches where contestants box one another, two at a time, with one contestant eliminated from the tournament. The elimination continues with winners from the various bouts competing until only one contestant remains undefeated in the weight division. Elimination tournaments are governed by the rules in 875—Chapter 173 and this chapter. Any conflicts between 875—Chapter 173 and this chapter will be resolved in favor of this chapter.

875—174.2(90A) Bouts, rounds and rest periods.

174.2(1) Each bout consists of no more than three rounds. Each round is two minutes in length. A rest period of 90 seconds shall be provided between rounds. No contestant shall be permitted to compete in more than three bouts in any 20-hour period.

174.2(2) In national elimination tournaments, when the ability and conditioning of the contestants are assured, the athletics commissioner may authorize two contestants to participate in a fourth bout that determines the championship, provided all bouts are comprised of three 90-second rounds. Under no circumstances will any participant be permitted to compete more minutes in any one 20-hour period than is authorized under the rule allowing three bouts consisting of three two-minute rounds as set forth in this rule.

875—174.3(90A) Required protective equipment.

174.3(1) *Hand protection.* Practice wraps (training hand wraps) may be used in lieu of compliance with 875—Chapter 173. Gloves weighing 16 ounces shall be worn by both contestants.

174.3(2) *Body protection.* All male contestants shall wear a foul proof protective cup. All female contestants shall wear foul proof pelvic area protection and breast protection.

174.3(3) *Head protection.* The promoter shall provide and the contestants shall wear protective headgear unless the contestant signs a waiver from it.

174.3(4) *Mouth protection.* A mouthpiece shall be worn by all contestants throughout the bout. If the mouthpiece is knocked from a contestant's mouth, it shall be replaced with no penalty. Any contestant who deliberately spits out a mouthpiece shall be cautioned the first time, the referee shall deduct one point from each judge's scorecard the second time and the contestant will be disqualified the third time. Before being replaced, the mouthpiece will be washed.

174.3(5) *Hair protection.* Where necessary, hair will be secured in a manner that it will not interfere with the vision or safety of either contestant.

875—174.4(90A) Weight restrictions. Permission must be received from the commissioner before any contestant will be permitted to box an opponent with a weight differential greater than the following:

Contestants	Weight Differential
Under 135 pounds	6 pounds
135-160 pounds	12 pounds
160-190 pounds	18 pounds
Over 190 pounds	No restriction

875—174.5(90A) Down. In determining a technical knockout (TKO) under 875—Chapter 173, a down includes a standing eight count where a contestant is still standing but is in a semiconscious state and cannot, in the opinion of the referee, continue the bout.

875—174.6(90A) Suspension. A contestant who suffers a knockout or where the referee stops a fight on a technical knockout (TKO) shall not be permitted to box in the state for a period of 30 days. Before being permitted to fight again, the contestant shall be examined by a physician or physician assistant approved by the commissioner.

875—174.7(90A) Training requirements. Each contestant will have been involved in conditioning for at least 30 days prior to competing in any elimination tournament. Conditioning means a combination of roadwork or jogging and usual training center conditioning exercises. The promoter shall obtain from each contestant prior to the physical examination a written declaration from the contestant, witnessed by at least one other person, that the contestant has met these training requirements.

875—174.8(90A) Judges. Three judges, each located on different sides of the ring, will separately score bouts. The referee will not be permitted to act as a judge in scoring a bout.

875—174.9(90A) Impartiality of timekeeper. The use of lights on each ring post to indicate the final seconds of a round shall not be considered as signals to interested parties. Corner lights may be used only if consistently activated throughout the elimination tournament and all contestants and officials are informed prior to the start of the tournament about the information conveyed by the round lights.

875—174.10(90A) Ringside. No person may sit or stand at ringside unless authorized by the commissioner.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 90A.2 and 90A.5.