



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BOXING ASSOCIATION

NCBA

Rule Modifications

February 24, 2025

Introduction

The National Collegiate Boxing Association (NCBA) is an Affiliate Organization or Group Member of USA Boxing. As an Affiliate Organization the NCBA, its Board of Directors, Committees, and Members are governed by USA Boxing’s established Bylaws located on the [USA Boxing website](#), the [USA Boxing National Rule Book](#) and the [Code of Conduct](#).

The NCBA expects its members to use best practices for a safe training and competition environment. All USA Boxing rules related to competition shall be followed for insurance coverage to be active in that setting.

All USA Boxing Rules, Bylaws, policies and procedures govern NCBA membership. The following modifications have been granted by USA Boxing Board of Directors.

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1 NCBA Organization

1.1 Regional Alignment. The NCBA is divided regionally into three or four regions. Requests for regional re-alignment may be considered at the annual Board of Governor's meeting.

- (a) Each region shall have a Regional Chairperson elected by the Board of Governors who will serve as the regional representative on the Competition Committee, be the contact for their region, and work with Registration Deputies within each region to meet members' needs.
- (b) Each region shall have a Regional Deputy Registrar who will handle the membership needs for that region and report to and assist the NCBA Registration Chairperson.

1.2 Committees. The NCBA shall have the following standing committees:

- (a) **The Competition Committee** will be made up of the 3 Regional Chairs and 2 athlete representatives. The Competition Committee and Chairperson will assist in the planning, selection, and management of NCBA tournaments and the review of NCBA sanctioned events.
- (b) **The Eligibility Committee** will be seated per section 6 of the LBC Bylaws and shall evaluate eligibility of boxers and teams based on NCBA's eligibility standards outlined in [section 2](#) and [section 3](#) of these NCBA Rule Modifications. The Eligibility Committee will have jurisdiction over all questions of club and athlete eligibility.

2 NCBA Modified Rules for Club Eligibility

2.1 Registration. Universities/colleges must be a registered USA Boxing Club before boxers can represent their school in competition in an NCBA sanctioned event.

Note: per USA Boxing Rules - a boxer may not represent a club or an organization that is not a member of an LBC or USA Boxing.

2.2 University Recognition. The member club must be recognized by their university; this currently applies to four-year institutions (see [3.4](#) for 2-year college exceptions). The recognition can be as a club, varsity team, student organization, or group with similar standing.

- (a) The member club must provide NCBA documentation of recognition by a representative of the school. This can take the form of the university's official seal on the [Institutional Eligibility Certificate](#); a letter stating as much on university letterhead; or an email confirming recognition from a school representative sent from their university email account.

- (b) A new club must provide NCBA [Institutional Eligibility Certificate](#) to the Eligibility Committee prior to their club membership being approved.

2.3 Leadership. Each member club must have a club president, coach, and faculty advisor or university representative that serves a similar function. The names and contact information for these parties shall be provided with the club registration documents and kept on file with the NCBA and USA Boxing. The [Institutional Eligibility Certificate](#) shall be used for this purpose. The same person can hold two or more of these positions if they are qualified.

- (a) Clubs/universities will send the university recognition documentation, USA Boxing club registration, and other documents to the NCBA Eligibility Committee at the time of club registration. This document will be resubmitted annually prior to participation in the Regional Qualifier.

3 NCBA Modified Rules for Athlete Eligibility

3.1 NCBA Eligibility refers only to the eligibility of an athlete to compete in the NCBA Regional Qualifier and National Tournament. The NCBA does not in any way, shape, or form prohibit NCBA or non-NCBA athletes from participating in matched bouts at NCBA events.

3.2 Undergraduate Student Eligibility. To be eligible to compete in the NCBA regional and national tournaments, a collegiate boxer must be a student at an accredited four-year institution, which they are attending for graduation. The boxer must also comply with the following criteria:

- (a) At the time of entry into the regional qualifier and national tournament, an undergraduate student athlete must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours of study, regardless of their institution's definition of a minimum full-time program of studies. An exception will be made in a student's final semester with the university's verification that they will graduate that semester and are taking all courses necessary to complete their degree.
- (b) Athletic eligibility for collegiate boxing will be initiated at the time of the individual's first NCBA athlete registration year and be effective for up to four years within five academic years. Previous experience will be considered in granting the initial eligibility. An athlete may apply for additional years of eligibility by sending a written request to the NCBA Eligibility Committee.
- (c) The athlete must be a member of a registered club that is recognized by their university.
- (d) Athletes who are enrolled for less than 12 credit hours may compete in NCBA non-tournament matched bouts.

3.3 Graduate Student Eligibility. Full-time graduate students (as defined by their respective universities) who have not exhausted their four years of NCBA eligibility are eligible to compete in all NCBA competitions. Graduate students are not required to be taking 12 credit hours.

3.4 Two-year College Student Eligibility. Boxers who attend a two-year college must also meet the above criteria. In order to be eligible for NCBA competition, two-year college students must be allowed, via an articulation agreement, to participate with a registered club at a nearby four-year institution.

- (a) Student athletes enrolled in a two-year college that has a relationship with a four-year college in which the student is on track to receive a 4-year degree from the four-year college after completing courses at the two-year college are eligible to compete in the NCBA tournament. Students shall provide supporting documentation for this enrollment situation.

3.5 Prior Boxing Experience. Any collegiate boxer with USA Boxing registration years and/or sanctioned combat sport competition experience (Junior Olympics, Golden Gloves, PAL, any sanctioned amateur bout, or MMA, kickboxing, etc.) prior to their NCBA registration, must complete a [Declaration of Prior Experience](#) form prior to their first NCBA competition. A collegiate boxer may not enter the NCBA regional or national tournaments if they have competed in eleven or more USA Boxing sanctioned bouts prior to joining the NCBA. Boxers found ineligible for the NCBA tournaments because of prior amateur experience are still eligible to compete in NCBA non-tournament events or any other USA Boxing events.

- (a) A copy of the boxer's passbook(s) shall be provided with the form. If the passbook is not available, a signed statement from the boxer regarding their competition record may be required.
- (b) The [Declaration of Prior Experience](#) form must be submitted to the Eligibility Committee and shall include a detailed synopsis of competition for review and approval by the Eligibility Committee for an initial eligibility decision. The Eligibility Committee Chairperson will also review MatchTracker entries. Criteria for initial eligibility is covered in [3.6](#).
- (c) If an athlete with prior competitive boxing experience is granted initial eligibility of a given number of years, this eligibility can be extended by sending a written request for additional eligibility to the Eligibility Committee. Criteria for additional eligibility is covered in [3.7](#).

3.6 Initial Eligibility Criteria will be determined by the NCBA Eligibility Chair at the time of an athlete with prior experience's initial registration with the NCBA according to the following guidelines:

- (a) Any athlete with more than 10 fights prior to their registration in the NCBA is ineligible for the regional and national tournament series. They will receive 0 years of eligibility. The athlete may compete for their school in non-tournament matched bouts and in other bouts as arranged by their coach, but they are ineligible for the NCBA tournament. In rare cases with extenuating circumstances the Eligibility Committee may consider an exception to these rules and grant an athlete one year of provisional eligibility.
- (b) Any athlete who has previously competed in a non-collegiate national tournament is automatically ineligible for the NCBA tournament.
- (c) Per 3.2(a), athletes are limited to four years of eligibility out of five in school. In the event that an athlete has prior registrations with USA Boxing, each year of registration in which the athlete participated in a sanctioned bout is counted as a year of eligibility. For example, a freshman boxer in 2024 who had prior registrations with USA Boxing in 2020 and 2021 and fought both years would have two years of eligibility remaining. If the athlete was registered in 2020 and 2021 but only fought in 2021, only one year of eligibility would be deducted.
- (d) In the event a boxer has four or more years of active registration, but has competed in 10 or less bouts, the athlete will be given one year of initial eligibility.
- (e) Given the clear guidelines for initial eligibility, the Eligibility Committee is not required to meet to determine initial eligibility outside of special cases or when considering exceptions to the general rules.

3.7 Additional Eligibility Criteria will be evaluated by the NCBA Eligibility Committee upon receipt of an application from the coach of an athlete who has exhausted their initial eligibility. The evaluation will be performed according to the following guidelines:

- (a) The priority of the Committee will be the safety of other athletes. In evaluating the safety of athletes, the Committee will examine the athlete's record as a college boxer against boxers of similar age/year in school, as well as the rate of stoppages, and the competitiveness of bouts in which the athlete participated in. Specific consideration should be given when a boxer is observed to have a high rate of RSCs, few or no losses to other collegiate boxers, and/or a very high rate of 10-8 rounds.

3.8 Eligibility Challenges. In the event an NCBA coach feels that an athlete's continued participation in NCBA events represents a clear danger to the safety of other athletes, they may initiate a challenge to that athlete's eligibility. The challenge must be initiated by at least 3 NCBA coaches representing different clubs and include the specific grounds on which the challenging coaches feels the athlete represents a safety concern (i.e. high rate of stoppages in seemingly well-matched bouts,

consistently dominant tournament performance, occurrence of injuries, etc). The athlete's initial eligibility status, prior experience, or lack thereof, is not a consideration for this challenge. The challenge will be reviewed by the Eligibility Committee using the standards outlined in 3.7.

3.9 Crossover-Bouts. Boxers registered with the NCBA are allowed up to 10 sanctioned bouts outside of NCBA sanctioned events per season while maintaining their collegiate eligibility. Participating in more than 10 non-NCBA sanctioned events will void a boxers NCBA Eligibility (as defined in 3.1).

3.10 National Tournaments. Boxers registered with the NCBA forfeit their remaining NCBA Eligibility (as defined in 3.1) upon participation in a non-collegiate national tournament including but not limited to: USA Open Nationals, Olympic Trials, and National Golden Gloves.

4 Modified Competition Rules: Matches, Bouts, and Equipment

- (a) NCBA membership can compete in uniforms that represent their respective college or university.
- (b) All boxers at NCBA sanctioned events compete in three 2-minute rounds with 1-minute breaks. The round length cannot be increased.
- (c) All boxers competing in NCBA sanctioned events shall use USA Boxing approved 12oz competition gloves regardless of their weight class.
- (d) All matches for non-tournament NCBA sanctioned events should be pre-matched and agreed upon by both coaches and the event host.
- (e) NCBA non-tournament bouts are considered qualifying events for the annual regional tournaments.

5 NCBA Modified Rules for Tournaments

5.1 Planning of Tournaments. The NCBA holds regional qualifier tournaments in March that seed a national tournament in April.

- (a) The Competition Committee is responsible for the fair planning and scheduling of the regional tournaments. Each Regional Chairperson will work with the coaches in their region to determine the regional tournament location. All regional tournaments will be conducted with the same protocols to ensure a fair playing field for all members.

- (b) The national tournament is planned and scheduled by the NCBA Board of Directors. Site selection for the national tournament will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors and may use either a bidding process or a multi-year agreement to the greatest benefit of the NCBA.

5.2 National Tournament Bracket Seeding. The NCBA uses an advantage seeding bracket procedure. The term “returning” specifically refers to placement in the previous competitive year at the same weight class. Final seeding shall take place only after the conclusion of a general weigh-in of all participating athletes. Byes in various weight classes (when available) will be assigned the following criteria in the order of priority indicated:

- (a) The returning national champion that wins their region automatically draws #1 seed.
- (b) The returning national runner-up that wins their region automatically draws #2 seed unless there is no returning national champion, then they draw #1 seed.
- (c) No seeding consideration is given to any previous national champion or runner-up that does not win their region, or if they change weight class.
- (d) If there is no returning champion or runner-up, the three regional champions will draw for the top three seeds.
- (e) Any regional champion that was not opposed in the regional tournament must receive the lowest possible seed for a regional champion. This does not affect the placement of a returning national champion or runner-up per (a) and (b).
- (f) Regional runner-ups will be placed in the opposite bracket away from their regional champs.
- (g) At-large (3rd and 4th place regional finishers) will be placed in opposite brackets away from their regional champ, if possible.
- (h) Regional runner-ups will be bumped up to regional champion position in the absence of the actual regional champion at the national tournament. However, any regional runner-up that gets bumped up is not eligible to be awarded the top seed in the national draw and should be placed in the lowest seed reserved for regional champions.
- (i) If there are multiple region champs that are unopposed, their seed will be randomly drawn from among the remaining top three seeds.

5.3 National Tournament Draw Procedures

- (a) Place byes based on number of entrants
- (b) If returning champ or runner-ups, they are placed first. If not, draw for top three seeds and place them.
- (c) By default, place the regional runner up to the #1 seed into the #6 seed versus.
- (d) By default, place the regional runner up to the #2 and #3 seed into the #4 and #5 seeds away from their regional champs.
- (e) If the bracket is full, the #8 seed is filled by the lowest at-large bid (4th place if possible or a 3rd place).
- (f) The remaining at-large bid goes into the #7 seed.
- (g) If the bracket is not full, seeding considerations for at-large bids can be considered as appropriate. Where possible, at-large bids will be placed away from respective regional champs, but seeding rules take precedence over this consideration.

5.4 Regional Tournament Bracket Seeding. Similar to the national tournament, returning regional champs and runners-up should have the greatest advantage in defending title/finish. The term “returning” specifically refers to placement in the previous competitive year at the same weight class. Final seeding shall take place only after the conclusion of a general weigh-in of all participating athletes.

5.4.1 Standard Draw Considerations

- (a) Returning Regional Champion
- (b) Returning Regional Runner-Up
- (c) Returning National Champion
- (d) Returning National Runner-up
- (e) Total number of career wins

5.4.2 Tiebreaks

- (a) Highest winning percentage/best overall record
- (b) Most recent head-to-head competition between the tied athletes
- (c) Open draw

5.5 Regional Tournament Entry

- (a) NCBA Regional Tournaments are three-day events so there are limited entries with no more than 8 boxers in each weight class.
 - (1) Entries will be on a first come first serve basis
 - (2) Schools/clubs must confirm boxers' names and weight classes at least one week prior to the first regional event.
- (b) The boxer must have had at least one USA Boxing sanctioned bout within 12 months prior to the regional tournament.
 - (1) Exceptions to this requirement may be requested in writing to the Competition Committee no less than 2 weeks prior to the start of the first regional tournament. The exception request should include exigent circumstances that may have impacted the boxer's ability to compete prior to the tournament. The Competition Committee will evaluate all exception requests based on the safety of the athlete in question and the evaluation of the coach submitting the request. Decisions will be released no later than 1 week prior to the start of the first regional tournament
- (c) The NCBA does not select a national/elite team. Entries to the Regional tournaments are determined by the coach of each registered club.
 - (1) Coaches may use any reasonable process to determine regional entries. These may include internal school tournaments or box-off procedures.
 - (2) Coaches must ensure that any boxer that is entered into the regional tournaments are of sufficient skill and condition to compete safely.

5.6 NCBA National Tournament Entry

- (a) The entry process for each region to participate at the national tournament is that the winners and runner-ups of each regional tournament are given an automatic spot at the national tournament in the weight class in which they competed at their regional qualifier. The remainder of the tournament brackets will be filled with at-large entries.
- (b) At the conclusion of a regional tournament, the Regional Chairperson must submit the tournament results to the NCBA Competition Committee within 24 hours.
- (c) Coaches of 3rd or 4th place finishers wishing to be considered for an at-large bid must submit their bid within 48 hours of the of the last regional tournament. 3rd and 4th place finishers must be decided by a 3rd place bout.
- (d) At-Large entries will be taken from the Regional Tournaments 3rd and 4th Place Boxers. These boxers will be ranked and awarded entries until the bracket is full according to:

- 3rd Place Finishers (as determined by a 3rd Place Bout)
 - 4th Place Finishers (as determined by a 3rd Place Bout)
 - Highest number of career wins
 - Highest winning percentage overall record
 - Results of head-to-head between any tied boxers
 - Academic Seniority: i.e., Senior, Junior, Sophomore, Freshman
- (e) The Competition Committee will publish the list of accepted at-large entrants within 72 hours of the final Regional Tournament's conclusion.
- (f) If an athlete is rendered unable to compete between the conclusion of the Regional Tournament and the general weigh-in of the national tournament, it is the duty of their coach to promptly notify the Competition Committee. In the event this occurs, the Competition Committee will reach out to the next available at-large entrant to attempt to fill the bracket.
- (g) All reasonable attempts will be made to fill the bracket of the national tournament with the following restrictions:
- Athletes who did not compete at the regional tournament are not eligible to compete at the national tournament.
 - Athletes may only compete at the national tournament in the weight class in which they competed at the regional tournament.

5.7 National Tournament Scoring

- (a) Final men's and women's team standings are decided based on points received by the team's boxers during the NCBA championship tournament.
- (b) A boxer only earns points if any bout was contested in their weight class during that day of competition.
- (c) A team receives points based on the following:
- 1 point - to Each Team Participating
 - 1 point - Quarter Final Win
 - 3 points - Semi-Final Win
 - 5 points - Championship Win
- (d) In the event of a tie in the team points, the tie-breaking procedure will be:
- (1) Team with the most Gold - 1st Place Boxers
 - (2) Team with the most Silver - 2nd Place Boxers
 - (3) Team with the most Bronze - 3rd Place Boxers
 - (4) Head-to-head record between tied teams in the national tournament
 - (5) Team with the most participating boxers

6 NCBA Modified National and Regional Weight Classes

6.1 Terms

- (a) Established weight class - an established weight class is a weight class which is contested at the regional and national level.
- (b) Provisional weight class - a provisional weight class has been approved by the Board of Governors to be contested at the regional and national level but has not yet been established due to lack of participating athletes. A provisional weight class requires 4 participants nationwide to become established.

6.2 Current Established Weight Classes

- (a) Men's - 119, 125, 132, 139, 147, 156, 165, 175, 185, 195, 195+ (HWT)
- (b) Women's - 112, 119, 125, 132, 139, 147, 156, 165

6.3 Current Provisional Weight Classes

- (a) Women's - 106, 178, 178+ (HWT)

6.4 Tournament Procedures

- (a) An unopposed region champion may be crowned in an established weight class as long as there is at least one other athlete registered in the weight class who they will compete against at the national tournament.
- (b) If only one athlete is registered in a weight class nationally, that weight class will not be contested that year.
- (c) In the event of sustained low participation, the Board of Governors may elect to abolish the weight class by majority vote. This will be submitted as a formal rule modification proposal to USA Boxing.
- (d) At the start of each calendar year, a survey will be sent to all NCBA clubs to solicit information regarding athletes who would participate in any provisional weight classes currently recognized by the NCBA. The results of this survey will be disseminated to schools at the end of January.
- (e) In the event that 4 or more athletes intend to participate in a provisional weight class, that provisional weight class will be contested at the regional level in all regions. If 4 or more athletes follow through with registration in the provisional weight class, it will be contested at the national level.

- (f) An unopposed region champion may be crowned in a provisional weight class provided the weight class has met the criteria to be contested at the national level.
- (g) Upon completion of a full national championship cycle, contested at the regional and national level, a provisional weight class automatically becomes established and is elevated to the established weight classes. This will be accompanied by a notice to USA Boxing that a provisional weight class has met the establishment criteria but will not require a formal rule modification proposal.
- (h) New provisional weight classes will be submitted to USA Boxing as a formal rule modification proposal.



INSTITUTIONAL ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE

School/Institution: _____

“We, the undersigned, certify that we will uphold the rules and regulations of the NCBA.”

Club President	Coach
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
Phone:	Phone:
Email:	Email:
Signature:	Signature:
Date:	Date:
Faculty Advisor	Director of Club Sports
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
Phone:	Phone:
Email:	Email:
Signature:	Signature:
Date:	Date:

AN EMPLOYEE OF THE INSTITUTION, WHO IS AUTHORIZED TO REPRESENT THE INSTITUTION, MUST AFFIRM TO THE FOLLOWING:

“I, the undersigned, certify that the _____ (Institution) Boxing Club is an officially recognized campus organization for the _____ school year.”

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name and Title: _____



Institutional Seal or Above Statement on Official Letterhead Must Appear OR be sent by email to the Eligibility Chair from a University Account



DECLARATION OF PRIOR EXPERIENCE

In Accordance with the Athlete Eligibility Requirements that became effective in November, 2024, and athlete with prior experience that is registering with the NCBA for the first time must declare that experience in order to determine that athlete’s “initial eligibility” period. Please be descriptive and specific about previous experience and USA Boxing registrations. **If the athlete posses a passbook, a copy should be provided with this declaration.** Send all declarations to the NCBA Eligibility Chairperson.

Athlete Name:	USA Boxing ID:	
School/Institution:		
Birthdate:	Year in School:	Phone/Email:

Year(s):	LBC:	Coach:	Record:

Summary of experience for participation not governed by USA Boxing. For example, participation in combat sports other than boxing or participation in boxing activities without registration or competition.

Signature of Athlete:	Date:
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