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Dear Member of the Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians,

The Massachusetts State Athletic Commission (“MSAC”) is seeking qualified Physicians to apply to become licensed Ringside Physicians. With your emergency medical training, you may already possess the qualifications required to obtain such a license. The MSAC is charged with the regulation of all professional and amateur boxing, mixed martial arts, and unarmed combatants and events. Pursuant to [523 Code of Massachusetts Regulations \(“CMR”\) 14.08](#), licensed Ringside Physicians work to protect combatants’ safety at all programs of unarmed combat.

Unarmed Combat is defined in M.G.L. c. 147, § 32, as “boxing, mixed martial arts, karate, or any form of competition in which a blow is usually struck which may reasonably be expected to inflict injury and no weapon is used,” but does not include professional wrestling.

Currently, the MSAC is looking to increase our pool of licensed Ringside Physicians who can assist with the over 30 MSAC-licensed events held in Massachusetts each year. A full description of the general requirements for all unarmed combat contests and exhibitions can be found in 523 CMR 14. A Ringside Physician for MSAC agrees to work as described below and perform the following duties:

**14.08: Duties of Ringside Physician**

- (1) There shall be at least two physicians present at all programs of unarmed combat.
- (2) One of the two physicians designated by the Commission shall sit at the immediate ringside at every contest or exhibition. A contest or exhibition may not proceed unless one ringside physician is in their seat at ringside. The ringside physician shall not leave until after the decision in the final contest or exhibition. They shall be prepared to assist if any serious emergency arises and shall render temporary or emergency treatments for cuts and minor injuries sustained by the unarmed combatants.
- (3) If an unarmed combatant appears to have been injured during a period of unarmed combat, their manager or second shall not attempt to render aid to him before the ringside physician has had an opportunity to examine them.
- (4) A physician shall examine each unarmed combatant contemporaneously with the weigh in for the scheduled match and following the match. An evaluation form provided by the Commission shall be completed for each examination and returned to the Commission.



Prerequisites to becoming a Ringside Physician are: 1) being licensed to practice medicine for at least three years in any jurisdiction; and 2) maintaining good standing with the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine. Anyone who meets these prerequisites, and is interested in applying to become a licensed Ringside Physician, is invited to file an application [here](#).

Each Ringside Physician earns a minimum of \$625 per event, and the Ringside Physician who handles the combatant weigh-ins prior to each event receives an additional \$250. Ringside Physician compensation is set by statute in [MGL C. 147 s. 37](#). MSAC staff confirm each Ringside Physician's availability before scheduling him or her to work at an event; accordingly, it will be your decision whether you are available to work any particular day or night.

Thank you for considering becoming a licensed Ringside Physician for the MSAC. Please feel free to email any questions to [MSAC@mass.gov](mailto:MSAC@mass.gov).

Respectfully,

Massachusetts State Athletic Commission