



# 2019 OFFICIAL RULES

Version 4 – Effective as of May 31, 2019

## Preface

This edition of the Professional Fighters League (“PFL”) Official Rules (“Rules”) contains current rules, regulations, and procedures that are in effect for the PFL’s 2019 season. The PFL may amend these rules at any time.

These Rules are posted at the following link: [www.pflmma.com/league](http://www.pflmma.com/league)

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# Table of Contents

<i>Article</i>	<i>Page</i>
<b>1. General</b>	
1.1 - 2019 Season Format Overview .....	5
1.2 - Weight Divisions .....	5
1.3 - Commissions .....	6
1.4 - Code of Conduct .....	6
1.5 - No Elbows .....	6
1.6 - Gloves .....	6
1.7 - Apparel .....	6
1.8 - Technology .....	7
1.9 - Competition Space .....	7
1.10 - Appeal Process .....	8
<b>2. Regular Season</b>	
2.1 - Number of Fights .....	9
2.2 - Bout Specifications .....	9
2.3 - Point Structure .....	9
2.4 - Standings .....	10
2.5 - Standings Tiebreakers .....	10-11
2.6 - Determining of Opponents .....	11
2.7 - Making Weight .....	12
2.8 - Injuries and Replacements .....	12
<b>3. Playoffs</b>	
3.1 - Seeding and Matchups .....	13
3.2 - Bout Specifications .....	13
3.3 - Tiebreakers .....	14
3.4 - Making Weight .....	14
3.5 - Alternates .....	14
3.6 - Injuries and Replacements .....	15
3.7 - No Contests .....	15



**4. Championship**

4.1 - Bout Specifications ..... 16

4.2 - Making Weight ..... 16

4.3 - Alternates ..... 16

4.4 - Draws, No Contests and Walkovers ..... 16



# 1. General

## 1.1 – 2019 Season Format Overview

- a) The 2019 PFL Season will consist of 10 events: 6 regular season events, 3 playoff events, and 1 World Championship. The PFL can change the schedule at its discretion.
- b) There will be 6 PFL weight divisions. Fighters will be scheduled to compete in 2 regular season fights, each consisting of three 5-minute rounds.
- c) Fighters will earn points during the regular season based on their performance and will be ranked in division standings accordingly. At the end of the regular season, the top 8 in each division will make the playoffs.
- d) In the playoffs, fighters will compete in quarterfinals and semifinals in the same night. Each playoff event will consist of 12 fights, with 4 quarterfinals and 2 semifinals taking place for two weight divisions. If there are fewer than 12 fighters in a division, the league has the option to eliminate the quarterfinal round and have the top 4 from the regular season proceed directly to the semifinals.
- e) The two fighters who advance out of the semifinals in each division will compete at the 2019 PFL World Championship in a 5-round fight for their division title.

## 1.2 - Weight Divisions

- a) The 2019 Season will feature 6 weight divisions: 5 men's divisions and 1 women's division.
  - Featherweight - 145 lbs.
  - Lightweight - 155 lbs.
  - Welterweight - 170 lbs.
  - Light Heavyweight - 205 lbs.
  - Heavyweight - 265 lbs.
  - Women's Lightweight - 155 lbs.
- b) Fighters will be allowed a one-pound overage for regular season and playoff bouts, subject to commission approval. Championship bout competitors will not be given any weight allowance and will have to meet the upper limit of the division they are scheduled to compete in.
- c) Fighters in a division will fight any other fighter in their weight division as directed by the league, subject to commission approval.
- d) Weight divisions may be adjusted to conform with commission requirements.



## 1.3 - Commissions

Fights throughout the 2019 PFL Season will be held in various jurisdictions, and each fight will be governed by the regulations and rules of the commission for the jurisdiction in which the fight takes place. Should an inconsistency arise at any point throughout the season between the application of the league rules and applicable commission rules, the commission rules will take precedence, with the exception of variances approved by the commission. League points, standings, tiebreakers and playoff brackets for intra-league purposes are within the discretion of the league.

## 1.5 - Code of Conduct

All fighters, corners, managers, coaches, friends and family members will be required to abide by the league rules and code of conduct while present at any PFL event or ancillary league-related function. The PFL code of conduct is posted at the following link: [www.pflmma.com/league](http://www.pflmma.com/league)

## 1.6 - No Elbows

There will be no elbows allowed anywhere anytime (on the ground, standing, clinch) during the 2019 PFL regular season, playoffs and Championship. Fighters who violate this rule will be subject to a point reduction, and/or disqualification, at the commission-appointed referee's discretion.

## 1.7 - Gloves

- a) All gloves will be supplied by the PFL and will have been previously approved by the commission.
- b) Gloves will be between four and six ounces in weight. Larger sized gloves (3XL-4XL) may slightly exceed the six-ounce limit.

## 1.8 - Apparel

- a) All apparel sponsorships need to be preapproved by the PFL no later than 21 days before bouts (including but not limited to: body art, walkout clothes, apparel and gear, t-shirts, hats, beanies, fight shorts, gloves, robes, shoes, and banners).
- b) Fighters are allowed to wear league-approved MMA board shorts or compression shorts.
- c) Upper body garments (shirts, gi's, tank tops, etc.) are prohibited in the men's divisions, except as authorized by the league and the commission.
- d) Shoes of any kind are prohibited during a fight, except as authorized by the league and the commission.
- e) Fighters must wear league gear for weigh-ins and walk-outs.

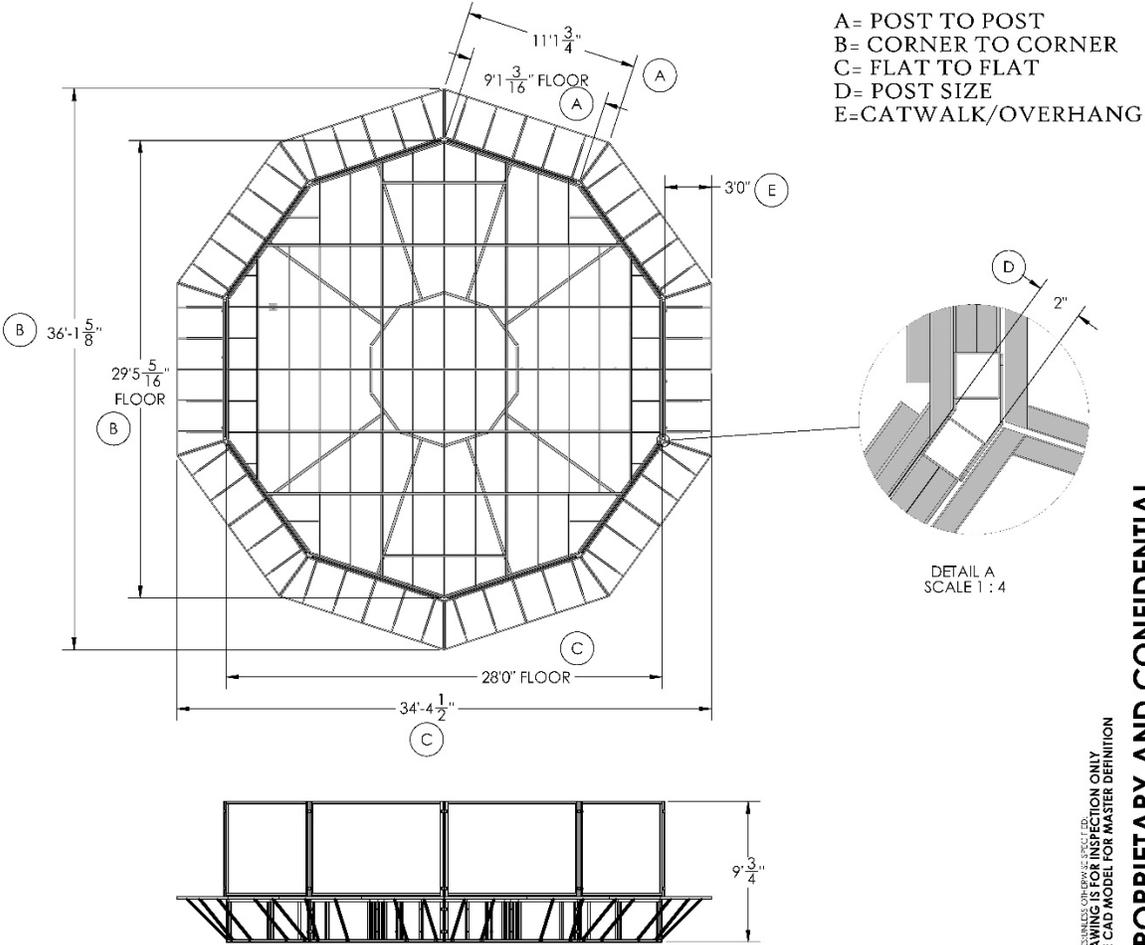


# 1.9 - Technology

Fighters will be required to use biometric-sensing and fighter-tracking technology in the decagon as approved by both the league and commission.

# 1.10 - Competition Space

All of the fights will take place inside PFL's Decagon. The Decagon is 28 feet long with a 3-foot catwalk.



- A= POST TO POST
- B= CORNER TO CORNER
- C= FLAT TO FLAT
- D= POST SIZE
- E=CATWALK/OVERHANG

NOT TO SCALE UNLESS SPECIFIED  
 DRAWING IS FOR INSPECTION ONLY  
 USE CAD MODEL FOR MASTER DEFINITION  
**PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL**



## 1.11 - Appeal Process

- a) During the regular season, the PFL bases its points awarded on commission rulings. If a fighter wishes to appeal a commission ruling during the regular season, they must do so within 3 business days of the fight in question. The PFL will honor any subsequent changes made by the commission as long as the commission comes to an official decision on the appeal within 30 days of the fight in question. Any decision not made within these parameters will have no bearing on points, official standings or playoff participation.
- b) Any decisions by the commission during the playoffs and/or Championship will be final at the conclusion of the fight. Any appeal taken of those decisions will have no bearing on advancement or participation in the playoffs, except as may be determined by the league at its discretion.



## 2. Regular Season

### 2.1 - Number of Fights

Each fighter will be scheduled to fight twice during the regular season, with at least 45 days in between each bout. In the event that any fighter fights only once during the regular season for any reason, such fighter may still be considered in the division standings and for qualification into the playoffs based on their performance subject to the league's discretion.

### 2.2 - Bout Specifications

- a) 3 rounds
- b) 5-minute rounds
- c) 1-minute rest period between rounds

### 2.3 - Point Structure

- a) Points are maintained for league purposes only, and are awarded at the sole discretion of the league.
- b) The PFL uses an outcome-based scoring system that awards fighters with points based on performance, including bonus points for stoppage wins.

Win .....3 Points

Draw .....1 Point

Loss.....0 Points

#### *Bonus Points For Stoppages*

Round 1 .....3 Points

Round 2 .....2 Points

Round 3.....1 Point

- c) Any fighter who is awarded a walkover will receive a win and 3 total points.
- d) A technical decision win or DQ win are both treated as decision wins for points purposes, not as stoppages, regardless of when they occur.
- e) If a fighter cannot return for the beginning of a new round, and the fight is called off by TKO in between rounds, the winning fighter will be awarded a stoppage at 5:00 of the last completed round for points purposes.
- f) If a fight results in a No Contest during the regular season, both fighters will be awarded 1 point.
- g) Point Example: Win by 2<sup>nd</sup> round submission = 5 total points (3 for the win + 2 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> rd stoppage)



## 2.4 - Standings

- a) Fighters in each division will be ordered in standings according to the number of points they've earned during the season (highest # of points at the top), starting after the first round of fights.
- b) The top-8 fighters in the standings in each division will be assigned a seed corresponding with their place in the standings. Those 8 fighters in each division will move on to the playoffs. If there are fewer than 12 fighters in a division, the league has the option to reduce the number of playoff spots available.
- c) Any fighter outside the top-8 will not automatically be assigned a seed. For more information on how fighters who finish outside the top-8 become playoff alternates, see page 14.

## 2.5 - Standings Tiebreakers

In the event that multiple fighters are tied in number of points after their regular season bouts, the following tiebreakers will be applied in order to set the playoff seeding accordingly. The only results used within these tiebreakers are the official league results from the 2019 PFL season.

If two fighters are tied on points...

1. Head-to-head (*did they already beat the fighter they are tied with?*)
2. Number of regular season fights (*whoever had the larger number of regular season fights wins – a no contest and walkover win count as a fight, a walkover loss does not*).
3. Number of finishes
4. Winning percentage (*number of wins divided by number of fights, draws count as half a win; number of wins and fights both include walkovers, but no contests will not be considered fights during this step*).
5. Least amount of time spent in the cage when winning (*walkover wins count for 15 minutes spent in cage for this step*).
6. Most amount of time spent in the cage when losing (*walkover losses count for 0 minutes spent in cage for this step*).
7. Combined scores on judges' scorecards for all results that ended in decision
8. Lowest combined opponent scores on judges' scorecards for all results that ended in decision
9. Most combined league points scored by opponents (*all regular season opponents*).
10. Coin flip (*the league will work with the commission of its choice to oversee the coin flip. The league will assign heads and tails to the fighters who are tied, and will have the commission confirm the result of the coin flip*).



## 2.5 - Standings Tiebreakers cont'd

If three or more fighters are tied on points...

(Note: if at the conclusion of any of these steps, the number of tied fighters is reduced to two, the tie breaker reverts to step 1 of the two fighter tie breakers)

1. Head-to-head (*did any of the tied fighters defeat all of the other tied fighters in question?*)
2. Number of regular season fights (*whoever had the larger number of regular season fights wins – a no contest and walkover win count as a fight, a walkover loss does not*).
3. Number of finishes
4. Winning percentage (*number of wins divided by number of fights, draws count as half a win – number of wins and fights both include walkovers, but no contests will not be considered fights during this step*).
5. Least amount of time spent in the cage when winning (*walkover wins count for 15 minutes spent in cage for this step*).
6. Most amount of time spent in the cage when losing (*walkover losses count for 0 minutes spent in cage for this step*).
7. Combined scores on judges' scorecards for all results that ended in decision
8. Lowest combined opponent scores on judges' scorecards for all results that ended in decision
9. Most combined league points scored by opponents (*all regular season opponents*).
10. Random draw (*the league will work with the commission of its choice to oversee a standings draw. The league will put each tied name on a card, shuffle the cards, and then randomly draw from the cards for seeding. The commission will confirm the result of the draw*).

## 2.6 - Determining of Opponents

- a) It will be at the sole discretion of the league to determine regular season opponents, subject to commission approval.
- b) The league reserves the right to change matchups at any time.



## 2.7 - Making Weight

- a) In the regular season, fighters will be allowed a one-pound overage, subject to commission approval.
- b) Except as described in Section 2.7(c) and (d), if a fighter misses weight for a regular season fight, they will receive a walkover loss, 0 points for that fight and will not be paid for that fight. The opponent, provided he/she does make weight, will receive a walkover, 3 points in the standings and will earn their contracted show and win purse.
- c) In the event that a fighter misses weight as described in Section 2.7(b), and if the commission and the league both decide that the fight may still occur, and the fighters also both agree to proceed with the bout, then the bout can take place as scheduled. In that situation, the fighter who missed weight will be ineligible to earn points or any benefit in the standings from the bout, and they will be forced to surrender 20% of their total fight purse to their opponent. The fighter who made weight will automatically earn their total contracted show and win purse, plus the extra 20% from their opponent's fight purse. The fighter who made weight will also be guaranteed a minimum of 3 points, regardless of the outcome of the fight, but that fighter also has the potential to earn bonus points if they secure a stoppage.
- d) If two or more athletes in a weight division miss weight, or become unable to compete for any reason, the league reserves the right to alter matchups so that the minimum number of fights are lost. The fighters who did not make weight will receive 0 points and will not be paid for a fight. The fighters who made weight will not receive a walkover, but will earn points and contracted purse amounts based on their performance in the altered matchup.
- e) If a fighter misses weight during the regular season, the league reserves the right to remove them from the competition for the season including the playoffs.

## 2.8 - Injuries and Replacements

- a) The PFL will have a pool of alternate fighters to draw from in the event that one of the league fighters in a division is unable to compete.
- b) Alternates who fight are eligible to earn points in the standings and qualify for the playoffs.
- c) In the event that a fighter is deemed ineligible for his/her first fight, an alternate will be added as a replacement. The original fighter may still be eligible to fight his/her second regular season fight contingent upon the league's discretion. The alternate's eligibility to participate in a second regular season bout will also be contingent upon the league's discretion.
- d) In the event that a fighter is deemed ineligible for his/her second fight, any points earned in their first fight are still applicable and the fighter remains eligible to make the playoffs.
- e) In the event that there is no time to book an alternate to replace a fighter who is unable to compete, the opponent will be awarded a walkover win, 3 points in the standings, as well as his/her contracted show and win purse, provided he/she makes weight.



## 3. Playoffs

### 3.1 - Seeding and Matchups

- a) The playoffs will be conducted in a single-elimination bracket format.
- b) The quarterfinal matchups in each division will be as follows:
  - Quarterfinal 1: #3 vs. #6
  - Quarterfinal 2: #2 vs. #7
  - Quarterfinal 3: #4 vs. #5
  - Quarterfinal 4: #1 vs. #8
- c) The semifinal matchups in each division will be as follows:
  - Semifinal 1: Winner of Quarterfinal 2 vs. Winner of Quarterfinal 1
  - Semifinal 2: Winner of Quarterfinal 4 vs. Winner of Quarterfinal 3
- d) If there are fewer than 12 fighters in a division, the league has the option to eliminate the quarterfinal round and have the top 4 from the regular season proceed directly to the semifinals. In that scenario, the semifinal matchups will be as follows:
  - Semifinal 1: #2 vs. #3
  - Semifinal 2: #1 vs. #4
- e) Red/blue corner assignments for the semifinals will feature the higher seeded fighter in the red corner. Any alternate or lucky loser who qualifies for the semifinals will automatically be assigned to the blue corner. Should two fighters who are either alternates and/or lucky losers face each other in a semifinal, the red corner will be assigned to the fighter who finished ahead in the regular season standings according to the league standings rules and standings tiebreakers.

### 3.2 - Bout Specifications

- a) The quarterfinals and semifinals for each division will be fought on the same day/night.
- b) Fighters will have at least 45 minutes between their quarterfinal and semifinal bouts.
- c) Quarterfinal bout specifications
  - 2 rounds
  - 5-minute rounds
  - 1-minute rest period between rounds
- d) Semifinal bout specifications
  - 3 rounds
  - 5-minute rounds
  - 1-minute rest period between rounds



### 3.3 - Tiebreakers

- a) If a quarterfinal ends in a draw, the three judges will each be asked to choose the fighter who they think had the most complete body of work for the entirety of the fight. The fighter chosen most often will advance. This process is subject to commission approval.
- b) If a quarterfinal ends in a draw, and the commission does not approve the above process, the tiebreaker will go to the fighter who won the 1<sup>st</sup> round on the judges' scorecards. If all rounds are a draw, then the higher seeded fighter from the regular season will advance.
- c) If a semifinal ends in a draw, the three judges will each be asked to choose the fighter who they think had the most complete body of work for the entirety of the fight. The fighter chosen most often will advance. This process is subject to commission approval.
- d) If a semifinal ends in a draw, and the commission does not approve the above process, the tiebreaker will go to the fighter who won the 1<sup>st</sup> round on the judges' scorecards. If the 1<sup>st</sup> round was ruled a draw, then the process will be repeated for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, and so on.
- e) In all of the above circumstances, the official result for records purposes will remain a draw.

### 3.4 - Making Weight

- a) In the quarterfinals and semifinals, fighters will be allowed a one-pound overage, subject to commission approval.
- b) Any fighter who fails to make weight during the playoffs will be ruled ineligible and removed from the competition.
- c) If a fighter is removed from playoff competition due to missing weight, the next alternate in that division will step in to that fighter's playoff slot and will compete in the quarterfinals.

### 3.5 - Alternates

- a) Each division will have up to two playoff alternates, named by the league following the seeding of the playoffs. The league reserves the right to name 0 alternates at its discretion.
- b) Alternates will be chosen at the league's discretion from fighters who are fit and available to compete at a high level in the playoffs. Fighters who ended the regular season with at least 1 point will be given special consideration.
- c) If two alternates are named, they will be given a designation of "1<sup>st</sup> alternate" and "2<sup>nd</sup> alternate"
- d) The alternates will be required to show up at the playoff event for his/her division and make weight to be eligible to compete in the playoffs should he/she be needed.
- e) If two alternates are named, the league may, at its discretion, require the alternates to compete in an alternate bout on the day/night of the playoffs. No alternate will be permitted to compete in the semifinals without either first competing in a quarterfinal or an alternate bout on that same day/night.



## 3.6 - Injuries and Replacements

- a) If a playoff-bound fighter becomes unable to compete in the playoffs for any reason prior to September 1, 2019, the alternate in that division will be added to the playoff bracket as the #8 seed, and every other seed will move up if necessary, so that the 7 original playoff-bound fighters occupy the seeds #1-#7. That process will be repeated if a second alternate is needed prior to September 1, 2019, with the first alternate then occupying the #7 seed, and the second alternate occupying the #8 seed.
- b) If a playoff-bound fighter becomes unable to compete in the playoffs for any reason on or after September 1, 2019, the alternate in that division will take the actual bracket slot of the unavailable fighter, keeping all other matchups in the division unchanged.
- c) Lucky losers: In the event of a quarterfinal winner being unable to continue, the fighter who lost to the fighter who can't continue will be first in line to be the replacement. If that fighter cannot continue either, then the highest-seeded quarterfinal losing fighter who is able to compete will be selected to move on. If there are no losing fighters available, then an eligible alternate will step in to compete if available. In the event that none of the above are available to compete, the fighter who has no semifinal opponent will receive a semifinal walkover and will advance to the Championship.
- d) If a fighter loses a quarterfinal due to disqualification, that fighter will not be considered for a lucky loser spot, and will be removed from the competition.

## 3.7 - No Contests

- a) If a quarterfinal fight ends in a "No Contest", the judges will be asked to score the fight, including any incomplete round, with the fighter who wins on the scorecard advancing (in the case of a draw, playoff tiebreakers will apply). If the commission does not approve that process, then the injured fighter who cannot continue will be removed from the remainder of the playoffs, and the opponent would advance to the semifinals.
- b) If a semifinal fight ends in a "No Contest", the judges will be asked to score the fight, including any incomplete round, with the fighter who wins on the scorecard advancing (in the case of a draw, playoff tiebreakers will apply). If the commission does not approve that process, then whichever fighter is deemed to have caused the injury that resulted in the fight ending will be declared the loser, and the opponent will advance to the Championship. League officials will be the ones to determine who caused the injury.



## 4. Championship

### 4.1 - Bout Specifications

- a) 5 rounds
- b) 5-minute rounds
- c) 1-minute rest period between rounds

### 4.2 - Making Weight

- a) Championship bout competitors will not be given any allowance and will have to meet the upper limit of the division they are scheduled to compete in.
- b) If a championship bout competitor fails to make weight, the championship alternate for that division will step in and compete for the title, provided the alternate makes weight.
- c) If the alternate also misses weight, then the original contestant who missed weight will get to fight if the Commission permits the weight differential. But this would not be a championship fight for the fighter who missed weight. That fighter would need to give 20% of his/her show purse to the opponent and if the fighter who missed weight wins he/she will not be declared a Champion, will not get a Championship belt and will not earn the winner bonus (or any extra payment for the win).

### 4.3 - Alternates

- a) The highest-seeded losing semifinalist who is fit and able to compete will be selected as the championship alternate for each division. Any semifinalist who lost due to disqualification will automatically be the 2<sup>nd</sup>-choice during the assignment of championship alternates.
- b) The alternate will be required to show up and make weight for the Championship in order to be eligible to compete if needed.
- c) If a semifinal winner is unable to compete in the Championship, the alternate will step in and compete for the title, provided the alternate makes weight. The winner will be the 2019 PFL Champion for that weight division.

### 4.4 - Draws, No Contests and Walkovers

In the event that a Championship fight ends in a draw, no contest or walkover, no fighter will be awarded the 2019 Championship for that weight class.

