

BELLATOR MMA™

Championship Tournament Policies

- Bellator MMA will promote single elimination, grand prix style tournaments featuring fighters in a specified weight division. Fighters will be contracted for tournament bouts with provisions that include Bellator's official tournament policies.
- Bellator may specify "alternates", or recognize bouts contested outside of the tournament brackets as official tournament "reserve matches" in order to define fighters other than the originally intended tournament participants who may be granted an opportunity to enter the tournament if circumstances necessitate it.
- Each tournament bout will be contested according to the rules approved by the presiding athletic commission or the ABC Unified Rules of MMA.
- A Fighter who wins a tournament bout will advance to the next stage of the tournament unless that opportunity is withdrawn for due cause; whereas either, the *Tournament Survivor Rule* may be applied, or the tournament's first alternate, or the winner of the first reserve match may advance.
 - *Tournament Survivor Rule*: In the event that a fighter who is entitled to advance in the tournament is unable or unwilling to do so for any reason including injury, the athlete they fought in order to earn the right to advance may be granted the opportunity to advance in their place.
- If a tournament bout other than the final ends in a "No-Contest" then the official bout result will be a "No-Contest".
 - If the bout involves the champion, the champion will advance as having successfully defended his title, unless the Survivor Rule is applied.
 - If the bout does not involve the current champion, the three officials who were assigned to judge the bout will each cast a ballot in favor of the fighter who, "based on their performance in the portion of the bout that was contested" most deserves to advance in the tournament. The fighter who receives the majority of judges votes will advance unless that opportunity is withdrawn for due cause and the Survivor Rules is applied, or a tournament reserve match fighter or alternate is selected to advance in their place, or Bellator's in its sole discretion elects to schedule a rematch.
- If a three-round tournament bout is scored a "draw", the fighters will contest a fourth, "sudden victory" round to determine the winner, who will then advance in the tournament. If for any reason the sudden victory round fails to resolve the draw, the rules for addressing a draw in a five-round bout found immediately below will be applied.
- If a five-round tournament bout other than the final is scored a "draw", the official result of that bout will be a "draw". The following parameters will determine which fighter advances in the tournament.
 - If the bout involves the current champion for that weight division, that fighter, the champion, will have successfully defended his/her title and will advance in the tournament.
 - If the bout does not involve the current champion for that weight division, the three judges who scored the bout will each cast one additional ballot in favor of the fighter who in their opinion most deserves to advance in the tournament based on their performance in the "bout as a whole". The fighter that the three judges select by majority vote based on this criterion will advance in the tournament.
- If a five-round tournament FINAL bout ends in a "No-Contest" or "No-Decision" the official result of that bout will be a "No-Contest" or "No-Decision". The defending champion will retain their title but the tournament final will be considered unresolved and the tournament Champion, undetermined. Bellator reserves the right to determine if and/or when a rematch might be scheduled.
- If a five-round tournament FINAL bout is scored a "draw", the official result of that bout will be a "draw". By merit of the draw, the defending champion will have retained their title and be deemed the tournament winner and Champion.
- Bellator MMA reserves the right and authority to resolve any circumstances pertaining to the tournament not specifically or entirely addressed in this document.