



IDFPR

Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

Qualifications For Licensure: Professional Timekeeper, Referee or Judge for Full-Contact Martial Arts (FCMA) (002)

Effective: 01/2026

Revised: 01/2026

READ ME FIRST

The Division of Professional Regulation hopes that you will find the below useful in successfully applying for a license in the State of Illinois. Carefully review this information as it will assist you in applying for your license and eliminate any processing delays.

Important:

- An application is active until the expiration date of Athletics' licenses (every 9/30 of the odd numbered year) from the date of receipt by the Department.
- Before contacting the Department, please review our [FAQs](#) for answers to most questions.
- If your question is not addressed in our FAQ's, please contact the Department at 1-800-560-6420 or at fpr.isac@illinois.gov.

LICENSE QUALIFICATIONS

Experience:

- Experience must comply with the requirements of Section 1370.470 of the Administrative Rules.

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

You must submit the following:

- 1) A copy of current government issued photo identification (e.g., driver's license, passport).
- 2) Proof of age (e.g., driver's license or copy of birth certificate).
- 3) Social Security Number or tax identification number, as appropriate.
- 4) A passport style photo.
- 5) The required fee set forth in Section 1370.30.
- 6) An eye examination by an optometrist or physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches who specializes in ophthalmology, dated no more than 6 months prior to the date of application, reflecting that the applicant has corrected or uncorrected visual acuity of at least 20/40 in both eyes.
- 7) Documented experience in martial arts or full contact martial arts as a referee, judge or timekeeper, as appropriate, which shall include without limitation:
 - a. 3 of the last 4 years in amateur or professional martial arts or full-contact martial arts contests or a minimum of 100 bouts;
 - b. exceptional ability as a referee, judge or timekeeper, as determined by the Department based on the applicant's experience; or

- c. proof of active licensure in another jurisdiction.
- 8) The Department may also require the applicant to submit to a minimum of one on-site evaluation of his or her working as a judge, referee or timekeeper during an actual bout to complete an applicant's portfolio of eligibility for licensure.
- 9) In addition to the other requirements of this section, applicants for licensure as a referee shall provide proof of a complete physical examination by a physician, dated no more than 6 months prior to the date of application, to determine whether the applicant is in good physical condition and has the speed and reflexes necessary for the protection of both fighters.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ONCE LICENSED

- All Timekeeper, Referee or Judge licenses expire on September 30th of each odd-numbered year, regardless of issuance date.
- It is your responsibility to update your contact information including email address with the Department to ensure that you receive all courtesy renewal email reminders and other notifications.