



## Bellator Blood Borne Pathogen Program

Revised: June 2023

All employees will follow Universal Precautions in regard to contact with blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM) of persons who have not been previously tested and proven free of blood borne pathogens. The only persons who have received this testing are the Bellator fighters.

### Fighter Testing Protocol

Testing is performed by an independent laboratory such as LabCorp or Quest Diagnostics following established protocols. All fighters must show negative/non-reactive for the following:

- HIV
- Hepatitis B surface antigen
- Hepatitis C antibody

Fighters in Nevada must also be tested for CBC.

Fighters in New Jersey must also be tested for PT and PTT.

Results are submitted to Bellator and are then submitted to the Athletic Commission governing that particular bout.



## **Untested Individuals**

No employees are to touch the blood or other potentially infectious material of another person unless trained in the proper method to protect themselves. No Bellator employees are authorized to handle blood or other bodily fluids from people other than Bellator fighters.

Medics and house cleaning crew members are the only persons authorized to handle blood or other potentially infectious materials of untested, non-Bellator fighters. Neither of these groups are Bellator employees.

Bellator employees, who are authorized to handle the tested and cleared blood or other bodily fluids of Bellator fighters, are trained and provided with personal protective equipment at no cost to the employee. Supervisors shall ensure that employees use appropriate personal protective equipment.

Supervisors shall ensure the proper disposal of used personal protective equipment and soiled canvases after each event. Each venue has disposal procedures for potentially contaminated materials. Bellator shall follow the venue mandated procedures.

Bellator job titles of persons authorized to handle or otherwise potentially come in contact with the tested and cleared blood or other bodily fluids of Bellator Fighters:

- Fighters
- Referees
- Cutmen
- Canvasmen/Cage Techs



## Training

- **Fighters** are trained by their coaches/teams.
- **Referees** are trained by their governing body.
- **Cutmen** are required to read and sign their Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), covering the following information:

### Blood/Bodily Fluids

1. Cutmen will wear gloves while assigned to any fight that is currently active in the cage or ring.
2. Gloves and towels will be changed between each match to avoid cross contamination.
3. Nothing being used to treat a fighter (ie..swabs) will be stored in such a way as to promote cross contamination. Examples of this are swabs in your mouth, behind your ear etc....
4. Any materials coming into contact with a fighter during a fight must be disposed of in the provided red biohazard bag
5. At the conclusion of the last fight, cutmen will (while wearing gloves), securely tie up the red bag and dispose of it in a facility provided biohazardous waste receptacle.
6. If blood or any other bodily fluid comes into contact with a surface outside of the cage or ring, the cutman should alert the cage tech assigned to that corner so that proper cleanup procedures can be initiated.



- **Canvasmen/Cage Techs** are trained annually. Task specific training includes:
  1. Procedures for cleaning the canvas between fights
  2. Procedures for dismantling and disposing of the canvas after a fight.

At minimum, the training should include the following:

- A. Initial hire and annual review training.
- B. An accessible copy of the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard and an explanation of its contents
- C. A general explanation of the epidemiology and symptoms of bloodborne diseases
- D. An explanation of the modes of transmission of bloodborne pathogens
- E. An explanation of the Bellator Blood Borne Pathogen Program and information on where to obtain a copy
- F. An explanation of the appropriate methods for recognizing tasks and other activities that may involve exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials
- G. An explanation of the use and limitations of methods that will prevent or reduce exposure including appropriate engineering controls, work practices, and personal protective equipment
- H. An explanation of the basis for selection of personal protective equipment
- I. Information on the types, proper use, location, removal, handling, decontamination and disposal of personal protective equipment
- J. An explanation of the signs and labels and/or color coding required for contaminated items
- K. Task-specific training
- L. An opportunity for interactive questions and answers with the person conducting the training session



## **Definitions:**

**Blood** means human blood, human blood components, and products made from human blood.

**Bloodborne Pathogens** means pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

**Other Potentially Infectious Materials** means

(1) The following human body fluids: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any bodily fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids

(2) Any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead)

**Personal Protective Equipment** is specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee for protection against a hazard. General work clothes (e.g., uniforms, pants, shirts or blouses) not intended to function as protection against a hazard, are not considered to be personal protective equipment.

**Universal Precautions** is an approach to infection control. According to the concept of Universal Precautions, all human blood and certain human body fluids are treated as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV, and other bloodborne pathogens.