

Standards for Boxing and Combat Sports Contests

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Regulation of Boxing and Combat Sport Contests in Tasmania

All boxing and combat sport contests in Tasmania are expected to be conducted in accordance with Active Tasmania's Standards for Boxing and Combat Sport Contests (the Standards), and in accordance with Section 49B(1) of the Police Offences Act 1935.

Active Tasmania developed a regulatory model that protects the interests and safety of those involved in professional and amateur boxing and combat sport contests through providing best practice standards developed in consultation with the industry.

The Standards aim to:

- Protect the interests and safety of participants including, competitors, trainers, officials, promoters and spectators.
- Preserve public morality.
- Assist the boxing and combat sports industry to fulfil its duty of care and uphold the integrity of boxing and combat sports.

The regulatory model provides authority for the Tasmanian Government to intervene in any instance where the interests and safety of those involved in boxing and combat sport contests, and/or public morality, is compromised.

These Standards were revised following industry consultation in April 2016.

The regulatory model

The key components of the regulatory model are:

- The Tasmanian Government expect boxing and combat sport contests to be conducted in accordance with the Standards.
- The Standards require that boxing and combat sport contests must be regulated/sanctioned and overseen by an Active Tasmanian recognised Governing/Sanctioning body, which requires adherence to particular rules and safety standards and performs a supervisory role in overseeing the conduct of contests.
- Those involved in boxing and combat sports are expected to adhere to the Standards and Section 49B (1) of the *Police Offences Act 1935*.
 - Section 49B of the *Police Offences Act 1935* grants the Commissioner of Police the power to control public entertainments:
 1. where the Commissioner is of the opinion that it is fitting -
 - a. for the preservation of public morality, good manners, or decorum; or

b. to prevent a breach of the peace or danger to a performer or other person –

so to do, he may, with the consent of the Minister, by writing under his hand prohibit or regulate the holding of any public entertainment or a specified part or item of any public entertainment, the terms of any licence notwithstanding.

- Section 49A of the *Police Offences Act 1935* defines public entertainment to include:

“an entertainment (including, though without limiting the meaning of that term, a concert, recital, lecture, reading, entertainment of the stage, cinematograph or other picture show, dancing, skating, boxing, or other amusement, exhibition, or contest) to which persons are admitted on payment or which is open to the public, whether admission thereto is or is not procured by payment of money or on any other condition.”

- In executing this power to control the public entertainments of boxing and other contests, the Commissioner will expect such contests to be conducted in accordance with the Standards.
- Should the Commissioner be informed by Active Tasmania that an upcoming contest will not comply with the Standards, the Commissioner may seek permission from the Minister to execute this power and prohibit the contest from proceeding.
- As advised by Tasmania Police, Section 49B of the *Police Offences Act 1935* is dependent on the following:
 - a full assessment of the circumstances relating to the event, and whether the conduct of such event should be prohibited based on section 49B of the *Police Offences Act 1935*; and
 - the Commissioner’s opinion regarding prohibition in regards to Section 49B(1)(a) or 49B(1)(b); and
 - the consent of the Minister being obtained to prohibit such an event.
- Venue owners and liquor permit holders are made aware of the Standards and are encouraged to require promoters to sign and declare contests will be conducted in accordance with the Standards as a condition of use.
- Industry participants, event insurers, and the general community have an expectation that contests are conducted in accordance with the Standards. Should an event be held that does not comply with the Standards, it is expected the reputation of those involved in the event (promoter, participants and venue owner), and of the industry overall, would be damaged.

What is a ‘recognised’ governing/sanctioning body?

The Standards require that boxing and combat sport contests must be governed/sanctioned and overseen by an Active Tasmania recognised **national or international** governing/sanctioning body, which requires adherence to particular rules and safety standards and performs a supervisory role in overseeing the conduct of contests.

Active Tasmania automatically recognises amateur governing bodies that are recognised as national sporting organisations by the Australian Sports Commission.

Promoters of contests being governed/sanctioned and overseen by all other governing/sanctioning bodies must seek Active Tasmania recognition of the proposed governing/sanctioning body for the contest.

In seeking recognition, the promoter may be required to provide information on the proposed governing/sanctioning body, including its rules and safety standards, role in the contest and any other information Active Tasmania requires.

Only national or international organisations can be recognised as governing/sanctioning bodies.

Which boxing and combat sport activities are regulated?

For the purposes of the Standards, boxing and combat sports are defined as:

“Any sport or activity in which each contestant in a contest or exhibition of that sport or activity engages the other contestant(s) in striking, kicking, hitting, grappling, throwing or punching.”

All boxing and combat sport contests are expected to be held in accordance with the Standards, including:

- Amateur boxing[^]
- Ju Jitsu[^] and Brazilian Ju Jitsu[^]
- Kickboxing[^]
- Kyokushin
- Muaythai[^]
- Sanda
- Taekwondo[^]
- Any other discipline fitting the definition
- Judo[^]
- Karate[^]
- Kung fu -Wushu[^]
- Mixed martial arts
- Professional boxing
- Shooto
- Wrestling/grappling[^]

[^]*These sports are affiliated with a body recognised as a national sporting organisation by the Australian Sports Commission.*

What is a contest?

For the purpose of the Standards, a contest is:

“Any event, competition, exhibition, tournament or similar of a combat sport.”

Training and Coaching

It is recommended that non-contest environments such as training and coaching sessions are conducted in accordance with the Standards where applicable/relevant.

Professional or amateur?

Some requirements of the Standards are different for professional or amateur contests.

For the purpose of the Standards a contest will be deemed professional where:

- a. The Active Tasmania recognised governing/sanctioning body defines the contest as professional.

and/or

- b. The Active Tasmania recognised governing/sanctioning body does not provide a reasonable distinction between professional and amateur.

It is expected all such contests are conducted in accordance with the Standards as they apply to professional contests. It will be expected that all other contests are conducted in accordance with the Standards as they apply to amateur contests.

Active Tasmania will determine whether contests are deemed professional or amateur based on the information provided when applying for recognition as a governing/sanctioning body and will advise promoters accordingly.

Striking or Non-Striking Contest?

For the purpose of the Standards, Active Tasmania reserves the right to determine whether a contest is considered a striking or non-striking contest.

Who can be a Medical Practitioner?

For the purpose of the Standards, a medical practitioner is:

“An individual with medical qualifications as a general practitioner, medical physician or paramedic.”

A qualified first aider or sports trainer is not considered to be a medical practitioner.

Ideally the medical practitioner will also have experience as a ringside medical practitioner in combat sports.

The table below indicates which Medical Practitioners are acceptable for which contests:

	Striking Contests		Non-Striking Contests	
	<i>Amateur</i>	<i>Professional</i>	<i>Amateur</i>	<i>Professional</i>
General Practitioner	✓	✓	✓	✓
Medical Physician	✓	✓	✓	✓
Paramedic	x	x	✓	✓

The Standards

CONTESTS

1. Contests must be governed/sanctioned and overseen by, and conducted in accordance with, the rules of an Active Tasmania recognised national or international governing/sanctioning body.
 - a. Promoters of contests not governed or sanctioned by an already recognised governing/sanctioning body must apply to Active Tasmania for recognition of a governing or sanctioning body no less than six weeks before the contest/s are scheduled to occur.

AGE

2. Professional boxing and professional combat sport participants (competitors, promoters, trainers, referees, judges, timekeepers and matchmakers) must be over 18 years of age.
3. Amateur boxing and amateur combat sport participants (competitors, trainers, referees, judges, timekeepers and matchmakers) must be of at least the minimum age specified by the Active Tasmania recognised Governing/Sanctioning body.

SAFETY AND QUALIFICATIONS

4. Contests must be conducted in a manner that promotes the safety of participants, including implementing mechanisms to protect participants from verbal and physical abuse and threats.
5. Coaches, trainers and officials (including referees, judges, timekeepers and others) at contests must be appropriately qualified and/or experienced.
6. Where events involve the participation of competitors under the age of 18 years, event personnel must have Working with Vulnerable People Registrations in line with the *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013*.
7. Contests must be set by an appropriately experienced matchmaker and promoters must be satisfied no contest will be a mismatch.
8. For professional contests, licenced crowd controllers/security must be present and identifiable for the full duration of the event and be informed of emergency protocols.
9. Contests must engage a medical practitioner (preferably an experienced ringside medical practitioner).
 - a. The medical practitioner must be present whilst all contests are underway.
 - b. The medical practitioner must be provided with unrestricted access to perform duties that protect the interests and safety of competitors.
10. The referee and the medical practitioner must have the power to stop a contest at any stage if they consider the contest too one-sided, or if either contestant is in such condition that to continue might subject them to serious injury.

- 11.** Pre-contest examinations of each contestant must be carried out by the medical practitioner and post-contest examinations must be carried out where deemed necessary by the medical practitioner, other official or the contestant.
- a.** Medical examinations should include an examination and assessment of the central nervous system and an examination of the chest, lungs, heart, abdomen, musculoskeletal system, ears, nose, throat, skin and eyes.

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

- 12.** Post-contest, the medical practitioner may issue a medical suspension from competition on any contestant that has sustained a concussion or injury during the contest to protect the health and safety of the competitor.
- a.** The length and any other requirements of a medical suspension issued is at the discretion of the medical practitioner.
 - b.** Promoters must provide details of medical suspensions to the National or International Governing Body and Active Tasmania, and this information may, in turn, be shared with other states and territories.
 - c.** Promoters must prohibit the participation of any contestant who is currently medically suspended.
- 13.** Blood tests for contests that involve striking:
- a.** Promoters must require contestants to provide the results of a blood test they have undergone no more than six months before the contest in which they intend to compete. The blood test must show whether the contestant has been exposed to, and is infectious with the HIV virus, the Hepatitis B virus, and/or the Hepatitis C virus.
 - b.** Promoters must prohibit a contestant who has been exposed to and is infectious with the HIV virus, the Hepatitis B virus, and/or the Hepatitis C virus from competing in the event.
 - c.** Promoters must record competitors' blood test results and medical examinations and have this information available one week before, during and three months after a contest.

Promoters are responsible for maintaining confidentiality of contestant blood test and medical examination information.

INSURANCE

- 14.** Promoters must ensure participants are covered by appropriate participant/personal accident insurance and/or private health insurance where feasible. Events must also be covered by public liability insurance.

VENUE

- 15.** The number of tickets allocated for an event must not exceed the maximum capacity of the venue.

16. Promoters must declare to the venue owner that contests will be conducted in accordance with the Standards.

PROMOTERS

17. Promoters must be able to demonstrate their capacity to pay for all costs associated with a contest.

18. Promoters must be able to demonstrate they are a fit and proper person.

POLICE AND GOVERNMENT

19. Representatives from Tasmania Police and Active Tasmania must be, in the course of their duties, provided with unrestricted access free of charge to contests, medical examinations and weigh-ins.

