

Standards for Boxing and Combat Sport Contests

Communities, Sport and Recreation

Revised August 2016



Tasmanian
Government

Table of Contents

Standards for Boxing and Combat Sport Contests	2
Which boxing and combat sport activities are regulated?.....	2
What is a contest?	2
Training and Coaching	2
Professional or amateur?	3
Who can be a Medical Practitioner?	3
The Standards:.....	4
CONTESTS	4
AGE	4
SAFETY AND QUALIFICATIONS.....	4
MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS	5
INSURANCE	5
VENUE.....	6
PROMOTERS	6
POLICE AND GOVERNMENT	6
Regulation of Boxing and Combat Sport Contests in Tasmania	7
Background.....	7
The regulatory model	7
What is a ‘recognised’ governing or sanctioning body?.....	8

Standards for Boxing and Combat Sport Contests

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

The Standards aim to:

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

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:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| i. Amateur boxing [^] | ii. Judo [^] |
| iii. Ju Jitsu [^] and Brazilian Ju Jitsu [^] | iv. Karate [^] |
| v. Kickboxing | vi. Kung fu (wu shu) [^] |
| vii. Kyokushin | viii. Mixed martial arts |
| ix. Muaythai [^] | x. Professional boxing |
| xi. Sanda | xii. Shooto |
| xiii. Taekwondo | xiv. Wrestling/grappling [^] |
| xv. Any other discipline fitting the definition. | |

[^]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 CSR recognised governing/sanctioning body¹ defines the contest as professional;
and/or
- b. the CSR recognised governing/sanctioning body¹ 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.

CSR 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.

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 ²		Non-Striking Contests ³	
	Amateur	Professional	Amateur	Professional
General Practitioner	✓	✓	✓	✓
Medical Physician	✓	✓	✓	✓
Paramedic	✗	✗	✓	✓

¹ CSR automatically recognises national governing/sanctioning bodies recognised as national sporting organisations by the Australian Sports Commission. Promoters of contests being governed/sanctioned and overseen by all other national or international governing/sanctioning bodies must seek CSR recognition of the proposed governing/sanctioning body for the contest. Where considered appropriate, CSR may prescribe a minimum age for participants as a condition of recognition.

² CSR reserves the right to determine whether a contest is considered a Striking Contest

³ CSR reserves the right to determine whether a contest is considered a Non-Striking Contest

The Standards:

CONTESTS

1. Contests must be governed/sanctioned and overseen by, and conducted in accordance with the rules of a CSR recognised national or international governing/sanctioning body⁴:
 - a. Promoters of contests not governed or sanctioned by an already recognised governing/sanctioning body must apply to CSR for recognition of a governing or sanctioning body no less than one month 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 CSR recognised Governing/Sanctioning body¹.

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 Children 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 he/she considers the contest too one-sided, or if either contestant is in such condition that to continue might subject him/her to serious injury.

⁴ CSR automatically recognises national governing/sanctioning bodies recognised as national sporting organisations by the Australian Sports Commission. Promoters of contests being governed/sanctioned and overseen by all other national or international governing/sanctioning bodies must seek CSR recognition of the proposed governing/sanctioning body for the contest. Where considered appropriate, CSR may prescribe a minimum age for participants as a condition of recognition.

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 CSR, 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 CSR must be, in the course of their duties, provided with unrestricted access free of charge to contests, medical examinations and weigh-ins.

Regulation of Boxing and Combat Sport Contests in Tasmania

Background

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

CSR 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 model also preserves public morality, through the provision of standards that assist those involved in boxing and combat sports to be aware of, and consistently fulfil, their duty of care.

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 a CSR 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:
 - I. 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 CSR 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 a CSR 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.

CSR 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 CSR 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 CSR requires.

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