



# Exhibitions Events for Novice Contestants

## Boxing, Muay Thai, Kickboxing and MMA

### Scope:

The Combat Sports Commission (the Commission) is dedicated to Contestant health and safety and to meeting the requirements of the *Combat Sports Act 1987* (the Act). Contestants, who enter into an event for exhibition purposes, will need to adhere to the following policy.

### Definitions:

**Act** – means *Combat Sports Act 1987*

**Contest** – means a contest or exhibition of a combat sport, that is organised, arranged or promoted for profit or that is conducted for public entertainment or to which the public is invited.

**Contestant:** A person who participates in a contest, whether for reward or not.

**Industry Participant:** A person who, otherwise than as a contestant, is involved, in a capacity that is prescribed, in conducting or assisting to conduct a contest.

**Regulations** means Combat Sport Regulations 2004 (the Regulations).

### Legislative background:

Section 51.(2)

If a contest is not conducted in accordance with any rules under section 62A that apply to the contest, the person who conducts the contest, the person whom a permit for the contest was issued, and the referee of the contest, each commit an offence.

Penalty; a fine of \$12 000

All exhibition events will fall under the Commission rules. Refer to Section 62A. of the *Act*.

### Application:

Contestants who wish to participate in an exhibition event for the purposes of showcasing their skills and raising money for charity.

### Process:

Where a Contestant is participating in an event that is solely for the purpose of an exhibition event i.e White Collar Boxing, he or she must attend a minimum of 12 weeks training in that discipline. This is to ensure that the Contestant understands the basis of that discipline and how to adequately defend themselves in a contest area. Trainers are required to keep attendance records of Contestants and submit these records at weigh in.

A novice Contestant is a contestant that does not have a full registration with the Commission and is competing only for the purposes of an exhibition event.

An exhibition event is a contest between two Contestants that would not normally be matched due to the combat sport experience level of one or both Contestants.



Contestants must meet the requirements of registration as per Section 16 of the Act. Contestants will need to pay a one off fee to cover the cost of a prorata registration also, Contestants cannot compete for financial gain. The permit fee, Officials fee and Medical Practitioners fees will not be waived.

A Contestant may only have a maximum of 2 contests under exhibition rules before they must register (in full) with the Commission. Where a Contestant intends to compete in events other than exhibition events, he or she must register in full and will not be allowed to compete in any further exhibition events unless approved by the Commission.

Under Section 16 of the Act, Contestants will meet full registration requirements and have a current Certificate of Fitness and Serology.

Contestants must wear the following protective equipment :

**Boxing:**

- 16oz gloves
- Headgear
- Mouth guard
- Chest protector (women)
- Groin protector (men)

**Muay Thai:**

- 16oz gloves
- Headgear
- Mouth guard
- Chest guard / shin guards / elbow pads
- Groin protector (men)

**Kickboxing:**

- 16oz gloves
- Headgear
- Mouth guard
- Chest guard / shin guards
- Groin protector (men)

**MMA**

- 7oz Gloves
- Headgear
- Mouthguard
- Shin guards
- Groin protection (men)

Contestants may opt for hand wraps (gym type) rather than gauze and cotton. The Head Referee will be required to sign off on hand wraps and gloves.

Contestants must fall within a recognised weight category. Weight differences that fall outside the weight categories will only be accepted at the discretion of the Commission. Where there is a weight difference, the Head Referee will be appointed to that bout and will be given specific instructions by the Commission. The Medical Practitioner will also be advised.

Contestants are to compete under modified rules i.e. no knees or elbows to the head for Muay Thai events and no elbows or knees to the head and no striking a grounded opponent in MMA. Both Contestants and Trainers must be advised of the modified rules. Contestants may compete under modified (reduced) round times.

Under Commission rules, the Referee has the power to stop any fight and will do so if he/she believes that a Contestant is unable to adequately defend themselves.



## Permit Conditions:

The following conditions will be mandatory for all exhibition permits:

- Contestants must adhere to the training regime specified by their Trainers. Records of Contestant's attendance at training are to be submitted to the Commission by the close of business on the day of the weigh in. The attendance record is to be signed and dated by the contestant at each training session.
- Contestants are to sign a declaration, prepared by the Commission, acknowledging that this is a serious contest, that the Contestant will be struck, that the Contestant has seriously considered their participation in this contest and the risk to their own health and safety.
- Contestants who participate in an exhibition contest must be novice Contestants and do not have any previous experience in combat sports – i.e. Muay Thai, Boxing, Kickboxing or MMA.
- Contestants with previous combat sports experience may only participate at the discretion of the Commission and will be subject to further registration conditions.
- Contestants are to be matched within the weight classes specified in Schedule 2 of the Regulations.
- Contestants will be subject to a 2 knockdown rule in Kickboxing, Muay Thai and Boxing contests, whereby 2 knockdowns in a contest will end a contest.
- In Kickboxing, Muay Thai and Boxing contests, a mandatory standing 8 count will be put into place and a standing 8 count will be considered as a knockdown. This count will be implemented by the Referee if a contestant is fatigued, overwhelmed or being subject to undue strikes/blows.
- For all contests the Referee will terminate a contest at any time if he/she feels it is in the best interest of the contestant's health and safety.
- Exhibition contests cannot be run as eliminator events. Contestants can only compete once at any given event.

## Additional Procedure Links:

Commission Rules  
Code of Conduct  
Guidelines and Conditions of Registration  
Contestant Preparation Standards and Guidelines