



Exhibition Events for Novice Contestants Boxing, Muay Thai, Kickboxing and MMA

Policy effective from: 13 May 2021

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, unless it is prescribed not to be a contest for the purpose of this Act;

Contestant - means a person who competes in a contest, whether for reward or not;

Rules – means any rules approved under section 62A of the Act.

Legislative Background

s.51(2) of the Act - If a contest is not conducted in accordance with any rules approved under section 62A that apply to the contest, the person who conducts the contest, the person to whom a permit for the contest was issued, and the referee of the contest, each commits an offence.

Penalty: a fine of \$12 000.

All exhibition events will be held under the Commission Rules.

Application:

Contestants who wish to participate in an exhibition event for the purpose 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, they 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 the weigh-in.

A novice Contestant is a person that is competing only for the purpose of entering into 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 cannot compete for financial gain. The permit fee and officials fees will not be waived.

A Contestant may only have a maximum of two (2) contests under exhibition rules. Where a Contestant intends to compete in events other than exhibition events, they 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 report.

Contestants must wear the following protective equipment :

Boxing:

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

Kickboxing:

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

Muay Thai:

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

MMA

- 7oz gloves
- Mouth guard
- Shin guards
- Groin protector (men)

Contestants may opt for hand wraps (gym type) rather than gauze and cotton. Commission Representatives or the 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 contest and will do so if they 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 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 *Combat Sports Regulations 2004*.
- Contestants will be subject to a two (2) knockdown rule in Kickboxing, Muay Thai and Boxing contests, whereby two (2) knockdowns in a contest will end a contest.
- In Kickboxing, Muay Thai and Boxing contests, a mandatory standing eight (8) count will be put into place and a standing eight (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 they feel 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 contest rules](#)

[Code of Conduct](#)

[Guidelines and Conditions of Registration](#)

[Contestant Preparation Standards and Guidelines](#)