



Combat Sports
Authority



THE ROLE OF THE APPROVED AMATEUR BODY

INTRODUCTION TO COMBAT SPORTS IN NSW

The *Combat Sports Act 2013* provides the legislative framework that regulates the conduct of combat sport contests in NSW. The Combat Sports Authority of NSW (CSA) is responsible for the regulation of all combat sport contests. Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia have bodies similar to the Combat Sports Authority of NSW that undertake the regulation of combat sport contests in those states.

There are two distinct categories of combat sport contest in NSW

- Amateur
- Professional.

Permits are issued for either an amateur contest or a professional contest and where a promotion is to involve both amateur contests and professional contests a Pro-Am permit is issued.

For amateur and Pro-Am contests, the promoter of a contest must identify an Approved Amateur Body (AAB). The CSA will only issue a permit if this AAB approves that the contest be held.

This fact sheet provides a summary of the role and duties to be undertaken by the AAB for the amateur contests conducted at a permitted Amateur or Pro-Am contest.

WHAT IS AN APPROVED AMATEUR BODY (AAB)

An Approved Amateur Body is a body corporate or other body recommended by the Combat Sports Authority of NSW and approved by the Minister for a specified style or styles of combat sport for the purposes of the *Combat Sports Act 2013*. AABs are required to submit a range of documents for

consideration as part of the application process including evidence of:

- Affiliation with a recognised National or International sporting organisation including adoption of its amateur sport rules
- A distinct set of amateur rules for each discipline/style of combat sport under which all amateur contests will be conducted
- Education, training and accreditation processes for officials used at amateur contests
- Key elements of good governance including a constitution, board structure, appropriate risk management policies/practices/insurances and ability to communicate with its members/stakeholders.

An AAB is recognised only for amateur contests (including amateur contests conducted as part of a Pro-Am contest) and they are required to undertake specific duties at permitted contests.

The Minister may approve, attach conditions and revoke approval of AABs at any time.

PERMITS

An AAB cannot apply for a permit for an amateur contest. Only registered promoters may apply for a permit. Amateur contests must be approved by an AAB before a permit can be issued.

The approval of the AAB does not guarantee the permit approval as there are other matters to be determined by the CSA before issuing a permit.

THE ROLE OF AN AAB FOR A CONTEST

In approving the permit application the AAB is agreeing to undertake the required duties at the amateur combat sport contest including:

At the Weigh-in

For the purposes of section 46 (2) (e) of the *Act*, the functions of an approved amateur body at a weigh-in relating to an amateur combat sport contest are:

- (a) to supervise the weigh-in, and
- (b) to ensure that an official records the combatant's weight.

At the Contest

For the purposes of section 46 (2) (e) of the *Act*, the following are the functions of an approved amateur body at an amateur combat sport contest:

- (a) to appoint, and oversee the performance of, referees, judges and timekeepers officiating at the contest,
- (b) to support the combat sport inspector to ensure that the contest is conducted in accordance with the *Act*, Regulation and the rules,
- (c) to implement its risk management policies and procedures, as submitted to the CSA, in relation to the contest,
- (d) to record the contest result in the combatant's medical record book,
- (e) to maintain a record of the results of the contest,
- (f) to report on the contest as required by the CSA,
- (g) to assist the combat sport inspector to supervise and monitor the change room areas being utilised for the contest.

Oversee Matchmaking for Contests

An AAB can act as a match-maker for an amateur contest. Where it is not the match-maker, it must oversee the proposed contests to identify any potential mismatches or health and safety risks for the combatants.