



## **POLICY #5**

### **Edmonton Combative Sports Policy: Contestants and Officials Involved in Unsanctioned Events**

#### **Description**

One of the issues facing all Commissions within the ever-expanding combative sport industry is the issue of events being staged that are not sanctioned by the appropriate government legislative body. At present there are three types of Commissions sanctioned by recognized government legislative bodies: provincial Commissions, municipal Commissions and tribal Commissions.

The Edmonton Combative Sports Commission (ECSC) recognizes only those three types of Commissions as legitimate. The only proof of legitimacy is the relevant combative sports Commission's official Bylaw as passed by the provincial or municipal government representatives or the Resolution from the Band Council for a tribal sanctioned Commission. The ECSC only recognizes Commissions that can provide a copy of such documentation as satisfactory evidence of their having legitimate Commission status.

Since each combative sport jurisdiction is responsible to decide, on their own, their own policies, rules, regulations and operating procedures, this decision or position of the ECSC, is an internal finding for the purpose of regulating the sport within the Edmonton jurisdiction only and is not to be determinative as to other jurisdictions outside of Edmonton.

Commissions sanctioned by the appropriate government legislative body are normally mandated to ensure there are qualified officials, assigned by the Commission, working the sanctioned combative sports event. This includes ensuring the presence of sufficient physicians, assigned by the Commission, to provide ringside medical service to the contestants/competitors, before, during and after the sanctioned event.

Most provincial, municipal and tribal Commissions in Canada are affiliate members of the American Boxing Commission (ABC). The ABC asks for (and receives from its members), the official results of sanctioned combative sports events held in North America. This includes the normal post-fight medical suspensions handed out to each contestant by the ringside physicians assigned to the event. Such post-fight medical suspensions are honored by other

combative sport Commissions, who, collectively, want to ensure fighters are protected from injuries sustained in combative sports events.

If a competitor/fighter competes in an event not sanctioned by one of the three aforementioned levels of government, he or she is at a greater risk for injury. There is no way for other Commissions to know the extent of possible injury fighters might have sustained, since such unsanctioned events are not required to follow any specific rules of governance or operations. The ECSC wishes to discourage officials licensed to officiate in Edmonton, and any fighters currently licensed or wishing to be licensed to fight in Edmonton, from attending such unsanctioned events.

### **Rationale**

Contestants/competitors in combative sports events can and do sustain injuries. For this reason the ECSC has a stringent medical policy and assigns medical doctors to provide ringside medical service, including post-event medical examination of these contestants/competitors. The ringside physicians assign medical suspensions to each and every contestant, based on the post-event medical examination. Other provincial, municipal and/or tribal Commissions honor these medical suspensions (protecting the fighters/contestants, in some cases, from themselves).

If a fighter competes in an unsanctioned event, there is no way for other Commissions to know the extent of the fighter's injuries, the length of the normal post-fight medical suspension, or whether a medical suspension was assigned at all. A fighter who has competed in an unsanctioned event could shortly thereafter, show up wishing to fight at a duly sanctioned event, and thereby put the subsequent Commission at risk. The subsequent Commission would not be aware if that fighter had sustained some sort of injury in the previous unsanctioned event.

Consequently, the ECSC will consider every fighter/contestant who has competed in an unsanctioned event outside of the Edmonton jurisdiction, as being under an automatic ninety (90) day "medical risk" suspension, before they can be licensed to compete in a subsequent professional combative sports event in the Edmonton jurisdiction.

Furthermore the contestant/fighter may be required to re-do his/her medical tests effective from the date of the day following the unsanctioned competition. This could mean repeating the medical tests required for an event license (i.e. undergoing an MRI brain or CT brain scan, required blood work, eye test, ECG tracing, etc.). In other words, medical testing obtained prior to the date of the unsanctioned event may no longer be considered valid.

In terms of unsanctioned events within the Edmonton jurisdiction, any official or fighter/contestant who participates in an unsanctioned event in the Edmonton jurisdiction, risks having his or her Edmonton officiating license or fighter's license revoked for a minimum of twelve (12) months.

### **Procedure**

If the ECSC is made aware that a fighter/contestant has competed in a combative sports event outside of the Edmonton jurisdiction that has not been duly sanctioned by one of the three

recognized government legislative bodies (provincial government, municipal government or Band Council), the fighter/contestant will not be allowed to be licensed to compete in a professional combative sports event in the Edmonton jurisdiction for a period of ninety (90) days from the day of the unsanctioned event, the suspension being assigned as a medical risk precaution protecting event officials working combative sports events within the Edmonton jurisdiction.

Furthermore, the fighter/contestant in question may have to repeat all of his or her pre-fight medical tests, since all medical tests conducted prior to the unsanctioned event may no longer be considered valid. This could include repeating any or all tests required by the ECSC Medical Policy. In order to be licensed to fight in Edmonton, the contestant/ fighter would also have to pass the physical examination conducted at the weigh-in of the Edmonton combative sports event.

(Medical information collected from contestants is collected pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. F-25. That information will be retained and disclosed in accordance with the Act.)

The ECSC may, at its discretion, refuse to utilize any official, licensed to work combative sports events in the Edmonton jurisdiction, who participates in such an unsanctioned event.

Any fighter/contestant who fights in an unsanctioned event in the Edmonton jurisdiction, risks having his/her license to fight in Edmonton, revoked for a minimum time period of twelve (12) months and may be required to repeat all of the ECSC pre-fight medical requirements.

**Latest Revision by the ECSC: NJ**

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