



REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR COMBATANTS (AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL)

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.

All combatants who wish to compete on permitted contests are required to register with the CSA on a triennial basis (every three years).

WHO IS A COMBATANT?

A **combatant** means a person who engages or proposes to engage as a contestant in a combat sport contest.

WHAT IS A COMBAT SPORT CONTEST?

A combat sport contest means:

combat sport contest means a contest, display or exhibition of combat sport:

- to which the public are admitted on payment of a fee, or
- arranged or held on a for profit basis, or
- that is held on premises licensed under the *Liquor Act 2007* or the *Casino Control Act 1992*, or
- where at least one of the combatants is competing for a monetary prize or other valuable reward, or
- that is prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this definition,

but does not include a contest, display or exhibition excluded from this definition by the regulations.

WHO MUST REGISTER?

Combatants that reside in NSW must register with the CSA.

Combatants must apply to the CSA to be registered for all the different styles of combat sports in which they contest.

For each style of combat sport for which you seek registration you must register as either:

- **professional** or
- **amateur**.

Note: The CSA will not issue a registration to a combatant registering for the first time as a professional until 21 days after the application is made.

REGISTRATION CLASSES

The different styles of combat sports are grouped into the following classes for the purpose of combatant registrations. Different styles of combat sports are grouped together where there are similarities in their rules and the skills required of a combatant.

- **Boxing** participants, being persons who engage in boxing (fist fighting) in any of its styles
- **Kick Boxing** participants, being persons who engage in kick boxing in any of its styles, including Thai Boxing / Muay Thai
- **Mixed Martial Arts** participants, being persons who engage in Mixed Martial Arts in any of its styles
- **Martial Arts** participants, being persons who engage in any other form of martial arts that are not exempted.

You may apply to be an amateur in one registration class and a professional in another registration class. You may not be registered as an amateur and a professional within a registration class. For example:

- You may be registered for both amateur boxing and professional MMA
- You may **not** be registered for both professional Muay Thai and amateur kickboxing because Muay Thai and kickboxing are **within** the same registration class.

The CSA recommends that you register for all the classes that you think you may compete in over the three year registration period as once the registration is finalised, you are required to re-register (including pay a new registration fee) if you wish to add a new class to your registration.

The CSA also recommends if you are registering for amateur status in a particular sport that you check the sport rules, before registering in any other classes. The Approved Amateur Bodies are able to advise on the rules for their sport and any implications under these rules of being registered in multiple classes.

Note that if you are registered as a professional and you have competed as a professional you may never again register as an amateur in that class with the CSA.

AGE RESTRICTIONS

There are age restrictions that apply for persons to engage in a combat sport contest in NSW:

- Persons under age 14 years cannot be registered as a combatant in any class.
- Persons under age 18 years cannot be registered as a professional combatant.
- Persons under 18 years may not compete in any combat sport contest that is held in a cage.

MEDICAL ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED FOR COMBATANT REGISTRATION

Two medical certificates are required for all combatants seeking registration. These certificates are:

- a Certificate of Fitness
- a Serological Clearance.

You must undergo a medical assessment and supply a certificate of fitness on the approved form which has been signed by the doctor conducting the medical assessment.

You must also undergo a serology test and supply a serological clearance certificate on the approved form which has been signed by a doctor or pathology technician (the approved form can be downloaded from the website).

Medical information sheets, the approved **certificate of fitness** form and the approved **serological clearance certificate** can be downloaded from www.combatsports.nsw.gov.au

OTHER DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR COMBATANT REGISTRATION

- 100 points of certified identification
- Passport type photograph of combatant's face

APPLICATION FEES FOR COMBATANTS

- Amateur combatant – \$20.00
- Professional combatant – \$100.00

The application fee covers all classes of registration in the application.

HOW LONG DOES THE REGISTRATION LAST

The registration period is for 3 years. For your registration to remain current you must undergo an annual medical check no later than the anniversary of your registration and provide a certificate of fitness to the CSA no later than one month after the check.

SEROLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Prior to engaging in a proposed contest all combatants must have a current serology clearance lodged with the CSA. A current clearance is:

- For persons 18 years and over a clearance in which the serology tests were undertaken **in the last 6 months**
- For persons under 18 years of age a clearance in which the serology tests were undertaken **in the last 12 months**.

A combatant must not engage in a combat sport contest unless they have a current serology clearance. A breach of this requirement may result in a penalty of 80 penalty units (\$8,800) or 6 months imprisonment, or both.

MEDICAL RECORD BOOKS (MRB)

Upon first registration you will be issued with a medical record book (MRB). This MRB is a very important document and will remain with you throughout your combat sport career.

- You must take your MRB **to each and every contest**.
- You must present your book to the Combat Sport Inspector or person recording your weight at the weigh-in.
- You must present your MRB to the medical practitioner at the contest. The medical practitioner at the contest must record information in your medical book after both the pre-contest and post-contest medical examinations.
 - If you do not present your medical record book at a contest you will not be allowed to compete and you may be fined \$220.

- You must present your MRB to the doctor when you have your annual medical assessment.
- It is an offence with a penalty of up to \$2,200 for a person to willfully damage, deface or tamper with a medical record book.

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

The following conditions are specified by the *Combat Sports Regulation 2014* as conditions that must be imposed by the CSA on the registration of a combatant:

- (a) the combatant must undergo an annual medical check, no later than the anniversary of the combatant's registration,
- (b) the combatant must provide the CSA with an updated certificate of fitness, provided by a medical practitioner in the approved form, no later than 1 month after each annual check,
- (c) the combatant must complete any drug education program required by the CSA,
- (d) the combatant must submit to any drug testing regime required by the CSA,
- (e) the combatant must ensure that the combatant's medical record book is updated by a medical practitioner in attendance following every contest in which the combatant is engaged, including any contest held interstate or overseas,
- (f) the combatant must complete any sport integrity program required by the CSA,
- (g) the combatant must not place a bet on any combat sport contest in which the combatant is engaged,
- (h) the combatant must not cause any bet to be placed on the combatant's behalf on any combat sport contest in which the combatant is engaged,
- (i) the combatant must abide by the Combatants Code of Conduct published by the CSA and given to the combatant by the CSA.

Note: The CSA may impose additional conditions on the registration of a combatant.

The CSA can direct you to undertake additional medical examinations to address any concerns it has in relation to your health and fitness. The CSA can also suspend or cancel a person's registration on health and safety grounds.

YOUR OBLIGATIONS TO THE CSA AND YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A COMBATANT

- You must not engage in a combat sport contest as a combatant unless you are registered as a combatant of the registration class applicable to that contest.
- You must **apply for registration at least 21 days** before your first professional combat sport contest.
- You must notify the CSA in writing of any change in your name, other name (if any) used for combat sport purposes, address or registered contact details **not later than 14 days after the change occurs**.
- You must take your medical record book to all combat sport contests and provide it to the medical practitioner.
- You must comply with instructions from a Combat Sport Inspector about the use of protective equipment and material.
- You are responsible for your personal health and safety. There are penalties if you engage in contests without the required serology clearance or if you have been declared unfit by a medical practitioner.
- It is an offence to obstruct a medical practitioner from undertaking their duties.
- It is an offence to provide false or misleading information in relation to applications, medical examinations or serology clearances.
- A combatant must comply with combatants' lay-off periods established by the rules and medical suspensions imposed.

WHEN REGISTRATION MAY BE REFUSED

You will not be registered if:

- You fail the fit and proper person assessment
- If you are less than the minimum age required by the Act
- You are a controlled member of a declared organisation under the *Crimes (Criminal Organisations Control) Act 2012*,
- The CSA believes it is not in the interests of health or safety to grant the registration.

WHEN YOU MUST NOT ENGAGE IN A CONTEST

SUSPENSION

You must not engage in a combat sport contest as a combatant if your registration is suspended, cancelled or is not current.

UNFIT COMBATANTS

You **must not engage** in a combat sport when:

- a medical practitioner advises that you are not medically fit to engage in combat sports
- a medical practitioner certifies in your medical record book that you should not engage in combat sports **before a specified date**.

MEDICAL SUSPENSIONS

All Australian Authorities responsible for the regulation of combat sports will support and apply medical suspensions. Medical suspensions in NSW apply to both contests and sparring.

The CSA has determined minimum recommended medical suspensions for combatants who have sustained a head injury or been knocked out. Please note the Medical Practitioner can recommend a longer period of suspension if in their opinion it is required.

The following minimum medical suspensions apply:

RESULT	
Any period of unconsciousness or injury requiring the fight to be stopped because fighter was unable to continue (not including tap-out or submissions in MMA)	30 days
Knock-out or TKO (head injury)	30 days
Second (2 nd) consecutive loss by knockout or TKO (head injury)	60 days
Third (3 rd) consecutive loss by knockout or TKO (head injury)	90 days <u>PLUS</u> Registration suspended until a full medical examination (possibly including an MRI) has been conducted and the Medical Practitioner has determined that the combatant is fit to fight.
Six consecutive losses (regardless of the manner of loss)	Registration suspended until a full medical examination (possibly including an MRI) has been conducted and the Medical Practitioner has determined that the combatant is fit to fight.

For non-head related injuries the medical practitioner may apply a medical suspension for any period as they see fit.

A medical practitioner may also determine that the combatant must undertake additional tests before the medical suspension is lifted.

PENALTIES

Generally combatants can be penalised up to **\$5,500 and/or 6 months imprisonment** if they:

- compete when not appropriately registered,
- compete when their registration is cancelled or suspended on health and safety grounds, or
- compete following a medical practitioner advising that they are not medically fit to participate.

This increases to \$8,800 and/or 6 months imprisonment for breaches such as competing without serological clearance or where their registration was cancelled or suspended on grounds other than health and safety.

Combatants may also have disciplinary action taken against them for any breach of registration conditions.

For further information regarding disciplinary action please see the fact sheet about Penalties, Prohibition Orders and Disciplinary Action.

HOW TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION

- Combatants may apply for registration using the online registration system – Ringside Online.

Application requirements are:

- Details of the class or classes for which registration is sought
- certificate of fitness, in the approved form signed by a medical practitioner **not more than 28 days before** the date on which the application is made
- a current serological clearance (unless the CSA already has a current serological clearance)
- 100 points of certified identification
- payment of the required fee.

Please note that applicants are also required to abide by the code of conduct for combatants.