

# AUTHORITY RULES

(Rules made pursuant to section 107 of the  
*Combat Sports Act 2013*)

**Note:** In this document:

the Act means	the <i>Combat Sports Act 2013</i>
the Authority means	the <i>Combat Sports Authority of NSW</i>
CSA means	the <i>Combat Sports Authority of NSW</i>
CSI means	<i>combat sport inspector</i>
MMA means	<i>mixed martial arts</i>

### **RULE 1: Combatants lay-off periods and medical suspensions**

Medical suspensions and lay-off periods applied to a combatant in one sport/discipline will extend to other all combat sports for which the combatant is registered.

The minimum medical suspension of 30 days must be applied following any loss by Knockout or Technical Knockout (not including Tap out or submission in MMA contests).

#### **CONSECUTIVE KNOCKOUTS**

The minimum medical suspension of 60 days must be applied following the second consecutive loss by Knockout or Technical Knockout (not including Tap out or submission in MMA contests).

The minimum medical suspension of 90 days must be applied following the third consecutive loss by Knockout or Technical Knockout. The combatant must also undergo a full medical examination (including an MRI if required by the CSA) and provide to the CSA, a certificate of fitness certified by a doctor.

The “count” starts again after an annual medical check is conducted e.g. if a combatant is knocked out twice (consecutively) and then undergoes the annual medical assessment. A further 3 consecutive Knockouts are allowed before a combatant’s registration is suspended and a medical assessment is required. The minimum period of suspension would apply on each knockout occasion.

#### **For Professional Combatants**

All professional combatants will not be permitted to compete for five clear days after each bout regardless of the outcome.

### **RULE 2: Payment of combatants**

The CSA and its staff are not permitted any involvement in the payment of professional combatants or to be custodians of any payments for combatants before, during or after contests.

### **RULE 3: Integrity of Score Cards**

All score cards used at professional contests must clearly show:

- the name of each combatant on each card
- the points scored and the round in which the points were scored
- the signature of the judge (and date)
- any error made and/or changes to the score given initialed by the judge involved.

**RULE 4: Scoring of Combat Sport Contests**

Scoring of each contest shall only be by the “10 points must system” whereby the winner of the round will be awarded 10 points and the loser will be awarded points according to the following:

- Winner has only a slight margin over opponent – 9 points
- Winner has a wide margin over opponent – 8 points
- Winner has a substantive/overwhelming margin over opponent – 7 points.

**RULE 5: Appointment of International Officials at Professional contests**

The CSA may determine contests that are deemed to be “significant contests”.

The CSA may appoint international officials to “significant contests” on a case by case basis.

**RULE 6: Payments for Officials at Professional contests**

The promoter must make payment of the fees as outlined in the fee schedule to all ring officials appointed to professional combat sport contests prior to the commencement of the first professional bout.

The promoter is required to place the payment for each official in an envelope with the official’s name and the amount written on the envelope.

The promoter must, where applicable, provide transport for officials to and from the airport and provide any meals reasonably required during the ring official’s stay in addition to the fees applicable in the fee schedule.

**RULE 7: Conduct of Ring Officials at Professional Contests**

Judges are not to go to a combatant’s corner or dressing rooms at the conclusion of a bout.

Judges are not to enter into any discussions with the combatant or participants either in the corner or in the dressing rooms at any time before, during or following the contest.

Referees are not to enter into any discussions with the combatant or participants either in the corner or in the dressing rooms at any time following the contest.

**RULE 8: Field of Play / Contest Area set up at Professional Contests**

**Ring / Cage**

Any ring / cage supplied must comply with the specification as set out in the Ring & Cage Specifications rule.

**Judging Positions**

Judging positions will be allocated on 3 sides of the ring/cage and the position for the recorder and medical practitioner will be on the fourth side, close to the ring/cage entry.

A distance of at least 1.5 metres is to be provided between the judges’ seats and the first row of spectator chairs. This area must be clearly marked preferably with a barrier.

Adequate clearance to be provided in order that CSIs and officials are able to move around the ring area without being hindered.

At least equivalent to one seat either side of each judge will remain vacant so as to ensure that no other person can see the scores being recorded.

The judges' seats should be elevated to the height of the ring.

#### **Lighting**

Temporary lighting must be rigged in such a way as to not interrupt the judges' vision of the contest or create difficulties for the officials to undertake their duties.

#### **Stretcher**

A stretcher must be located at ringside. For consistency, ideally this will be placed under the ring near the red corner.

The location of the stretcher must be made known to all officials and the medical practitioner at the contest.

#### **Equipment for Timekeepers**

Bell and Hammer or other approved equipment.

### **RULE 9: Ring Specifications**

**Area:** The ring must be a square having sides of not less than 4.9 metres and not more than 6.1 metres by measurements taken inside the line of the ropes.

**Platform:** The platform must:

- be safely constructed, level and free from any obstructing projections, and
- extend for at least 50 centimetres outside the line of the ropes, and
- be fitted with 4 corner posts that are well padded or otherwise so constructed as to prevent injury to the contestants.

**Platform mat:** The entire platform must be covered with:

- a layer of rubber, or other suitable material having the same quality of elasticity as rubber, of a thickness of not less than 2.5 centimetres, over which a non slip canvas shall be stretched and secured to the outer edges of the platform.

**Ropes:** There must be:

- 4 ropes of a thickness of not less than 3 centimetres and not more than 5 centimetres tightly drawn from the corner posts at heights of approximately 40cm, 70cm, 100cm and 130cm from the platform, respectively.
- The ropes will be covered by a soft or cushioned material and shall be joined on each of the four sides at equal intervals by rope stays hung vertically, that are not less than 3cm and not more than 4cm wide, and that do not slide along the ropes.
- A minimum of two rope stays must be used on each side of the ring.
- Turnbuckles shall be covered by suitable padding.

**Steps:** There must be:

- At least three sets of properly constructed steps.
- Two sets at diagonally opposite corners of the ring for the use of contestants, seconds and officials.
- A separate set must be provided in one neutral corner for use by the ringside medical practitioner.

#### **RULE 10: Cage Specifications**

**Area:** Must be no smaller than 6.09 metres by 6.09 metres and no larger than 9.75 metres by 9.75 metres.

**Height:** The height of the platform shall not exceed 1.21 metres above the floor of the building.

**Fencing:** The canvas of the fighting area shall be enclosed by a fence of such material as will not allow a contestant to fall out or break through onto the floor; including, without limitation, chain link fence coated with vinyl.

There must not be any obstruction on any part of the fence surrounding the contest area. Any metal portion of the fenced area must be covered and properly padded in a manner approved by the Combat Sports Inspector.

**Fence Posts:** must be made of metal, not more than 15cm in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a minimum height of 1.5m above the ring floor and must be properly padded in a manner approved by the Combat Sports Inspector.

**Flooring:** The floor of the contest area shall be padded with ensolite or similar closed-cell foam, with at least a 2.5cm layer of foam padding.

The padding shall be completely covered by a non-slip canvas, or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the platform of the contest area. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges must not be used.

**Entrances:** The contest area must have 2 entrances, positioned on opposite sides of the contest area.

#### **RULE 11: Referee's role and responsibilities at professional combat sport contests**

##### **Instructions prior to the contest**

Prior to the contest the referee must cover how each of the following will be applied during the contest with each of the combatants (when this address is conducted in the dressing room, the referee should be accompanied by the Combat Sports Inspector):

- Head cut rule
- Hand signals
- No foul rule.

##### **Entering the Ring/Cage**

Referees are required to enter the ring before the combatants and remain in the ring prior to the commencement of the contest and for the duration of the contest.

##### **Replacing mouthguard**

If a contestant accidentally ceases wearing a mouthguard, at the first appropriate time, the referee shall call time out and the mouthguard shall be rinsed and replaced.

**RULE 12: Judge's role and responsibilities at professional combat sport contests**

Each judge officiating at a professional combat sport contest will be required to complete an individual score card for each round of a contest which will be forwarded to the official recorder appointed for the contest.

The official recording duties will be undertaken by the CSI appointed to the promotion as part normal duties.

**Scoring and recording:**

Every professional combat sport contest in NSW will be officiated by 1 non-scoring referee and 3 scoring judges.

Judges must complete an official score card for each round of the contest.

Scoring of each contest shall only be by the 10 points must system whereby the winner of the round will be awarded 10 points and the loser will be awarded points according to the following:

- Winner has only a slight margin over opponent – 9 points
- Winner has a wide margin over opponent – 8 points
- Winner has a substantive/overwhelming margin over opponent – 7 points.

No fractional points will be awarded.

Each judge will conceal the points recorded before handing the card to the referee when practical (or the official recorder). The judges shall not provide any indication of the scoring by any means to any person prior to the announcement of the decision of the contest.

Judges shall not maintain any cumulative record of scores.

At the conclusion of each round the referee (when practical) will collect each score card and hand cards to the official Recorder.

The Recorder must complete an official record listing scores provided by each individual judge. The Recorder must be seated on the side not occupied by a judge and able to record scores without any other person being aware of the details of such recording.

The Promoter must ensure that officials, competitors, any other person associated with the promotion and the general public are not permitted access to the Recorder or Judges at any time during the contest.

At the conclusion of the contest the Recorder will where appropriate tabulate the scores and provide the relevant details to the person responsible for the public announcement of the decision. In announcing the result each individual judge will be named and their score/result publicly announced.

All score cards and the Record of Score sheets remain the property of the CSA and must be returned to the Authority following conclusion of the contest.

**RULE 13: Timekeeper's role and responsibilities at professional contests**

The timekeeper is responsible for providing their own time pieces for contests.

Sounding the bell at the end of each round.

Once a round has commenced, the timekeeper must stop the watch when:

- a contest has been stopped by the referee
- the referee calls "stop" (and restart when the referee calls "box / fight").

The internal or rest period between rounds is 1 minute for all disciplines except Muay Thai where a two minute break may be approved by the CSA upon written application

**END OF REST PERIOD:** Buzzer/whistle to sound approximately 10 seconds before the end of the rest period. Before sounding the buzzer/whistle, the timekeeper must advise the announcer to call "Seconds Down" and announce the number of the ensuing round.

**Knockdown (excluding MMA):** When a combatant is knocked down, the timekeeper should immediately start the "knockdown" watch and in a loud clear voice, call the elapsed seconds until the referee has taken up the count. After a combatant is knocked down and the count is commenced but regains his feet, the count must continue to eight.

The circumstances when a timekeeper would stop the call on a "down combatant":

- When the referee deems the "down" combatant was not knocked down
- When the referee deems a contest over as a result of a knockdown.

**Sounding the bell (excluding MMA):** At a professional contest, if a referee has commenced counting over a combatant (whether "down" or on his feet) and the round is due to end, a timekeeper must not sound the bell until the combatant is counted out and the referee gives the order to "box / fight".

If a referee is cautioning a combatant or has stopped the contest for any reason and the bell is due to sound to signify the end of the bout, the timekeeper shall not sound the bell at the end of the round until the referee has given the order to "box / fight".

**End of a contest:** When a contest is ceased by a referee in favour of a combatant, the timekeeper must immediately stop the (elapsed time) watch and tell the Recorder and announcer the stoppage time and the round of the stoppage.

**No Foul Rule:** If the referee sends one combatant to a neutral corner and the other to their own corner after the "No Foul" Rule has been invoked, the timekeeper should stop the watch.

**Combatant knocked out of the ring:** If a combatant is knocked out of the ring and on to the apron or floor, the timekeeper should not stop the watch. They must commence a call of 20 seconds for a combatant on the floor or 10 seconds for a combatant on the apron.

**RULE 14: Ring Announcer instructions and acceptable audio**

The Ring Announcer must broadcast all instructions and messages provided by the Combat Sports Inspector and/or the Combat Sports Authority.

Music must be played at an acceptable level. The Promoter must reduce the volume of the audio at the request of the Combat Sport Inspector.

### **RULE 15: Head Cut Rule**

A head cut is any cut to the head including surrounds of the eye which may be severe enough in the opinion of the medical practitioner to warrant stopping the contest.

- When the referee detects a head cut they must call time out, have the cut examined by the medical practitioner and indicate to all officials the cause of the cut. (excluding MMA).
- If the cut is caused by a legitimate strike in any round and the fight is stopped, the injured combatant will be deemed to be defeated by TKO (head cut).
- If the cut is caused accidentally and the fight is stopped at any time prior to the start of Round 4 the bout will be declared a technical draw.
- If the cut is caused accidentally at any time and after examination of the cut by the medical practitioner the fight is allowed to continue but is stopped after the commencement of Round 4 because the cut has worsened due to legitimate punches or a further accidental clash, the cards will be called in and the combatant leading on points at the end of the last completed round shall be declared the winner on a technical points decision. No score is to be made for the round in which the contest is stopped (if the fight is a 3 round fight this applies to the third round).
- If the cut is caused by a deliberate foul in any round and the bout is stopped because of the cut, the injured combatant will be declared the winner by disqualification.
- If the cut is caused by a deliberate foul and the bout is allowed to continue, the referee may deduct 1 or 2 points from the offending combatant. If the bout is stopped later because the injury has worsened, the bout will be declared a technical draw.
- If a referee is unsighted he may consult the judges in order to make a decision on the cause of any cut or injury.

The promoter of a combat sport contest may request the Authority to provide an exemption from one or more provisions of this rule for a specified combat sport contest. The request must be made in writing to the Authority no later than 5 days before the scheduled contest date unless a shorter time is approved by the Authority. The Authority may impose limitations on any exemption granted.

### **RULE 16: Three Knockdown Rule**

Any combatant knocked down three (3) times in any one round will be declared TKO (excluding MMA).

The promoter of a combat sport contest may request the Authority to provide an exemption from this rule for a specified combat sport contest. The request must be made in writing to the Authority no later than 5 days before the scheduled contest date unless a shorter time is approved by the Authority. The Authority may impose limitations on any exemption granted.

### **RULE 17: Alcohol consumption**

All registered persons undertaking roles at a contest and the medical practitioner in attendance are to refrain from drinking alcohol before and during combat sport contests in which they are involved.



**RULE 18: Public comment and criticism**

Any person who believes that criticism is warranted, should in the first instance direct their complaint in writing to the Authority and include any evidence or details related to the matter. If considered justified, the Authority will inquire into the matter raised and if necessary, take the appropriate action.

All registered referees and judges should refrain from making comments to the press or writing articles about contests or promotions in which they are involved as officials and refrain from public criticism of decisions by officials at promotions whilst any investigation is undertaken.

**RULE 19: Protective Equipment – hand wraps / bandaging**

Bandages must be made of crepe or gauze and not longer than five (5) metres in length and not wider than five (5) centimetres for each hand.

Surgical tape shall be used to secure the bandages on each hand

The Surgical tape must be no more than two and a half (2.5) metres in length and no wider than two and a half (2.5) centimetres wide for each hand.

Tape must not reach beyond or cover a combatant's knuckles.

Where the maximum of bandage and tape is not enough to adequately protect a combatant's hands, alternative arrangements can be made. These arrangements can only be made with the permission of the CSI and only when both combatants agree. This agreement must be made before the bandaging begins.

Bandages and surgical tape must not be affixed in any way that may be detrimental to an opponent.

Thin strips of surgical tape may be placed between the fingers to aid in keeping the bandage in place.

The Combat Sports Inspector shall inspect the completed bandages and taping to ensure they conform to the rules and shall initial them for later inspection before gloving.

**RULE 20: Protective Equipment - gloves**

Gloves in each bout must be approved by the CSI. The CSI will reject the gloves if the brands are not approved or the quality not adequate.

It is the promoter's responsibility to ensure an adequate supply of compliant gloves is available.

Gloves used by each combatant must be of the same brand, style and quality.

The practice of "skinning" the gloves will not be permitted and laces and tape will not be permitted to extend beyond the back of the wrist.

**Glove weights (excluding MMA):**

8oz gloves must be used for any weight divisions of 66.68kg or less

10oz gloves must be used for any weight division of 66.69kg or more.

**Glove weights for MMA:**

6oz gloves must be used for all amateur MMA contests

4oz gloves must be used for all professional MMA contests.

The promoter of a combat sport contest may request the Authority to provide an exemption from one or more provisions of this rule for a specified combat sport contest. The request must be made in writing to the Authority no later than 5 days before the scheduled contest date unless a shorter time is approved by the Authority. The Authority may impose limitations on any exemption granted.

**RULE 21: Protective Equipment - groin protectors**

All male combatants are required to wear a full cup and groin protector that does not rise above the line of the combatant's hips.

**RULE 22: Protective Equipment - shin guards**

Shin guards are interpreted to include elastic anklets and can be used provided that both contestants agree and that those worn by each contestant are identical.

**RULE 23: Protective Equipment - headgear for amateurs**

All persons contesting in amateur contests in boxing and kick boxing in any of their styles, including Muay Thai, must wear protective headgear appropriate to the discipline contested. Any exemption to this rule will be by order of the Authority and published on the Combat Sports Authority's website. A breach of this rule by a Promoter is a breach of Section 52 of the Act.

**RULE 24: Dress standards for industry participants**

The following standards apply to registered industry participants at contests

**Referee:**

- long trousers
- shirt (long sleeve or short sleeve but not a singlet)
- closed shoes/sandshoes
- no distinguishing badges/pockets/names/logos/trademarks/distinctive signs etc. of any kind to be worn, except where prior approval of the CSA has been granted.

**Judges/Timekeepers**

- long trousers
- shirt (long sleeve or short sleeve but not a singlet)
- jacket (optional)
- no distinguishing badges/pockets/names/logos/trademarks/distinctive signs etc. of any kind to be worn, except where prior approval of the CSA has been granted.

**All registered industry participants entering the contest area**

- long trousers
- shirt (long sleeve or short sleeve but not a singlet)
- footwear other than thongs.

**RULE 25: Dates unavailable for combat sport contests**

Permits for Professional combat sport contests in NSW will not be issued for the following dates:

- Australia Day (and Australia Day Public Holiday when relevant)
- Good Friday
- Easter Monday
- ANZAC Day
- Christmas Day
- Boxing Day
- New Years' Eve
- New Years' Day and any dates that fall within the declared public service shut-down period (Christmas)

**RULE 26: Age limits for contests in a cage**

No person under the age of 18 may compete in any combat sport contest conducted in a cage.

**RULE 27: Age limits for contests**

No person under the age of 14 may compete in any combat sport contest.

**RULE 28: Entertainment (including card girls)**

Entertainment must be in good taste and sensitive to the cultural mix and age of the potential audience. Entertainment must not involve acts or actions that would align it with being covered by a mature audience or adult only rating.

**RULE 29: Public Liability Insurance**

All combat sport contests must be covered by Public Liability Insurance. This insurance may be provided by the Promoter, the Approved Amateur Body or by the venue that is hosting the contest. A copy of the certificate of currency is to be provided to the Authority.

**RULE 30: First Aid Requirements for Industry Participants**

Any person making application for registration as a Trainer or Referee must provide evidence of a current first aid certificate (including CPR) at the time of registration and re-registration.

**RULE 31: Publication of results of disciplinary action taken**

Any disciplinary action taken, or rulings made as a result of a show cause process conducted by the CSA may be made public via the CSA website.

**RULE 32: Referee/Trainer stop contest**

- The referee must stop a contest and render a decision at any stage if the contest appears to be too one-sided.
- The referee may stop a contest at any stage to consult with the ringside medical practitioner on the advisability of allowing the bout to continue.
- If a trainer is of the opinion that their combatant is exhausted or injured to such an extent that they are unable to continue in the contest they may “throw in the towel” to indicate that the bout should cease.

**RULE 33: Trainer/second enter competition area**

- No trainer or second may enter the ring and assist a combatant unless the bell has rung or the bout has been terminated by the referee.

**RULE 34: Arrival of International Combatants**

- Promoters must ensure that any international combatant listed on the fight card arrives not less than 48 hours prior to the proposed contest unless a shorter period is approved by the CSA. The Promoter must provide evidence of the scheduled arrival for the combatant on request.

**RULE 35: Resuscitation equipment requirements at combat sport contests**

- (a) For the purposes of this Rule 35:
- i. **combat sport contest** has the meaning as given to the same term in section 4 of the Combat Sports Act 2013 (the Act), commonly referred to as a “fight” or “bout”;
  - ii. **combat sport event** means an event that is comprised of 2 or more combat sport contests held on the one occasion and at the same venue (see section 38(b) of the Act); and
  - iii. **promoter** means a person that has been granted a permit in accordance with Division 1 of Part 3 of the Act.
- (b) The promoter, regardless of whether the permit relates to a combat sport contest or a combat sport event, must ensure that a resuscitation kit is at each combat sport contest that contains, as a minimum, the following equipment.
- i. Guedel (or similar) airway support devices in sizes 3 (80mm), 4 (90mm) and 5 (100mm) of which there must be at least one (1) of each size; and
  - ii. Nasopharyngeal airways in sizes 7.5mm and 8.5mm of which there must be at least one (1) of each size; and
  - iii. At least one (1) adult size oxygen face mask with tubing; and
  - iv. At least one (1) adult size non-rebreathing oxygen face mask with tubing; and
  - v. A Resuscitation Bag/Valve/Mask set which includes size 4 and size 5 face masks of which there must be at least one (1) of each size; and
  - vi. A spacer device for Beta-2 agonists; and
  - vii. An oxygen regulator/flowmeter capable of 15 litres per minute (LPM) flowrate, with at least one (1) standard indexed sleeve (SIS) inlet/outlet connection; and
  - viii. A manual and/or oxygen powered vacuum suction unit with suction instrument, hose and tubing; and
  - ix. At least one (1) full ‘C-size’ (410 litre) medical oxygen cylinder; and
  - x. A cylinder key wheel/spanner to turn on the oxygen cylinder (unless the key wheel/spanner is integrated into the cylinder); and
  - xi. A portable carry case or durable bag sufficient to store and protect the items listed above.
- (c) The promoter must ensure that the equipment listed in section (b) above:
- i. is in a readily accessible location within the contest area near the attending medical practitioner; and
  - ii. has been serviced and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions; and
  - iii. is compliant with Australian Standards in place at the time of the combat sport contest or combat sport event.
- (d) The promoter must ensure that, as a minimum, one (1) person at each combat sport contest is appropriately trained or qualified to use the equipment listed in section (b) above and has ready access to the equipment during each combat sport contest.

- (e) The promoter must ensure that the equipment listed in section (b) above is checked and tested at the combat sport contest or combat sport event location prior to the pre-contest or event briefing required under cl. 23(k1) of the *Combat Sports Regulation 2014*, and confirmed by the promoter at that briefing to be compliant with this rule.
- (f) The promoter must ensure that each combat sport contest does not commence until all requirements of this rule are satisfied.

**END**