

# BOARD ROUNDS

## 2025 year in review

It has been another busy year of promotions, with the Board supervising 61 in total this year across the combat sports disciplines and associated rulesets. Providing opportunities for ongoing learning and development for licensed officials has been a priority focus and it has been positive to have delivered training and accreditation for Mixed Martial Arts and Muay Thai this year.

An inaugural meeting of combat sport regulators was convened this year to bring the New South Wales Combat Sports Authority, the Western Australian Combat Sports Commission, the South Australian Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing and the Registrar and Controlled Sports of the Australian Capital Territory together to consider safety and integrity matters including the increasing prevalence of unregulated events and new combat sports. You can view the Board's latest annual report here: [Board Report 2024-2025](#)

It also important to remember Jake Sendler, a young amateur MMA contestant who died in March this year and more recently Luis Lizcano, a young amateur boxer who died in November. The Board is open to the findings of reviews and investigations of critical incidents such as this to ensure that any lessons learnt can be applied in these high risk, contact sports to prevent further tragedies.

## Engagement forums

The Board was pleased with participation in the recent round of forums held with licence holders. There was an open and productive exchange of views in response to a range of proposals that the Board had circulated during the year and the Board will consider all that feedback and convey its position early in the new year.

## Christmas shutdown period

Please note that while the online permit, registration and licence system is available for applications 24/7, the Combat Sports Office will be closed from 25 December 2025 and will not re-open until Monday 5 January 2026. Applications will not be processed during this period.

The Board wishes you a very happy and relaxing end of year and summer season and looks forward to continuing to regulate a vibrant program of promotions in 2026.

## Promoting safety and upholding integrity

The Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events has recently issued its [Statement of Expectations](#) for the Board for 2025-2027 period and has commended the Board's activities over the previous reporting period in promoting safety and upholding industry integrity.

*"I acknowledge the development and implementation of the Board's revised concussion management protocol, informed by leading organisations such as the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Institute of Sport and the Association of Ringside Physicians. The extended stand-down period for contestants who are concussed and those who have sustained multiple concussions over a 2-year period is an important improvement for contestant safety."*

*The Victorian Government wants professional boxing and combat sports to be run by people of good character and reputation, and I acknowledge the Board's continued focus on ensuring that licence holders are fit and proper persons and that it is not contrary to the public interest for a person to hold a licence. This is important not only for ensuring that community expectations are met but also for upholding the safety and integrity of the sport."*

(Steve Dimopoulos, MP)

