

# BOARD ROUNDS

Professional Boxing  
and Combat Sports  
Board of Victoria



## Officials accreditation and ongoing training

As part of the Board's continuous improvement strategy for officials, MMA and Muay Thai officials training and accreditation courses and seminars have been held in the first half of this year and are advertised through Board Rounds that is issued multiple times a year.

Further training and developmental opportunities will be convened for Muay Thai officials within the next month and other combat sports disciplines will follow throughout 2025-2026. Separate information will be circulated about this soon.

## Officials fees and late payment fees

Officials' fees increased from 1 January 2025 in recognition that fees had not been reviewed for 8 years and a desire to align fees with those in other states/territories. The new fee schedule includes a late payment fee of \$100 for each licensed judge, referee and timekeeper for promotions that conclude after 11.30pm.

The Board does not issue invoices for official fee payments. Those arrangements can be established by promoters with the appointed officials if that is a requirement.

## Conflicts of interest

The Board's rules specify that judges must be impartial and the conditions and requirements applicable to licensed officials state that in cases where there is an existing or potential conflict of interest, judges should not perform their duties and immediately disclose the conflict prior to the promotion or to the supervising Board member at the promotion. You can view the Board's conditions and requirements here: <https://djsir.vic.gov.au/combat-sports/applications/requirements-of-referees-judges-and-timekeepers>

## Licensed official – Samantha Bulner

The Board would like to acknowledge and recognise female judge Samantha Bulner's 15 years of service to the sport of boxing.

A proud member of the Australian National Boxing Federation and World Boxing Council, the Board thanks her for her commitment to professional boxing both in Victoria and internationally.



pictured Samantha Bulner

## New Board member appointed

Mr Wayne Cheesman has been appointed to the Board by the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, as the new Victoria Police representative following the finalisation of Ms Thomas' second term.

Mr Cheesman's 38 year policing career has included roles with St Kilda Uniform, Prahran Criminal Investigations Unit, Drug Squad, Homicide Squad, Echo Taskforce and as Staff Officer to (retired) Victoria Police Executive Command members, Shane Patton and Ross Guenther.

Mr Cheesman was recognised as the Victoria Police Detective of the Year in 2013. He holds a Master of Business Leadership and Graduate Certificate in Applied Management (Policing and Emergency Services).

His experience and knowledge will be a valuable addition to the current Board membership.



pictured Wayne Cheesman

## Proposed changes to corporate rulesets

The Board proposes to introduce changes from 1 January 2026 to standardise its corporate rulesets in the interests of improving contestant safety. The proposed changes include:

- 3 x 2-minute rounds - this format provides contestants with a good base should they seek to progress to competing in the amateurs and encourages greater use of skills to sustain effort for a 2 minute duration.
- Mandatory headgear.
- Singlets to be worn at all competitions.

Your feedback is welcomed and should be sent by 22 October 2025 to [combat.sports@sportvic.gov.au](mailto:combat.sports@sportvic.gov.au)

## Engagement forums

In mid-late November, the Board will convene another round of engagement forums with stakeholders to provide an opportunity to hear from the combat sports community about trends and challenges facing the sport.

Invitations will be sent to all licence holders in October and your participation is encouraged.