

# BOARD ROUNDS



The Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Board (the Board) is pleased to issue its first update of 2024 as part of its ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of safety, knowledge, and responsible practices in the sector. The Board hopes you enjoyed a relaxing festive season and looks forward to another vibrant year of promotions.

## STATE CORONER'S FINDINGS FOLLOWING THE SHANE TUCK INQUEST

The Victorian State Coroner handed down his findings on 11 December 2023 following the Inquest into the death of Shane Tuck. The Coroner's findings included recommendations that are directed to the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions and the Board on matters relating to the extension of regulation to capture amateur boxing, placing restrictions on children and adolescents, investing in

research and considering changes to rules and practices in both competition and training settings. The Board welcomed the State Coroner's findings and is carefully considering those recommendations that apply to it so that a formal response can be provided to the State Coroner by 11 March 2024.

The full report can be found via:

[State Coroner's Findings](#)

## Vale Dr Ash Gordon

The Board has expressed its condolences to the family of Dr Ash Gordon. Dr Gordon was a highly regarded ringside doctor who had worked alongside the Board and its officials for many years. He was a very important contributor to safeguarding contestants at combat sport events and he will be dearly missed by all those who knew him. The Board wishes to extend its condolences to his family.

## Stakeholder Engagement

The Board will be convening a series of forums with a variety of stakeholder groups over the coming months, commencing on Tuesday 30 January. The forums provide an opportunity for engagement with you where you can share insights and communicate challenges while the Board can communicate and explain its priority focus. The forums will become a regular fixture and the first round of engagement opportunities are as follows:

- Tuesday 30 January: licensed promoters and match-makers
- Tuesday 27 February: licensed trainers
- Tuesday 19 March: licensed referees, judges, and timekeepers.

The Combat Sports Team will issue invitations to these engagement opportunities to all relevant licence holders.

## EXHIBITION BOUTS POLICY

The Board has recently formalised its policy and approach for supervising exhibition bouts as the legislation prescribes that any exhibition of boxing, or a combat sport that is conducted for profit is considered 'professional' under section 5 of the Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Act 1985 which means that:

- Contestants must be registered and any proposed match-ups must be considered by the Board.
- Requests for exhibition bouts must be presented at the time of submitting the fight card, with the inclusion of the full names and dates of birth for contestants.
- Children and young people under the age of 18 years are excluded from participating in an exhibition bout regulated by the Board.

In addition to these requirements, it is the Board's requirement that proposed exhibition bouts are scheduled at the commencement of a promotion and modified rulesets will be applied for all disciplines, with further details to follow in future editions of Board Rounds.

If you have any questions, or queries about the exhibition bouts policy, please contact the Combat Sports Team via:

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