

# BOARD ROUNDS

## Hearing from our stakeholders

Following engagement with licence holders in late 2025, the Board has considered the feedback on various proposals and confirmed that:

- It will not adopt the proposed changes to the **corporate boxing ruleset** that suggested mandatory headgear and singlets. The ruleset maintains that headgear is recommended and singlets are optional. Standardised rounds of 3 x 2 minutes will apply. You can view the ruleset here: [Link](#)
- **A cap of 15 bouts** on fightcards will be applied to assist in the management of the duration of events and fatigue of officials.
- It will continue to work with licence holders to **recognise and address conflicts of interest** prior to implementing its Multiple Roles Policy that applies restrictions on a licence holder performing multiple roles at a promotion. This will be the subject of further discussions at the next round of engagement forums in June/July this year.

## Licensed trainers on fightcards and at promotions

The Board has advised that effective from 1 March 2026 it will not approve any proposed contests where the trainer listed on the fightcard is not licensed. The Board expects that all trainers listed on a fightcard will be in attendance at the promotion, acting as the trainer for the contestant they are nominated beside on the fightcard. If a trainer is licensed in another State or Territory by a licensing authority, the Board expects matchmakers to include in the 'notes' section of the digital fightcard under the contestant corner information the State or Territory in which the trainer is licensed. Interstate licences will be verified with the relevant licensing authority by the Combat Sports Unit.

## Mixed discipline promotions

The Board is exploring the option of appointing separate referees, with appropriate expertise, to ensure that promotions with multiple disciplines are officiated in alignment with the contest rules. It would welcome your feedback on this proposal at the next round of engagement forums mid year.

## Dr James Ooi appointed to the Medical Advisory Sub-Committee

The Board is very pleased to welcome Dr James Ooi as a new member of its Medical Advisory Sub-Committee. Dr Ooi is a sport and exercise physician. He trained at The Alfred Hospital, with an emphasis on emergency and trauma and, prior to medical specialisation, he gained further experience as a ringside doctor. Dr Ooi maintains a broad scope including community practice, assisting orthopaedic surgery, and caring for athletes across multiple disciplines. He is the current Chief Medical Officer for The Combat Institute of Australia (CombatAUS) and works with Olympic pathway athletes at the Victorian Institute of Sport. An avid martial artist in his youth, Dr Ooi has a longstanding interest for combat sports. He is a great addition to the Sub-Committee.

## MuayThai officials' training

As a follow up to the professional development session that was held last May, further training in the application of Muaythai rules for judges and referees will be held at 8.30-10.30am on Saturday 23 May 2026 at the Carlton Baths (248 Rathdowne Street, Carlton).

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to [combat.sports@sport.vic.gov.au](mailto:combat.sports@sport.vic.gov.au) by 13 May 2026.

