Licensed promoters

**Duties and conditions of promoter licences and conditions of promotion permits**

# Licensed promoters

Any adult may apply to the Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Board (Board) for a promoter licence. Every application is sent to the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police for advice.

The Board may issue a promoter licence if is satisfied that:

* the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence;
* it is not contrary to the public interest to issue a licence; and
* prescribed prerequisites have been met.

A promoter licence remains in force for 3 years and can be renewed. A licence can be subject to any conditions determined by the Board. These conditions can be varied or revoked by the Board at any time and must be complied with by promoters. A promoter licence can be suspended or cancelled by the Board.

Licensed promoters are required to comply with:

* Promoter Duties and Conditions;
* Promotion Permit Conditions;
* the Board’s Code of Conduct (contained in Promoter Duties and Conditions and the Board’s Rules for the conduct of professional contests in Victoria):
* the Act - <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/professional-boxing-and-combat-sports-act-1985/033>*;*
* the Regulations - <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/statutory-rules/professional-boxing-and-combat-sports-regulations-2018/001>; and
* the Board’s Rules for the conduct of professional contests in Victoria - <https://djsir.vic.gov.au/combat-sports/rules>.

# Promoter Duties and Conditions

## Duties of Promoter

A licensed promoter shall ensure that in respect of every professional contest you promote:

1. professional contestants participating have been declared fit by a medical practitioner to compete;
2. professional contestants participating are registered with the Board;
3. all trainers and matchmakers are licensed with the Board or the licensing authority of another State or Territory (unless a trainer is accompanying a licensed or registered contestant who resides outside the Commonwealth and is in Victoria to compete);
4. the provisions of the relevant *Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Regulations 2018* are complied with;
5. a medical practitioner, approved by the Board, is in attendance;
6. enquiries are made of any prospective employee to establish if the prospective employee has ever been denied a licence or had a licence cancelled under the *Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Act 1985*;
7. enquiries are made of any person you intend to enter into a business arrangement or business relationship with relating to a professional contest to establish if the person has ever been denied a licence or had a licence cancelled under the *Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Act 1985*;
8. you do not knowingly employ a person who has been denied a licence or had a licence cancelled under the *Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Act 1985*; and
9. you do not knowingly enter into a business arrangement or business relationship with any person relating to the professional contest if that person has been denied a licence or had a licence cancelled under the *Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Act 1985*.

A promoter who breaches any of these duties shall be guilty of an offence under the *Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Act 1985* and liable to a penalty of 120 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months or both.

## Licence Conditions

These conditions are general in application and the Board may make any further conditions specific to an individual promoter’s licence as it sees fit. The Board will write to you to make you aware of any such conditions.

These conditions may be varied or revoked by the Board at any time. The Board will write to you to make you aware of any such variations or revocations.

Failure to comply with the conditions set out below may result in the Board varying the conditions of your licence, suspending or cancelling your licence.

A licensed promoter must comply with the following:

1. You are not to advertise a professional boxing contest or combat sport contest until a promotion permit has been issued for that contest unless it is clearly and obviously stated that the holding of the contest is subject to the Board issuing a permit. Permits are not approved until a Permit Application is submitted, paid for and you have received approval in writing from the Board.
2. You will comply with the Board’s Rules for the conduct of professional contests in Victoria (as applicable).

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Board recommends that promoters do not book flights or incur other expenses for a proposed contestant unless the Board has (1) registered the contestant as a professional contestant and (2) has confirmed, in writing, that the contestant is adequately matched to a particular opponent.

## Code of Conduct

Licensed promoters are expected to exhibit exemplar standards at all times and not engage in:

* Violent, threatening, obscene, indecent or abusive language or behaviour.
* Vilification of any kind towards another person.
* Discrimination against another person based on their age, gender or sexual orientation.
* Discrimination against another person based on their race, culture, religion or any other personal characteristic (protected or otherwise).
* Sexual harassment, intimidation or victimisation of another person.
* Competition manipulation and gambling on any activity that you are directly or indirectly connected to.
* Improper use of drugs and medicines.
* Conduct that is detrimental to the reputation or interests of the boxing and combat sports industry.

# Promotion Permits

A permit is required to conduct a professional contest.

A licensed promoter may apply to the Board in the prescribed form for a permit to conduct a promotion.

The Board may issue a permit if the prescribed fee has been paid and the Board is satisfied that the prescribed prerequisites have been satisfied for the issue of a permit.

A person must not conduct a promotion unless they hold a permit issued by the Board. A person who conducts a promotion without such a permit is liable to a penalty of 120 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months or both.

A permit may be subject to any conditions which the Board determines. The conditions may be varied or revoked by the Board at any time. The Board will write to you to make you aware of any such variations or revocations.

The conditions must be complied with by promoters. Contravention of a condition may result in variation of the conditions of a permit, or suspension or cancellation of a permit.

## Promotion Permit Conditions

The conditions below have been determined by the Board as standard for all permits for professional boxing and combat sports promotions in Victoria.

The conditions should be considered minimum standards in the interests of reducing the risk of malpractice, promoting safety and upholding industry integrity.

The conditions may be varied or revoked by the Board at any time.

Compliance with the conditions will be assessed by the Board member/s attending the weigh-in and the promotion and in consultation with Combat Sports Unit staff. A written report will be completed by the Board member/s detailing compliance with the conditions and other requirements.

Contravention of a condition may result in variation of the conditions of a permit, or suspension or cancellation of a permit.

### Before the promotion

1. The promoter must hold a current licence to act as a promoter.
2. The promoter must comply with the conditions of his or her promoter’s licence.
3. Any changes to the promotion as approved by the Board must be brought to the Board’s attention as soon as practicable.
4. The promotion must consist of a minimum of 30 rounds or 6 bouts of professional contests.

#### Mandatory timeframes

##### 14 days before the promotion

1. Fight cards: the promoter must submit a fully completed fight card to the Combat Sports Unit at least 14 days prior to the date of the promotion.

PLEASE NOTE: if this timeframe is not met and a fight is disallowed by the Board, the fight will NOT go ahead (unless exceptional circumstances apply as determined by the Board).

1. Title fights: the promoter must inform the Board of any title fights on the promotion at least 14 days before the promotion. Where the promotion includes title fights, the promoter must also request the approval of the Board for the sanctioning body’s officials to officiate at those bouts.

##### 7 days before the promotion

1. Contestant registration documents: all contestant registration documents must be completed and received by the Combat Sports Unit at least 7 days before the promotion. You are strongly advised to submit all paperwork as early as possible to allow time to remedy incompleteness or errors.

**PLEASE NOTE:** applications that are not complete and received at least 7 days before a promotion will NOT be processed (unless exceptional circumstances apply as determined by the Board).

1. **The Promoter** – if the promoter is aware of any potential sources of crowd control problems or security risks due to attendees the Board must be informed.
2. **The Promoter** – must in writing confirm to the Board the exact security arrangements in place for the promotion, including security firm, presence of metal detectors and bag checks.
3. **Medical practitioner** - the promoter is required to provide an approved medical practitioner for each event. The promoter must advise the Combat Sports Unit of the name of the medical practitioner who will attend the promotion at least 7 days prior to the date of the promotion.
4. **Secondary medical officer** - the promoter is required to provide a secondary medical officer for each event. The promoter must advise the Combat Sports Unit of the name of the secondary medical officer who will attend the promotion at least 7 days prior to the date of the promotion. A secondary medical officer can be a second doctor, a registered division 1 nurse, final year medical student or paramedic. It is the secondary medical officers’ role to support the medical practitioner in providing care to contestants.

**PLEASE NOTE: the promoter must NOT use a ringside medical practitioner who has not been approved by the Board.**

1. **Evacuation plan** – unless previously sent to the Board, the promoter must submit an evacuation plan for the venue to the Board at least 7 days prior to the date of the promotion. Such a plan must include:
   * + 1. the street address of the venue and the route by which paramedics can access the ring/safety enclosure from the street with a stretcher and medical equipment and evacuate a patient safely; and
       2. the location of the nearest hospital with neurosurgical facilities.
2. **The Rules** - the promoter must provide a hardcopy of the Board’s Rules to each contestant or the contestant’s trainer at least 7 days prior to the promotion.

##### Contestants and trainers

1. All contestants participating in the promotion must be 18 years of age or older and registered as a professional contestant at the date of the promotion.
2. All contestants must have been found to be fit for engaging in the contest by a medical practitioner as required by section 12 of the *Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Act 1985*.
3. The promoter must ensure that international and interstate contestants arrive in Victoria 24 hours before the contest.
4. All trainers involved in the promotion must have a current licence for the date of the promotion.

##### The venue

1. The venue must have a risk management plan in order to deal with emergency situations and safety concerns.
2. Venue staff must be equipped with metal detectors and/or security wands as well as conduct bag checks in order to ensure that no weapons are brought inside the venue.
3. The proposed venue for the promotion should have separate changing rooms for male and female contestants where the fight-card includes contestants of both genders.
4. Any changes to the advertised main event or major supporting contest must be displayed at the box office as soon as practicable after the changes.

##### The weigh-in

1. The weigh-in is held no more than 24 hours before the scheduled start time of the promotion.
2. All contestants and trainers must attend the weigh-in on time. Contestants who do not attend the weigh-in at the commencement time, without prior notice and approval from the supervising Board member may be unable to weigh in and compete.
3. Contestants are to weigh in wearing only underwear (including a sports bra or like for female competitors) and/or shorts or attire as otherwise approved by the Board.

### At the promotion

1. The promoter must be present at the promotion unless notified in writing by the Board.
2. The Board’s Rules for the applicable discipline(s) must be followed unless there has been written Board approval at least 14 days prior to the date to the promotion. The Board’s Rules can be found at <https://djsir.vic.gov.au/combat-sports/rules>.
3. An announcement must be made from the ring before the opening contest begins if the advertised main event or major supporting contest has been changed.
4. The promoter must provide a refund to patrons upon request if the tickets or ticket stubs are presented to the box office with 30 minutes of the announcement being made.
5. The medical practitioner supplies and is equipped with the following, at minimum:
6. basic doctor’s bag kit, including disposal gloves and gauze swabs;
7. auriscope and opthalmoscope;
8. airway support equipment;
9. oxy-viva mask; and
10. oxygen.
11. The medical practitioner must arrive before the first contest with sufficient time to undertake pre-contest medical examinations.
12. The medical practitioner must be allocated a space to conduct pre and post-fight medical examinations.
13. The ring/safety enclosure must comply with the specifications in the Board Rules for the respective contest discipline(s):
    * + 1. any decal, paint, stickers or branding on the ring canvas must be approved in writing by the Board prior to the promotion and not increase the risk of contestants slipping;
        2. any corflute advertising must be fastened to the canvas with tape or velcro;
        3. proper steps are provided for contestants to enter the ring/safety enclosure;
        4. the contestant’s corners are marked red and blue or otherwise approved by the Board;
        5. a bucket is placed in each contestant’s corner;
        6. no more than 4 Seconds in a contestant’s corner at any one time;
        7. sufficient number of clean buckets are available for the use of the contestants;
        8. any water or liquid spilt is wiped up between rounds;
        9. stools are available for contestants between rounds; and
        10. any trophies must be laid down or preferably placed away from the ring.
14. At mixed martial arts promotions, the promoter is also responsible for ensuring that:
15. red and blue coloured tape is available to be applied to the lower part of each contestant's gloves to correspond to the colour of their respective corner; and
16. petroleum jelly is available for application to the head of contestants.
17. The lighting must be adequate for the conduct of the contest.
18. The seating plan for the ring/safety enclosure must comply with the diagram at Attachment 1.
19. Only a person authorised by the Board sits in any seat around the ring/safety enclosure apron.
20. A weather proof shelter must be erected over the ring and its surrounds at any outdoor promotion.
21. All trainers must display their licence whilst at the promotion.
22. All officials must have received payment prior to the commencement of the first bout.
23. You provide a spinal board and consult with the medical practitioner to determine the exact location of the spinal board before the first contest begins. The spinal board must be in a clearly accessible location beside the ring/safety enclosure.
24. A member of security must be situated ringside and able to communicate with the Board during all contests.
25. A member of security must be situated at the entrance to the change rooms and not allow access to the change rooms by unauthorised persons.
26. Security must not allow unauthorised persons to be ringside during contests.
27. Adequate security must be provided to protect officials attending the promotion from verbal and physical abuse.
28. Adequate security must be provided to allow the medical practitioner unfettered access to an injured contestant.
29. All security personnel must display their crowd controller’s licence.
30. Only authorised personnel have access to changing rooms, ringside and the ring/safety enclosure.
31. All drinks served at the promotion must be in plastic cups or containers unless served with a meal at table or as otherwise approved by the Board.
32. The contest does not commence, or continue, unless a referee is present in the ring and the attending medical practitioner is at ringside.
33. Total intermission(s) time should not exceed 15 minutes unless otherwise approved by the Board.
34. Entertainment is in good taste and sensitive to the cultural mix of the audience.
35. Music is played at an acceptable level.
36. Provide reasonably priced meals for Board members and staff from the Combat Sports Unit as required.
37. Provide gloves for each of the contestants. The gloves are to be new or in “as new” condition and must otherwise comply with the Board’s Rules. The contestants’ gloves for boxing and all forms of kickboxing are different colours: usually red or blue/black or otherwise approved by the Board.
38. The promoter must ensure that all persons holding a licence, permit or registration under the *Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Act 1985* must not, when acting in the capacity of holder of the licence, permit or registration, abuse or threaten (whether verbally or physically) an official appointed by the Board or representing a sanctioning body.
39. MMA promotion permits only - in the event that there are no suitable referees available in Victoria, you will be required to cover expenses to fly in an interstate referee.

##### Attachment 1 – Ring/safety enclosure seating plan

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | **Judge** |   1.5m  Blue Corner  Seating for 4  **Judge**  COMMENTATORS  Time-keeper  Ring Announcer  Doctor    **Judge**  1.5m  1.5m      Red Corner  Seating for 4  BOARD – as advised  1.5m |

##### Explanatory Notes

The above diagram shows the requirements for the seating of officials at the ring/safety enclosure.

All sides of the ring/safety enclosure must be accessible.

Under the *Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Regulations 2018*, a promoter must ensure only a person authorised by the Board sits in any seat around the ring/safety enclosure apron.

Seating at the ring/safety enclosure is restricted to officials, Board members, Combat Sports Unit personnel and those working directly on the promotion.

All people seated at the ring/safety enclosure must display their licence as approved by the Board.

No people are to be seated immediately adjacent to a judge.

The darker external boundary in the diagram illustrates the need for 1.5 metres between the officials’ tables and patrons or where no tables are present 1.5 metres between the ring apron and the tables in keeping with health and safety requirements.

Any changes to the approved seating plan must be submitted to the Board in writing at least 48 hours prior to the promotion.