Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Board

COMPETITION MANIPULATION AND SPORT WAGERING POLICY

# Purpose

1. This Policy sets out the position of the Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Board (the Board) on competition manipulation and sport wagering.
2. The manipulation of sporting competitions and related activities undermines the integrity of sport.
3. Manipulating sporting competitions can be a crime and punishable by law.
4. The purpose of this Policy is to protect the integrity of boxing and combat sports and to ensure that the core values, good reputation and positive behaviours and attitudes of the Board are maintained.

# Scope

1. This Policy applies to Relevant Persons (defined below).

# Definitions

* 1. **Activity** means a professional contest as defined in section 5 of the *Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Act 1985* (the Act).
  2. **Athlete** means a person who is registered or entitled to compete in an Activity.
  3. **Benefit** means any advantage and is not limited to property.
  4. **Inside Information** means any information connected to the conduct, management or organisation of a sporting event that is not generally available and if it were generally available, the information, would, or would be likely to, influence a person’s decision to bet on the sporting event or in making any other betting decision.
  5. **Participant** means:

1. Athletes;
2. Board members, employees, contractors, consultants and any individuals or groups undertaking activity for or on behalf of the Board;
3. persons licensed or entitled to be licensed under the Act, namely promoters, trainers, matchmakers, referees, judges and timekeepers; and
4. any other person who has agreed to be bound by this Policy.
   1. **Policy** means this Competition Manipulation and Sport Wagering Policy.
   2. **Prohibited Conduct** means conduct proscribed by clause 7 of this Policy.
   3. **Relevant Person** means an Athlete or Participant.
   4. **Wagering Service Provider** means any company or other undertaking that promotes, brokers, arranges or conducts any form of wagering activity in relation to professional boxing and combat sport in Australia.

# Prohibited Conduct

1. A Relevant Person commits a breach of this Policy when they, either alone or in conjunction with another or others, engage in any of the following conduct:

7.1 participate (whether by act or omission) in improperly altering the result or the course of an Activity in order to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the Activity to obtain a Benefit for themselves or others by:

1. the direct, pre-meditated or planned interference with the natural course of an Activity or element of an Activity;[[1]](#footnote-1)
2. providing modified or false information related to an Athlete’s identity or personal information;
3. intentionally modifying contest surfaces, equipment or Athlete’s physiology to improperly influence the natural course of the event; or

7.2 bet, or enter into any other form of financial speculation on any Activity, or on any incident or occurrence in an Activity, connected with the Board, whether or not they are participating in the Activity. For the avoidance of doubt:

1. any bets placed by a betting syndicate or group, such as a 'punter's club', of which the Relevant Person is a member;
2. an interest in any bet, including having someone else place a bet on their behalf; or
3. allowing another person to place a bet using a Relevant Person’s account,

shall be treated as if the bet was placed by the Relevant Person as an individual;

7.3 disclose Inside Information, or use Inside Information, other than as required as part of their official duties;

7.4 accept, request, seek, offer, or provide a Benefit to incite, cause or contribute to any breach of this Policy;

7.5 facilitate, assist, aid, abet, encourage, induce, cover-up or be complicit in any Prohibited Conduct;

7.6 agree, conspire, plan or attempt to engage in any conduct which would be Prohibited Conduct if successful; or

7.7 fail to promptly report to the Board or the Combat Sports Unit (CSU) any of the matters referred to in clause 8.

# Obligations

## Reporting

1. A Relevant Person must, where permitted by law, promptly notify the Board or the CSU if they:

8.1 are interviewed as a suspect, charged, or arrested by a law enforcement body in respect of conduct that falls within the definition of Prohibited Conduct;

8.2 have been approached by another person to engage in Prohibited Conduct;

8.3 know or reasonably suspect that another person has engaged in Prohibited Conduct, or has been approached to engage in Prohibited Conduct; or

8.4 have received or is aware or reasonably suspects that another person has received, actual or implied threats of any nature in relation to any past or proposed Prohibited Conduct.

1. A Relevant Person has a continuing obligation to report any new knowledge or suspicion regarding any Prohibited Conduct under this Policy, even if the Relevant Person's prior knowledge or suspicion has already been reported.
2. Notification by a Relevant Person under clause 8 may be made verbally or in writing by the Relevant Person and may be made anonymously if there is a genuine concern of reprisal. A Relevant Person who makes a report anonymously is responsible for keeping a record that will allow them to confirm that they have met their reporting obligations under clauses 8 and 9.
3. Relevant Persons should be aware of relevant Commonwealth and State legal requirements to report criminal activity in relation to the manipulation of sporting competitions (matchfixing) and Inside Information.

## Information sharing

1. The Board may share information (including Personal Information as defined in the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*) at any time relating to Relevant Persons with Wagering Service Providers, law enforcement agencies, government agencies or other sporting organisations to prevent, identify and investigate alleged Prohibited Conduct.
2. In sharing information, the Board will remain bound by the applicable legal obligations contained in the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*.

## Monitoring by Wagering Service Providers

1. Relevant Persons must disclose information to the Board regarding all of their commercial agreements, interests, and connections with Wagering Service Providers. For the avoidance of doubt, this does not include the disclosure of accounts that Relevant Persons may hold with Wagering Service Providers.
2. The Board will work with Wagering Service Providers to ensure the ongoing integrity of Activities under the auspices of the Board.
3. The Board may request Wagering Service Providers to monitor and conduct regular audits of their databases and records to monitor the incidents of suspicious betting transactions (including single or multiple betting transactions or market fluctuations) that may indicate or tend to indicate that Relevant Persons have engaged in Prohibited Conduct under this Policy.
4. To enable the Wagering Service Provider to conduct such audits, the Board may, from time to time and subject to any terms and conditions imposed by the Board (including in relation to confidentiality and privacy), provide to Wagering Service Providers details of Relevant Persons who are precluded by this Policy from engaging in Prohibited Conduct.
5. Wagering Service Providers may provide the Board with regular written reports on incidents of suspicious betting transactions (including single or multiple betting transactions or market fluctuations) that may indicate or tend to indicate that Relevant Persons have engaged in Prohibited Conduct.
6. All requests for information or provision of information by the Board or a Wagering Service Provider shall be kept strictly confidential and shall not be divulged to any third party or otherwise made use of, except where required by law or by this Policy, is permitted by the Board or Wagering Service Provider, or where information is already in the public domain other than because of a breach of this Policy.

# Sanctions

1. A Relevant Person who is found to have breached this Policy may face disciplinary action. Sanctions that may be imposed include:

20.1 suspension or cancellation of a contestant’s registration to compete in an Activity;

* 1. suspension or cancellation of a licence issued under section 6 of the Act; or
  2. termination of a Board member’s appointment.

# Related policy, legislation and other documents

21.1 *Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Act 1985;*

21.2 *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014;*

21.3 *Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities 2024;*

21.4 *Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees 2015.*

# Review

1. This Policy is subject to annual review.

# Version history

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Date** | **Author** | **Summary of change** |
| 1 | May 2024 | B Trevean | Creation |
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1. Examples may include, but are not limited to, intentionally conceding points, pre-arranging the outcome of a competition, deliberate underperformance (also known as ‘tanking’) in any manner, influencing athlete strategy, or intentional unfair or incorrect officiating. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)