Exhibition bout rules

**Modified rules and requirements for exhibition bouts**

The purpose of an exhibition bout is to give contestants the opportunity to showcase their skills and gain experience competing in a professional contest setting.

Any exhibition of boxing (including an exhibition of sparring) or combat sport that is conducted for-profit, where the contestants participate for a monetary reward or where an admission fee is charged, subject to some exceptions1 where an admission fee is paid, is considered ‘professional’ under section 5 of the *Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Act 1985* (Act) and subject to regulation by the Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Board (Board).

The Board’s requirements associated with permits, contestant registrations and the appointment of licensed officials (referee only as judges are not required to score exhibitions) apply, and Board members must supervise the weigh in and bout for all exhibitions. These requirements are set out in the Act and the *Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Regulations 2018*. Only contestants over the age of 18-years can participate in an exhibition bout supervised by the Board.

# Board requirements

* Requests for exhibition bouts must be presented at the time of submitting the fightcard for approval by the Board, complete with the full names and dates of birth for all contestants.
* Will be capped at 2 as a maximum per promotion.
* Must be clearly announced when contestants enter the ring/safety enclosure and contests must be clearly defined as exhibitions on any promotion advertising materials.
* Contestants must apply controlled offence and avoid repetitive targeting of the head.

## Boxing rules for exhibition bouts

The [International Boxing Association](https://www.iba.sport/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/20230513-IBA-Technical-Competition-Rules29.pdf) rules will apply to all boxing exhibition bouts with the following amendments applied:

* All contestants must wear 16-ounce gloves.
* Headgear must be worn by both contestants.
* 3 x 2-minute rounds maximum.
* Contestants must show controlled offense and intelligent defence at all times, failure to do so will result in a warning, and possible stopping of contest if repeated.
* The contest will be stopped should there be any knockdown or signs of impaired cognition from either fighter.
* Rounds will not be judged/scored, and no winner will be announced.

## Kickboxing rules for exhibition bouts

The [World Association of Kickboxing Organisations](https://wako.sport/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/WAKO-Rules-25.10.2022.-revision-3.pdf)’ rules will apply to all kickboxing exhibition bouts with the following amendments applied:

* All contestants must wear 16-ounce gloves.
* Headgear and shin guards must be worn by both contestants.
* 3 x 2-minute rounds maximum.
* Contestants must show controlled offense and intelligent defence at all times, failure to do so will result in a warning, and possible stopping of contest if repeated.
* No knees.
* The contest will be stopped should there be any knockdown or signs of impaired cognition from either fighter.
* Rounds will not be judged/scored, and no winner will be announced.

## Muay Thai rules for exhibition bouts

The [WBC Amateur Muay Thai](https://www.wbcamateurmuaythai.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/WBC-Adults-MuayThai-Rules-2024-Amazing-MuayThai-Festival.pdf)  (B-Class) rules will apply to all muay thai exhibition bouts with the following amendments applied:

* Modified Thai ruleset to be implemented – No knees to the head and no elbows allowed.
* All contestants must wear 16-ounce gloves.
* Headgear and shin guards must be worn by both contestants.
* 3 x 2-minute rounds maximum.
* Contestants must show controlled offense and intelligent defence at all times, failure to do so will result in a warning, and possible stopping of contest if repeated.
* The contest will be stopped should there be any knockdown or any signs of impaired cognition from either fighter.
* Rounds will not be judged/scored, and no winner will be announced.

## Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) rules for exhibition bouts

The [*Rules for the conduct of amateur MMA contests in Victoria*](https://sport.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/word_doc/0038/179579/Rules-for-the-Conduct-of-Amateur-MMA-Contests-in-Vic.doc) will apply to all MMA exhibition bouts with the following amendments applied:

* All contestants must wear no smaller than 8-ounce gloves.
* 3 x 2-minute rounds maximum.
* Shin pads must be worn by both contestants.
* Striking using the elbow is not permitted.
* Striking to the head using knees is not permitted.
* Contestants must show controlled offense and intelligent defence at all times, failure to do so will result in a warning, and possible stopping of contest if repeated.
* The contest will be stopped should there be any knockdown or signs of impaired cognition from either fighter.
* Rounds will not be judged/scored, and no winner will be announced.

Note:

At the time of the publication these rulesets were current. If there are updated additions of the rules, the requirements for exhibition bouts will align with the most recent version.