



Regulation #5

Edmonton Combative Sports Regulation #5:

Contestants Involved in Unsanctioned Events

Description

One of the issues facing all Commissions within the ever-expanding combative sport industry is the issue of events being staged that are not sanctioned by the appropriate government legislative body. At present only Commissions sanctioned by recognized government legislative bodies are recognized: provincial/state Commissions, municipal Commissions and First Nation/tribal Commissions.

The Edmonton Combative Sports Commission (ECSC) recognizes only those types of Commissions as legitimate. The only proof of legitimacy is the relevant combative sports Commission's official Bylaws (or other enabling legislation) as passed by the provincial/State or municipal government representatives or the Resolution from the First Nation/Band Council for a tribal sanctioned Commission. The ECSC only recognizes Commissions that can provide a copy of such documentation as satisfactory evidence of their having legitimate Commission status.

Since each combative sport jurisdiction is responsible to decide on their own policies, rules, regulations and operating procedures, this decision or position of the ECSC, is an internal finding for the purpose of regulating the sport within the Edmonton jurisdiction only and is not to be determinative as to other jurisdictions outside of Edmonton.

Commissions sanctioned by the appropriate government legislative body are normally mandated to ensure there are qualified officials, assigned by the Commission, working the sanctioned combative sports event. This includes ensuring the presence of sufficient physicians, assigned by the Commission, to provide ringside medical service to the contestants/competitors, before, during and after the sanctioned event.

Most provincial, municipal and First Nations/tribal Commissions in Canada are affiliate members of the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC). The ABC asks for (and receives from its members), the official results of sanctioned combative sports events held in North America. This includes the normal post-fight medical suspensions handed out to each contestant by the ringside physicians assigned to the event. Such post-fight medical suspensions are honored by

other combative sport Commissions, who, collectively, want to ensure fighters are protected from injuries sustained in combative sports events.

If a competitor/fighter competes in an event not sanctioned by one of the aforementioned levels of government, he or she is at a greater risk for injury. There is no way for other Commissions to know the extent of possible injury fighters might have sustained, since such unsanctioned events are not required to follow any specific rules of governance or operations. The ECSC wishes to discourage any fighters currently licensed or wishing to be licensed to fight in Edmonton, from attending such unsanctioned events.

Section 5(b)(v) of Bylaw 15638 gives the ECSC a mandate for approving regulations governing disciplinary proceedings which the Executive Director can then implement under s. 28(p) of the Bylaw.

Rationale

Contestants in combative sports events can and do sustain injuries. For this reason the ECSC has a stringent medical policy and assigns medical doctors to provide ringside medical service, including post-event medical examination of these contestants/ competitors. The ringside physicians assign medical suspensions to each and every contestant, based on the post-event medical examination. Other provincial/state, municipal and/or First Nation/tribal Commissions honor these medical suspensions (protecting the fighters/contestants, in some cases, from themselves).

If a fighter competes in an unsanctioned event, there is no way for other Commissions to know the extent of the fighter's injuries, the length of the normal post-fight medical suspension, or whether a medical suspension was assigned at all. A fighter who has competed in an unsanctioned event could shortly thereafter, show up wishing to fight at a duly sanctioned event, and thereby put the subsequent Commission at risk. The subsequent Commission would not be aware if that fighter had sustained some sort of injury in the previous unsanctioned event.

I. DEFINITIONS

1.1 In this Regulation:

- (a) "ABC" means Association of Boxing Commissions;
- (b) "ECSC" means the Edmonton Combative Sports Commission;
- (c) "Fighter" means a Contestant as defined in Bylaw 15638, the *Edmonton Combative Sports Commission Bylaw*;
- (d) "Sanctioning Body" means a body that licenses Contestants and that is outside of the City of Edmonton and may include provincial, municipal, First Nations, tribal, or State Commissions and bodies.

(e) “Unsanctioned Event” means a combative sports event that has occurred outside of the City of Edmonton and has not received the appropriate license and approvals from a Sanctioning Body or a combative sports event that has occurred within the City of Edmonton that was not licensed and permitted by the Commission.

II. PROCEDURE

- 2.1 If the Executive Director is made aware that a Fighter may have participated in an Unsanctioned Event while licensed by the ECSC then the Executive Director will investigate to determine the veracity of the allegation.
- 2.2 If the Executive Director, on a balance of probabilities, concludes that the Fighter participated in an Unsanctioned Event while licensed by the ECSC then the Executive Director will issue a 90 day suspension to that Fighter effective from the date of the Unsanctioned Event.
- 2.3 The Executive Director will notify the impacted Fighter in writing of the suspension.
- 2.4 A suspended Fighter may be required to obtain updated pre-fight medical tests at the discretion of the Executive Director in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer. If any updated pre-fight medical tests are required then a list of those required medical tests will accompany the notice of suspension.
- 2.5 If the Executive Director is made aware that a Fighter may have participated in an Unsanctioned Event prior to being licensed by the ECSC but after their most recent pre-fight medical tests then the Executive Director will investigate to determine the veracity of the allegation.
- 2.6 If the Executive Director, on a balance of probabilities, concludes that a Fighter participated in an Unsanctioned Event prior to being licensed by the ECSC but after their most recent pre-fight medical tests, then the Fighter may be required to obtain updated pre-fight medical tests at the discretion of the Executive Director in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer. If any updated pre-fight medical tests are required then a list of those required medical tests will be provided to the Fighter by written notice from the Executive Director.
- 2.7 The Executive Director’s investigation findings and any decision to issue a suspension are not appealable.