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| Recognised Amateur Associations  Suitability for recognition and on-going obligations |

Introduction

The Minister has the power to recognise amateur associations pursuant to section 5A of the **Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Act 1985**.

Contests conducted by these amateur associations (‘recognised amateur associations’) are not required to comply with the **Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Act 1985** (“the Act”) where:

1. admission fees are paid by the public; and
2. those fees are put to the administration or running costs of the amateur association.

In those circumstances, a promotion permit will not be required from the Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Board (“the Board”) to hold the contest or exhibition.

The Act will, however, apply if the contest or exhibition is conducted for profit or where contestants compete for a monetary reward or where the admission fees are not put to the administration or running costs of the recognised amateur association. These are professional contests within the definition of the Act and must be conducted in compliance with its provisions.

To be recognised by the Minister, amateur associations must satisfy a number of conditions and, after recognition, meet a range of on-going obligations to maintain recognition.

Recognition by the Minister

The Minister has the discretion to recognise an amateur association. To be considered for recognition, an amateur association must first be found suitable for recognition by the Board.

The Minister may withdraw recognition at any time. Practically, this would likely occur on the Board notifying the Minister that the amateur association is no longer suitable for recognition. This may occur, for example, if the recognised amateur association fails to comply with the conditions set out below, places the health and safety of contestants at risk or conducts itself in any way that is detrimental to the reputation or interests of the boxing or combat sports industries.

Proving suitability for recognition

Suitability for recognition is determined by the Board.

To prove that it is suitable, an amateur association must be able to demonstrate all of the following criteria:

* + 1. **Be a not for profit entity with legal status** (i.e. must be an incorporated association or Australian company limited by guarantee registered as a not for profit organisation)

An amateur association must produce the following records and information to the Board:

* certificate of incorporation
* constitution or rules of the association
* list of current directors and officers
  + numbers of members, clubs, contestants, judges, referees, timekeepers and other officials
    1. **Be financially solvent**

An amateur association must produce the following records and information to the Board:

* + most recent annual report (including annual financial statements)
    1. **Have written contest rules for each discipline for which it is recognised**

An amateur association must provide the Board with a copy of all contest rules.

* + 1. **Incorporate minimum safety standards into the contest rules**

The contest rules must incorporate the minimum safety standards set out in the attached document titled Minimum Safety Standards for Contests Conducted by Recognised Amateur Associations. These rules are to be observed without exception for every contest and exhibition unless otherwise agreed, in writing, by the Board prior to the contest or exhibition.

* + 1. **Provide pathways for athletes/contestants, officials and trainers/coaches**

An amateur association must demonstrate to the Board that there is a structure that operates within the association to ensure that the above participants have the requisite skills, knowledge and experience to adequately carry out their duties/role and to ensure the development of same.

* + 1. **Provide the Board with relevant information and records**

An amateur association must provide the Board with any further information or records requested by the Board that are relevant to the question of the amateur association’s suitability to be recognised by the Minister.

In making a decision about whether to recommend an amateur association for recognition, the Board will give consideration to the information and records referred to above, and will have regard to any other information available to the Board that may be relevant to the question of suitability.

Please note that being found suitable by the Board does not mean that an amateur association will automatically be recognised by the Minister. Recognition is at the Minister’s discretion and other factors may be taken into account such as the number of existing recognised amateur associations for a particular discipline.

Maintaining suitability for recognition – on-going conditions of recognition

To maintain recognition, recognised amateur associations must:

* + 1. notify the Board two weeks prior to all contests by submitting an Exempted Contest Notification form (attached);
    2. not match any person who is, or has ever competed as, a professional contestant against an amateur contestant unless otherwise agreed, in writing, by the Board prior to the contest or exhibition;
    3. only conduct contests or exhibitions that feature bouts for the discipline or disciplines for which the association was expressly recognised;
    4. maintain full control and responsibility for the promotion of all contests and exhibitions;
    5. have senior officers or officials present to oversee the conduct of each contest and exhibition;
    6. provide financial statements and accounts to the Board by 1 September each year or at any other time as requested by the Board;
    7. allow members of the Board and Combat Sports Unit staff unfettered entry to all contests and exhibitions free of charge; and
    8. comply with contest rules unless otherwise agreed, in writing, by the Board prior to the relevant contest or exhibition.

Please note that the above conditions may be varied or revoked by the Board at any time. The Board will notify you to make you aware of any such variations or revocations.

Contraventions of conditions of recognition

Failure to comply with any one of the above conditions may result in the Board:

1. imposing additional conditions on the recognised amateur association; or
2. forming the view that the recognised amateur association may no longer be suitable for recognition.

Failure to comply with the contest rules set out below will generally result in the Board forming the view that the recognised amateur association is no longer suitable for recognition:

* + 1. allowing contestants to compete without having undergone:

blood and fitness tests;

pre- and post-fight medicals;

* + 1. allowing a contest to proceed without a medical practitioner approved by the Board;
    2. allowing a contest to proceed when the medical practitioner does not have the minimum necessary medical equipment.

The above does not in any way limit the Board’s right of action in respect to a breach of any other condition or rule.

Process when suitability is questioned by the Board

If the Board is concerned that a recognised amateur association may no longer suitable for recognition, the Board will write to the recognised amateur association to outline those concerns.

The recognised amateur association will be given reasonable opportunity to respond to the Board. The recognised amateur association must respond to the Board’s concerns within the specified time and produce all information and/or records requested by the Board.

If the recognised amateur association fails to respond to the Board as specified and/or produce the requested information or records, the Board may, without further notice to the recognised amateur association, notify the Minister that the recognised amateur association is no longer suitable for recognition and recommend that recognition be immediately revoked.

Process when Board determines that association is no longer suitable

If the Board determines that a recognised amateur association is no longer suitable for recognition, the Board will write to the Minister informing the Minister of this position and recommend that recognition be immediately revoked.

If a recognised amateur association’s recognition is revoked, the Board will not consider any new application for recognition for a minimum period of two years.

To receive this document in an accessible format [email the Combat Sports Unit](mailto:combat.sports@sport.vic.gov.au) <combat.sports@sport.vic.gov.au>

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