

# Controlled Sports Code of Practice 2024 (No. 1)

## Disallowable instrument DI2024–291

made under the

Controlled Sports Act 2019, s 49 – Code of Practice - approval

---

### 1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Controlled Sports Code of Practice 2024 (No.1)*.

### 2 Commencement

This instrument commences the day after it is notified.

### 3 Clause heading

I approve the Controlled Sports Code of Practice contained in Schedule 1.

### 4 Revocation

I revoke the *Controlled Sports Code of Practice 2019 (No 1) DI2019-214*.

Yvette Berry MLA  
Minister for Sport and Recreation  
11 September 2024

## Schedule 1

# Controlled Sports Code of Practice

## PART 1 Matters relating to both registered AND non-registrable events

### Contest Rules

- (1) Where the rules of the controlled sport conflict with this Code of Practice, the Code of Practice will apply.

### Inspectors and Government Officials

- (2) The Controlled Sports Registrar, Inspectors, ACT Government Officials or their associates, in the course of their duties must be provided with access free of charge to all controlled sports events and weigh-ins and are to be provided with a contest side seat: proximate to the contest and with an unobstructed view of the contest area.

### Disciplinary Action

- (3) Any disciplinary action taken, investigations, or rulings made with regards to registered officials, registered contestants, or Authorised Controlled Sports Bodies - conducted by the Controlled Sports Registrar or their representative may be made available to other jurisdictions recognised under corresponding law, or any other relevant party.

*Example – relevant party: Australian Sports Commission*

### Matching of Contestants (Match Making)

- (4) The Match Maker must ensure contestants are suitably matched to compete in a registered event contest.
- (5) The Authorised Controlled Sports Body approving a non-registrable event must ensure that contestants are suitably matched in a non-registrable event contest.
- (6) Matters that must be considered (dependent on the discipline/s contested) are outlined in **Table 1**.

*Note – some disciplines of controlled sports may use weight categories to categorise contestants, whilst others use grades or ‘belts’. The matters for consideration in Table 1 should be considered within this context i.e. which aspects apply/ do not apply to certain disciplines.*

**Table 1**

<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Guidance</b>
(a) Experience of each contestant in the style of combat sport proposed	Contestants have similar experience levels
(b) Prior experience in other combat sporting styles	<p>Contestant experience in other combat sporting styles with similar techniques is considered.</p> <p>Contestant experience in other combat sporting styles (or other sports) that do not use similar techniques is not considered as experience.</p>
(c) Contestant weight and size	<p>Contestants are of a similar weight in stated weight class ranges.</p> <p>There is no significant difference in the size of contestants, such as height and stature.</p> <p>Where contests are conducted by grade or belt colour, size and stature should be considered even if contestants are not weighed. This includes contests where contestants are competing to advance a grade.</p>
(d) Contestant class or grade	Contestants compete in the same class or grade, except in instances where a contestant is competing to advance a class or grade (e.g. grading, belt colour).
(e) Contestant age	Applicable for young contestants and older contestants –factors considered should include experience, physical vulnerabilities, and ability to defend themselves.
(f) Assurance of trainer or manager	Manager or trainer assurances that the contestant will be prepared for the contest and within the weight limit or appropriate grade.

- (7) An exhibition cannot be used to allow contestants to participate where they would not meet the matching criteria for a contest. Suitable matches are required for all contests and exhibitions.

### **Exhibitions**

- (8) Exhibitions must not be used to circumvent contest rules.

- (9) An exhibition should be conducted with reduced intensity compared to that of a regular contest, and in accordance with any official discipline rules prescribed by the Authorised Controlled Sports Body or National Sporting Organisation.

## **PART 2 MATTERS RELATING TO REGISTERED EVENTS**

### **Applications to register events**

- (10) Applications to register a registrable controlled sports event in the ACT must be lodged with the Controlled Sports Registrar at least 28 days prior to the proposed event with all supporting documentation, unless prior agreement has been made with the Controlled Sports Registrar or their representative.
- (11) The finalised draw listing the contestants, contestant information, substitute contestant information (including registration details) finalised list of officials (including registration details), the contest information including the discipline/s to be contested, rounds, and round lengths, must be submitted at least five (5) business days prior to the commencement of the first contest, unless prior agreement has been made with the Controlled Sports Registrar or their representative.
- (a) No changes to the nature of the event or contests within the event can be made after this time, except to utilise substitute contestants.

*Example* – a contest cannot be changed to an exhibition; a boxing event cannot be changed to a Mixed Martial Arts event.

- (i) Substitute contestants must be matchmade to a specific contest, by the matchmaker.
  - (ii) A substitute contestant must not compete in more than one contest within the event.
  - (iii) If a substitute contestant will be used on the finalised draw listing, the promoter must notify Access Canberra in writing prior to the commencement of the first contest.
- (b) No additional contests can be added after this time, including to replace contests that are no longer proceeding.

*Note* – promoters may elect to reduce the number of contests from the final draw, however cannot add additional contests or replace those that are no longer proceeding.

- (12) Any approval granted under Section 35 of the Act only covers the contestants that are listed on the draw as notified to, and approved by, the Controlled Sports Registrar.
- (13) The promoter must ensure that only contestants that are listed on the final approved draw compete in the event (including approved substitutes).
- (14) Contestants must ensure that they are approved and listed on the final draw in order to compete in the event.

- (15) Approval of the event draw does not mean that the ACT Government has endorsed listed contestants as fit to compete in the event or that contestants are suitably matched. It is the promoter's responsibility to ensure all requirements are met to determine contestant fitness to compete, including through the advice of registered event officials. After event approval is issued, this includes, but is not limited to:
- (a) Contestant pre-event medical clearance; and
  - (b) A suitably matched opponent.

### **Contest Rules**

- (16) Registered controlled sports events may only be conducted in accordance with the rules specified in the approval to register the event under Section 35 of the Act.
- (a) Approval of an event does not mean that contest rules are endorsed by the ACT Government.
- (17) Multiple sets of rules are permitted for multi-disciplinary events. All rules must be specified in the approval to register the event under Section 35 of the Act. To avoid further doubt, only one set of rules can be used for singular discipline events.
- (18) Promoters must have the explicit permission of the author or creator of the contest rules proposed to be used for the event. Where there is ambiguity as to whether permission has been granted, the Controlled Sports Registrar reserves the right to request additional evidence from the Promoter.
- (19) A registered event is permitted to run concurrently or consecutively with an exempted light contact combat sport as specified under Section 8 of the Act.

### **Exhibitions**

- (20) Contestants participating in exhibitions must undergo all medical requirements and have the results of their pre and post medical examinations recorded in the contestant Medical Record Book.
- (21) Where a contestant is declared unfit to compete in a contest, this medical assessment also applies to exhibitions at the same event.

### **Promoter Responsibilities**

- (22) The promoter of the registered controlled sports event must advise the Controlled Sports Registrar if the event is not proceeding, as soon as this information becomes available to the promoter.
- (23) The promoter must supply clean and appropriately weighted gloves (if applicable to the discipline/s) in new or as new condition, required in

accordance with the rules specified in the approval under Section 35 of the Act, for each contestant competing in a registered controlled sports event.

- (24) The promoter of the event must provide:
- (a) the weigh-in-scales; and,
  - (b) the hammer, bell, stopwatch or alternative timekeeping device for use by timekeepers at the event.
- (25) It is recommended that a promoter provide a bed or plinth.
- (26) The promoter of the event must satisfy themselves that:
- (a) all officials listed in the event approval are appropriately skilled and qualified to officiate for the combat sport discipline/s being contested; and
  - (b) officials are familiar and experienced in the application of the contest rules nominated in the event application; and
  - (c) contestants are suitably skilled and qualified to participate in the contest; and
  - (d) that contestants have been suitably matched by the Match Maker.
- (27) The promoter of the event must ensure that a contest does not commence, or continue, unless:
- (a) a referee is present in the contest area; and
  - (b) a medical practitioner is present at contest side.
- (28) The promoter must report to the Controlled Sports Registrar or their representative:
- (a) event results within five working days of the end of the contest. This includes contestant names, final contestant weight (if applicable), results of each contest (for example: win, loss, draw), the type of win/loss (if applicable), scores, titles;
  - (b) any serious injuries, deaths of any contestant, official, or member of the public, or disruption to public order **immediately** following the incident whether or not the promoter believes the serious injury, death or disruption to public order was a direct result of the event or contest.

## Insurance

- (29) Insurances are listed in **Table 2**. Those listed as mandatory are required for registered events, and evidence of coverage must be supplied as part of the application to register a registrable event under Section 34 of the Act.
- (30) Recommended insurances are recommended but not mandatory. Evidence of these insurances is not required as part of the application.

**Table 2:**

Role	Insurances	Mandatory or Recommended	Level (minimum)
	Public Liability	Mandatory	\$20 million

Role	Insurances	Mandatory or Recommended	Level (minimum)
Promoter	Professional Indemnity (covering promoter & officials)	Mandatory	\$5 million
	Worker's Compensation	Mandatory (where an employment relationship exists*)	
Trainer/ Second	Professional Indemnity	Recommended	
Referee	Private Health	Recommended	
Contestant	Private Health	Recommended	

\* As defined under the *Workers Compensation Act 1951* (ACT).

### Inspectors and Government Officials

- (31) Promoters or their representatives are not permitted to request that the Controlled Sports Registrar, Inspectors or their representatives, have any involvement in the payment of contestants or to be custodians of any payments for contestants before, during or after contests.
- (32) All matters relating to the payment of officials and contestants are made between the promoter and the official/ contestant. The Controlled Sports Registrar, Inspectors or their representatives are unable to intervene in any matters regarding payments.

### International Contestants

- (33) International contestants must be registered in the ACT or another Australian jurisdiction recognised by corresponding law. Contestants may apply to the Controlled Sports Registrar to seek an exemption from providing the information or documents required under the Act, s 25 (2) or (3).
- (a) Notwithstanding the above, all international contestants must undertake a certificate of fitness assessment.
- (b) Conditional registration may apply.

*Example:* An international contestant may be required to obtain a certificate of fitness, however is exempted from undertaking a consideration of the public interest (s13) assessment.

- (34) International contestants must provide evidence to the Controlled Sports Registrar of affiliation with their home jurisdiction or local sporting body as evidence of experience, written or translated into English. Evidence may include a letter from the contestant's affiliate organisation on official letterhead, or other proof of registration.
- (35) Evidence specified in Clause 32 must be supplied by the promoter at least ten (10) business days prior to the commencement of the first contest, unless prior

agreement has been made with the Controlled Sports Registrar or their representative.

- (36) An Australian-based medical practitioner must undertake a certificate of fitness assessment for international contestants. The certificate of fitness must be provided to the Controlled Sports Registrar by 10.00am on the last business day prior to the event taking place. Where an event falls on a business day, this means 10.00am on the business day prior to the day of the event.

*Example Australian-based medical practitioner* – a General Practitioner based in Australia of the applicant’s choosing.

*Example business day submission* – an event is held on a Friday. The international contestant’s certificate of fitness must be provided by 10.00am Thursday.

- (a) This may include serology testing for blood borne virus.  
(b) It is at the medical practitioner’s discretion to accept international serology results.

- (37) Promoters must ensure that any international contestant/s listed on the approved draw arrive in Australia with adequate time to obtain medical clearance.

### **Doping**

- (38) The administration or use of prohibited drugs, injections or stimulants, either before or during a contest, to any contestant or by a contestant is prohibited.
- (39) The use of smelling salts, ammonia capsules or similar irritants by contestants is prohibited.

### **Weight Cutting**

- (40) Weight cutting using excessive heat methods or fluid restriction in any form is prohibited. This includes the use of rubber suits, steam rooms, hot boxes, saunas, laxatives, diuretics, and induced vomiting.
- (41) Registered officials are prohibited from encouraging weight cutting using excessive methods including but not limited to those outlined in clause 38.
- (42) The registered medical practitioner may undertake appropriate testing as part of the pre-event medical screening to determine if a contestant is dehydrated.

*Example – testing* – urine specific gravity testing.

### **Weigh-Ins (for disciplines that conduct weigh-ins and/ or prescribe weight classes ONLY)**

- (43) Only one weigh-in attempt is permitted.



- (44) A single weigh-in must be held no earlier than 24 hours prior to the start of the event, and no later than 2 hours before the scheduled start time of the first contest.
- (45) If an event (or contest within the event) is postponed for more than 24 hours after the scheduled date, all contestants participating in the postponed contests must weigh-in again, no more than 24 hours prior to the start of the rescheduled event.

*Note* - To avoid doubt, a rescheduled event that requires a second weigh-in, is still classed as a 'single weigh-in' for the purposes of this code of practice.

- (46) All contestants, including substitute contestants, must attend the weigh-in on time and be weighed on the same set of scales. Contestants not weighed are not be permitted to compete.
- (47) Pre-testing of contestant weights on the official scales at the weigh-in is not permitted.
- (48) Contestants must weigh-in:
- (a) Wearing only underwear (including a sports bra, singlet top or similar) and/or shorts and a t-shirt; OR
  - (b) A combat sports discipline uniform; OR

*Example* - Judogi, kendogi, karategi.

- (c) A hijab or religious dress designed for sporting participation OR

*Example:* a sport-form fitting hijab, a long-sleeve form fitting shirt under a contestant's uniform, full-length form-fitting tights under a contestant's uniform.

- (d) Attire otherwise approved by the Controlled Sports Registrar.
- (49) A private weigh-in must be provided upon request of the contestant or a member of their team (e.g. manager, trainer).
- (50) The Controlled Sports Registrar or their representative must be supplied with the details of the weigh-in including the time, date and location at least five (5) business days prior to the scheduled weigh-in, unless prior agreement has been made with the Controlled Sports Registrar or their representative for late notification.

### **Pre-event medical requirements**

- (51) Substitutes that compete must also have pre-event medical clearance completed before competing.
- (52) For events that require a weigh-in, the pre-event medical clearance examination must be done **after** the weigh-in has been completed.

### **Medical requirements for events**

- (53) The registered Medical Practitioner is responsible for supplying all necessary medical equipment. The following equipment must be supplied (additional equipment is at the registered Medical Practitioner's discretion):
- (a) basic doctor's bag kits, including disposable gloves and gauze swabs
  - (b) auriscope and ophthalmoscope
  - (c) airway support equipment
  - (d) oxy-viva mask
  - (e) oxygen
  - (f) defibrillator
- (54) The promoter must supply or organise two spinal boards for each event. At least one spinal board must be located next to the contest area for the duration of each event. Where applicable, this should be located in a neutral corner, closest to the medical practitioner.
- (a) To avoid further doubt, only two spinal boards are required for events where multiple contest areas exist. These should be located next to at least two contest areas.
- (55) Evacuation routes must be in place to medically evacuate a contestant from both the contest area and dressing rooms or treatment area/s if required. An evacuation plan must be supplied with an application to hold a registrable event.
- (56) An adult person must be nominated by the promoter to call emergency services if required. This person must remain next to the contest area during each contest in an event and during any medical emergency.
- (a) The medical practitioner and the nominated person must agree on a clear, pre-determined means, whether by hand signal or other method, by which the registered Medical Practitioner will instruct the person to contact emergency services.
  - (b) The nominated person must know the name and street address of the venue, and be aware of the evacuation route for ambulance staff to remove an injured contestant from the venue.
  - (c) For events where there are multiple contest areas, an adult person should be nominated for each contest area to carry out the responsibilities listed in this clause.
  - (d) The person nominated in this clause cannot be acting in the capacity as a promoter, judge, referee or timekeeper officiating at the event.
  - (e) Contestants listed on the draw for the event are not permitted to be nominated for this clause.
- (57) A contest can only commence or continue when a registered Medical Practitioner is at contest side. To avoid further doubt, a specific contest within an event cannot commence or continue unless the registered Medical Practitioner is present to monitor the safety and wellbeing of the competing contestants.

- (58) Before the event commences, the registered Medical Practitioner/s and referee/s must agree on a clear, pre-determined means, whether by bell, hammer, air horn, or prescribed hand signal or another method, by which the medical practitioner can:
- (a) Indicate the need for or desirability of a medical examination of a contestant during the contest; or
  - (b) Stop the contest.
- (59) The referee must confer with the registered Medical Practitioner about the need for a medical examination following any round in which a contestant receives a significant number of heavy blows to the head or appears to be suffering from signs or symptoms consistent with concussion or other head injury.
- (60) All medical practitioners must be provided with unrestricted access to carry out all duties specified in the legislation and its regulations.

### **Medical Exclusions**

- (61) Medical suspensions applied to a contestant in one sport or discipline applies to all controlled sports.
- (62) A minimum of 30 days medical suspension must be applied following any loss by Knockout or Technical Knockout (not including Tap Out or Submission in Mixed Martial Arts contests), concussion, or loss of consciousness. Longer periods may apply at the discretion of the medical practitioner.
- (63) For subsequent losses by Knockout or Technical Knockout (not including Tap Out or Submission in Mixed Martial Arts contests) or concussion, or loss of consciousness, a longer medical suspension and additional medical testing may apply before registration can be resumed. This may include:
- (a) An exclusion period of 60 days or more for second subsequent Knockout, Technical Knockout, concussion or loss of consciousness;
  - (b) An exclusion period of 90 days or more for third subsequent Knockout, Technical Knockout, concussion or loss of consciousness;
  - (c) Neurological assessment;
  - (d) MRI of the brain;
  - (e) Other assessments recommended by a medical practitioner;
  - (f) Contestant registration cancelled indefinitely on medical grounds.
- (64) Additional conditions may be placed on a contestant's new Certificate of Fitness clearing the contestant to compete again.
- (a) This clause applies even where a contestant has observed the minimum medical suspension period.

*Example* - A contestant suffers a concussion during the contest. The registered medical practitioner recommends the contestant be referred to the emergency department. The contestant is given a recommendation to recover

for 30 days, but is still symptomatic after this period. The Controlled Sports Registrar or their representative requests that the contestant follow up with a concussion specialist and undertake an MRI to check for any abnormalities.

- (65) Contestants are not permitted to compete for five clear days in any jurisdiction (including internationally) after each event regardless of the outcome.
- (a) It is also recommended that contestants refrain from sparring or training during this period to allow for recovery.

*Note* - Refraining from training or sparring after an event is a recommendation only. No offence applies if this recommendation is not observed.

### **Contest area requirements:**

- (66) The contest area must not have any obstructing projections and be padded appropriately to prevent injury to the contestants.
- (67) Paramedics must have a clear, unobstructed route to access the contest area to allow for the unimpeded evacuation of an injured contestant.
- (68) A distance of at least 1.5 metres must be provided between the judges' seats and the first row of spectator chairs. This area must be clearly marked, preferably with a barrier.
- (69) Judging positions must be allocated on 3 different sides of the contest area and the position for the timekeeper and medical practitioner must be on a remaining side that is closest to the contest area entry.
- (70) At least equivalent to one seat either side of each judge must remain vacant so as to ensure that no other person can see the scores being recorded.
- (71) The judges' and medical practitioner's seats must have an unobstructed view of the contest area. Temporary lighting must be rigged in such a way as to not interrupt the judges' or medical practitioner's vision of the contest or create difficulties for the officials to undertake their duties.
- (72) Adequate clearance must be provided in order for inspectors and officials to move around the contest area without being hindered.
- (73) **For contests conducted in a ring:**
- (a) The ring must be a square having sides of not less than 4.9 metres and not more than 6.1 metres by measurements taken inside the line of the ropes.
- (b) The platform must be:
- (i) safely constructed, level and free from any obstructing projections;
  - (ii) extend for at least 50 centimetres outside the line of the ropes; and,

- (iii) fitted with 4 corner posts that are well padded or otherwise so constructed as to prevent injury to the contestants.
- (c) The entire platform must be:
  - (i) covered with a layer of rubber, or other suitable material having the same quality of elasticity as rubber;
  - (ii) of a thickness of not less than 2.5 centimetres; and,
  - (iii) over which a non-slip canvas shall be stretched and secured to the outer edges of the platform.
- (d) There must be 4 ropes of a thickness of not less than 3 centimetres and not more than 5 centimetres tightly drawn from the corner posts at heights of approximately 40 centimetres, 70 centimetres, 100 centimetres and 130 centimetres from the platform, respectively.
- (e) The ropes must be:
  - (i) covered by a soft or cushioned material; and
  - (ii) be joined on each of the four sides at equal intervals by rope that stays hung vertically, that are not less than 3 centimetres and not more than 4 centimetres wide, and that do not slide along the ropes.
- (f) A minimum of two rope stays must be used on each side of the ring.
- (g) Turnbuckles must be covered by suitable padding.
- (h) There must be at least three sets of properly constructed steps.
  - (i) Two sets at diagonally opposite corners of the ring for the use of contestants, seconds and officials.
  - (ii) A separate set must be provided in one neutral corner for use by the registered medical practitioner.

**(74) For contests conducted in a fenced area/caged enclosure:**

- (a) The cage must be no smaller than 6.09 metres by 6.09 metres and no larger than 9.75 metres by 9.75 metres.
- (b) The height of the platform must not exceed 1.21 metres above the floor of the building.
- (c) The canvas of the contest area must be enclosed by a fence of such material as will not allow a contestant to fall out or break through onto the floor; including, without limitation, a chain link fence coated with vinyl.
- (d) There must not be any obstruction on any part of the fence surrounding the contest area. Any metal portion of the fenced area must be covered and properly padded.
  - (e) Fence posts must be made of metal, not more than 15 centimetres in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a minimum height of 1.5 metres above the ring floor and must be properly padded.
  - (f) The floor of the contest area must be padded with ensolite or similar closed-cell foam, with at least a 2.5 centimetres layer of foam padding. The padding must be completely covered by a non-slip canvas, or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the platform of the contest area. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges must not be used.
  - (g) The contest area must have two (2) entrances, positioned on opposite sides of the contest area.

### **Protective Clothing and Equipment**

- (75) Clothing, headgear, gloves, footwear, groin protectors, chest protectors, bandaging, other safety apparel and all other equipment must be used by contestants as specified in the rules specified in the approval.
- (76) Notwithstanding Clause 73:
- (a) Mouthguards must be worn by all contestants where the mouth is not protected by any other type of face protection or prohibited by contest rules;
- Example - Kendo Bogu, protective armour*
- (b) The use of steel groin protectors is prohibited;
- (c) The use of gloves containing horse hair are prohibited;
- (d) Jewellery or other piercing accessories must be removed before the contest.
- (77) Glove specifications (including hand wraps/ bandaging) submitted with the application to register a registrable event must be made available to be checked by an inspector at the event.
- (78) Excessive use of petroleum jelly (or similar substance) on the face is prohibited. Use of petroleum jelly (or similar substance) on parts of the body other than the face is prohibited.
- (79) Corner-staff such as trainers and seconds, must ensure any spills on the body of the contestant or on the contest area are cleaned up before the commencement/ re-commencement of a contest.

### **Integrity of Score Cards**

- (80) All score cards used at registered events must clearly show:
- (a) the name of each contestant on each card;
- (b) the points scored and the round in which the points were scored;
- (c) the signature of the judge, dated;
- (d) any error made and/or changes to the score given initialled by the judge involved.
- (81) Promoters must keep a copy of score cards for two years after an event, unless required by law to maintain for longer periods.

### **Appointment of international officials**

- (82) The Controlled Sports Registrar may approve the use of international officials on a case by case basis upon application by the promoter for an exemption from providing the information or documents required under the Act, s 15 or s 16, in accordance with Section 14 (4) of the Act.

*Note:* International officials are considered registered under the application of this clause.

### Conflicts of interest:

- (83) The promoter must not act as a judge, referee or timekeeper at an event that they promote; nor will they work in the corner of any contestant for an event that they promote.
- (84) The Controlled Sports Registrar or their representative has the authority to refuse to register, or cancel the registration of a registered controlled sports event, where there is a real or perceived conflict of interest between any officials and/or contestants. The Controlled Sports Registrar or their representative reserves the right to provide conditional approval where the promoter has agreed to remove an official or contestant from the event.

### Conduct of Officials

- (85) A registered official must not:
- (a) Undermine the Controlled Sports Registrar or their representatives;
  - (b) Use violence against any person;
  - (c) Use threats of harm or harassing behaviour;
  - (d) Engage in derogatory or offensive conduct whether physical, oral or in writing, including and without limitation:
    - i. Insulting language;
    - ii. Symbols or physical actions that are deemed as offensive or derogatory;
    - iii. Relating to a person's age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, heritage, religion, race, creed or any other defining feature; or
    - iv. Inappropriate physical, verbal or online behaviour, including for the promotion of events or specific contests;
  - (e) Officiate unauthorised events, including interstate and international events;
  - (f) Behave in a manner that brings controlled sports into disrepute; or
  - (g) Engage in illegal activity relating to match fixing, illegal gambling, money laundering or cheating.
  - (h) Be under the influence of alcohol or non-prescription drugs before and during an event for which they are officiating.
- (86) In addition to clause 83, a registered **judge** must not, for contests in which they have acted as a judge:
- (a) enter a contestant's corner or dressing rooms at the conclusion of the contest; or
  - (b) enter into any discussions with the contestants or participants in either the corner or in the dressing rooms at any time before, during or following the contest.
- (87) In addition to clause 83, a registered **referee** must not enter into any discussions with the contestants or participants either in the corner or in the dressing rooms at any time following the contest for which they have acted as a referee.
- (88) In addition to clause 83, a registered **trainer or second** must not:

- (a) use offensive or abusive language towards their own contestant or their contestant's opponent; or
- (b) use excessive force towards their contestant.

### **Conduct of Contestants**

- (89) A registered contestant must not:
- (a) Engage in violence outside of their contest or other than in accordance with the rules of the contest;
  - (b) Engage in derogatory or offensive conduct, whether physical, oral or in writing, including and without limitation:
    - i. Insulting language;
    - ii. Symbols or physical actions that are deemed as offensive or derogatory;
    - iii. Relating to a person's age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, heritage, religion, race, creed or any other defining feature;
    - iv. Threats of violence; or
    - v. Inappropriate physical, verbal or online behaviour, including for the promotion of events or specific contests;
    - vi. Be under the influence of alcohol or non-prescription drugs before and during an event for which they are competing.
  - (c) Compete in unauthorised events, including interstate and international events;
  - (d) Behave in a manner that brings controlled sports into disrepute; or
  - (e) Engage in illegal activity relating to match fixing, illegal gambling, money laundering or cheating.
- (90) When negotiating a match, contestants must disclose to their trainer and/or manager, promoter and match maker - their full contest record, across all disciplines and styles of controlled sports. This record should include:
- (a) All combat sports contests (including registrable and non-registrable, and amateur and professional as recognised in other jurisdictions);
  - (b) Details of any interclub sparring events the contestant has participated in;
  - (c) Details of any exhibitions the contestant has participated in; and
  - (d) Details of any National Sporting Organisation or State Sporting Organisation contests the contestant has participated in.

*Note 1* – details may include the results, score or outcome of the contest or exhibition, any injuries sustained, any medical advice received, date of contest or exhibition, person or organisation running event.

*Note 2* – these details, if complete, may be provided in the contestant's medical record book.

### **Entertainment**

- (91) The promoter of the event must not allow sexually explicit entertainment at a registered event.



(a) For the purpose of this Section, sexually explicit entertainment is a performance or other entertainment -

- (i) In which a person displays genitalia; or
- (ii) That includes sexual intercourse

*Note* - Sexual Intercourse - see the Crimes Act 1900, Section 50

(92) Where there are children under the age of 18 years in attendance, entertainment must be age appropriate.

*Note* – children under the age of 18 may be in attendance in any capacity, for example, as spectators.

*Example* – no sexually explicit content, nudity, violent or derogatory acts, as a form of event entertainment.

## **PART 3 MATTERS RELATING TO NON-REGISTRABLE EVENTS**

- (93) Where the promoter is unsure if the proposed event is a registrable or non-registrable event, it is their responsibility to clarify this matter with the Controlled Sports Registrar or their representative **at the time of submission of notice** to the Registrar.

*Note* – notice of submission is required 28 days prior to the non-registrable event.

- (94) The promoter of the non-registrable event must not act as the representative of the Authorised Controlled Sports Body for an event which they promote.

*Note* – promoters should also address any legal, financial or personal interest that may conflict with the conduct of the event.

### **Authorised Controlled Sports Body responsibilities**

- (95) Authorised Controlled Sports Bodies are responsible for (but not limited to) the following duties in relation to a non-registrable event:
- (a) The provision of current contest rules for the discipline/s being contested;
  - (b) Supervising the weigh-in (if applicable) or other official procedures of a non-registrable event;
  - (c) The appointment, oversight and performance of officials officiating the contest;
  - (d) Implementing risk management policies and procedures; and
  - (e) Maintaining a record of results of the non-registrable event.

### **Inspectors and Government Officials**

- (96) A copy of the final draw must be made available to a controlled sports inspector or other authorised ACT Government representative on the day of the event.

### **Contest Rules**

- (97) Non-registrable controlled sports events may only be conducted in accordance with the rules specified in the approval of the event by the Authorised Controlled Sports Body supplied under Section 62 of the Act.
- (98) Multiple sets of rules are permitted for multi-disciplinary events. All rules must be listed in the approval of the event specified under Section 62 of the Act by the Authorised Controlled Sports Body. To avoid further doubt, only one set of rules can be used for singular discipline events.
- (99) A non-registrable event is permitted to run concurrently or consecutively with an exempted light contact combat sport as specified under Section 8 of the Act.

## Exhibitions

- (100) Exhibitions must be recorded on the contest results supplied to the Controlled Sports Registrar.

*Note* - while an exhibition may not have a formal result, a record of who participated in the exhibition is required.

## Medical Requirements

- (101) All contestants competing in non-registrable events must have met all specified medical requirements of the Authorised Controlled Sports Body that is approving the event.
- (102) The following medical equipment is required at non-registrable events:
- (a) basic doctor's bag kits, including disposable gloves and gauze swabs
  - (b) auriscope and ophthalmoscope
  - (c) airway support equipment
  - (d) oxy-viva mask
  - (e) oxygen
  - (f) defibrillator
- (103) Two spinal boards must be supplied for each event. At least one spinal board must be located next to the contest area for the duration of each event. Where applicable, this should be located next to the 'red corner'.
- (a) To avoid further doubt, only two spinal boards are required for events where multiple contest areas exist.
- (104) A medical practitioner, paramedic or other authorised medical professional must be in attendance for the whole of every contest.
- (105) A contest can only commence or continue when the medical professional mentioned in clause 102 is at contest side. To avoid further doubt, a specific contest within an event cannot commence or continue unless the medical professional is present to monitor the safety and wellbeing of the competing contestants.
- (106) Before the event commences, the medical professional mentioned in clause 102 and referee must agree on a clear, pre-determined means, whether by bell, hammer, air horn, or prescribed hand signal or another method, by which the medical professional can:
- (a) Indicate the need for or desirability of a medical examination of a contestant during the contest; or
  - (b) Stop the contest.
- (107) An adult person must be nominated by the promoter to call emergency services if required. This person must remain next to the contest area during each contest in an event and during any medical emergency.
- (a) The medical professional and the nominated person must agree on a clear, pre-determined means, whether by hand signal or other method, by which

the medical professional will instruct the person to contact emergency services.

- (b) The nominated person must know the name and street address of the venue, and be aware of the evacuation route for ambulance staff to remove an injured contestant from the venue.
  - (c) For events where there are multiple contest areas, an adult person should be nominated for each contest area to carry out the responsibilities listed in this clause.
- (108) The referee must confer with the medical professional mentioned in clause 102 about the need for a medical examination following any round in which a contestant receives a significant number of heavy blows to the head or appears to be suffering from signs or symptoms consistent with concussion or other head injury.
- (109) All medical professionals (per clause 102) must be provided with unrestricted access to carry out all duties specified in the legislation.

### **Protective Clothing and Equipment**

- (110) Clothing, headgear, gloves, footwear, groin protectors, chest protectors, bandaging, other safety apparel and all other equipment must be used as specified in the rules of the Authorised Controlled Sports Body approving the event. This includes rules recognised by the Authorised Controlled Sports Body.

*Example:* International or national rules adopted by the Authorised Controlled Sports Body.

- (111) Notwithstanding clause 108, mouthguards must be worn by all contestants where the mouth is not protected by any other type of face protection or prohibited by contest rules.

*Example – other type of face protection:* Kendo Bogu, protective armour.

- (112) The use of steel groin protectors is prohibited.
- (113) The use of gloves containing horse hair are prohibited.

### **Weigh-Ins (for disciplines that conduct weigh-ins and/ or prescribe weight classes ONLY)**

- (114) A private weigh-in must be provided upon request of the contestant or a member of their team (e.g. manager, trainer).
- (115) Children must not be weighed-in wearing only underwear, unless permitted by the Authorised Controlled Sports Body's rules.
- (116) Children must have a private weigh-in, in the company of a responsible adult.

## Conduct of Authorised Controlled Sports Bodies

- (117) Authorised Controlled Sports Bodies must:
- (a) Ensure that each contestant listed on the draw has appropriate medical clearances in accordance with the Authorised Controlled Sports Body's rules, before providing approval to the non-registrable event promoter;
  - (b) Ensure that non-registrable event promoters have met all stated conditions of the Authorised Controlled Sports Body before providing approval;
  - (c) Ensure the non-registrable event is appropriately insured, including through the provision of the Authorised Controlled Sports Body's insurance coverage;
  - (d) Report event results to the Controlled Sports Registrar within five working days of the end of the contest. This includes contestant names, results of each contest (example: win, loss, draw, final score, final ranking), the type of win/loss (if applicable), scores, winnings;
  - (e) Report any serious injuries or death of any contestant, official, or member of the public to the Controlled Sports Registrar or their nominated representative **immediately** following the incident whether or not the Authorised Controlled Sports Body believes the serious injury, death or disruption to public order was a direct result of the event or contest.
- (118) Authorised Controlled Sports Bodies must not:
- (a) Undermine the Controlled Sports Registrar, Inspector or their representatives;
  - (b) Engage in illegal activity relating to match fixing, illegal gambling, money laundering or cheating.

## **Dictionary:**

**Act (the)** – The *Controlled Sports Act 2019* (ACT)

**ACT Government authority** means the ACT government directorate responsible for controlled sports or working with vulnerable children.

**Certificate of fitness**—see the Act, dictionary.

**Contest area** – means the area, commonly marked with a perimeter, where contests are held.

*Example – inside a boxing ring or Mixed Martial Arts cage, or an area of flooring marked for judo.*

**Contest side** – means the areas immediately adjacent to the contest area.

**Controlled Sports Registrar** – means the position in the ACT public service responsible for controlled sports.

**Concussion** means a subset of mild traumatic brain injury induced by biomechanical forces (as outlined in the *Consensus statement on concussion in sport – the 5th international conference on concussion in sport held in Berlin, October 2016*).

**Corresponding law**—see the Act, dictionary.

**Draw** means the selection of contestants to compete in a controlled sports event. This includes fight cards.

**Match Maker** – see *Controlled Sports Act 2019* Section 11.

**Medical Record Book**, for a contestant, means a document issued to the contestant by the registrar containing the contestant’s medical history in relation to controlled sports. A Medical Record Book may also be a Medical Record Book from a jurisdiction recognised under corresponding law.

**Medical suspension** means a suspension of a controlled sports contestant’s registration under the Act, section 32 (2).

**Non-registrable event** – see *Controlled Sports Act 2019* Section 61.

**Plinth Table** means a padded table for a patient to sit or lie on whilst receiving treatment or being examined.

**Private weigh-in** means a weigh-in done in a private room or behind a screen, in the absence of press or photography.

**Promoter** – see *Controlled Sports Act 2019* Section 11.

**Referee** – see *Controlled Sports Act 2019* Section 11.

**Registrable event** – see *Controlled Sports Act 2019* Section 10.

**Registered event** - see the Act, section 35 (2) (a).

**Subsequent [losses by Knockout or Technical Knockout] or concussion** - ‘subsequent’ in this context applies to the loss occurring within 12 months of any preceding Knockout, Technical Knockout or concussion.

**Substitute contestant** means a contestant approved to participate in a controlled sports event that participates if another contestant cannot participate.

**Vulnerable person**—see the *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011*, section 7.