

SAFE AND LEGAL AMATEUR COMBATIVE SPORT CONTESTS

Ontario supports **safe participation in amateur combative sports.**

STARTING JULY 1, 2017, it is legal to hold amateur contests approved by a **recognized Provincial Sport Organization** in the following ten combative sports which are exempt from s.83 (2) of the *Criminal Code of Canada*:

- **Boxing**
- **Judo**
- **Kickboxing**
- **Pankration**
- **Wrestling**
- **Grappling**
- **Karate**
- **Muay Thai**
- **Taekwondo**
- **Wushu**



In order for an amateur combative sport contest to be legal, it must be:

- one of the ten exempt amateur combative sports; **AND**
- approved by its recognized Provincial Sport Organization.

A **Provincial Sport Organization** is the governing body of a particular amateur sport in Ontario. It is responsible for establishing and enforcing the health and safety standards for that sport.

A legal amateur combative sport contest will display the official Ontario logo on all contest advertising along with this wording:

“This contest is sanctioned by an organization officially recognized by the Province of Ontario.”



The Ministry's view is that participation in amateur combative sport activities such as **skills development, exercise, training and demonstrations** are not captured under the prize fighting offence in the *Criminal Code*.



An amateur combative sport contest is illegal when it is **not** approved by a recognized Provincial Sport Organization **OR** is held in a sport that is not exempt from the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

Participating in an unapproved amateur combative sport contest could be unsafe. It could result in a serious injury to participants because there could be a lack of proper supervision, a lack of safety protocols or a participant could be unevenly matched with a stronger, more experienced fighter.

Organizers of illegal contests and participants in illegal contests could face criminal charges resulting in jail time or fines.

Information about illegal/unapproved amateur combative sport contests can be reported to the local police or to the appropriate recognized Provincial Sport Organization.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about participating in combative sport activities, please contact the **Provincial Sport Organization** (www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/sport/sport/psolistingshtml) or seek legal advice.