

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 eleven combative sports which are exempt from s.83 (2) of the *Criminal Code of Canada*:

- **Boxing**
- **Judo**
- **Muaythai**
- **Wrestling**
- **Grappling**
- **Karate**
- **Pankration**
- **Wushu**
- **Jiu Jitsu**
- **Kickboxing**
- **Taekwondo**



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

- one of the eleven 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 following wording on all contest advertising:

“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 **non-contact 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 fine .

Information about illegal/unapproved amateur combative sport contests can be reported to the local police.



FOR MORE INFORMATION about participating in combative sport activities, please contact the **Provincial Sport Organization** (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/provincial-sport-organizations-and-multi-sport-organizations>) or seek legal advice.