

Muaythai Australia Inc

Rules and Regulations for Muaythai in Australia.



Version: 10th February 2021.

These rules cover all MTA sanctioned events/promotions in Australia.

NOTE: These rules are applicable for use by qualified and authorised MTA Officials only. They not authorised for use by any other entity without MTA Executive approval.

Muaythai Australia Inc is:

- The peak body [National Sporting Organisation (NSO)] for Muaythai in Australia, as recognised by the Australian Sports Commission.
- A National Sporting Organisation (NSO) that is registered Company limited by guarantee and is not for profit.
- MTA is the affiliated with the International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA).

For further information, please go to:

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Muaythai Australia Inc (MTA)

Rules and Regulations for Muaythai Competition in Australia

MTA rules are the approved rules for Muaythai Competitions in Australia. They are designed to ensure Australia follows a national and unified rules system that follows the principles and guidelines of the sport of Muaythai. *The rules are to be implemented by trained MTA Officials only. The use of these rules is contingent on them being officiated by MTA Officials.* The technical Committee for any rule interpretation is MTA President, MTA Director of Officials and MTA Promoter Director.

MTA rules are to be utilised for ALL tournaments that are set for State and National Championships and selection events for international competition. MTA rules are based on the WMC (World Muaythai Association) rules for adults; however this is overlaid with a class-based athlete system in order to ensure we have a development system from Novice to Professional. Junior rules follow the principles of the IFMA rules but are adapted to the Australian environment for development of novices and one-off bouts.

These rules are for one-off matches, development shows, and routine competitions in Australia. Any deviation from these rules requires written permission from MTA after consideration of the purpose and circumstances of the deviation. **State Combat Sports legislation must always be followed and supersedes all MTA rule requirements.** MTA is duty bound to promote Muaythai and therefore to lobby the government for permission to follow the rules of our sport.

All MTA rules are to be utilised uniformly across Australia. These rules are for all classes of competition, and athletes including ELITE (A-Class), COMPETITOR (B-Class), NOVICE (C-Class). These rules cover ELITE, COMPETITOR, NOVICE, and JUNIOR bouts. *This could also read – A-class - Professional, B-class, Amateur, C-Class – Development.*

These rules are required for any MTA endorsed promotion or competition. MTA endorsement is contingent on the promotion always following these rules and government legislation.

MTA does Muaythai. Full Thai and Mod Thai are not terms used. It is ALL Muaythai with rule adjustments for development and juniors and development competition.

In addition to the standard rules, the following is approved.

1. Males and females are to compete the same *rules*, round length and times in all competitions.
2. Any A-class title (WMC) must be 5 by 3 min rounds with 2 min breaks.
3. Any B-class title (MTA) must be 5 by 2 min rounds with 1 min breaks.
4. Bouts can be 3 by 3 min, 5 by 3 min (A-class) rounds and not be title bouts. 1 min breaks for 3 by 3 min can be agreed.
5. Bouts can be 5 by 2 min (B-class) rounds and not be title bouts.
6. There are no 4 round bouts.
7. The requirements of padding and round times are required to develop a athlete through classes. The difference in class can be viewed by the public and is 'obvious' regarding the class of the athlete and type of competition being viewed.
8. 4 & 8 man tournaments/competitions are allowed under the following circumstances:
 - All athletes are present at the weigh in.
 - A Dr MUST approve the continuance of each athlete after each bout.
 - The 8 count limit is 4 for the entire tournament.
 - An athlete who loses a bout cannot fill in for an athlete who is out. If an athlete has lost > he is out.
 - That the weight division spread is not greater than 4kg, except for 95kg+
 - 8 man tournaments can have a reserve bout (not a reserve athlete) so the winner of that bout can replace an injured (winning) athlete who cannot continue. Must be approved by head official for circumstances of replacement. A athlete cannot be replaced in the final.
9. All athletes and trainers/corner must be available for SIA (sport Integrity Australia) testing on request. In or out of competition.
10. All athletes of MTA endorsed competition/promotion MUST be members of an MTA registered club that is financial at the date of the competition.
11. All athletes/officials/trainers must be registered with MTA as an individual member. (This is being trialled in 2021 for implementation in 2022).

Note:

- ALL MTA PROFESSIONAL PROMOTIONS ARE MTA or WMC PROMOTIONS.
- ALL MTA PROFESSIONAL TITLES ARE WMC TITLES
- MTA STATE AND NATIONAL Champions are the winner of those competitions/tournaments.
- MTA TITLES ARE FOR B-CLASS ATHLETES OR JUNIORS ONLY.
- MTA titles are known as amateur titles.
- There is NO MTA Australian Titles.

B-class and Pro/Amateur registration cross over.

B-class is aimed at amateur level athletes however NSW and VIC CSA allows for B-class to be for pro registered athletes. The intention is to keep MTA belts for amateur level athletes regardless of registration definition however state legislation does force an overlap and difference between states. If a B-class athlete is registered as amateur (or Professional) and is competing for an MTA state title, it must be in elbow guards, 5 by 2 min rounds with 1 min break. MTA determines that in this case an athlete could be eligible for an MTA belt if they have had less than 12 total bouts, never regularly fought 3 min rounds and are not recognised as an experienced professional level athlete.

Section 1 - MTA CLASS SYSTEM OVERVIEW

MTA is the national sporting organisation for Muaythai and has a unified national set of rules.

Competitions can be broken up by class or be a mixture of classes. C-Class is a development/novice event. B-Class event is an event defined by 2 min rounds and elbow guards whereas A-class is a 3 min round professional athlete event. A pro/am or mixed class event is allowed.

Athletes are categorised by experience and managed in a class system from C-class to A class, (C-Novice, B-Competitor, A-Elite) depending on the athlete's experience, ability and choice. State registration requirements run parallel to MTA athlete class registration, but do not override/supersede MTA requirements. B-Class athletes could be either Amateur registered or professional registered athletes or neither depending on state legislation.

State Governments that require registration as an amateur or professional define what an athlete is registered as in those states and the other states that also have a combat sports legislation. If you are a state without Combat Sports legislation and you register in another state to compete, then that registration is applicable nationally. **States without government regulation and registration requirements are to follow MTA class system.**

The state professional/amateur registration is imposed on MTA and is not the basis for athlete status recognition. A professional registered athlete is not *automatically* an A-class competitor.

Introduction:

The class base system is an effective way to manage athlete pathways and develop a system that allows for a stronger base and quality Professional athletes. It should give more options to a promoter and make MTA a more attractive body for promoters. The class base registration and athlete system is an enhancement to a rule based system. It is an effective way to grow a true national sport and represent MTA to local, state and federal legislators. *It is critical to the Australian Sports Commission that MTA appears as a national sport and this system meets that criteria.* Above all, it is about developing athletes and what is best for them.

State registration requirements and legislation will always make our national approach varied however MTA MUST set the agenda and not have it set for them. The aim to take ownership of our sport.

The policies and regulations of MTA are the base standard for all MTA events. MTA requirements are the minimum standard for all states. State legislation supersedes MTA requirements on a state by state basis, however, do not alter the minimum requirements of MTA. Individual State legislation can determine the registration requirements and conditions of an athlete, but that applies to that state only and does not make it a mandatory requirement for other states or influence MTA policies and rules as a national organisation.

Counting an athlete record. Athletes should be registered with MTA and count every bout they have in Australia, overseas and on any Muaythai promotion. Other Combat Sports bouts should also be recorded as 'other' to assist promoters with fair matching. An athlete competition record is the total of their competitions from bout 1. An athlete's history must be transparent. A junior should keep a total record of bouts when they become a senior however they should say – 25 bouts, 20 as a junior and 5 a senior.

Full Thai Rules is Muaythai – 'Muaythai is Muaythai'. Full Thai/Mod Thai etc are no longer used.

MTA is not more than a sanctioning body, it is a member organisation that conducts competitions for its member clubs and athletes. MTA clubs should support and conduct MTA competitions and MTA should support clubs and grow Muaythai as a unified sport. MTA is not a sanctioning body and should

not be compared to such. MTA does sanction events/endorse events but that is only one function of being the governing body for Muaythai in Australia.

IFMA – International Federation of Muaythai Amateur

IFMA is MTA International body. It is IOC recognised. IFMA is the international governing body of Muaythai for amateur and professional and has amalgamated with the WMC in 2019. MTA pays an annual license fee to be the IFMA representative in Australia and a member country of IFMA. International IFMA competitions can be attended by selected MTA athletes and officials only. All athletes representing Australia are selected by MTA selection committee. MTA may from time to time also attend any international competition that MTA determines falls within our mission.

IFMA competitions internationally are A-class (Elite) with an under 23 division available. IFMA A class is at the level of (and often surpasses) the most experienced and top A-class athletes in Australia. All bouts at IFMA International Tournaments are counted towards an athlete's domestic record. IFMA Junior Worlds is A-class for juniors and only the best national athletes will get to compete at IFMA.

Rankings

MTA will manage the rankings of athletes through the rankings, title and classes commission. Rankings nationally are for athlete promotion and for promoters to view an athlete's status for matching. Titles are intended for the top ranked athletes only. Refer to the Titles policy for more information. Weight categories are in accordance with MTA weight Divisions. Rankings for 2021 and beyond will be incorporated into MTA's Individual membership system. Athletes will be able to update their records on MTA web page portal and rankings will be published on the web page.

Scoring: Win is 3 points. Draw is 2 points. Loss is 1 point. 1 extra point for winning the open division at MTA Nationals. Disqualification is zero points. Both athletes get 1 extra point for competing for an A-Class National or state Title (with the MTA).

Competition Records

An athlete competition record includes ALL bouts from their first competition. This includes, inter club matches, sparring days, junior bouts, over seas bouts. It also includes kickboxing and K-1 Bouts.

All athletes and trainer MUST disclose EVERY combat sports bout the athlete has had when providing an athlete record. This should stipulate how many bouts at any other combat sports and ALL Muaythai bouts at any level. Other factors such as other martial art experience like Kyokushin competitions etc MUST be disclosed.

Section 2 - THE ATHLETE CLASS SYSTEM DETAILS

Athlete Class registration and development pathways. FOR ADULTS.

ON MTA SHOWS ATHLETES CAN BE DISTINGUISHED BY CLASS. PROMOTIONS CAN BE 1 OR MORE CLASSES AND ATHLETES CAN COMPETE AT WHAT EVER CLASS PROVIDES A FAIR MATCH. ALL BOUTS MUST BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LEGISLATION AND ATHLETE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.

Event classes:

- A-Class is a professional show with athletes competing 3 min rounds in 10-8 oz gloves. No head gear, elbow or shin guards.
- B-Class is an amateur or pro event distinguished by 2 min rounds and elbow guards.
- C-class is a development day with athletes in head gear, elbow guards, shin guards (optional chest guards). Rounds are 90sec or 2 min.
- Any combination of the above classes are allowed for an MTA event/promotion.
- All Adult bouts are Muaythai.

Athlete classes:

Class	Experience	Refer to state legislation at all times. Summary
C-class	0 > between 3 and 5 bouts	Padded: head gear, shin guards, elbow guards. 2min/90 sec rnds
B-class	Between 3/5 > 12/15 bouts	2 min rounds. Elbow guards. Head gear recommended for < 5 bouts.
A-class	Between 12/15 + bouts	3 min rounds. No head gear or elbow guards.

Athletes are designated by what class they are based on experience but can compete in another class if the match is fair and state registration is consistent with the match. All registered competitors are broken into an Athlete Class system. The Athlete Class system overlaps the Professional and Amateur system in all respects. The system runs in conjunction with or parallel to Combat Sports state legislation.

Where state legislation requires registration of an athlete by Professional or Amateur status, that registration is to be based on the requirements of the class status by which an athlete wishes to compete. Government requirements are to be followed, but cannot be down-graded to fall below MTA Athlete Class requirements.

State MTA bodies should have a data base of registered athletes and to list which class each athlete is competing in. C-B-A class bouts are defined as the type of competition.

All athletes are *recommended* to start in C class. Most people will commence on shows as C-class athletes, for either development days, as amateur athletes, or novice athletes. Athletes can also commence at B-class competition depending on experience, the match available and the competition.

The Class system is specific to MTA and does not mirror the IFMA system. IFMA is for international elite competition tournaments. WMC is for one off pre matched bouts on professional shows.

All rules for all classes are MTA rules. All rules and timings are for male and female.

The system is designed as a developmental system. People should step up and not step back however matches must have a less experienced athlete to occur. A-Class athletes should not step back to B-class bouts however B-class athletes can compete with an A-class or C-class athlete in a fair match.

MTA NATIONALS AND MTA TOURNAMENTS. Classes for MTA National and State title events may vary for each event as required for the fair conduct and matching of an event.

ONE OFF BOUTS

Development/Novice: C-class.

All competitors are recommended to start in C-class on a c-class event, on smaller shows, development days or inter-club style competitions. C-Class - Once an athlete commences C-Class bouts he/she is a part of MTA athlete system of development. C Class is an amateur/novice level. *Distinguished by head gear, elbow guards, shin guards.* Chest guards are optional.

Promoters can have C-class bouts on any level show however C-class is predominately a level of show that novice athletes get started on. C-class is 3 by 2 min bouts in padding. (As per table section 2.). 90 sec rounds can be approved by the State Head official. C and B class bouts can exist on the same promotion or a promotion may only be a C or B class event.

Competitor/Amateur – B-Class

Athletes can commence at B-class if they are experienced enough, skilled enough and ready to compete on a B-class event/in a B-class match. Athletes are recommended to have at least 3 bouts in C-class before transitioning to B-class. An athlete's trainer is required to approve starting competition in B-class.

B-class could be amateur or professional depending on government legislation requirements. Must compete 2 min round bouts over 3 or 5 rounds with 1 min breaks. *Distinguished by elbow guards, 2 min rounds, 10oz gloves.* For athletes on professional shows. Even if a registered Pro – B-class bouts are in elbow guards and 2 min rounds.

MTA titles are available at state level with interstate titles available. Athletes should transition to A-class after they are in the 12- 15 bout experience window. Transition to A-class must be approved by the athletes MTA registered trainer.

B-class is for athletes ready to compete 3 by 2 min rounds with less padding. It is the competitive level where people develop from a novice athlete until they are ready to be a professional athlete in the A-class league. Athletes should remain at B-class until they are ready to be a professional and A-class athlete. B-class is the main division to get experience and develop as an athlete. All amateur (B-class) titles are 5 by 2 min rounds with 1 min break.

B-Class transition - An athlete is recommended to have 3-5 bouts in C-Class before transitioning to B-Class. Once a transition to A-Class, he/she cannot compete at B Class bouts.

At national/International MTA/IFMA tournaments B-class athletes may compete either 2 or 3 min round bouts.

Elite – Professional – A class

This is the High Performance Level. (Professionally registered athletes or competing against them). Must 3 min round bouts over 3 or 5 rounds with 1 or 2 min breaks. *Distinguished by 3 minute rounds, no head gear, no elbow guards.* A-class is for experienced athletes, 15 plus bouts is recommended. A-

class is 3-minute rounds for 3 by 3, or 5 by 3 min. All titles are 5 by 3 min rounds with 2 min break. 5 by 3 min round bouts with 1 min break can be approved by head state official.

A-Class transition - An athlete (and their camp) is recommended to seriously consider the implications and level of being an A-class athlete. At this class, A class athletes can be matched with any other A-class athlete and are considered an ELITE athlete. A-class cannot compete for MTA titles.

Juniors

Juniors must follow the rules and requirements as per their age group. The junior class system mirrors the adult system for development and experience HOWEVER a junior record IS NOT an adult record and must be considered when matching against adults from 16+.

Juniors are NOT A-class competitors even if they have A-class experience. Round times for Juniors are always 2 min rounds for B/A Class juniors, 90 sec for C-class juniors, unless they are 16+ (& A-class adults) and approved to compete at 3 min rounds against an adult.

ATHLETE CLASS BREAKDOWN

A Class: ELITE/PROFESSIONAL

- 12-15 bout+ experienced. Registered Professional.
- All A-class athletes, when required by state legislation, MUST be a registered Professional. Bouts are under MTA rules and regulation except where these rules and state legislation super seeds them.
- Gloves as per rules. No head gear, shin, elbow guards. (unless in a tournament).
- Definition: A-Class is for 3 min round bouts over 3 or 5 rounds.
- Round Time: 3 min rounds. 2 min break, however 1 min breaks are optional for 3 round bouts and be approved for 5round bouts.
- Rounds: All bouts are 3 min rounds. Bouts can be either 3 rounds or five rounds.

B Class: COMPETITOR – AMATEUR MTA rules and regulations. (B-CLASS can be as a professionally registered or amateur athlete).

- Round Time: 2 min rounds.
- Rounds: Bouts are 3 rounds or 5 rounds.
- Rest breaks: 1 minute.
- Rules: Muaythai – (elbow guards for ALL B-class)
- Padding: As per table section 2.
- Recommended to transfer to A-Class between 12-15 Bout experience.

C Class: NOVICE – DEVELOPMENT: (MTA rules with the following adjustments)

- All athletes are recommended to commence competition in C-class.
- 0-5 Bouts. Head gear, elbow guards and shin guards, Chest guard optional.
- Definition: When required by state legislation, MUST be a registered amateur.
- C-class is hand wraps only. No strapping tape.
- Round Time: 2 min rounds. (90 sec can be approved)
- Rounds: All Bouts are 3 rounds. There are no 5 round C-Class bouts or titles.
- Rest breaks: 1 minute.
- Rules: Muaythai. (elbow guards for ALL C-class). Elbows optional.
- Padding: As per table on page 2.

ADULT PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- State legislation MUST be followed and supersedes any MTA rules. These rules are the minimum standard for MTA regardless of state legislation or the lack of legislation.
- All protective equipment MUST be MTA approved and checked by R&J at the competition.
- Equipment can be shared if an approved cleaning station (covid standard) is utilised.
- *ALL GLOVES MUST BE TAPPED 'RED OR BLUE' TO MATCH THE CORNER.*
- An athlete can not wear the colour of the opposing corner in competition.

ELITE Men and Women. Muaythai shorts are required. Ankle guards are allowed except under shin guards. No additional padding/strapping is authorised on any part of the body. No jewelry is allowed.

ITEM	Always refer to your state legislation!	To wear for:
HEAD GEAR	Open Face. Can be the corner colour or Black. A-Class - NO HEAD GEAR is allowed B-Class – If a state government legislation requires. Head gear is recommended. C-Class – Mandatory.	A-Not allowed B-Recommended C-Mandatory
Gloves	10 oz gloves for C and B class. B-class can be Velcro closure or lace up. A-Class – as per MTA rules.	Velcro for C and B. Lace up – A & B class
Cloth-SHIN GUARDS	A – none (ankle guards are authorised but no padding or strapping anywhere) B-class. If either athlete has 5 or less Bouts in any class then shin guards are recommended. C-class Cloth shin guard to the knee and covering the instep.	A-Not allowed B- Recommended for 5 Bouts or less. C-Mandatory
ELBOW GUARDS	A-class – none B-C- class - Cloth and cover elbow	A-Not allowed B-Mandatory C-Mandatory
Mouth guard	Form fitted (red, pink are not authorised)	Mandatory for All
Groin Guard - male	Steel	Mandatory for All
Groin Guard - female	Plastic, padded.	Mandatory for C. B class. Optional for A.
Breast Protectors female	Mandatory for juniors with a developed breast. Optional for adults.	Optional for Adults

Hand Wrap.	A-Class – as per MTA rules. B-Class. Wrap rules as per MTA rules. C-class – 4/5m cloth hand wraps only.	Mandatory for A, B – C C-Wraps only.
Chest Guards	Optional for C-class only.	

JUNIOR PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (One of Matches)

- Head gear is required for all Junior Bouts.
- Elbow guards are NOT required for 0-3 division when there is no elbows.
- 10oz gloves for all divisions. Velcro or lace up.
- Mouth guard required for all divisions – must not be red or pink.
- Groin guard mandatory for males.
- Groin guard mandatory for females 14+.
- Female breast plate protector NOT required when a chest guard is worn.

Chest guards are not required for 11+ experience in all ages.

Age	0-3 Bouts – 90 sec bouts – NO ELBOWS.	4-10 Bouts – 2 min except 10-11 years.	11+ Bouts - 2 min except 10-11 years
10-11	No head Contact	No head Contact – Elbows to body allowed.	Head contact (punches and kicks only) can be approved by State president and requires a form with both parents and trainers signatures approving the bout rules.
12-13	Head contact with punches/ kicks only	Head contact with punches & kicks ELBOW TO BODY ONLY	Head contact with punches & kicks ELBOW TO BODY ONLY
14-15	Head contact with punches/ kicks only	Head Contact with elbows, knees, punches and kicks.	Head Contact with elbows, knees, punches and kicks
16-17	Head contact with punches/ kicks only	Head Contact with elbows, knees, punches and kicks	Head Contact with elbows, knees, punches and kicks
Shin Guards	Mandatory	Mandatory	Optional
Elbow guards	Not required.	Mandatory	Mandatory
Chest guard	Mandatory	Optional	Optional

TITLE – BELTS AND CHAMPIONS

MTA can sanction/approve amateur and professional state and national title Bouts.

MTA State & National Champion's. State and National Championships will determine MTA Champion in each division.

MTA TITLES's. Only for B-class.

MTA can approve MTA titles in accordance with the titles policies. These titles are in accordance with MTA weight Divisions for one off bouts and must follow the policies of MTA and be approved by MTA Titles Commission. Athletes must be the top ranked, active and available athletes for the level of the title. Titles policies determine the procedures for titles. State bodies can organise or endorse state titles. All titles are for Australian passport or permanent residence only.

WMC professional titles are: Only for A-class, registered professional, ranked and experienced athletes.

- State Title – Athletes must be from the same state or a state combination governed by MTA. (For example NT and WA can compete for WA titles.)
- Australia Title.
- WMC International – Top ranked Australia Athlete (WMC Australian title holder) v's International top ranked international opponent.

MTA Amateur Titles. (B-class athletes only)

- *State title - Athletes must be from the same state or a state combination governed by MTA. (For example NT and WA can compete for WA titles.)*
- *West Coast Title – Only WA, NT, SA.*
- *East Coast Title – Only QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC, Tas.*
- *MTA Intercontinental – Top ranked Australia Athlete v's International opponent.*

State bodies can approve MTA Amateur Titles.

Promotion/Stadium Titles – MTA may endorse a 'Promotion Title' if a promoter is following this model of competition and not using any other professional sanctioning body. All stadium Titles must follow MTA rules, be officiated by MTA officials and only suitably ranked athletes to be endorsed.

IFMA – MTA is affiliated with IFMA for all international competitions. The WMC is available for World Title Belts. *The World Champion is the GOLD medallist at the IFMA World Championships.*

State Title – additional guidelines to policy.

State titles are determined by the state MTA representative/board and overseen by the national executive. For State titles, the athletes should reside in that state or compete regularly in that state and be known to come from that state. State titles cannot be held for states that are not incorporated sporting bodies with a functioning board. NT can compete for WA titles. ACT can compete for NSW titles. TAS can compete for Vic titles.

MTA Titles are available for each state. Athletes competing for title must be the highest ranked athletes available and approved by the titles commission. State titles must also consider the level of the athlete must be equal to that of any other state which is proven by that athlete having fought interstate and be ranked nationally above the majority of others from their state.

JUNIOR TITLES

Juniors can compete for MTA Belts. Junior can compete for National or state MTA Belts. For ages 12 and above. Junior titles can be for trophies or belts as approved by state bodies. National title belts may be given but they must be approved by MTA titles commission under the same policies as Adults.

Juniors (17 and under) cannot compete for adult titles.

ALL TITLES

All titles must follow MTA state and national title policies for MTA. Exemptions can be given if approved by MTA executive for all titles. For example: 2 athletes from the same state could compete for a national title if they are the unquestionable best 2 in Australia and ranked in the top 3 and that the bout doesn't preclude any state title holder from an opportunity to compete for the title. All avenues of athlete availability and athletes have been exhausted before this option can even be requested.

Officiating Australia professional titles.

All Australian titles must have an official approved by the Director of Officials officiating the title bout. The expense of this will be negotiated with the promoter and state body on a case by case basis. ***An interstate Official acting as a judge is REQUIRED for ALL Australian Titles.***

International titles must have all officials for the bout approved by the Director of Officials.

All Australian and International titles MUST be filmed professionally for later viewing in the event of a protest. Any Social media publication of the bout by an applicant for the protest automatically rules the protest invalid.

Weight Cutting/weigh in Guidelines. (additional to rules)

- MTA athletes in states with a CSA MUST follow the government medical guidelines.
- All MTA athletes are to complete an MTA Medical, every 12 months, in all states with no government registration requirements. MTA medical is MTA medical form.
- All MTA Athletes must complete a weigh cut declaration if requested at a weigh in.
- Junior's/novices can weigh in on the same day of the competition or the night before as long as 24hours is not exceeded and both athletes weigh in at the same time under the same conditions.
- Weigh in must be NLT 1hrs from the competition, no earlier than 6:00am and no later than 8:00pm. NOTE: Even if a junior is on an adult show or professional card.
- State Representatives can approve an event weigh in at the event for C-class events.
- Video weigh in's can be approved for Junior, C and B class bouts; ***if they are live and an MTA Official is present at either end of the video call. The scales used must be approved by MTA and tested on camera with a 20kg weight plate (or whatever is requested) for verification.***
- *Weigh ins are to be conducted in Muaythai shorts (+ crop top for females). Weigh ins should be public with consideration for privacy. There is to be NO naked weigh ins. Clothing is included in the weight.*
- Juniors are NOT to follow any system of rapid weight loss or dehydration.
- Juniors MUST weigh in in Muay Thai shorts. Singlet/crop top for females.
- All athletes must cut weight safely and not follow any rapid weight loss or dehydration methods. Professional advice must be sought for any weight reduction program to ensure it is healthy, safe and follows medical guidelines for safe weight loss over a multi week period.

Approved equipment for MTA competitions.

- All protective equipment MUST be MTA approved and checked by R&J at the competition.
- Equipment use and sharing must be included in the covid plan (if required). There is no sharing of equipment unless there is an approved cleaning station for equipment.
- Personal equipment can be approved for use by the state reps as part of a covid management plan.
- All equipment including personal equipment, if approved, must be approved by the head official at the event – prior to use.
- *ALL GLOVES MUST BE TAPPED 'RED OR BLUE' TO MATCH THE CORNER.*
- An athlete can not wear the colour of the opposing corner in competition with or without their own gear.

The equipment shown is to demonstrate the standard required by MTA for the Class of competition. The brands shown are not all endorsed by MTA; they are only a sample of the style and protection required as a MINIMUM standard. Recommended Brands suitable for competition are: Twins, Top King, Yakkao, Fairtex, MTG.

A-Class protective equipment



8/10oz lace up gloves



Male Groin Guards



Ankle Guards (optional)

B-Class protective equipment



10oz lace up gloves



Male Groin Guards



Ankle Guards (optional)



Elbow Guards



Head gear (RECOMMENDED 5 For less total bouts)

C-Class protective equipment:



10oz Gloves (lace or Velcro)



Shin Guards-cloth



Male Groin Guard



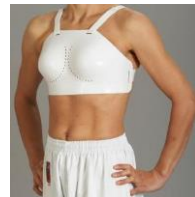
Elbow Guards-cloth



Head Gear - Open face



Female Chest Guard



Wraps



Chest Guard (OPTIONAL)



Female groin guard

Junior/ Cadets protective equipment



10oz Gloves (lace or Velcro)



Shin Guards-cloth



Male Groin Guard



Elbow Guards-cloth



Head Gear - Open face



Chest Guard



Wraps

MTA TOURNAMENTS RULES - Guidelines and athlete class break up.

National or State Title Classes.

Class combination or levels can be adjusted by MTA depending on entrants and available pool of athletes. The priority is fair matching based on record, ability and experience.

Tournaments may also follow a **seeded draw** in order to ensure matches are fair and allow athletes a fair chance to progress. Athletes can then progress through the event after performing (proving themselves) in their first round. Even in an open draw tournament seeding can be approved by MTA Executive to allow for fair matches. For example. If there is only 4 entrants, 1 can compete with 3 and 2 can compete with 4 in order to give the top 2 ranked athletes a fair shot at the championship. If there is only 3 athletes, the top ranked athlete should be given preference to go to the final so the other athletes have to earn the right to compete for the championship. Seeding may be done inside a class or overall.

Classes for these events are determined in order to promote the participation in the competitions. To have a fair tournament for all that includes a developmental system of development. Rules for national tournaments are MTA rules.

Classes for tournament entry. Divisions may be combined based on numbers. Permission may be given to compete in the open division for suitable athletes. National MTA Champion is the OPEN division only. Depending on entries and time available for the tournament, round times may vary per class.

Men and Women – 18 and older (*this break up may vary per tournament*)

Exp	Round	Class	Padding - Muaythai Bouts
0-3	3 by 2	C - NOVICE	10 oz gloves, head gear, cloth shin guards, groin guard. Elbow guards.
4-10	3 by 2	B - INTERMEDIATE	10 oz gloves, head gear, cloth shin guards, groin guard. Elbow guards.
11+	3 by 3	A - OPEN	10 oz gloves, head gear, cloth shin guards, groin guard. Elbow guards.
20+	3 by 3	Elite	A-class padding – bouts will be matched.

Note:

- The class break up can vary depending on the numbers of entry.
- Athletes can compete up 1 class or 1 weight division. They must select this on entry.
- One off match at tournaments can follow rules for one of bouts as required on the approval of MTA Executive. This would be for a Professional title or main event type bout.
- B class entrants can enter A class (open) if they want to compete for the Championship.
- It does not matter in a tournament if you are registered as a professional or amateur as long as your total record determines your class entry.
- 17+ years can compete against an adult under adult conditions is approved by their parent and trainer.

JUNIORS

- Head gear is required for all Junior Bouts.
- Elbow guards are NOT required for 0-3 division. (no elbow bouts)
- 10oz gloves for all divisions.
- Cloth shin guards for all divisions.
- Mouth guard required for all divisions – must not be red or pink.
- Groin guard mandatory for males and females 14+.
- Female chest guards NOT required when a chest guard is worn.
- Chest guards are required for all ages/classes. (tournament only)

14-15 & 16-17 Divisions:

Exp	Round	Class	
0-3	3 by 90 sec	C	No elbows.
4+	3 by 2	B	Muaythai
11+	3 by 2	A	Muaythai

12-13 Divisions - No Elbow to head. No Knees to Head. Kicks and punches to head allowed.

Exp	Round	Class	
0-3	3 by 90 sec	C	No elbows. No knees to head. Kicks and punches to head allowed.
4+	3 by 2	B	No Elbow or Knees to Head. Kicks and punches to head allowed.
11+	3 by 2	A	No Elbow or Knees to Head. Kicks and punches to head allowed.

10-11 years Division

Exp	Round	Class	No Head contact
ALL	3 by 90 sec	ALL	No elbows.

Additional:

- Juniors can compete up 1 age bracket if no suitable opponent available.
- Juniors can compete up one weight division if no suitable opponent available.
- Juniors can compete up one class if no suitable opponent available.
- If a junior moves UP > the rules and conditions apply for the bracket moved into.
- *This MUST be approved by both trainer and Guardian in writing. Electing to compete 'up' means competing at the higher age rules.*

Section 3 – General Competition Rules

Government Legislation.

Legislation in any state or territory conducting a MTA sanctioned (officiated) event supersedes any rules or regulations. MTA is to strictly enforce the rules and regulations nationally and they can only be adjusted when a state or territory government legislation requires a stronger rule or has determined a specific rule be legislated.

All MTA rules are superseded by state legislation. Page to of these rules lists general rule additions to these rules.

The Ring

In general competitions, the ring will be as follows:

- 1.1.** The ring is a place constructed for competitions. The ring will be 6.10 x 6.10 meters for small size and 7.30 x 7.30 meters for larger size. Measurements shall be taken from the inner edge of the ring rope. It must be constructed sturdily and safely at a level without any obstructions. The ring floor must stretch out beyond the ring ropes at least 50 centimetres, but not more than 90 centimetres.
- 1.2.** The ring floor must be placed at least 60cm from the ground, preferably 1.2m but not more than 1.50 meters. In each of the four ring corners, one ring post of 10 to 12.5 centimetres in diameter is erected no more than 2.70 meters from the ground. The ring floor must be covered with soft material, such as rubber, soft cloth pieces, sponge, or similar material, to reach a thickness of at least 2.50 centimetres and not more than 3.75 centimetres. A top-up of canvas must cover the entire ring area, being tightly and smoothly secured.
- 1.3.** The ring installation is to position the red corner on the left-hand side of the Chairman of the ring official's table, the blue corner opposite to the red corner and the other two shall be neutral corners.
- 1.4.** There shall be 4 surrounding ring ropes of 3 to 5 centimetres in diameter, padded with smooth and soft material, attached tightly to the four corner posts. The ropes shall be attached at 45 centimetres, 75 centimetres, 1.05 meters and 1.35 meters from the ring floor, respectively as measured to the top of the ropes. The ropes of each side must be held by two strong pieces of cloth, 3 to 4 centimetres wide, equally spaced from each other. Such pieces of cloth must be tightly tied to hold the ropes. All four corners must be padded with cushioning or other material in good condition to protect the Athletes from any harm. There must be a set of steps for each corner. A third set of steps shall be located near the neutral corner for the referee, doctor, etc.
- 1.5.** Two boxes made of plastic or of other material shall be provided in both neutral corners: one box each (outside the ring) for the referee to dispose cotton or fallen material.

Athletes compete out of either the red or blue corner. Promoters may utilise other colours for the corners; for example, black and white, or black and red for athletes shorts and promotions. If the two corner colours are distinctive to each other.

Rule 2. Ring Equipment for Competition

The ring shall contain the following equipment:

- Two chairs (stools) or swivel chairs for Athletes
- A mop to wipe the ring floor and two towels
- Two towels
- Tables and chairs for officials
- A bell or siren
- 2 stopwatches – timers.
- Score cards
- A locked box for scorecards
- A set of round, time show-case, and bout markers
- A stretcher
- A pair of safety scissors
- Other instruments essential for the competitions (e.g. an amplifier and a microphone)

Rule 3. Gloves

- 3.1.** For gloves used in competition, the leather portion must not be heavier than one-half (1/2) of the glove's total weight and the glove's inner pads must weigh at least one-half (1/2) of the total weight. It is not permitted to change the shape of glove's inner pads or to rub the glove's inner pads spreading them from the original shape.
- 3.2.** Athletes must use exclusively gloves certified/approved by MTA. They must be approved by the Head Official at each event.
- 3.3.** The glove sizes for competitions are as follows:
 - All bouts for MTA for Juniors, novice, and competitor are to wear 10oz gloves. Gloves are preferred as lace up however Velcro gloves are acceptable if approved by the head MTA official. Glove's laces must be tied with knots behind the wrists. Gloves must be taped to cover any laces or strapping. Glove wearing must be inspected and stamped by the authorised glove inspector (MTA Official) who must observe and control glove wearing to ensure that the Athletes wear gloves according to the rules until the Athlete's step into the ring.
- 3.4.** The glove sizes for competitions FOR A-CLASS/PROFESSIONAL are as follows:
 - The Athletes between the Super Featherweight division and the Welterweight division must use the gloves of eight (8) ounces. 67kg and below.
 - The Athletes between the Super Welterweight division and over must use the gloves of ten (10) ounces. 67kg and above.
 - ALL C-B AND JUNIOR BOUTS ARE TO WEAR 10oz GLOVES.

Rule 4. Hand Bandages

- 4.1.** All C-class athletes and Juniors 14 and below are to wear hand wraps only. All State and National tournaments are in hand wraps only. NO TAPE. NONE. NOT ONE BIT
- 4.2.** Athletes must wrap their hands with soft hand bandages no longer than six (6) meters and no wider than five (5) centimetres for each hand.

- 4.3. Athletes may use strapping tape, no longer than one (1) meter and no more than two and a half (2.50) centimetres wide for each hand, to top-up on the wrist or back of the hand. It is absolutely forbidden to top-up on the knuckles.
- 4.4. No tape of any type is to cover the knuckles or build up the knuckles. One strip is authorised between the knuckles to tie the wraps in but must not protrude.
- 4.5. Athletes can use their own hand wraps or have their hands wrapped by their trainer. All wraps must be signed and approved by an MTA official prior to gloves being placed on the Athlete.
- 4.6. All hand wraps MUST be inspected and approved by an MTA (or Government) official for ALL bouts.

Rule 5. Attire

- 5.1. Athletes must wear shorts neatly at half-thigh length, without shirt or shoes. A athlete's shorts must NOT be the colour of the other corner. Shorts should preferably be the same as or close to the corner representing. Shorts cannot be split at the sides exposing underwear.
- 5.2. Athletes must wear groin protection for the genital organs, made of strong material capable to protect them from knee blows or other kinds of blows. The use of the groin guard is mandatory. For male athletes, a metal groin protector shall be worn a jock strap may be worn in addition. For female athletes, a female groin protector shall be worn.
- 5.3. Athletes' fingernails and toenails must be closely and neatly cut.
- 5.4. Athletes shall wear a headband (Mongkon) only when they pay homage (Waikru) before the bout. During the bout Athletes may wear an inscribed cloth, amulet, or charm around the upper arm (Prajiad). If the amulet interferes with the flow of the bout, it must be removed immediately by the referee or corner.
- 5.5. Ankle guards cannot be worn under shin guards. Athletes may wear ankle supports, one for each ankle, but not to be shin supports, or to roll half way down. Wrapping the ankles and legs with pieces of cloth is not permitted. Ankle guards are not to be padded and may only be made of cloth. Nothing is to be worn under the ankle guards.
- 5.6. Athletes may strap an ankle for support as long as the strapping does not protrude outside an ankle guard and does not provide padding for contact, only support for hyperextension or rolling. Any strapping of ankles MUST be approved by an MTA official at the same time as hand wraps are inspected. Strapping must not give an advantage to the athlete for impact.
- 5.7. Athletes shall not wear belts, jewellery or any dangerous ornaments as determined by an official.
- 5.8. Liniment is allowed on the athlete but cannot be excessive, dripping or running. Vaseline can be used in minimal quantities to limit cuts. Vaseline or liniment cannot be used on any attire. Gloves are to be free of any gasoline, liniment or related products. A athlete will be fouled for wiping his/her gloves on their person.
- 5.9. Form fitted gum shields must be worn during the contest. It is forbidden for an athlete to intentionally remove their gum shield during the contest and if the athlete does so, the athlete shall be warned or disqualified. If an athlete has his gum shield knocked out, the

referee shall take the athlete to the athlete’s corner – have the gum shield cleaned and returned to its proper position. While this is being done, the second is not allowed to talk to his/her athlete.

- 5.10. During the bout, if the Athletes’ gloves or attire is improperly displaced or against the rules, the referee shall stop the bout immediately to correct the faults.
- 5.11. Protective Equipment. Gloves, mouth guards, groin protectors are outlined above. Other padding is required in accordance with experience, age, government legislation and rules of the bout. It is of note to repeat that all padding requirements in the rules are superseded by Government legislation in all instances where the Government legislation is more stringent. If MTA regulations are more stringent, they are to be enforced.
- 5.12. Protective equipment is detailed at attachment 1 to these rules.

Rule 6. Age, Weight Divisions and Weigh-in

- 6.1. Athletes must be at least 18 years old to compete as an adult.
- 6.2. Athletes competing against each other must not be more than 2 weight divisions a part or 5kgs.
- 6.3. Athletes must have at least three (3) hours of rest after the weigh-in, before the beginning of the bout. Amateurs are recommended to weigh in on the same day as the bout. Recommended time is between and 3 and 6 hours from the competition. But not greater than 24 hours from the competition.
- 6.4. Junior weights, ages, and specific rule requirements are detailed in the Junior MTA section of these rules.

6.5 Weight divisions should be divided as follows:

MTA Divisions. For tournaments, state and national titles.

CLASS	KILOGRAMS
Atom weight	45
Junior Fly Weight	48
Fly Weight	51
Bantam Weight	54
Feather Weight	57
Junior Light	60
Light Weight	63.5
Welter Weight	67
Junior Middle	71
Middle Weight	75
Females only	75+
Super Middle	81
Cruiser Weight	86
Heavy Weight	91
Super Heavy	96+
Hulk Weight	120+

Weight Divisions for C, B Class, A class (professionals) and ALL MTA/WMC title bouts. Catch weights are approved for non-title bout matching.

CLASS	KILOGRAMS
Mini Fly Weight	47.62
Junior Fly Weight	48.99
Fly Weight	50.80
Junior Bantam Weight	52.16
Bantam Weight	53.52
Junior Feather Weight	55.34
Feather Weight	57.15
Junior Light Weight	58.97
Light Weight	61.24
Junior Welter Weight	63.50
Welter Weight	66.68
Junior Middle Weight	69.85
Middle Weight	72.58
Super Middle Weight	76.20
Light Heavy Weight	79.38
Super Light Heavy	82.55
Cruiser Weight	86.18
Heavy Weight	95.00
Super Heavy Weight	95.00+

6.5. Weigh-in's – Professional (Elite Athletes Class).

- 6.5.1. Weigh ins can be conducted no more than 24 hours prior to the commencement of the competition for one off matches/single day/night competitions. Professional and Pro-am events should have one official weigh in. At either 24 hours or anytime up to 3 hours from the commencement of the event. As long as both athletes weigh in at the same time under the same conditions. B-class only events can have either a 24 hr or same day weigh in as determined by the promoter and the Head state official.
- 6.5.2. C-class event is to be on the same day as the competition. A C-class weigh in should be no closer 3 hours from the commencement of the event. C-class bout on a professional event can be approved to weigh in at the 24hr weigh, by the head MTA official, as long as both athletes are present, and neither is disadvantaged.
- 6.5.3. For all MTA tournaments, weigh in's must be conducted on the day of the competition or the night before with a weigh in on each day of competition. The Athletes must weigh-in with muaythai shorts (& crop top for female) on the contest day between 07:00-9:00 o'clock on the competition day. A min of 3 hours between weigh in and 1st bout is required. A day before weigh in must not be further out than 24hrs from the event.
- 6.5.4. Before weigh-in, the Athletes must have their medical paperwork confirmed. This must be sighted and approved by the head official. Athletes must present or have evidence of serology test (including HIV and all classes of Hep) and a medical approval to compete. Medicals MUST be conducted annually for athletes. Medicals are valid for 12 months. Blood tests are required for 16 and older. Blood tests must

be no older than 6 months. State CSA books are allowed or the medical must be on MTA medical paperwork with original copies of serology.

- 6.5.5. Physical examination of the athlete must occur prior to the bout at either the weigh in or competition. The athlete must be checked by a registered doctor to certify that they are physically fit to compete.
- 6.5.6. The athlete's manager or his representative may witness the weigh-in from outside the weigh in area only. Parents and spectators are not allowed at tournament weigh in.
- 6.5.7. By video. Weigh ins cannot be conducted by video (phone or any other method) for any tournament, title bout, A-class bout, international bout at any class. If both parties agree, a video weigh in can occur if it conducted on an official set of scales and an MTA representative is supervising. Video weigh ins can only be conducted due to distance from the official weigh in being more than 100km. A video weigh in must site the individual, the scales set at zero and record the weight viewed when athlete is standing on them and the scales can be clearly sighted. Video weigh in are only an option for amateur shows for interstate/country athletes who cannot make the official weigh in, in circumstances where the amateur competition does not provide travelling allowances or accommodation for the athlete. MTA official may ask for the scales to be tested with a 20kg weight plate.
- 6.5.8. Females Athletes MUST be given the opportunity to weigh in in private. A private female weigh in can only be conducted by other female's officials/witness. Tournaments are not private and females must weigh in in MT shorts and crop top.
- 6.5.9. Juniors (under 18) and females should be screened from public view for all weigh in's. An athlete wishing to participate in promotional activities for the bout that may include viewing the weigh in can elect to be viewed however cannot be compelled to. Approval of ALL photos of anyone under 18 must be provided with written consent. Photos of any junior in underwear are not permitted and must not be publicised.

Rule 7. Paying Homage (Wai Kru) and Rounds

- 7.1. Athletes may enter the ring over the rope, through the type rope or under the ropes. Athletes going over the rope should wear the Mong Kong when doing so. If going under or through the rope, athletes are to then have the Mong Kong placed on them immediately after entering the ring by their trainer. *IFMA events REQUIRE athletes to enter through the rope and then have the Mong Kong placed by the trainer for all ages and genders and IFMA may vary this as they desire.*
- 7.2. A mongkong is to be worn by all athletes ceiling the ring and in the centre of the ring prior to the bout. Before the bout every Athlete must pay homage in accordance with the art and customs of Muaythai. Thai music is to be played during all rounds of a bout and whilst the athlete is ceiling the ring – doing a Wai Kru. The bout will start after paying homage.

Athletes must go to the centre of the ring and acknowledge the judges when they enter the ring. They then return to the corner to be inspected by the referee. Before the commencement of the bout the referee will instruct athletes to perform the Wai Kru. (Wai – respect, Kru – Teacher). The minimum required for each bout is for athletes to seal the ring (part of the Ram Muay), then return to the corner. Athletes may perform the Wai Kru (3 bows to the trainer).

Some athletes may choose to continue their Ram Muay individually. A time limit on this may be provided by MTA head official or for promotional reasons.

MTA may from time to time, as required in tournaments or large cards instruct athletes to NOT perform the Wai Kru (3 bows) or seal the ring, or both and place time limits on the performance of the Ram Muay.

- 7.3.** Athletes shall shake hands before the beginning of the first round and before the beginning of the final round, symbolising that they will compete in the spirit of sportsmanship and in accordance with the official rules and regulations.
- 7.4.** Rounds are in accordance with the schedule of rounds and padding.

Rule 8. Seconds

- 8.1.** In general competitions, each Athlete can have a maximum of two (2) seconds for C and B class bouts. The referee must be informed about the chief second and his assistant before the bout. Only 1 corner person is allowed in the ring during round breaks for all C and B class (amateur) bouts. For all A – Class, ELITE (professional) bouts. 3 corner persons are allowed and 2 people may enter the ring in rest breaks.
- 8.2. Second's Duties:**
 - 8.2.1.** The safety of the athlete and to give tactical advice to the athlete. Seconds cannot say anything about or too the opponent's corner or athlete. All instructions and advice must not be abusive in any form. All corner advice should be sportsman like and professional. If they violate the rule, the referee will warn, caution, or dismiss them from their duties.
 - 8.2.2.** During the bout, the seconds must stay on their seats. Before each round, they must clear towels, water bottles, and other materials from the ring platform.
 - 8.2.3.** During a round interval, the seconds must check the Athlete's attire in readiness for the bout. If there is any problem, the seconds must notify the referee immediately to solve it.
 - 8.2.4.** If applying water on Athletes, the seconds shall not wet the ring floor. They must also towel the Athlete. Liniment cannot be applied during the bout. Vaseline can only be applied as first aid for cuts and must be minimal.
 - 8.2.5.** Seconds must not use abusive words and shall not hurt the Athletes during or after the bout.
 - 8.2.6.** Seconds must wear uniforms or shirts with their boxing camp symbol, which are in no way offensive or abusive.
 - 8.2.7.** The Athlete's chief second may give up for his Athlete by stepping into the ring or throwing in a towel in front of the referee.
 - 8.2.8.** Seconds are not allowed to throw sponges or any other object in to the ring into the ring at any time, particularly during counting.
 - 8.2.9.** Seconds cannot touch the ring during the bout. Any banging on the ring or climbing the ring (unless to throw in the towel) will result in the referee stopping the bout. The corner will be warned and the athlete may be penalised a point if the referee deems the interference unsportsmanlike or interferes in the conduct of the bout,

8.2.10. Seconds may arrange their own material, equipment and medical supplies at their corners as follows:

- Water for drinking in a clear water bottle for viewing.
- Ice must be double bagged and not leaking.
- Towels
- Adrenaline of 1/1000 solution, mixed with vasoline or other substances as approved by ring doctor.
- First aid equipment including; Gauze, Cotton buds, A pair of safety scissors, Wound bandages, Absorbent cotton bandages or wound soft bandages.

Rule 9. Referees

The primary concern of the referees should be the care of the Athletes.

9.1. Referees' Attire:

- 9.1.1. Referees must wear black trousers, and shirts or pullovers with MTA emblem on the shirt. All officials MUST wear the same attire.
- 9.1.2. Referees must wear shoes without heels appropriate for working in the ring.
- 9.1.3. Referees shall not wear eyeglasses or metal ornaments.
- 9.1.4. The referees' fingernails must be closely and neatly cut.

9.2. Referees' Duties:

- 9.2.1. To prevent a weaker athlete from receiving undue and unnecessary punishment.
- 9.2.2. Control that the rules and fair play are strictly observed.
- 9.2.3. To interpret rules and implementing the rules or to decide or to act upon any situations not provided in the rules.
- 9.2.4. To closely control the bout at all times.
- 9.2.5. To inspect the Athlete's gloves, attire and gum shields.
- 9.2.6. To use three commands as follows:
 - “หยุด” (YUD): To order the Athletes to stop OR ‘STOP’
 - “แยก” (YAK): To order the Athletes to separate from each other. After the YAK command both Athletes must step back at least one step before engaging the bout again. OR ‘BREAK’
 - “ชก” (CHOK): To order the Athletes to fight. OR ‘FIGHT’
- 9.2.7. Referees shall show a clear and proper signal to tell the offending Athlete's fault.
- 9.2.8. When the referee disqualifies a Athlete because of a serious rule violation or he stops the bout, he must notify the Chairman of the ring officials for his reasons.
- 9.2.9. Referees shall not allow Athletes who intentionally violate rules, to gain advantage (e.g. grabbing ropes to kick, knee his opponent, or prevent falling etc.).

- 9.2.10. Referees shall not engage in any action which may influence the bout in any way, so that the Athletes may gain or lose advantage (e.g. fast or slow counting, warning or not warning, etc.).
- 9.2.11. At the end of the bout, the referee must collect the score cards from the three judges and hand them to the Chairman of the ring officials for inspection.
- 9.2.12. At the end of the bout, the referee shall bring both Athletes to the centre of the ring facing the Chairman's table. He will then raise the winner's hand according to the announcement.
- 9.2.13. Referees shall neither criticize nor give an interview about the future bout results or the past bout results without permission from MTA Executive Board.

9.3. Referees' Powers:

- 9.3.1. To terminate the contest at any stage if he considers it to be one-sided.
- 9.3.2. To terminate the contest upon seeing that the Athlete is too seriously injured to continue the bout. He may consult the ring doctor and he must follow the doctor's suggestion after consultation.
- 9.3.3. To terminate the contest upon seeing that the Athlete is not in earnest to compete. In this case, either Athlete or both may be disqualified.
- 9.3.4. To stop counting upon seeing that if he continues the count, the Athlete may be in danger.
- 9.3.5. To stop the count when the opponent does not go to the furthest neutral corner or he comes out from the neutral corner before the count is finished.
- 9.3.6. To stop the bout to warn or caution the Athlete who violates rules or for other reasons to apply justice or to enforce rules.
- 9.3.7. To disqualify the Athlete who ignores the referee's commands or who harms the referee or who aggressively offends the referee.
- 9.3.8. To dismiss from duty the second who disobeys rules. The referee may disqualify the Athlete whose second disobeys the referee's orders.
- 9.3.9. For the Athlete who severely violates rules, the referee has the power to disqualify him or he may declare the bout of "no decision" after warning or cautioning, or even without previous cautioning or warning.
- 9.3.10. To warn the Athlete who violates the rules, the referee must stop the bout before he clearly warns the offending Athlete in order that the Athlete understands the cause and objective of the warning. The referee must show a hand signal, pointing to the Athlete to inform all judges that there is a warning. The referee must disqualify the Athlete who has been given three warnings or declare "no decision." If it is a serious offense, the referee may disqualify him even though there has been no previous caution or warning.
- 9.3.11. The referee may caution an Athlete. A Caution is a procedure to notify the Athlete that he must be careful and to prevent the Athlete from making a mistake which is against the rules.

9.4. Counting procedure for Athletes outside the ring

- 9.4.1. When an Athlete has been attacked by his opponent's legal weapons, and as a result, has fallen outside the ring, the referee must order his opponent to go to the furthest neutral corner. If the Athlete outside the ring is too slow to get into the ring, the referee shall count immediately.
- 9.4.2. When an Athlete, or both, falls outside the ring, the referee shall count to “ยี่สิบ” (20). If the Athlete manages to get into the ring before the count of twenty, the bout will continue and the Athlete loses no point.
- 9.4.3. The referee shall stop counting if the Athlete that has fallen outside the ring is obstructed or delayed going up into the ring by any person. The referee shall clearly warn the offender and continue the count. If the offender disobeys, the referee shall stop the bout and inform the Chairman of the ring officials.
- 9.4.4. When both Athletes fall outside the ring, the referee shall count. If either Athlete tries to delay getting in the ring, the referee shall stop counting and clearly warn the offender and continue the count. If the offender disobeys, the referee shall disqualify that Athlete to lose the bout or of “no decision”.
- 9.4.5. If both Athletes fall outside the ring, the referee is counting and an Athlete can get back into the ring before the count of twenty, the referee shall declare that Athlete the winner. However, if both Athletes cannot get back into the ring before the count of twenty, the referee shall declare a draw.

Rule 10. Judges

10.1. Judges must dress as the referees. They may however wear eyeglasses.

10.2. Judges' Duties:

- 10.2.1. Judges must sit one on each of the four sides of the ring with a distance from the spectators. If 4-5 judges. If 3 judges then one side is left clear of all officials.
- 10.2.2. During the bout, judges shall not speak with the Athletes or any other people. If necessary, they may speak with the referee during the resting intervals between rounds to inform the referee in case of an incident (e.g. seconds' misconduct, loose ropes).
- 10.2.3. Judges shall score independently and accordingly to the rules. They must record scores in the score cards immediately after each round and they must add up the scores of both Athletes for each round.
- 10.2.4. Judges must identify the winner and sign the score cards before handing them to the referee.
- 10.2.5. Judges shall not leave their seats until the referee declares the contest result.
- 10.2.6. Judges shall neither criticize nor give an interview about the future bout results or the past bout results without permission from MTA Executive Board.

Rule 11. – Head Official

11.1. Head Official/Chairmen Duties:

- 11.1.1. To assign referees and judges for duties within the competition program. A head official must be appointed for each competition.
- 11.1.2. To monitor the performance of referees and judges as stated by the rules and regulations. In case any referee or judge performs his duty incorrectly or ineffectively, the head of the ring officials shall report his assessment to MTA board.
- 11.1.3. For an A Class WMC Australian Title (or above) the Head Official may elect to have 5 judges (if suitably qualified judges) are available for the event.
- 11.1.4. To solve competition problems and report incidents to the competition manager.
- 11.1.5. To advice referees and judges on any decision-making matter.
- 11.1.6. To monitor all score cards for the correct score sum, Athletes' names, identification of the winner and the judges' signatures.
- 11.1.7. To notify the ring announcer about the bout result to be pronounced to the public.
- 11.1.8. To notify the promoter and report to MTA Board for punishment considerations in case the Athlete intentionally and severely violates any rule, which is contradictory with ethics and sportsmanship.
- 11.1.9. In case there is an unusual incident from which the referee and judges are unable to continue to work, Chairman of the ring officials shall act immediately, by all means, to continue the contest.

11.2. Head Official Powers:

- 11.2.1. Chairman of the ring officials may overrule the referee and judges by reversing the decision of the referee and judges only for the following cases:
 - if the referee's decision is contradictory with the rules & regulations
 - if the judges have incorrectly added up scores, resulting in a different decision from factual evidence.

Rule 12. Timekeeper and Announcer

12.1. The timekeeper and the announcer must sit beside the ring at designated seats.

12.2. Timekeeper's duties:

- 12.2.1. To monitor the number of rounds and competing time for each round, resting interval time between rounds, and time of time-outs.
- 12.2.2. To signal for the beginning and the ending of each round by striking the bell.
- 12.2.3. To signal five (5) seconds before the beginning of each round for the ring to be cleared.
- 12.2.4. To deduct the time of interruptions or the time stopped by referee order from the total round time.

12.2.5. To monitor for the correct time with a stopwatch or a clock throughout the entire duration of the bout.

12.2.6. The timekeeper shall not give the bell signal while the referee is counting, despite the round time expiration. The timekeeper shall strike the bell when the referee orders “ชก” (CHOK) or “fight”.

12.3. Announcer’s duties:

12.3.1. To announce names, boxing camps or nations, corners, and weights of both Athletes to the spectators, when Athletes enter the ring.

12.3.2. To announce that the seconds must leave the ring when they hear the warning signal from the timekeeper.

12.3.3. To announce the beginning and ending of each round.

12.3.4. To announce the verdict of the contest and identify the winner.

Rule 13. Decisions

13.1. Winning on Points:

- At the end of the bout, the Athlete with the judges’ majority decision wins the contest.

13.2. Winning by Knockout (KO):

- In case an Athlete is knocked down and cannot continue the bout within ten (10) seconds, his opponent wins by knockout.

13.3. Winning by Technical Knockout (TKO):

- In case an Athlete outclasses his opponent very clearly or one-sidedly outpoints his opponent.
- In case the opponent cannot continue the contest immediately after the resting interval of a round.
- In case the opponent is seriously injured and cannot continue the contest.
- In case the opponent has been counted for more than two (2) times (i.e. 3 times) in one round, or more than four (4) times (i.e. 5 times) in the entire fighting contest.
- In case the opponent has fallen out of the ring and cannot get back into the ring after the referee has counted “ยี่สิบ” (YISIP) or twenty (20).
- In case his opponent spontaneously withdraws from the contest due to injury or other causes.

13.4. Winning by Disqualification:

- In case his opponent severely violates the rules and the referee disqualifies him, whether there has been any previous warning or cautioning.

13.5. Winning by Walkover:

- In case an Athlete's opponent does not pass the ring doctor's physical examination, cannot make weigh-in, or does not show up to compete as scheduled.

13.6. A Draw Decision:

- The majority decision is even as a draw.
- In case both Athletes are knocked down and they have been counted out of ten (10).
- In case both Athletes have fallen out of the ring and they have been counted out of twenty (20).
- In case both Athletes are so seriously injured that they cannot continue the contest.

13.7. No Decision:

- In case the referee considers that either Athlete is not in earnest and he declares that "there is no decision for this bout as the red corner / blue corner / or both Athletes compete dishonourably".

13.8. No Contest:

- In case the Athletes have been warned and cautioned by the referee and persist on continuing with the breach.

13.9. Cancellation of Contest:

- In case of ring damage, a riot from spectators, or an unexpected situation causing it impossible to continue the contest.

Rule 14. Scoring System

14.1. A score shall be awarded when Athletes use fists, feet, knees, and elbows as Muaythai competition weapons to hit his opponent powerfully, accurately, unprotected, and according to the rules.

14.2. Scoring advantage is awarded to:

- 14.2.1. The Athlete who goes on target with muaythai weapons the most.
- 14.2.2. The Athlete with heavier, more powerful, and the most accurate hits on target, using muaythai weapons.
- 14.2.3. The Athlete who can cause more physical exhaustion and damage to his opponent by use of muaythai weapons.
- 14.2.4. The Athlete who shows better style of aggressive attacks.
- 14.2.5. The Athlete who shows better defence with muaythai techniques.
- 14.2.6. The Athlete who violates the rules the least.

14.3. Scoring advantage is not awarded to:

- 14.3.1. The Athlete who violates any rule.
- 14.3.2. Muaythai weapons strike on the opponent's arm(s) or leg(s) as his self-defence techniques. *(That the strike to the arms is blocked and has no effect on the opponent balance, posture and does not score damage)*
- 14.3.3. The hit is light, without power or body weight behind it.
- 14.3.4. The Athlete kicks on target, his kicking leg is caught by his opponent and he is thrown on the ring floor.
- 14.3.5. Throwing the opponent on the floor without using any muaythai weapon.
- 14.3.6. A strike after the bell or after the referee has called break/stop.
- 14.3.7. A strike after a foul or using a foul to strike.

14.4. Clinch scoring

14.4.1 Scoring in the clinch

- (i) Muaythai technique must land on target with power
- (ii) Muaythai technique must be effective or it is not scored
- (iii) Muaythai technique must not have a foul or follow a foul

Clinch general

- (i) where scoring clinching techniques are applied by one or both boxers, then the clinch will be allowed to run.
- (ii) where both boxers are using non powerful clinch technique, then the clinch will be stopped.
- (iii) if both boxers are working for a dominant clinch position without any striking, the clinch will be allowed to run for a period of time as long as both boxers are working and not locking, holding or being inactive.
- (iv) if both boxers cannot work to a dominant clinch position, then the clinch will be stopped immediately.
- (v) if one boxers applies an effective lock position, for a period of time, the clinch is stopped.
- (vi) if one boxer applies a successful defence technique were no more scoring techniques can be applied, the clinch is stopped.

14.5. Scoring points system:

- 14.5.1. Full ten (10) points are given to the clear winner of the round and his opponent may be given 9 (or 8 points-based on any KD) in proportion. Points are not given in fraction.
- 14.5.2. For an even round, both Athletes score full ten (10) points (10:10). In tournaments a DRAW cannot be given.
- 14.5.3. The clear winner of a round scores ten (10) points and the clear loser scores nine (9) points.

14.5.4. An athlete can be down and not be counted – flash KD, if the referee believes it is was not a substantive blow and the downed athlete recovered immediately. It also gives an advantage to the attacker as the KD athlete has no time to recover.

14.5.5. Scoring a 10-8 round. (8 count scoring).

i. The winner of the round must win the round first, to be awarded a 10-9 round.

ii. If a boxer has been given an 8 count – they then receive a point deduction for the KD, bringing the score to a 10-8 round.

iii. If a boxer is downed twice in one round and given 2 by 8 counts, and they have lost the round they will be deducted a point for each 8 count.

NOTE: The round is scored before the point deduction for the 8 count is given. It is NOT an auto 8 count for a KD as the round must be scored first. It is possible for a athlete to win a round, scored 10-9, BUT be the boxer that was given an 8 count during the round for a KD. This would then be scored 9-9, after the point deduction, then we must bring the score back up to 10-10 as it is 10-10 must system.

A round may be given 10-8 if it is a completely dominated round and an obvious clear win, even without an 8 count. If a KD was counted in the round, the athlete would be deducted a further point bringing the score to a 10-7 round. A 10-7 score may be given if a athlete is completely dominated, given 2 by 8 counts and outclassed. This result should be seriously considered by the referee as a time to stop the bout.

14.5.6. Athletes who have had a point taken by the referee for a foul losses the point after the score is given. So, a 10-9 round is then deducted 1 from the person who lost the point so it could be 9-9 (then brought back to 10-10) or 10-8.

14.5.7. 8 Counts. For A-class. Maximum 3 in one round. The third KD is a stoppage and is not counted). Or 4 over the length of the bout for 3 round bouts.

14.5.8. Juniors - Maximum 2 in one round or 3 over the length of the bout for under 14. Juniors are more strictly controlled and 2 KD from clean and decisive head contact should be stopped.

Rule 15. Fouls

The Athlete who intentionally behaves in any of the following mode is considered foul:

15.1. Biting, eye poking, spitting on the opponent, sticking out tongue to make faces, head butting, striking, or any similar action.

15.2. Throwing, back breaking, locking the opponent's arms, using Judo and wrestling techniques.

15.3. Falling over or going after a fallen opponent or opponent who is getting up. Rope grabbing to fight or for other purposes.

15.4. Using provocative manners and verbal taunts during contest.

15.5. Disobeying the referee's command.

15.6. Knee striking at the groin area (e.g. holding for knee striking at the groin and straight knee striking at the groin area). For such violations, the referee has the right to allow a resting

time-out, not more than five (5) minutes long. If the knee-struck Athlete refuses to continue, the referee shall declare the bout a no contest if the bout is in the first or second round. If the bout is in the 3,4,5 rounds the referee can go to the score cards for a result, disqualify the striker if the intent was serious and calculated. IF a draw at this stage, it is a no contest.

- 15.7.** Catching the opponent's leg and pushing forwards more than two (2) steps without using any weapons. The referee shall order the Athlete to stop and shall give him caution. After two cautions, the referee shall deduct a point from the fouler.
- 15.8.** If an Athlete pretends to fall on the ring floor after his kicking leg is caught or in clinching. This is taking advantage over his opponent and the referee shall give him a caution. If the Athlete repeats the action and the referee has given him two cautions, he shall deduct a point from the fouler.
- 15.9.** When both Athletes fall out of the ring and either Athlete tries to delay getting back into the ring.
- 15.10.** Using forbidden substances as specified by SPORT INTEGRITY AUSTRALIA. Refusing a SIA anti-doping test in or out of competition.
- 15.11.** Violating any of the rules.

Rule 16. A - This is the rule that you have read the rules rule.

Rule 16. Knock Down

An Athlete is down whenever he is in any of the following states:

- 16.1.** Any part of his body, except feet, touches the floor. (no cart-wheel kicks)
- 16.2.** He stands, leans, holds, or sits on the ring ropes to not fall.
- 16.3.** Following a hard hit, he has not fallen and is not lying on the ropes, but is in a semi-conscious state and cannot, in the opinion of the referee, defend adequately and continue the round safely.
- 16.4.** In case the knocked down Athlete manages to stand up and is ready to continue the bout before the referee has counted to “แปด” (PAD) or eight (8). In such case, the referee must continue counting until “แปด” (8) before he orders “ชก” (CHOK) or “fight”.
- 16.5.** If the knocked down Athlete is ready to continue before the count of “สิบ” or ten (10), but he falls again without any additional blow. In such case, the referee shall continue to count from the number he was interrupted at.
- 16.6.** In case the referee has counted out of “สิบ” or ten (10), the bout shall be considered finished. In such case, the referee shall declare the knocked down Athlete to have lost the bout by “knockout.”
- 16.7.** In case both Athletes fall on the ring floor simultaneously, the referee shall proceed on counting and shall keep on counting as long as there is one Athlete on the ring floor. If both Athletes cannot manage to stand up until they are counted out of “สิบ” or ten (10), the referee shall declare a “draw.” In case the Athletes are trying to stand up, but have their arms or legs tangled, or one Athlete is on top of the other, the referee must stop the count

and separate them. He shall then continue his count in case one of the Athletes is still on the ring floor.

16.8. In case of a knockdown, the referee must wait for one (1) second before he begins counting loudly from one to ten with one-second interval. Along with his counting action, the referee must show a hand signal for each second to notify the Athlete of the number of counts.

16.9. In case an Athlete is not ready to continue the bout following a resting interval between rounds, the referee must count, unless it is due to improper dressing.

Rule 17. Ring Doctor and Prohibited Drugs.

17.1. The Ringside Dr has the authority to STOP a contest at anytime based on his/her professional Medical opinion in the interest of the safety of the athletes.

17.2. The ring doctor must be present at a designated seat throughout the competition until the end of the last bout. The following are the ring doctor's duties:

17.2.1. To check the Athlete's physical fitness to compete prior to the bout at the weigh in or before the bout at the competition. The Dr must determine the athlete is performing without any prohibited disease or sickness as specified in the Athlete's Book.

17.2.2. To give advice and suggestions to the referee when requested.

17.2.3. To assist an unconscious Athlete during a bout. Only the ring doctor is permitted to enter the ring. Other individuals may enter the ring if the ring doctor needs special help.

17.2.4. To lend medical assistance for a knocked-out or technically knocked-out Athlete by thoroughly checking immediate treatment.

17.2.5. To check and diagnose the Athletes after their bouts to notify them their recovery periods before the next bout as the following regulations:

- After a five-round bout, the Athletes must rest at least twenty-one (21) days before the next bout.
- The winner in round 1 or 2, must rest at least seven (7) days.
- The winner in a three-round bout or in round 3, must rest at least fourteen (14) days.
- The loser by knockout or technical knockout must rest at least thirty (30) days. In case losing by knockout or technical knockout because of two (2) consecutive KO stoppages, the Athlete must rest at least ninety (90) day's. Any loss by KO must be given a medical clearance before competing again.
- In a 4 or 8-man competition or tournament the rest period of 28 days applies. If the athlete loses in round 1 then normal rest periods apply. A tournament, 4 men or 8 men are considered 1 event.

- 17.3.** It is prohibited to let the Athlete use any drugs or chemical substances, which are not part of the Athlete's usual diet. All SIA prohibited substances apply.
- 17.4.** It is possible to use substance for local anaesthesia, but only with the ring doctor's approval.
- 17.5.** The prohibited substances for Athletes are categorised in accordance with the WADA list of banned substances.
- 17.6.** An Athlete who uses a prohibited substance, or the person who gives the Athlete a prohibited substance, must be penalised by MTA Executive Board and reported to SIA.
- 17.7.** An Athlete or an official who violates regulations of drugs or prohibited substances must be penalised and prohibited from any bout or participation in any Muaythai activities for a period decided by MTA Executive Board.
- 17.8.** Any Athlete who refuses to have a medical check-up following a bout will be prohibited from any bout. Any official who encourages the Athlete to commit such offense will be prohibited from competitions.
- 17.9.** All females 16 years and over MUST have a pregnancy test or complete a pregnancy declaration (and provide evidence) of this within 72hours of the competition.

Rule 18. Domestic Competitions Sanctioned by MTA

- 18.1.** Rules and regulations, as described in this document, shall apply to all domestic MTA competitions equally.
- 18.2.** All international tournaments, Championships, and MTA title bouts must follow MTA protocols for title bouts.
- 18.3.** MTA international competitions or titles MUST be approved by MTA Board.

Rule 19. Interpretation of Unstated Rules

In the case of any complication or if MTA official Rules and Regulations does not provide a clear statement for a given situation, the referee, or the Head officials, shall make the final decision.

MTA state representative should provide advice on the any State legislation effecting the rules.

Female Competitions

Rules and regulations for women's muaythai competition will follow the muaythai competition rules and regulations for men, except for the following adapted supplements:

Rule 20. Attire

- 20.1.** Female Athletes must wear the same attire as male Athletes (muaythai shorts) with the addition of sleeveless, short-sleeved shirts, or a crop top.
- 20.2.** Female Athletes must neatly tie their hair, without tangling ends, which can interfere in the contest. Hair accessories may be rubber or made of elastic cloth. Bands should be of a suitable size and should not contain metal or rigid plastic parts. Hair must be braided or secured to not interfere with the bout, clinching or cause any disadvantage to the opponent. Hair must not obscure vision at any time.

20.3. Head Gear requires females to place their hair inside of the head gear. A hair net under the head gear is recommended.

20.4. Female Athletes must wear a breast (chest) protector, and a groin protector. The Athlete may use her personal protectors if they are approved by MTA.

20.5. Head and body cover: Head and body covers may be worn by athletes to comply with cultural understanding and shall consist of the following: An optional body suit (two piece, tights and top/body suit) of white/black coloured material (one colour only) allowing covering of the legs to the ankles and covering the arms to the wrists. A head covering such as a full sport hijab similar to the Resport. On design or an individual skull cap of white coloured material), or an optional body suit (two piece) of a light colour material covering the legs and arms to the ankles and wrists, as well as a full sport hijab. Only IFMA approved attire can be used to participate in the competitions. (see below)



Rule 21. Weigh-in

21.1. Female Athletes must weigh-in wearing clothes of no altering effect upon the Athlete's weight.

21.2. Weigh-in officials must offer female's a restricted area to weigh in or a weigh-in room that must be a completely covered room or a completely curtained area.

Rule 22. Rounds

22.1. All female bouts MUST follow the same round times as men.

Rule 23. Gender Identification

"TRANSGENDER / GENDER REASSIGNMENT / TRANSEXUAL ATHLETES - Respecting the important element of fair play, MTA, as a gender-affected sport, aims to allow transgender Athletes the ability to compete at the highest level. MTA recognizes the fact that decisions about participation must be taken on an individual basis as the integrity of male and female Muaythai must also be duly respected."

Transgender athletes need to apply to the National executive board to be accepted as a competitor in either the male or female categories. As it is a gendered sport, we must do our utmost to be inclusive of all genders but our first responsibility is to protect our athletes in competition.

Rule 24. Referee and Judges

24.1. Referee and judges in female competitions should endeavour to include female officials were appropriate and qualified.

Section 4 - MTA JUNIOR BOUTS

MTA primary purpose of junior competitions is to develop youth in a safe and organised sporting environment. One off bouts rules may differ from tournaments rules.

Junior matching is predominately done by ability and fairness with many other factors for good risk management examined including: experience, ability, record, height, other Combat Sports competition, weight and age of competitor.

MTA Weight divisions are to be used for all junior bouts. If a rule is required for something not covered, it can be referred to the head judge for adjudication and/or MTA Executive.

As with ALL MTA rules; the jurisdiction of the competition and relevant state legislation (if any) supersedes ALL MTA regulations regarding junior competition. However, the spirit of these rules should be followed. MTA state organisations should always make the case to state legislators regarding MTA rules being the model of competition that is preferred.

Junior Age Division Break Ups and Rules

Overall Guidelines and general rules for ages 17 and Under.

MTA rules and regulations is setup for the safety of Junior Muaythai development in Australia.

All categories have a scale of padding requirements based on the age/experience of the athlete. The padding requirements are based on the junior and less experienced athlete.

AGE BRACKETS – Athletes can cross age brackets if the opponents are not more than 23 months apart in age. The rules for the younger athlete apply.

Waivers (all paperwork) – Must be signed by the legal guardian.

Identification. MTA registration. Birth certificate – passport – school ID or equivalent must be sighted at weigh in to determine proof of age, name and age.

Medical Requirements – All juniors MUST have a medical conducted by a registered medical Dr. The medical must be on an MTA medical form or CSA book. Medicals are valid for 12 months. Blood test are valid for 6 months. Blood tests are not required for children 15 or under.

Registration – ALL junior athletes must be members of MTA registered Club. Individual membership may be required from 2022 and are optional in 2021. Registration is for 12 months. The registration book MUST be used at all competitions including with other organisations to record bout details.

When Safety equipment is MANDATORY and cannot be negotiated or adjusted.

Weigh Ins. Weight Divisions are to be used. Catch weight can be agreed for one off bouts but not titles. *If childrens weights are greater than 4kg different the bout cannot go ahead.* Children can go up or down one weight division in a tournament but not cross one weight division to compete in another division.

Children's weights. All junior bouts are to be conducted under **same day weigh in conditions.** Weigh ins the night before the competition are approved as long as they do not exceed 24hrs. Both athletes MUST weigh in at the same time under the same conditions. All weigh in's are to be between 6:00am and NLT 1 hour from the commencement of the first bout of the event.

Children should not 'cut weight'. MTA does not support any method of junior weight cutting that is in addition to a healthy diet and exercise, so athletes are competing as close to natural weight as

possible. **Any method of dehydration or rapid weight loss is not approved and may result in disqualification of the athlete at the weigh in.**

Age Group break ups for rules.

NOTE: Nationals follow a separate class system that differs from one of matches.

- Juniors are matched for 1 off bouts with children that are no greater than 23 months older or younger. The age division determine the rules and padding required. Children competing up and age MUST be approved by both trainer and Guardian in writing. In one off matches, the padding and rules are set at the younger athlete's age. (for tournaments – a person electing to go up in age/division > competes at the higher divisions rules/padding)
- All junior bouts have a 1 min rest break between rounds.

All junior bouts require the wearing of a Mong Kong while ceiling the ring in all bouts. The Mong Kong can be worn into the ring (over the top rope) or placed on the head inside the ring (after entering through the rope or under them). All juniors must wear Muaythai clothing. All juniors must do the Wai Kru before the bout (ceil the ring). For all titles/finals the athletes may also do three bows.

Compulsory Count limit (CCL).

A count will be given by the referee for the safety of the athlete when there is: A lack of defensive skills and awareness. To prevent the weaker athlete from undue punishment.

The referee will terminate the contest if the bout has reached CCL. For 15 and under the CCL is 2x8 counts in for the entire bout. For 16+ the CCL is 3x8 counts in one round or 4 in entire bout. For a Junior title at 14+ the CCL is increased to 3 for a 5 round bout.

Notes on 8-counts – For children under 18 years; referees and judges must view the bout with added caution and safety than with adults. For children, the imposition of an 8 count on an athlete is not to be an automatic deduction of a point. If however 2 by 8 counts are given in a round, a point should be deducted as it is obvious one athlete is dominate. For children 16 and under, 2 by 8 counts in one round is a stoppage. Judges should consider that an 8 count can be given for an effective strike that downs an opponent, in which case stopping the bout should seriously be considered anyway. An 8 count can also be given by an athlete receiving multiple blows that are undefended, of low or firm impact, as defensive skills must be evident. Multiple clean head shots that off balance an athlete or cause disorientation should be given an 8 count. Head contact that is clean and has evident power (i.e) moving the head or causing off balancing, should be controlled by the referee with an 8 count given for any subsequent or repetitive head contact that is clean and has effectiveness. Single clean kicks or power punches that down an opponent are automatic 8 counts and no advantage is given. Judges can determine if it is a 10-8 round but do not have to give a mandatory 8, for an 8 count if that stoppage is to review the athlete and give them time to recoup *mentally*. The advantage is given to the winner but for juniors, 1 by 8 counts are for safety and not automatic scoring disadvantages.

A junior athlete is stopped if they are downed from a single clean powerful strike to the head, that was firm and obvious, that it was not a slip or flash (or a result of a takedown). A 10 count is not required as the ref can stop it immediately for safety reasons and immediate treatment. If the referee believes the downed athlete was not downed from a clean effective strike to the head, they can count the athlete to determine if they can continue safely.

Rule and guidelines for age divisions.

TYKES - 8 years to 9 years (there is no titles in this division).

This division is MUAYTHAI LIGHT. It is designed for development only. It is a competition however, close bouts can be a draw more often than other divisions. LIGHT means that tykes are officiated strictly. Any head contact receives one warning, 2nd contact is a disqualification. Contact is to be controlled and aimed for skill over power. A tyke can get warned for any lack of control, uncontrolled aggression or infringement. 2 warnings is point deduction. 3 is a disqualification. Tykes are scored on technique, effectiveness, balance, composure and sportsmanship. If one opponents head is pulled down (posture broken), and knees to the body are restricted or head contact is risked, a 5 count is given for safety.

Spans - 8th Birthday until day before his/her 10th Birthday.

- Bouts consist of 3 by 1 min rounds.
- Head strikes are forbidden.
- Takedowns and sweeps are forbidden.
- Elbows are forbidden.

Mandatory MTA approved Protective Equipment:

- Head gear
- 10oz gloves
- Chest guards are mandatory
- Cloth shin guards (to the knee)
- Groin guards.
- Mouth guard

KIDS - 10 years to 11 years (there is no titles in this division).

Spans - 10th Birthday until day before his/her 12th Birthday.

- Bouts consist of 3 by 90 sec rounds.
- For 10 or more bouts – 2 min rounds are authorised.
- Head strikes are forbidden. Fouls are to be immediately pulled up by the referee. 1 warning is given. A point is deducted for a second offence. The bout is stopped if a third warning is required.
- All Muaythai weapons can be used to the body only for 4+ bouts experience. No elbows for 0-3 bouts.

Mandatory MTA approved Protective Equipment:

- Head gear
- 10oz gloves
- Chest guard's compulsory for first 5 bouts.
- Cloth shin guards (to the knee) – mandatory.
- Groin guards
- Mouth guard

Cadets - 12 years to 13 years.

Spans - 12th Birthday until day before his/her 14th Birthday.

- State/Australian Title bouts are 5 by 2 min. Athletes MUST exceed 10 bouts experience.
- Bouts consist of 3 by 90 second rounds for children with less than 5 bouts. For 5 bouts or more bouts are 2 min rounds. All bouts are 3 rounds maximum.
- Head strikes are allowed with boxing and kicking (no elbows or knees to the head). Fouls are to be immediately pulled up by the referee. 1 warning is given. A second warning is an automatic point deduction. The bout is stopped if a third warning is required.
- All other Muaythai weapons can be used to the body only. Losing posture in the clinch is a negative and will be viewed by judges as a weakness and that the defender is not adequately defending themselves.

Mandatory MTA approved Protective Equipment:

- Head gear
- 10oz gloves
- Chest guards – for first 5 bouts.
- Cloth shin guards (to the knee) – Optional after 10 bouts.
- Groin guards for males and females
- Elbow guards - mandatory
- Mouth guard

Cadets - 14 years to 15 years (State and National's titles can be held in this division).

Spans - 14th Birthday until day before his/her 16th Birthday.

- 0-3 bouts experience is NO Elbows.
- Bouts consist of 3 by 2 minute. Title bouts are 5 by 2 minute. 1 min rest
- 90 sec bouts can be approved.
- Head strikes are allowed in accordance with MTA rules.
- *For the athletes first 3 bouts – elbows are not permitted to the head.*

Mandatory MTA approved Protective Equipment:

- Head gear
- 10oz gloves
- Elbow guards - mandatory
- Chest guards – (for first 5 bouts)
- Cloth shin guards (to the knee). Optional after 10 bouts.
- Groin guard
- Mouth guard
- Female breast guard. (not required if wearing a chest guard)

Junior's - 16 years to 17 years (State and National's titles can be held in this division).

Spans - 16th Birthday until day before his/her 18th Birthday.

- 0-3 bouts experience is NO Elbows.
- Bouts consist of 3 by 2 minute. Title bouts are 5 by 2 minute. 1 min rest
- Head strikes are allowed in accordance with the general MTA rules.
- For the athletes first 3 bouts – elbows are not permitted to the head.

Mandatory MTA approved Protective Equipment:

- Head gear – mandatory
- 10oz gloves
- Elbow guards – mandatory
- Cloth shin guards (to the knee). Optional after 5 bouts.
- Groin guards for males and females
- Female chest guard – mandatory. (not required if wearing a chest guard)
- Mouth guard – form fitted required.
- Chest guard – (optional for first 5 bouts)

Junior Titles – state and national

Junior titles are available from 12 years. Each state can determine eligibility in the state for junior titles. National titles are to follow all title protocols. State titles can be approved at state level. All title decisions must be done based on the principles of, best available athletes based on rankings. All title decisions must be decided by people with no – ‘conflict of interest’ in the awarding of the title bout. At all ages and levels, MTA MUST maintain credibility and set itself as the highest standard in Muaythai.

Presentation/Titles belts – Athletes at normal bouts should be awarded medals. State and national Champions are awarded at MTA Nationals or state events. Junior state or national titles can be awarded belts or trophies depending on the state.

Junior records – Are kept concurrent from joining but are also recorded per age.

Stadium belts for juniors is not authorized for MTA shows.

ADDITIONAL JUNIOR COMPETITION RULES (17 YEARS AND UNDER)

Rules and regulations for Muaythai competition for Athletes under the full age of 18 years old will follow the Muaythai competition rules and regulations for adults described in Section 2, except for the following adapted supplements:

Age date is determined by the age at the day of the weigh in for the competition.

Rule 25. Gloves

Glove sizes for competitions for Athletes under the full age of 18 years old must be 10oz gloves and follow the same rules as per adults regarding Velcro or lace up.

Rule 26. Weight Divisions and Weigh-in.

26.1. Athletes under the full age of 18 years old follow the JUNIOR weight division Weight division for each age and category are detailed in the junior section of the rules.

Rule 27. Juniors v's Adults

27.1. In the exceptional case that an Athlete under the age of 18 full years old participates in a competition against an Athlete whose full age is 18 years old, the rules and regulations for competition for under 18 full years old Athletes shall be applied.

27.2. The minimum age for an Athlete to compete against an adult is 16 years at the date of the bout. A junior cannot compete with someone more than 5 years their senior.

27.3. Parental permission is required for every bout and must be provided to MTA for permission for the bout to occur.

27.4. Juniors cannot compete with Adults for titles.

27.5. A junior 15 years or under cannot compete against an adult under any circumstances.

MTA JUNIOR WEIGHT DIVISIONS

All weights are in kilograms.

Tykes – 8 years to 9 years – Boys & Girls.

22- 25 / 25 – 28 / 28 – 31 / 31-33 / 33-36 / 36-39 / 39-42 / 42-45

45kg+ (weight spread between athletes must not exceed 3kg)

Kids – 10 years to 11 years – Girls & Boys

28 – 31 / 31-33 / 33-36 / 36-39 / 39-42 / 42-45 / 45 – 48/ 48-51

51kg+ plus (weight spread between athletes must not exceed 4kg)

Cadets – 12 years to 13years – Boys & Girls

31-33 / 33-36 / 36-39 / 39-42 / 42-45 / 45 – 48/ 48-51 / 51-54 / 54-57 /

As per adult weights (weight spread between athletes must not exceed 3kg)

Juniors – 14 years to 15years – Boys & Girls

36-39 / 39-42 / 42-45 / 45 – 48/ 48-51 / 51-54 / 54-57 / 57-60 / 60-63.5 / 63.5-67

As per adult weights (weight spread between athletes must not exceed 4kg)

Youth - 16 years to 17years – Boys & Girls

42-45 / 45 – 48 / 48-51 / 51-54 / 54-57 / 57-60 / 60-63.5 / / 67-71 / 71-75

75-81 / 81-86 / 86-91 / 91-95/ 95kg+Open

This would also require:

Kids can only go up 1 division for tournaments.