Ontario supports safe participation in amateur combative sports.

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

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

Safe participation in a legal amateur combative sport contest

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

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

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

A legal amateur combative sport contest will display the following wording on all contest advertising:

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

Participation in amateur combative sport activities

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

Unapproved amateur combative sport contests are illegal

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

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

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

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

For more information about participating in combative sport activities, please contact the Provincial Sport Organization (http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/sport/sport/pso_listing.shtml) or seek legal advice.