



**MUAYTHAI AUSTRALIA**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**13 APRIL 2019**  
**TALLEBUDGERA, QLD**

**Attendees**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Representative</b>
MTA President	Richard Walsh
MTA General Secretary	Anthony Manning
MTA Financial Director	Trevor Lawler
MTA National Coach	Leon Spain
MTA WA President	Darren Reece
MTA QLD President	Richard Walsh
R / MTA NSW President	Luis Regis
R / MTA VIC President	Jason
MTA National Doctor/Medical Advisor	Ben Manion
MTA Administration	Melina Yung
MTA Administration (Secretariat)	Joselyn Eling
MTA Club Representatives	Refer to Sign in sheet

**Apologies**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Representative</b>
MTA SA Representative	Carly Gangell
MTA VIC President	Sy Nadji
MTA Director of Judges & Referees	Elias Dolaptsis
MTA NSW President	Andrew Parnham
MTA NT Representative	Corey Impelmans

**1. Welcome**

MTA General Secretary opened the meeting at 10:05am. Attendees were welcomed and previous AGM minutes were accepted.

Next AGM scheduled for December/January 2019. All MTA Executive Board positions will be up for voting at this meeting.

## **2. MTA President Address**

President thanked the Financial Director and General Secretary for all of their efforts over this weekend and in general.

All attendees were encouraged to get more involved with MTA in whatever ways they can or want to. MTA President explained that through having more members involved, the weight of the work involved in running the MTA is distributed, which grants better results. All members are always invited to provide feedback, challenge process and put arguments forward in regards to the running of the MTA. By having a variety of members with diverse views and opinions, it keeps each member of the MTA accountable and allows the organisation to accommodate everyone's needs, not just those in charge.

MTA President discussed the upcoming Arafura Games. Arafura is a large, multi-sport event, and MTA has invested a lot of money in supporting athletes to attend and represent Australia. It promises to be a good event, and we are expecting strong results from our Australia team.

The importance of the annual MTA National Championships was discussed. It is fantastic to see so many clubs and members attending and taking part in the event. As well as this involvement, clubs are asked to promote the event as much as possible in their home towns, and via social media, word of mouth etc. This is the only way the event will continue to grow and we will get more clubs involved to make it even better for everyone.

## **3. MTA Financial Director Update**

MTA Financial Director provided a review of the 2017-18 Financial Year. The number of MTA members has increased from around 95 members to 163 current active members. For 2017-18FY, MTA had an opening balance of \$15,433.68, with a closing balance of \$80,960.60. While this seems impressive, this is mostly due to payments being made to IFMA for the Bangkok Junior World Championships just prior to start of financial year. This financial year, the MTA totalled around \$267,000 incoming finance, with a debit of around \$211,000 in expenses.

From the previous MTA National Championships alone, MTA made around \$9,000 profit. This income is used to assist in the running of the organisation and associated events, and increasingly goes back to supporting athletes representing Australia.

MTA Financial Director ran through an explanation of the MTA banking set up. All expenditure from the MTA billing account must be approved by a minimum of two signatories before it can be paid. Historically, this has not always been the case, and has allowed individuals to access and spend MTA funds without oversight or pre-approval. Since this was identified, it has now been rectified and promotes transparency and accountability in all MTA financial dealings.

MTA Financial reporting accepted by all attendees.

The Australian Government predominantly provides funding only to current Olympic sports, and therefore Muay Thai is unfunded by the Australian Government. All applications to the government for funding must be accompanied by MTA financial reporting, which has been an issue in the past. Profit and loss statements will soon be posted on the MTA website which will provide further transparency and will also assist the MTA in demonstrating their financial situation when applying for funding grants from the government. As it stands, the MTA is focussing on funding more events and paying for more expenses for athletes to compete, but this relies on incoming funding.

The MTA Executive Board has voted their endorsement of expenditure for the design and implementation of two training courses. One course is designed to develop referees and judges, and the other will be for Muay Thai trainers. These will be developed in order to standardise and legitimise Muay Thai qualifications, which in turn helps us grow the sport and seek government support.

MTA Financial Director lastly thanked the General Secretary and other MTA members, and gave his compliments to the MTA General Secretary for his work and commitment over the last 12-18 months.

#### **4. MTA State and Territory President Updates**

##### **4.1 MTA NT Representative Update**

- Nil

##### **4.2 MTA NSW President Update**

- 2018 was a good year for NSW, with MTA NSW becoming officially incorporated and registered as a not-for-profit organisation
- The MTA NSW board has been voted in, with Andrew Parnham as state president, Shane Greenwood as treasurer, Trevor Lawler as head R&J
- MTA NSW has grown from 56 members to 70
- NSW State Championships continues to grow.
- NSW hosted 9 development days, with a total of 414 participants.
- MTA NSW has also been organising and hosting official training sessions, first aid certification etc. to help meet Combat Sports Authority (CSA) compliance.
- NSW CSA has been challenging, but MTA NSW have built a strong relationship with them and they are getting much easier to work with.
- NSW current environment helps bring students in, as it allows a clear pathway for fighters from new students all the way up to professional fighters, step by step.

##### **4.3 MTA QLD President Update**

- MTA QLD now runs as 'North' and 'South'. Pat works as head of North QLD, with Al and Steven Wilson running South QLD.
- Muay Thai in QLD is currently unregulated by the Australian Government, so they don't have the same strict governance to adhere to as other states do.
- MTA QLD planning on building the development days and pathway building.
- Referee and judges course was run last weekend, with more to be run across the state.

#### **4.4 MTA SA Representative Update**

- MTA SA is backup and running MTA shows and have had two this month alone.
- MTA SA has a new Rep and will be forming a board and NFP association by the end of 2019.

#### **4.5 MTA WA President Update**

- New MTA WA board was voted in in September 2018, with Darren Reece as state president, Andrew Nelson as state secretary, Darius Boyd as head official, Dean Wilson as youth director and Tony Fisher as financial director.
- MTA WA has been working on building good rapport with new and existing MTA members.
- Eight new members have joined, and another four members have re-joined following the introduction of the new board. MTA WA also picked up two promotions which had previously dropped off: Futures and Domination.
- The not-for-profit certification for MTA WA is in progress.
- MTA WA has held four inter-club sparring days this year, specifically for developing juniors. A different gym hosts each event, and they use the opportunity for fundraising and to build rapport through sausage sizzles etc.
- There is strict governance around Muay Thai in WA, and juniors cannot compete under 12 years of age. Events like the MTA Nationals help to build the athletes understanding of IFMA and Olympic events.

#### **4.6 MTA VIC President Update**

- Over the last 12 months, MTA VIC have run seven professional shows as well as four development days (which are run free of charge) to try and encourage more clubs to join MTA.
- MTA Nationals is very important for VIC because they currently have no junior events run in Victoria, which limits development opportunities for the juniors.
- MTA VIC hosted one WMC Australian title fight (River Daz)
- MTA VIC continues to grow, and they are expecting a big year in 2019.

### **5. 2018 World Championships Report**

MTA National Coach thanked all of the supporting team at the IFMA World Championships last year. Some juniors were unprepared when it came to the fights, mostly through lack of experience. Trainers are encourage to really make an effort to get their juniors fighting more often so that they can keep up with the level of fighters who attend the IFMA World Championships. Other countries are too competitive, with many having minimum number of fights to even qualify for their national team.

Some coaches wanted to do their own thing, which caused issues for the whole team. All attendees need to focus on the Australia Team as a whole for World Championship events; in that setting there are no gyms/clubs, just one solid Aussie team. This helps build a team environment and builds success instead of creating divides in the team.

Overall the Australian team had a good success rate, and all of the kids competing tried hard. Some kids struggled with weight cutting, and it effected the fight when it came down to crunch time. MTA National Coach was overall very happy with the event.

Because of the distance and cost, it's expected that it will be a much smaller team for the 2019 Junior World Championships in Turkey but will hopefully be a high quality one.

## **6. IFMA/WMC Update – 2019 and beyond**

MTA has been working with IFMA to establish better promotion of WMC in Australia. This also means more Australians will get credible shots at WMC World titles.

IFMA Junior World Championships are scheduled for September 2019 in Turkey.

IFMA Adult World Championships will be held in Bangkok in July 2019. There has been some changes to the World Championships, with the removal of A and B classes for males. This has been replaced by an under 23 division. Australia is not competitive in the World Championships, primarily because we do not receive the government support and funding which other countries do. We need to acknowledge that winning gold at Nationals does not compare to representing at worlds. We need to be harsher in our selection process and raise the standards so that fighters representing Australia will be both safe and competitive when competing at IFMA events.

## **7. MTA General Secretary Update**

MTA General Secretary gave an introduction of the board members and administration. Of particular note, the board now includes a National Doctor / Medical Advisor for the first time. The doctor will assist in advising MTA in medical issues/areas of consideration and will also represent Muay Thai in governmental and medical discussions regarding combat sports.

Great to have so many State Presidents working hard to progress Muay Thai. In the coming months WA and NT will be combined as a region, as ACT and NSW are combined and TAS and VIC are combined.

While MTA QLD has noted they are currently unregulated by government, they should look forward to regulation/governance and engage with the government early to ensure we are best placed to inform and influence the development of regulation and the outcome. If MTA QLD members don't get involved in this, someone else will for their own benefit, and MTA QLD will be stuck with whatever that governance is.

MTA members should check the website for our own governance. Australian Government focus is very much on child protection (child safety, anti-bullying, harassment etc.) There is MTA governance online to address and manage this, and MTA members need to be familiar with it and deal with any issues accordingly. The MTA General Secretary is always happy to help advise on any problems which may arise.

ASADA will be at MTA National Championships on 14 April 2019, and will randomly test a selection of gold medal winners. Athletes will be grabbed as soon as they exit the ring

after their fight, and will not be able to leave until the testing is complete. Athletes and trainers are encouraged to be polite and respectful of ASADA reps, and comply with any requests. This is good for the sport as it promotes legitimacy and transparency. Positive test results will be investigated, and athletes, trainers and/or officials may be banned from the sport if they are substantiated. Three athletes last year were also randomly tested outside of competitions, for professional athletes. Push and promote the fact that we are ASADA compliant, because we are the only Muay Thai or kickboxing organisation which is ASADA compliant in Australia at this stage, and government officials appreciate that.

## **8. Sub-Committee Reports**

### **8.1 General Secretary**

- Brief explanation of sub-committees and a call for members to nominate for positions in MTA sub-committees.

## **9. Rankings Report**

MTA General Secretary gave an introduction of MTA Admin, as well as an overview of the rankings process. MTA are working towards complete credibility and accuracy in rankings, and invites all MTA members to provide feedback on the process when needed, including calling out errors or individuals who do not meet the rankings criteria.

Rankings were recently changed from WMC weight divisions to MTA/IFMA weight divisions. These will likely be changed back soon.

Rankings calculations are currently based on a mathematic calculation based on number of fights. This process may be reviewed, e.g. if you beat someone ranked above you, you should be moved above them in rankings, however any changes to the ranking process must be quantifiable to ensure integrity is maintained.

## **10. Other Business**

MTA AGM undertook a vote on the proposed changes to the MTA Constitution. The General Secretary outlined the proposed changes and invited all attendees to review changes. Results of the vote were collected and tallied by MTA Administration, with a total of 18 yes votes (approving changes) and nil no votes (rejecting changes).

## **11. Closing Comments**

MTA General Secretary closed the meeting at 11:10am.