



## **Notice to MTA Members**

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### **Notice to MTA members regarding international Muaythai events**

As our MTA members will be aware, Muaythai Australia holds annual Australian Muaythai National Championships for athletes across the country to compete for a gold medal. The MTA National Championships in turn feed into the International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA) Muaythai World Championships. The World Championships are held in different member countries each year and bring together the world's best Muaythai athletes to compete for the gold medal in their age and weight division.

There are many other organisations, businesses and associations which hold their own international Muaythai events across the world. Usually, these events are marketed as 'World Championships' or 'World Titles'. World Championships and Titles are only as legitimate as the organization which is promoting them, and there are many reasons why competing at the IFMA World Championships is considered one of the most prestigious achievements for Muaythai athletes. When considering competing in international Muaythai events, MTA members should carefully consider the following:

#### ***Recognition by the highest bodies in sport and government***

Muaythai Australia is the recognised National Sporting Organisation (NSO) for Muaythai in Australia. This means that the Australian Sports Commission recognises MTA as the preeminent body for the development of Muaythai in Australia. For this reason, the MTA Australian team proudly displays the Australian Sports Commission and Australian Government logo proudly on our team tracksuits when competing internationally. The MTA National Championships assists in building an Australian National team for the IFMA World Championships. IFMA was granted recognition by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in December 2016, making IFMA the only organisation to achieve IOC recognition for the sport of Muaythai. IFMA provides the pathway for Muaythai athletes to one day compete in the Olympic Games and be recognised as Olympic medalists. The Youth Olympics, World Games, Asian Games are recognized pathways that link to this same development process.

The WMC is also a important part of this recognition and credibility. Now amalgamated with IFMA, the WMC is still recognized by the Thai Government and patronized by the Thai Royal family as the peak international organisation for representing Muaythai. The WMC is the professional arm of the MTA in Australia.

#### ***Selection processes are credible***

The athletes which comprise the Australian National Muaythai Team each year are selected via a transparent and governed process managed by MTA. This is in line with other Australian sporting teams and Australian Sports Commission approved policies. This includes competing for a spot on the team at the MTA National Championships and is based on athlete merit and accomplishment, to ensure that only the best and most deserving athletes have the opportunity to represent their country. Many other organisations do not have any sort of transparent selection process in place. Resulting teams therefore may not represent athletes who are representative of the talent Australia can offer. They degrade the achievements of the true Australian team and are not recognized by the sports commission or Australian government sporting bodies.

## ***Funding***

Because of MTA's status as the NSO for Muaythai in Australia, MTA athletes may in some circumstances be eligible to apply for funding towards their participation in National and World Championships. The Australian Sports Commission offers funding grants to athletes, particularly youth and female leaders in their chosen sport, which are only available to athletes competing in NSO sanctioned national or international events. Athletes competing in events run by other organisations are not eligible for government funding. Funding grants vary each financial year and the only chance of increased athlete funding is through the MTA.

## ***Safety and Regulation***

MTA is recognized by the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA), and has a robust anti-doping policy in place. All MTA events, clubs and athletes can be subject to drug testing, which ensures fair play for all and the safety of all participants. MTA also adheres to rules and regulations surrounding blood and medical testing for competitors, safe weight cutting processes, and behavioral codes of conduct to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of athletes is the number one priority at all times. Internationally, IFMA is recognized by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) which ensures that the same standards in relation to drug testing are upheld at all IFMA events, ensuring that the IFMA World Championships are safe and fair competitions. Many other organisations have no drug testing, medical, or behavioral regulations in place, leaving the athletes' safety at risk.

## ***Insurance internationally.***

IFMA has insurance at their events for athletes. The MTA can get insurance for athletes competing internationally on other events if requested through our contacts as an NSO. Please check if your intending on competing overseas in any event their insurance cover as most travel insurance does not cover Muaythai competition.

## ***Conflict of interest.***

All sporting bodies that enjoy the highest government and international sporting recognition have conflict of interest policies and the MTA is consistent in this approach. If you choose to represent another body that operates in competition to the MTA, you are unable to represent the MTA in an official capacity.

Athletes are encouraged to consider all of the above implications when deciding which events to participate in.

For more information on the recognised pathways to World Championships, governance, recognition, and selection processes please go to:

<http://www.muaythaiaustralia.com.au/about/>



Regards

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MTA