**NATIONAL TITLE POLICY FOR WMC and MTA TITLES.**

Oct 2019.

WMC (World Muaythai Council) is the brand utilised by the MTA for Professional (A-Class) Titles.

MTA (Muaythai Australia) Titles are for B-class athletes. B-class athletes are intended as the traditional amateur titles however in some states, due to CSA registration requirements, they can be contested by professional or amateur registered fighters if they meet the requirements of B-Class athletes.

The winner of the MTA nationals is the MTA national Champion. There is NO MTA national B-class (AMATUER) titles. There is MTA junior titles available at state and national level. MTA B-Class titles are held at a state title level only.

National Titles are voted on by the Titles and Rankings Commission/National board. Titles are checked for policy adherence by the General Secretary of the MTA prior to approval. MTA endorsed titles are for the most scrutinised and evaluated matches in Australia in order to provide the most credible title holders in Australia. This is based on a voted decision form the titles and sanctioning committee who must follow this policy, ensure fairplay, equity and opportunity is giving to the best fighters in the country. A title decision is out of the promoter’s hands, to ensure credible and worthy titles are endorsed only. Title fights are intended as the best fighters in that weight division that are active, available to fight and worthy of the match and title. Promoters can match the fight proposed however the approval of the fight being for a title comes as the next step. No advertising of a title is authorised until the title is approved.

# Eligibility

* WMC Titles are contended for athletes who are ranked in the top 5 of their weight division on the MTA rankings.
* WMC Australian Titles are in accordance with the rules for A-class – professional athletes.
* Australian Titles should be between fighters from different states that hold their respective state titles. (If a fighter does not hold the state title, the state title holder must be given first priority for the title fight. If the state title is vacant, the opponent should be ranked in the top 2 in that state, with priority given to the highest ranked fighter first.
* For credible Australian titles - people from the same state fighting each other should be avoided unless they are the best two fighters in the country. Fighters from the same state can fight for a national title if approved by the titles commission, only if they are both in the top 3 rankings, and one of them has a state title/or is the national title holder, and a person from another state has been given a title shot first and no other suitable options are available.
* Only A-class athletes/registered professionals can fight for WMC national professional titles.
* A fighter from a state with no Government registration that fights a pro from another state is deemed to be a Pro with the MTA. Being a pro does not mean you are A-class, that is based on fighting A-class rules and being top ranked.
* Contestant must be an Australian Citizen or a Permanent Resident of Australia and provide evidence.
* A title contestant should have won 3 of their last 5 bouts. (if against someone from the same state) to be eligible. If a fighter has been fighting internationally or ‘up a level’ this can be taken into consideration.
* If a fighter is vying for a title in a weight division, that they are not ranked. Consideration must be given for the fighters that are ranked in that weight division first. A fighter should of fought at the nominated weight at least once to be considered. (exemptions can be given for Juniors or people with few people in their division that have little choice to move divisions to get fights).
* All Title Applications will be decided on by the MTA Title Commission/National board and will be approved on a case by case basis.
* All titles will be advised to the MTA Board and promoter once approved. The decision to hold the title can be over turned if the criteria for the title is not meant or the MTA Board has additional information that may not have been considered.
* Before approval – the titles commission must consider if the promoter has done due diligence in attempting to get to the highest ranked and most suitable fighters for the title. That all eligible fighters are given the opportunity before an application is presented for approval. Promoters must not advise athletes the fight is for a titles unless approved.

# Rules

* All fighters must be of suitable character to be a National Champion of Muaythai. (follow the MTA code of conduct)
* Adult title fights MUST be between persons 18 years or older.
* Junior Titles follow the same process and are between juniors only BUT are not WMC professional titles.
* State legislation and/or MTA rules as applicable is to be followed.
* An athlete can hold titles in multiple weight divisions if approved.
* All athletes must be from MTA registered clubs.
* All athletes must be an MTA athlete member.

# Defences

* It is MTA priority to keep each weight division active and for all titles to be defended regularly.
* The current champion may decline a challenge only once in the first 6 months of becoming champion (the “initial period”).
* After this initial period has passed, the Champion must make a mandatory defence. This mandatory defence may come in the form of a challenge from another fighter appropriately ranked or from an opponent selected for them by the MTA.
* Failure to comply with the above mentioned “Title Defence” policy will result in the fighter being stripped of his/her title.
* If a fighter cannot make a defence due to illness or injury the MTA reserves the right to ask for a health assessment done by a Physician of the Associations choice.
* If a period of 12 months passes with no defences made, mandatory or not, the title will become vacant. A athlete can maintain the title in name for 24 months if not challenged or no opportunity arises to defend the title.
* If a title is undefended due to no suitable available opponents (at required level), or no opportunity to compete for the titles outside of the fighters control – like a promoter not hosting a title for the athlete, the title holder can remain the holder, by name, and must be given the first opportunity to defend the title before others can attend the title.
* If the State Champion wins a National Title he/she will automatically vacate their State Title.
* The challenger should have previously fought in the division they are challenging the title in. If they have not, they cannot be approved if other athletes in the correct division are available.

Muay Thai Australia will endeavour to follow all the above Policy. From time to time there may be extenuating circumstances that do not strictly fit with in the above terms. When circumstances like these arise the MTA Titles Commission will make decisions on a case by case basis. All Title Commission decisions will be reviewed by the General Secretary for process and policy.

**An athlete can be stripped of a title for breaches of any MTA policy/code of conduct or if their individual or their club membership lapses**.

Payment – The financial reimbursement for title bouts is an agreement between the promoter and the athletes and not the business of the MTA. The MTA can approve an athlete lower ranked, if the high ranked fighter requests a purse to defend or contest a title that the believes is not reasonable based on the level of fight, market forces and normal fighter purses available.

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**Conflict of Interest.**

At no point in the decision process should a person with any perceived or actual conflict of interest have a vote on the title. That person MUST remove themselves from the process at the outset.

**All MTA representative’s MUST educate promoters/trainers and the viewing public regarding what an WMC title is and the difference between MTA and WMC titles. The more people that understand the titles are for the best available and most deserving athletes, the better the sport will be.**

**Title fights MUST be for fighter at a calibre worthy of being a**

**Australian Champion.**

**The reputation of every title and the MTA is at stake – every title.**