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**MTA STATE TITLE POLICY FOR WMC/MTA TITLES.**

Oct 2019.

**MTA has A-Class (Professional) and B-Class (Amateur) State Titles.**

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.

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. State Titles are voted on by the state MTA board. In the absence of an established state board, the national title commission can determine, based on the advice of the state rep if the fighters proposed are suitable for the state title. 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. The state board must follow this policy, ensure fairplay, equity and opportunity is giving to the best fighters in the state. A promoter applies for a title but cannot advertise the title until formal approval is given by the MTA. 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.

MTA professional titles are only for A-class (professionals) athletes. MTA Amateurs titles can be approved at a state level if that state is approved by the MTA to conduct MTA B-class (Amateur) Titles. There is NO MTA amateur national titles. There is MTA junior titles available on application.

# Eligibility

* All titles must follow MTA rules and abide by state legislation.
* WMC titles are for A-class and professional athletes only.
* MTA amateur titles are for B-class – amateur athletes only.
* Titles are contended for by athletes who are ranked in the top 10 of their weight division on the MTA national rankings. They must also be top 5 when measured against others from the same state for state titles.
* MTA titles must be in the weight divisions listed in the MTA rules for one off bouts.
* State Titles must be between fighters from the same state unless a state is managed jointly. (This includes states that support each other, ACT/NSW – QLD/NT – VIC/TAS).
* Only MTA registered athletes can contend MTA titles.
* Only athletes from MTA registered and financial clubs can apply for MTA/WMC titles.
* Only A-class athletes or registered professionals can fight for 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, they are not ranked. Consideration must be given for the fighters that are ranked in the weight division first. A fighter should have 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).
* If any fighter in the rankings is ineligible for any of the above reasons, they will be removed from the rankings for the selection process.
* Al titles will be decided on a case by case basis in the best interests of Muaythai, the MTA and the credibility of the titles.
* All titles will be advised to the MTA Board 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 in the state level decision.
* The titles commission (and board) 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.

# Additional Rules

* All fighters must be of suitable character to be a State 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 between juniors only BUT are not 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.

# 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 (This first 6 months will be known as 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 its right ask for a health assessment done by a Physician of the Federations choice.
* If a period of 12 months passes with no defences made, mandatory or not, the title will become vacant.
* 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 can not be approved if other athletes in the correct division are available.

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

Muaythai 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 and or executive will make decisions on a case by case basis. All Title Commission decisions will be reviewed by the General Secretary for process and policy.

**Conflict of Interest.**

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

**All state representative MUST educate promoters/trainers and the viewing public regarding what an MTA title and WMC title is. 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 state title holder.**

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