

Controlled Sports Regulation 2019

Subordinate law SL2019–26

made under the

Controlled Sports Act 2019, s15 (2)(e) (application requirements – individuals); s16 (2)(d) (application requirements – corporations); s20 (2) (controlled sports official registration – conditions); s22 (2)(b) (controlled sports official registration – renewal); s25 (3) (e) (application for registration as controlled sports contestant); s29 (2) (controlled sports contestant registration – conditions); s31 (2)(b) (controlled sports contestant registration – renewal); s34 (2)(d) (application to register a controlled sports event); s37 (a) (minimum age for contestants); s57 (1)(f) (registered medical practitioner – duties); s62 (2) (Non-registrable events must be approved by authorised controlled sports body); s63 (3)(d) (Declaration of authorised controlled sports body); s64(2) (Person conducting event must tell registrar about non-registrable event); s66 (a) (minimum age for contestants); Part 4 (Definitions- Act, dictionary).

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This explanatory statement relates to the Controlled Sports Regulation 2019. It has been prepared in order to assist the reader of the Regulation. It does not form part of the Regulation and has not been endorsed by the Legislative Assembly. The statement is to be read in conjunction with the Regulation. It is not, and is not meant to be, a comprehensive description of the Regulation.

OUTLINE

The *Controlled Sports Act 2019* commences on 11 October 2019.

The Act regulates the conduct of controlled sports events in the ACT. A controlled sport is a combat sport, or any other high risk sport or activity defined in regulation. Only combat sports are covered by the Act at the time of writing this Explanatory Statement. A combat sport is a sport or activity in which a person strikes, kicks, hits, grapples with, throws or punches another person.

Combat sports present a number of public safety risks, from physical harm to contestants through to public safety in the conduct of events and the potential for exploitation given the value of rewards being offered for particular contests and revenue generated through the event. Consultation and research have highlighted the potential for criminal associations within some parts of the industry.

Section 12 of the Act creates the position of Registrar of Controlled Sports (registrar) to undertake a number of decision-based functions within the Act. This includes matters such as decisions on registrations and considerations of public interest,

registered event approvals, and considerations on suspension or cancellation of registration. The Regulation supports this decision-making process and make it clear what requirements must be met for certain registration applications and what conditions may apply to such registration. The regulations also set out what conditions may apply to approval and conduct of registrable and non-registrable controlled sports events.

The specific objectives of the Regulation are to set out:

- requirements for applying to be an official or a contestant in a controlled sport event
- conditions applying to registration as an official or contestant in a controlled sport event
- requirements relating to applications to register a controlled sport event
- conditions for approved non-registrable controlled sport events
- requirements for notification of non-registrable controlled sports events to the registrar
- requirements for medical reporting at a registered controlled sport event, and
- minimum ages for contestants at registered and non-registrable controlled sports events.

The *Human Rights Act 2004*, as well as the principles of the *Discrimination Act 1991* have been considered and applied during the development of the Regulation. When the registrar or delegated officers undertake assessments and make decisions they must comply with impacting ACT legislation, such as the *Human Rights Act 2004*, *Discrimination Act 1991*, *Information Privacy Act 2014* and the *Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997*.

All decisions made regarding registrations are reviewable.

CLAUSE NOTES

PART 1 PRELIMINARY

Clause 1 Name of Regulation

This clause provides for the name of the regulation.

Clause 2 Commencement

This clause allows for the regulation to commence on commencement of the *Controlled Sports Act 2019*, section 3. That Act, including section 3, commences on 11 October 2019.

Clause 3 Dictionary

This clause refers to the dictionary that defines commonly used terms in the regulation.

Clause 4 Notes

This clause makes it clear that the notes in the regulation are explanatory only and do not form part of the substantive provisions of the regulation.

Clause 5 Offences against regulation – application of Criminal Code etc.

This clause makes it clear that other legislation applies in relation to offences against this regulation.

PART 2 CONTROLLED SPORTS REGISTRATION

Clause 6 Individual registration as controlled sports official – application requirements – Act, s15 (2) (e)

This clause states that photographic evidence is required to confirm an applicant's identity. Applicants will be expected to provide an identity document, from an official source, that includes a photograph of the holder. Examples of suitable identity documents for this purpose include a driver's licence, a proof of age card or a passport.

Clause 7 – Corporation registration as a controlled sports official – application requirements – Act, s16(2)(d)

This clause states that photographic evidence is required to confirm the identity of each relevant person for the corporation. The term relevant person is defined in the Dictionary of the *Controlled Sports Act 2019* as an executive officer of the corporation, or a person who may exercise a relevant power in relation to the corporation.

The corporation will be expected to provide an identity document for each relevant person, from an official source, that includes a photograph of the holder. Examples of suitable identity documents for this purpose include a driver's licence, a proof of age card or a passport.

Clause 8 - Controlled sports official registration – conditions – Act, s20 (2)

This clause states the conditions of registration for a registered controlled sports official.

Sub-clause (1) (a) relates to taking directions from the registrar, an appointed inspector under the Act and registered medical practitioner. This makes it clear that officials must comply with directions given by those listed at events (or during event preparation). It is intended to improve safety and integrity processes by ensuring that compliance with such directions are established in law.

A direction may be related to a number of matters, but may include things like a direction to stop a contest where there is an identified safety risk to a contestant, a direction not to proceed with a contest due to a safety issue or a direction to cancel an event due to an identified integrity or public order issue.

Sub-clause (1) (b) requires the official to inform the registrar of any change to the official's address or contact details, to be updated in the official's registration record on the register.

Clause 9 – Controlled sports official registration – renewal application requirements – Act, s22(2)(b)

This clause states the requirements that the registrar must consider in deciding an application for renewal of registration as a controlled sports official.

Sub-clause (a) applies where the controlled sports official seeking renewal of registration is an individual. Under this provision the registrar must consider matters going to evidence of the renewal applicant's identity, the capacity in which they are seeking renewal of registration (i.e. whether it is the same capacity in which their existing registration was granted), and whether the applicant has provided a written statement on whether they have incurred a criminal conviction in the previous five years or has had their registration suspended or cancelled under the Act or a corresponding law. The registrar must also consider whether the applicant has given a consent to criminal history checking and the obtaining of information from by any entity that is relevant to renewal of registration.

Sub-clause (b) applies where the controlled sports official seeking renewal of registration is a corporation, which applies to applications for promoters only. Under this provision the registrar must consider matters going to evidence of the identity of each relevant person for the corporation, the name and business address of the corporation and each relevant person for the corporation, whether a financial report and directors report for the corporation accompanies the renewal application and whether each relevant person has provided a written statement on whether they have incurred a criminal conviction in the previous five years or has had their registration suspended or cancelled under the Act or a corresponding law. The registrar must also consider whether each relevant person has given a consent to criminal history checking and the obtaining of information from by any entity that is relevant to renewal of registration.

Matters relating to background checking have been fully explored in the Explanatory Statement for the Controlled Sports Bill 2018.

Clause 10 Registration as controlled sports contestant – application requirements – Act, s25 (3) (e)

This clause states that photographic evidence is required to confirm an applicant's identity. Examples of suitable identity documents for this purpose include a driver's licence, a proof of age card or a passport.

Clause 11 Controlled sports contestant registration – conditions – Act, s29 (2)

This clause states the conditions of registration for a registered controlled sports contestant.

Sub-clause (1) (a) relates to contestants complying with directions from the registrar, an appointed inspector under the Act, a registered medical practitioner or a registered official. This makes it clear that contestants must comply with directions given by those listed at events (or during event preparation). It is intended to improve safety and integrity processes by ensuring that compliance with such directions are established in law. A direction may be related to a number of matters, but may include matters like a direction to stop competing in a contest where there is an identified safety risk to a contestant, or a direction not to proceed with a contest due to a safety issue.

Sub-clause (1)(b)(i) requires the contestant to inform the registrar of any change to the contestant's address or contact details, to be updated in the contestant's registration record on the register.

Sub-clause (1)(b)(ii) requires the contestant to report to the registrar any change in their medical fitness that may indicate that the contestant is no longer fit to compete in a registered event. This will then prompt a review of the contestant's registration and consider whether a suspension or cancellation of their registration is warranted. This component will help to ensure contestant safety, particularly in relation to head injuries, but also relating to other matters such as competing with broken bones or other minor injuries and illness that may impact on a contestant's performance, which may put their safety at risk.

Sub-clause (1)(c) requires contestants to report to the registrar when they have competed in an unregulated jurisdiction. The term 'unregulated jurisdiction' is defined in sub-clause (3) with reference to a jurisdiction either overseas in without a corresponding law (a term itself listed in the dictionary). This helps to ensure that the contestant meets medical requirements outlined in the Act or Code of Practice (for instance, the Code of Practice specifies that contestants must not compete for five days after an event, regardless of the outcome). This sub-clause also allows a contestant's record to be updated for reference in future contests, where the record keeping in a non-regulated jurisdiction has not met the required standard of information.

Sub-clause (2) relates to the time period for when the information in sub-clause (1)(c) must be provided.

Clause 12 Controlled sports contestant registration – renewal application requirements – Act, s31 (2)(b)

This clause states the requirements that the registrar must consider in deciding an application for renewal of registration as a controlled sports contestant.

Under this provision the registrar must consider matters going to evidence of the renewal applicant's identity, training and experience and whether they hold a certificate of fitness issued by a medical practitioner not more than 30 days before the day the application is made. The registrar must also consider whether the applicant has provided a written statement on whether they have incurred a criminal conviction in the previous five years or has had their registration suspended or cancelled under the Act or a corresponding law. Finally, the registrar must also consider whether the applicant has given a consent to criminal history checking and the obtaining of information from by any entity that is relevant to renewal of registration.

Matters relating to background checking have been fully explored in the Explanatory Statement for the Controlled Sports Bill 2018.

Clause 13 Application to register controlled sports event – contents – Act, s34 (2)(d)

This clause details the notification requirements for notifying a registrable event. This makes it clear for industry exactly the information required. In terms of the specific information required, sub-clause (1):

- (a) Relates to the place the event will be held. This means that inspectors will have notice of the location of the event.
- (b) The maximum number of entry tickets to be sold for the event – this will assist in the fee determination.
- (c) a draft draw for the event – this will ensure that the list of contestants can be cross-checked with the list of registered contestants and interstate contestants to help ensure that, for example, medical requirements are adhered to (specifically, that contestants have a current valid certificate of fitness and are not medically suspended).
- (d) the disciplines to be contested – to be cross-checked with the disciplines the registered promoter is permitted to oversee, and officials and contestants are registered in.
- (e) the rules that apply for each controlled sport being contested at the event – to be examined to ensure that the promoter has permission and expertise to administer these rules.
- (f) a statement about whether an exempted light contact combat sport will be contested at the same time – for the information of attending inspectors.

Sub-clause (2) provides for the definitions of exempted light contact combat sport and light contact combat sport.

Clause 14 Minimum age for contestants – registered events – Act, s37 (a)

This clause states that the minimum age for contestants to compete in a registered event is 18 years old.

Establishing the minimum age at 18 years for registrable events relates to the nature of the event. A registrable event is an event run specifically for commercial purpose, where adult-only activities take place such as liquor consumption and gambling on contests. A non-registrable event is run by an authorised controlled sports body that is dedicated to the promotion and development of the sport, and is not commercially driven, and thus a different minimum age applies, as specified in Clause 19 of this Regulation.

This age restriction has been developed to limit children's exposure to potential harmful activities that are likely to occur during these events as mentioned above, as well as the potential for additional psychological and physical pressure to perform during a contest given the presence of large crowds that have a vested interest in the result. This also addresses matters relating to the appropriateness of gambling on children's sporting events.

It is therefore considered reasonable, from a harm minimisation approach, to limit participation in contests to 18 year olds and over, else children may be exposed to undue pressure to perform a certain way (for example, to win or lose a contest), given the heightened potential for integrity matters within registrable events such as match fixing. Given children's vulnerability and potential lack of ability to advocate for their own safety amidst this environment, restrictions on registrable events is considered a reasonable limitation to Section 8 of the *Human Rights Act 2004* (recognition of equality before the law), but also evokes Section 11 (2), providing the protection needed by the child because of being a child.

This is similar to restrictions placed under the *Liquor Act 2010* relating to adults-only areas (S94) and the establishment of harm minimisation and community safety principles (S10). The *Gaming Machine Act 2004* also restricts children's entry to areas that host gaming machines (S155), as well as minimum ages for alcohol consumption, gambling, and providing consent for medical treatment and sexual intercourse.

Children will still be able to participate in contests that are of a similar standing in terms of skill set, direct competitor, and potential for titles/ grading through non-registrable events. This restriction only limits their access to commercially driven events. Similar restrictions exist within other regulating jurisdictions across Australia, commonly known as professional contest events.

It is therefore not considered appropriate to allow for exemptions for particular children for these events as a concession to a firm age limitation, as this would require a subjective assessment of a child's competency to partake in what would otherwise be considered adult activities.

PART 3 CONDUCT OF REGISTRABLE EVENTS

Clause 15 Medical reporting requirements – Act, s57(1)(f)

This clause states the medical reporting requirements that registered medical practitioners must comply with when attending at a registered event.

Subclause (1) (a) sets out the specific requirements for registered medical practitioners in recording the outcomes of medical clearance examinations of contestants at registered events. These go to the medical practitioner's opinion of a contestant's fitness to compete and whether the contestant's participation should be subject to conditions.

Subclause (1)(b) sets out what the registered medical practitioner must do when recommending the suspension or cancellation of a contestant's registration. The requirement to provide a written statement to the registrar covering the medical practitioner's specific recommendation and the reasons for the recommendation will assist the registrar in considering suspension or cancellation of the contestant's registration. Suspension or cancellation of registration is a reviewable decision under the Act. Similarly the requirement for the medical practitioner to record those details in the contestant's medical record book will help in future medical assessments of the contestant.

Subclause (1)(c) sets out what the registered medical practitioner must do if a contestant sustains a serious injury or dies at a registrable event. This includes an immediate obligation on the practitioner to notify any inspector under the Act that is present at the event and the registrar of the death or serious injury. The practitioner must also provide a written statement about the death or injury to the registrar and record similar details in the contestant's medical record book. An example of 'serious injury' is given, explaining that it might be an injury requiring treatment from an ambulance or in a hospital.

Subclause (2) provides definitions of the terms 'inspector', 'medical record book' and 'pre-event medical clearance examinations'.

PART 4 CONDUCT OF NON-REGISTRABLE EVENTS

Clause 16 Approval of non-registrable events – conditions – Act, s62 (2)

This clause details a condition of approval of a non-registrable event, which is that the authorised controlled sports body must be satisfied of a number of important matters. It makes clear the expectations of the standards the

Government expects of authorised controlled sports bodies in order to approve non-registrable events.

Sub-clause (a)(i) means that the authorised controlled sports body must be satisfied that the person conducting the non-registrable event (usually a promoter) does not have any legal, financial or personal interest that may conflict with the conduct of the event.

Sub-clause (a)(ii) means that the authorised controlled sports body must be satisfied that the person conducting the non-registrable event (usually a promoter) has met all stated conditions of the authorised controlled sports body before approval is issued. Examples are provided for in the regulation.

Sub-clause (b) requires that the event is appropriately insured.

Clause 17 Declaration of authorised controlled sports body – Minister’s considerations – Act, s63 (3)(d)

This clause details the requirements the Minister must consider when declaring an entity to be an authorised controlled sports body. This clause relates only to entities that are not a National Sporting Organisation (as National Sporting Organisations are recognised to be an authorised controlled sports body under s63 (1)(a) of the Act).

The provisions of this clause allow the Minister to ensure that a non-National Sporting Organisation entity applying to become an authorised controlled sports body meets a number of requirements. These include requirements regarding the entity’s constitution, structure, risk management and insurance arrangements, medical processes and whether the entity agrees to comply with conduct requirements in the relevant Code of Practice.

Clause 18 Notice about non-registrable event – content – Act, s64 (2)

This clause details the notification requirements that a person conducting a non-registrable event must comply with when notifying the registrar about the event. This makes it clear for industry exactly the information required.

Sub-clause (1) goes to the following matters:

- (a) the name of the non-registrable event
- (b) approval of the authorised controlled sports body – as a mandatory evidentiary requirement for holding a non-registrable event
- (c) a copy of the written approval of the authorised controlled sports body approving the event
- (d) details of each controlled sport to be contested at the event – the registrar will cross check this with the disciplines the authorised controlled sports body is permitted to approve
- (e) the date, time and location of the event – this will allow the registrar to ensure inspectors attend the event (if appropriate)

- (f) details about the person conducting the event, with examples illustrating the kind of information required
- (g) details of controlled sports officials at the event and the capacity in which they attend
- (h) details of each contestant at the event
- (i) a draw for the event – this will ensure that the list of contestants can be cross-checked with the list of registered contestants to ensure that medical requirements are adhered to (for example, mandatory non-contest times)
- (j) the rules that apply for each controlled sport being contested at the event, including any modified rules; and
- (k) written evidence that the event is not a registerable event.

Clause 19 Minimum age for contestants – non-registerable events – Act, s66 (a)

Clause (1) states that the minimum age for contestants to compete in a non-registerable event is 14 years old.

Clause (2) states that the minimum age for contestants does not apply to a non-registerable event if:

- The event is approved in writing by a national sporting organisation and conducted in accordance with the organisation's rules, or
- The event is approved by an authorised controlled sports body other than a national sporting organisation, and the Minister has approved a lower minimum age for the event.

Clause (3) sets out the considerations the Minister must take into account when deciding whether to approve a lower minimum age for contestants in a non-registerable event. These include:

- The rules of the event and how they apply to children
- The procedures used by the authorised controlled sports body to ensure that children may safely compete, with examples such as the use of protective equipment, holding shorter contests and using limited or restricted techniques
- The authorised controlled sports body's compliance with controlled sports legislation (including the repealed *Boxing Control Act 1993*, the *Controlled Sports Act 2019* and corresponding laws), and
- Any advice from an advisory committee.

Clause (4) requires the Minister to give a reviewable decision notice to the authorised controlled sports body for the event if the Minister refuses to approve a lower minimum age for a non-registerable event.

Clause (5) states that an authorised controlled sports body may apply to the Administrative and Civil Appeals Tribunal for review of a decision by the Minister made under subsection 2(b) of the regulations.

Clause (6) provides that a decision made by the Minister under subsection 2(b) of the regulation is a notifiable instrument.

Clause (7) defines the terms ‘advisory committee’, ‘controlled sports legislation’ and ‘national sporting organisation’.

The impact on human rights outlined in the Explanatory Statement for the Controlled Sports Bill 2018 and this regulation has been balanced with the risks associated with participation in combat sports. Consideration of the establishment of a minimum age for participation in combat sports must be balanced between the benefits of participation and the risks to children involved.

Section 11(2) of the *Human Rights Act 2004* (HRA) states that: “every child has the right to the protection needed by the child because of being a child, without distinction or discrimination of any kind”. This in its essence means that children deserve the protection of the law from things that may cause them harm. In considering this element, the age at which base restrictions are lifted (14 years) is based on the relative and average cognitive ability of children to grasp the concept of risk at certain ages, as well as children’s brain development and the potential for recovery from head injuries, which are a high risk in combat sports. Where the regulation allows for a lower age (as set by the authorised controlled sports body (National Sporting Organisation), or upon approval by the Minister for other authorised controlled sports bodies, this gives consideration to:

- The modified rules for children (for example, prohibition of certain techniques);
- Safety equipment used;
- The nature and style of the disciplines; and
- The body’s commitment to safety and continuous improvement of rules for children participating.

In terms of risks to children, medical literature provides evidence that children are more vulnerable to concussion and head injury, and recovery is more prolonged compared to adults¹. This may be due to children’s ‘greater head-to-body ratio and weaker neck muscles, combined with their relative nervous system immaturity, lesser myelinisation, and thinner frontal and temporal bones’². Research tells us that children and young people consequently ‘have a lower threshold for concussion compared to adults and take longer to

¹ See Field M, Collins MW, Lovell MR, Maroon J. (2003) “Does age play a role in recovery from sports-related concussion? A comparison of high school and collegiate athletes.” *J Pediatr*. Vol 142(5):546 –553; McCrory P, Collie A, Anderson V, Davis G. (2004) “Can we manage sport related concussion in children the same as in adults?” *Br J Sports Med*. Vol. 38(5):516 –519; Canadian Paediatric Society (2006). “Identification and management of children with sport related concussion”, *Paediatr Child Health*. Vol. 11(10):420–428; Sim A, Terryberry-Spohr L, Wilson KR. (2008) “Prolonged recovery of memory functioning after mild traumatic brain injury in adolescent athletes”, *J Neurosurg*. Vol 108(3): 511–516.

² Caine, D, Purcell L and Maffulli, Citing Caine D, DiFiori J, Maffulli N, (2014) “The child and adolescent athlete: a review of three potentially serious injuries”, *BMC Sports Science, Medicine and Rehabilitation* Vol. 6:22, 4, Citing Guskiewicz KW, Valovich McLeod TC: (2011), “Pediatric sports-related concussion”, *PM&R* Vol. 3:353–364.

recover; after concussion their capacity to participate in schooling is compromised³.

These medical risks alone provide justification for limitations to Section 8 of the HRA, right to equality before the law. It similarly limits matters based on medical evidence that both children's ability to comprehend risk, and the higher risk ratio of certain activities. Some examples in law include the age of consent to sexual activity (16 years), the age of consent to medical treatment (typically 14 years), obtaining a driver's licence (learner's permit from 16 years).

Field studies indicate that the age that children develop competency to make informed decisions about medical treatment is around 14 years. A study conducted by Doctors Weithorn and Campbell found that, in general, children aged 14 years old demonstrated the same level of competence to consent to medical treatment as those aged 18 years and over⁴. This suggests that a child may be able to better comprehend the medical risks of participating in combat sports at this age.

However, it is important to recognise the benefits to participation when considering these limitations. Children can benefit in a number of ways from participating in combat sports, including through physical fitness, confidence building, social connectedness, and discipline. This regulation will not restrict these elements at all, as children will still be able to participate in a controlled environment. This includes the ability to continue after school fitness activities, training and development for competition as they reach the regulated age, and participation in approved sports that have met the safety considerations allowing participation at a lower age.

The limitation on human rights is therefore reasonable and minimal.

PART 5 Definitions – Act, dictionary

Clause 20 Medical details – Act, dictionary, definition of *certificate of fitness*, paragraph (b)

This clause prescribes the details that are required to be included in a certificate of fitness, covering the person's:

- Injuries or medical conditions at the date the certificate is issued
- Last competition in a controlled sports event, and
- Knockouts, concussions or head traumas since the person's previous certificate of fitness was issued

³ S Abrahams et al. (September 2016) "Risk factors for sports concussion: an evidence based systemic review", cited in Queensland Brain Institute, "Submission to the State Parliamentary Finance and Administration Committee Inquiry into: How to improve health and safety outcomes for combat sport contestants in high risk professional and amateur contests in Queensland" <<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/FAC/2016/I6-CombatSports/submissions/005.pdf>> (accessed 12 January 2018).

⁴ L Weithorn and S Campbell (1982), "The Competency of Children and Adolescents to Make Informed Treatment Decisions", Child Development Vol. 53:1589.

The requirement for medical examinations, including the certificate of fitness, has been explored in the explanatory statement for the Controlled Sports Bill 2018. The matters prescribed ensure that the risk of head injuries and other injuries or illnesses that may impact on the contestant's participation and therefore safety, are identified and appropriately managed before a contestant can be medically cleared to compete.

Clause 21 Corresponding law – Act, dictionary, definition of *corresponding law*

This clause prescribes the laws that are corresponding laws under the Act.

Clause 22 Medical investigations – Act, dictionary, definition of *pre-event medical clearance certificate*, paragraph (b)

Clause (1)(a) prescribes the investigations that are required in order to issue a pre-event medical clearance certificate, including whether the contestant:

- Is dehydrated
- Has recently consumed alcohol or used a prohibited substance
- Has recently sustained an injury, fracture or wound
- Is suffering from an illness
- Has a skin infection or disease, or
- Is pregnant.

Clause 1(b) provides for other investigations to determine whether the contestant is suffering from a medical condition that may prevent safe participation in competition at a controlled sports event.

Clause 2 explains where to find a definition of 'prohibited substance'.

Pre-event medical clearance is essential in determining if a contestant is fit to compete in the time immediately prior to an event. The examinations listed in the regulation will not automatically mean that a contestant cannot compete. Rather, will be taken into consideration by the registered medical practitioner when considering providing medical clearance. A condition such as dehydration for example, may mean that the contestant has been losing weight rapidly in the lead-up to the contest and may be suffering physical effects of dehydration, including slowed reflexes, which could potentially impact on contestant safety. Similarly, the consumption of alcohol or prohibited substance and illness can all impact on reflexes and ability to defend yourself.

Skin infections pose a risk to the other contestant given that close skin-to-skin contact often occurs in events, where conditions of the skin could easily be transmitted. There is some evidence of staphylococcus (golden staph) has spread between contestants during combat sports contests, which has proven to be antibiotic resistant.

Participation in combat sports contests when pregnant can pose significant risks to both the contestant and the pregnancy, including blood loss and loss of pregnancy. It is expected that the registered medical practitioner will discuss the risks with the pregnant person and seek their views on participation to help inform their decision.

Dictionary

This clause provides notes on where various definitions and provisions relevant to this regulation may be found.

The clause adds the term ‘draw’ to the dictionary. For a controlled sports event ‘draw’ will mean a list of contests who will, or intend to, compete in the event and will include details of the controlled sport and the number of rounds each contestant will, or intends to, compete in.