

**Ministry of  
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**Ministère de la  
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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**TO:** Members and Associate Members of the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association

**FROM:** Bryan Ozorio, A/Manager of the Sport Unit

**RE:** Ontario Amateur Combatant Sport Safety Initiative

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In the spring of 2008 representatives from each of the nine provincially-recognized combative Provincial Sport Organizations (PSOs) attended a meeting chaired by Jean Lam, the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Health Promotion. The organizations invited were the following:

- Boxing Ontario
- Kick Boxing Ontario
- Wushu Ontario
- Judo Ontario
- Kendo Ontario
- Karate Ontario
- Canadian Amateur Muay Thai Association – Ontario,
- Ontario Taekwondo Association
- Ontario Jiu-Jitsu Association

At that meeting new measures intended to strengthen the safety standards at all amateur combative events were introduced. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Bill Hogarth, then President of the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association (OAWA) received notification that the OAWA was being added to the list of combative PSOs that were required to participate in this safety initiative as a condition of continued recognition under the Ministry's Sport Recognition Policy.

The government shares a commitment with all PSOs to ensure that their athletes are training and competing in the safest possible circumstances. Each PSO that has received formal recognition status from the Province of Ontario is required to ensure that appropriate safety standards are applied at each competition held under the auspices of a recognized PSO.

The safety aspects that relate to the amateur combative sports are particularly important, as those sports feature a high degree of physical contact. The PSOs that govern combative sports must be vigilant in setting appropriate safety standards and ensuring that they are applied at all levels of amateur competition.

It is a specific condition of each amateur combative PSO recognized by the Ministry that they have the capacity to be the sanctioning body for all competitions held throughout the province. They must be the sanctioning body responsible for controlling and monitoring the safety standards and rules at all of their competitions. It is a further specification for amateur combatant PSOs that they must comply with the minimum standards and rules established by their National Sport Organization (NSO) and that they must prevent the use of excessive force and mitigate the risk of serious injury. This is a mandatory ongoing condition of Ministry recognition that the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association must comply with.

The government is drawing on the expertise of Ken Hayashi, an employee of the Ministry of Consumer Services, to conduct random safety checks of competitions that have been sanctioned by recognized amateur combative PSOs in Ontario. Mr. Hayashi will act as an observer on behalf of the Ministry of Health Promotion. There will be no advance notification given to either the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association or the local club hosting the competition of the safety check to be conducted by Mr. Hayashi.

Mr. Hayashi's work in this regard will involve him attending, at his sole discretion, a cross section of events and observing the application of all safety rules before, during and after the competitions. This will include observing the ongoing work of the chief official who is appointed by the PSO and in charge of the competition. Mr. Hayashi will observe the weigh-ins, medicals, match-ups, actual events and post competition activities. Specifically, this will include:

- (a) observing the conduct of each event in relation to the rules provided by the PSO including, at a minimum:
  - (i) obtaining competition records, if available, for review before the start of each event;
  - (ii) attending pre- and post- event activities, where permitted considering gender privacy considerations, to observe and report on whether there appears, in his view, to be compliance with PSO safety, competition and process rules related to match-ups, equipment, passport control, medicals, weigh-ins, and any other safety rules; and
- (b) informing MHP of any possible non-compliance or discrepancies in relation to the rules provided by the PSO that he may have observed during the course of his attendance at the event through completion and submission of a summary report after each event to the Director, Sport and Recreation Branch, MHP.

As a condition of continued recognition by the Ministry of Health Promotion, the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association has signed an agreement agreeing to grant Mr. Hayashi unfettered access to all sanctioned competition venues as an observer for the Ministry.

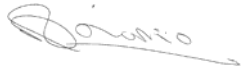
It is important to note that Mr. Hayashi's role will be that of an observer only and that he will be acting outside his statutory duties as Athletics Commissioner. Mr. Hayashi will be performing this role solely as a result of his knowledge and expertise in combative sports, and in his capacity as a public servant. He will not be acting in his statutory capacity as Athletics Commissioner and he will not exercise any regulatory or other authority under the *Athletics Control Act* in the course of conducting spot checks for MHP. The chief official appointed by the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association for the event will remain the official in charge of the competition and will continue to make all final decisions related to the application of all safety and sport rules. Although Mr. Hayashi will act only as an observer, he will have the discretion to ask questions and seek clarification on rules from the chief official as necessary.

Mr. Hayashi has a great deal of experience in working with combative sports and is familiar with combative sport rules. We are confident that his future involvement as an observer at amateur combative sport events will strengthen your organization's capacity to apply and monitor your sport's safety rules. This will allow both the Ministry and your organization to achieve the key overriding objective that we both share - to protect the safety of Ontario's amateur athletes.

Barbara Lyon-Stewart, an MHP Sport Consultant, has been assigned to work with the combative PSOs on this initiative. If you have any questions about any aspect of this program that the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association cannot address, please feel to contact her at 416-314-3755 or [Barbara.lyon-stewart@ontario.ca](mailto:Barbara.lyon-stewart@ontario.ca).

Thank you in advance for supporting this important initiative. The contribution made by the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association and its members is greatly appreciated by both the Government and the people of Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Ozorio", is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

Bryan Ozorio  
A/Manager of the Sport Unit

CC Dr. Ivan F. Jagas, President of Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association  
Tim MaGarrey, Executive Director  
Ken Hayashi, Athletics Commissioner  
Barbara Lyon-Stewart, Sport Consultant