



Public Exhibition of Boxing, Martial Arts or other Fighting Prohibited

Objective

This policy is developed to ensure the safety of students, faculty, staff and visitors to the campus on university property, and to minimize inappropriate exposure of the university and student, faculty, staff, and visitors to potential criminal and/or civil liability and instructional and personal harm.

Overview

Florida law strictly prohibits any competition “which utilizes, but is not necessarily limited to, strikes or blows to the head...unless it is sanctioned and supervised by an amateur sanctioning organization approved by the (Florida State Boxing Commission)...” Section 548.008(10, Florida Statutes. Any person participating in a match prohibited by Section 548/.008, Florida Statutes or any person holding, promoting, or sponsoring a match prohibited by the statute commits a misdemeanor or felony, respectively. Florida law does not permit a match conducted or sponsored by a bona fide nonprofit school or education program whose primary purpose is instruction in the martial arts, boxing, or kickboxing, provided the match is held in conjunction with the instruction and is limited to the amateur participants who are students of the school or instructional program. See Section 548.007, Florida Statutes.

Any exhibition of boxing, kickboxing, martial arts, mixed martial arts or other forms of fighting which pits two or more individuals against each other in any form of combat, including that in which blows are struck by the combatants utilizing safety equipment or any weapon, is prohibited on property owned or controlled by The Florida State University. This does not include athletic events sponsored by departments, or recognized student organizations of the university which adhere to recognized standards of safety and professional conduct in such activity, and which are properly sanctioned, approved and governed by an appropriate authority with recognized purview over such contests.

Recognizing the many variations of such activities or contests that may arise in a diverse academic setting, and the intent of this policy, the Associate Vice President for Finance & Administration, or his/her designee, in consultation with the Chief of University Police, and other appropriate university officials, shall have sole and exclusive discretion to permit or prohibit any such activity, consistent with this and any other applicable university policy or rule.

No provision of this policy shall be constructed to in any way restrict athletic contests, carried on by the university or under its sanctions, in which contestant or players inadvertently or as part of the rules of the sport make physical contact with each other in normal course of the sport.

Enforcement

Any person or entity engaging in arranging or promoting, facilitating or in any way causing or contributing to the exhibition of activities that violate Florida law shall be subject to arrest and criminal prosecution. Any such person or entity shall if a member of the student body or subject to university policies or rules, be subject to sanction by the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities or designee, or human Resources for violation of this policy, or in the alternative by subject to trespass warning and ejection from university property by a University Police Officer.

Severability

If any portion of this policy is declared invalid by a court of competent authority or by any competent university authority, the surviving provisions shall remain in effect to the fullest extent permitted by law and university policy or rule.