

### Why are unsanctioned events dangerous?

Unsanctioned events may result in life threatening injuries with no medical personnel on site. Trauma injuries may occur and lives could be in danger.

### How can law enforcement help stop unsanctioned events?

Law enforcement can assist by being familiar with Section 548.008, F.S., by stopping these illegal fights prior to them occurring and/or arresting violators.

### If a person holds, promotes, or sponsors an unsanctioned amateur or professional event, what are the charges?

If a person holds, promotes, or sponsors an unsanctioned amateur or professional event, he or she commits a felony of the third degree in accordance with Section 548.008 (3) (b), F.S.

### If a person is fighting in an amateur or professional match at an unsanctioned event what are the charges?

If a person fights in an amateur or professional match at an unsanctioned event, he or she commits a misdemeanor of the second degree in accordance with Section 548.008, F.S.

### Where are organized unsanctioned fights held?

Organized unsanctioned fights are held everywhere. Examples: gyms, fighter training facilities, backyards, warehouses, nightclubs, street allies, and vacant property.

### How are organized unsanctioned fights advertised?

Posters, online social media, e-mail, Internet sites, radio, TV, newspaper advertisements, and by word-of-mouth.

### Who promotes unsanctioned fights?

Anyone could promote an unsanctioned event. Examples: individuals, gyms, fighter training facilities, and nightclubs.

### Who can I call to verify if an event is unsanctioned?

The Florida State Boxing Commission.

### What professions are licensed and regulated by the Florida State Boxing Commission?

The Florida State Boxing Commission is responsible for the licensing and regulation of the following:

Boxing, Kickboxing and Mixed Martial Arts professions:	Referee
Announcer	Representative of a Booking Agent
Booking Agent	Ringside Physician
Concessionaire	Second
Judge	Timekeeper
Manager	Trailing Judge
Matchmaker	Trainer
Participant	Amateur Sanctioned Organizations
Promoter/Foreign Co-promoter	

### The Florida State Boxing Commission hours of operation and contact information:

#### Business Hours Schedule:

Monday through Friday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.\*

*\*For assistance after hours, please contact:*

*Tom Molloy, Executive Director and/or Christa Patterson, Assistant Executive Director at the e-mail addresses below.*

[Thomas.Molloy@dbpr.state.fl.us](mailto:Thomas.Molloy@dbpr.state.fl.us)

[Christa.Patterson@dbpr.state.fl.us](mailto:Christa.Patterson@dbpr.state.fl.us)

#### Email:

[FloridaBoxing@dbpr.state.fl.us](mailto:FloridaBoxing@dbpr.state.fl.us)

#### Phone:

1.800.831.0488 or 850.488.8500

#### Fax Number:

850.922.2249

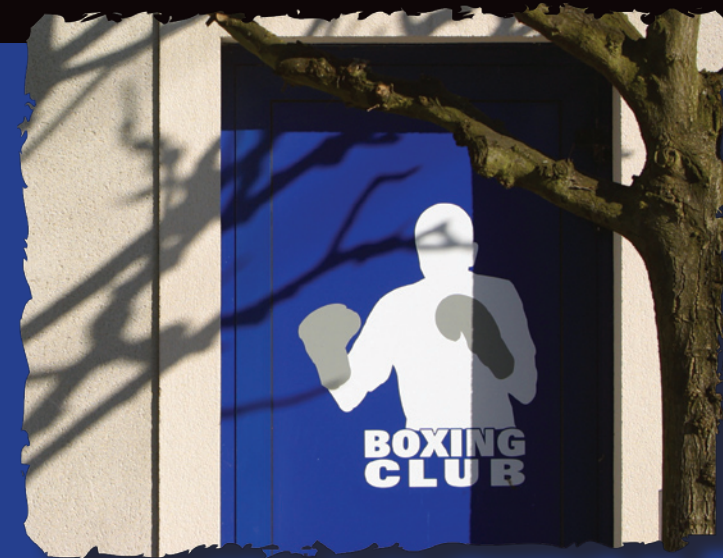
#### Mailing Address:

Department of Business and Professional Regulation  
Florida State Boxing Commission  
1940 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1016



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## FLORIDA STATE BOXING COMMISSION



# Organized Unsanctioned Boxing, Kickboxing, Mixed Martial Arts, and Toughman Events

*Why are they dangerous?*

*How can law enforcement help?*

Florida Department of  
Business &  
Professional  
Regulation



Backyard fights, underground fights, bar fights, toughman competitions, and unsanctioned charity fights are illegal. Persons who participate and or promote unsanctioned events are committing a crime and putting the citizens of Florida in danger.

The Florida State Boxing Commission, in accordance with Chapter 548, Florida Statutes, licenses and regulates amateur and professional boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts held in Florida. From Pensacola to Key West, illegal events are held every week and some are promoted by street gangs. This is a serious matter for the State of Florida, and the Florida State Boxing Commission would like to partner with local law enforcement to stop the illegal events happening in our state.

The Florida State Boxing Commission's top priority is to ensure the safety of the fighters. The commission also works to assist law enforcement officers who take action against illegal fights by providing information regarding the alleged unsanctioned event.

#### **Why is it illegal?**

The event is not sanctioned by the Florida State Boxing Commission.

**Section 548.008 (1), Florida Statutes** - No match involving amateurs which utilizes, but is not necessarily limited to, strikes or blows to the head may be held in this state unless it is sanctioned and supervised by an amateur sanctioning organization approved by the commission as required by this chapter. (2) No professional match may be held in this state unless it meets the requirements for holding the match as provided in this chapter and the rules adopted by the commission. (3)(a) Any person participating in a match prohibited under this section, knowing the match to be prohibited, commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. (b) Any person holding, promoting, or sponsoring a match prohibited under this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 774.084.

#### **Signs that an event is unsanctioned?**

- Spectators present at ringside skirting.
- Homemade fight ring or no fight ring.
- No Emergency Medical Technicians present.
- For professional events – no Florida State Boxing Commission staff present.
- For amateur events – no approved amateur sanctioning organization staff present.
- Judges or referees are not dressed professionally. Examples of professional dress: collared shirt with sanctioning organization logo or the Florida State Boxing Commission logo, coat and tie.
- Referees, corners, and physicians are not wearing protective rubber gloves.
- Announcer is not wearing coat and tie or professional collared shirt.
- Fighters are not wearing fight gloves.
- Beverages are being served or consumed in glass containers at ringside skirting.

#### **How would I know if the event was an approved amateur event by the Commission?**

The Florida State Boxing Commission approves and regulates amateur boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts sanctioning organizations. If a sanctioned amateur event were being held, a representative from the amateur sanctioning organization would be present at the event.

#### **How can I obtain a list of the Commission's approved amateur sanctioning organizations?**

You can obtain a list of the approved amateur sanctioning organizations at this Web site address:

[http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/pro/division/documents/sbc\\_approved\\_am\\_sanct\\_orgs.pdf](http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/pro/division/documents/sbc_approved_am_sanct_orgs.pdf)

#### **How would I know if it's an approved professional event?**

There would be a commission table at ringside, and the staff present would have a Florida State Boxing Commission identification badge.