



ATHLETIC DIVISION POSITION ON NOVICE/ADVANCED DIVISIONS

All amateur fighters are to be separated into two divisions. The “Novice” division is for fighters who have competed in less than 3 officially sanctioned bouts. The “Advanced” division is for fighters who have competed in 3 or more officially sanctioned bouts. In essence, a “Novice” fighter may not move up into the “Advanced” division until he or she has fought in 3 officially sanctioned bouts. At no point are fighters in two different divisions permitted to participate in a bout against each other. “Advanced” fighters participating against each other may fight under “Novice” division rules at the discretion of the sanctioning body overseeing the event.

There are certain exceptions that apply when determining which division a fighter falls under:

- The Athletic Division will continue the policy of allowing fighters to be grandfathered into the “Advanced” division if he or she has fought in an officially sanctioned bout prior to October 1, 2011. It is important to note that this should not be automatically implemented. If a sanctioning body determines that the fighter would still be better served participating in the “Novice” division, that decision will be completely left up to the discretion of the sanctioning body overseeing that particular event.
- Due to the feedback from the public, the Athletic Division will now implement a waiver process to allow fighters that don’t meet the “Advanced” requirements to still be able to compete in that division. A handful of factors will be considered when the Athletic Division reviews each case including, but not limited to:
 - o If an employee of the sanctioning body has personally witnessed a fighter compete in a past mixed martial arts event and can testify as to the ability of his or her skills.
 - o If video evidence of past mixed martial arts bouts has been submitted to the Athletic Division for review.

If the Athletic Division allows the sanctioning body to waive the Novice/Advanced requirements for a particular fighter, the sanctioning body must have the fighter sign a document that: verifies the accuracy of his or her record, has the fighter acknowledging that he or she is waiving their right by rule to compete in the “Novice” division, and implements penalties for any misrepresentation of his or her fighting background, experience, and skills.