

OMF NATIONAL NEWS

The meeting of the World Board's of IFMA and WMC in Bangkok in February has highlighted to me that Muaythai is now an INTERNATIONAL SPORT and I mean SPORT in the true sense of the word. We have gone well beyond people wanting to see two tough blokes "get it on" on a Saturday night. The world is truly committed to excellence in Muaythai in all its aspects.

The world of Muaythai is coming to Darwin for the Arafura Games. Kazak, Korean, Malaysian, Canadian and South African teams are on their way. Big opportunity – big commitment for Australian muaythai to deal with. Our Australian Team will have to compete at its best to medal.

The World Martial Arts Games under the patronage of the IOC will present an opportunity for all athletes out of the WMC world top 10 to compete – Australia's best get their chance to compete and be paid to compete. Beijing China 2010 – can't wait.

The recent meeting of Promoters in NSW highlights just how strong NSW Muaythai is becoming.

There are new government laws to be introduced in QLD, NSW and WA which the Oceania Federation will need to work through. For



better or worse, Australian governments see the need to set up Control Bodies to oversee combat sports and muaythai gets caught up notwithstanding we have self regulated to international standards for many years. We are liaising with all levels of government to ensure consistency of regulation between the States. We are the only GAISF member sport where various Australian Governments looks to interfere. Sad but true.

The more that Australian Muaythai is conducted solely under the Oceania Federation (which must maintain the WMC and IFMA international standards and as a GAISF member) the less the reason for government interference. No disrespect intended but commercial sanctioning bodies, however well meaning, will continue to present a good reason for government interference. The commercial interest of Promoters will be best preserved by sanctioning their events with the 1 body that can be identified as controlling Muaythai internationally.

This fact has been borne out by the NSW government now acceding to our Oceania Federation's submission to allow female competition in NSW (even though the Federation had successfully avoided this prohibition in NSW previously)



IFMA Executive Board Meeting

Muaythai

Muaythai will make its debut at Arafura Games 2009. An international sporting competition for emerging champions.

Arafura Games Muaythai Competition will take place over the week long event. To Register your expression of interest visit www.afuragames.nt.gov.au or email muaythai@afuragames.net for more information.

Muaythai's entry into the Arafura Games 2009 in Darwin represents Muaythai's acceptance as part of the Australian sporting mix.

For your latest Arafura Games News
www.oceaniamuaythai.com



We look forward to welcoming you to Darwin and the Arafura Games in 2009

