



November 17, 2020

Student Officers and Coaches of the University of Michigan Boxing Club,

First, thank you for your engagement through this appeal process. We appreciated the opportunity to discuss with you the operational and organizational details of your long-standing club. The information listed below is the official response by Recreational Sports and the Office of Risk Management regarding your recent appeal of the Club Sports sponsorship decision. The decision for any unit to sponsor an organization is at the discretion of the sponsoring unit. As such, there is no requirement to sponsor any student organization for Recreational Sports and the sponsorship decision lies solely with Recreational Sports, with the consultation of other U-M units. As a result of sponsored status, the institution must assess certain risks that an organization may present. The health and safety of U-M students and others who take part in University-sponsored programs is a top priority of the institution.

Through the most recent safety audit done by Club Sports staff, it was determined that the sponsorship of the Boxing Club should be discontinued as a result of the nature of the sport and the frequency and force of purposeful contact to the head of the participants involved. Upon your appeal, we completed a more comprehensive review of the club boxing, your team's operational practices, and overall safety considerations for the participants. **Upon further review, we have determined that your appeal is denied and Recreational Sports will not continue its sponsorship of the Boxing Club as a sponsored student organization.** Our decision was based on the following factors:

1. The nature of the sport of boxing does not allow the purposeful contact to a participant's head to be appropriately controlled or eliminated.
2. The contact to the head that occurs in boxing, even at the amateur level, cannot be reasonably or appropriately controlled to the point where the institution is comfortable in continuing to sponsor this activity as a sponsored student organization.
3. An inherent part of the sport of boxing is awarding points to the designated contact area and a part of that area includes the front and side of a participant's head.
4. As a result of the uncontrolled and purposeful contact that occurs in this activity, we deem it to be inappropriate for the University to continue its sponsorship of the boxing student organization.

Due to the measures listed above, boxing is not an activity that the University wishes to continue sponsoring as a Club Sports team. We certainly recognize the benefits that are associated with being a part of a team and the student development that occurs as members of a student organization. The boxing club may pursue status as a Voluntary Student Organization (VSO) through the Center for Campus Involvement. Currently, over 1200 Voluntary Student Organizations exist on campus, with over 12,000 students as current members.

Club Sports staff will be in contact with you regarding the removal of any team-owned equipment or supplies in the Sports Coliseum. In addition, Center for Campus Involvement staff will contact the organization's student officers regarding any financial transfers or other associated steps required for the move to a VSO.

Respectfully,

Mike Widen Kate Rychlinski
Director, Recreational Sports Assistant Director, Risk Management Cc:

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