

AIMMAA press release 'Who's the King of the Jungle'

Devlali Nasik Sept 15th, 2018 :While mixed martial arts continues to make waves across the world of sports, it's sporting bodies riding off of the entity across the world continue their endeavors which may have both positive, negative or political interests. Our journey with the sport in India over the last 20 years has provided our board and our team with the most valuable and time proven gift of 'experience'.

The All India Mixed Martial Arts Association [AIMMAA] is India's oldest, most active and largest operating registered body for the sport of Mixed Martial Arts in India. AIMMAA is registered as a non-profit in India.

We are registered in compliance with all related laws of India, we pay our yearly taxes and submit all our statements of accounts and audit reports as is required for a non-profit organization. All our founder members, board of directors and working committee members are citizens of India. Although AIMMAA was officially registered in India in 2004 we have been functioning as an MMA network and group since 1998.

Our first event was an International Mixed Martial Arts Championship held on 29th Feb 2004 [this was the year that we were officially founded and registered] :

<http://www.sherdog.com/organizations/Clash-of-the-Champions-3338> and we continued to host and organize National level and International level MMA events under the banner of AIMMAA since all activities held under the banner of our organization are in compliance with our deed and aims/objectives being legal and in compliance with the laws of our country's governing bodies and laws.

Our first International affiliation was under an organization which promoted a 'format' of MMA called kick-jitsu :<http://wfkko.com/> we continued with WFKKO [based in the UK] until 2012 when our founder member Daniel Isaac travelled for the WMMAF World Championships in Tallinn, capital of Estonia, from 4th to 8th June, 2012. During that visit AIMMAA affiliated with WMMAF as official representatives for India :<http://www.aimmaa.org/WMMAF-India.html>

In 2014 Daniel Isaac travelled to Las Vegas USA to attend the world general body meeting and IMMAF World MMA championships and AIMMAA joined IMMAF as its representative for India :<http://www.immaf.org/all-india-mixed-martial-arts-association-joins-immaf/>

A lot happened during the year 2016 for AIMMAA :

1] AIMMAA's Daniel Isaac due to his experience and expertise in MMA was invited three times by a kingdom in the middle east to train and prepare their team to officiate and organize MMA tryouts and championships. This training enabled their country to create and found their own MMA National federation :<http://www.aimmaa.org/news-bahrain.html>

2] On completion of these training seminars this team requested AIMMAA's Daniel Isaac to present their application to IMMAF as representatives for their country.

3] AIMMAA's Daniel Isaac travelled to Paris for an official AIMMAA meeting where he presented the application on behalf of this country to IMMAF. This provided both IMMAF and this country a new partnership and opportunities to host Asian and world championships outside of the US.

Here are some important facts to be noted :

The fact remains that AIMMAA has been a registered organization since 2004 and functioning as an MMA body longer than most MMA 'world bodies'. We have noted that the efforts of most of these 'world bodies' cannot actually 'regulate' or 'control' the sport of MMA because MMA is NOT a recognized sport under the IOC [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_of_IOC_Recognised_International_Sports_Federations] and even if the long process of IOC and Sport Accord applications are fruitful the fact remains that these world bodies will only work within the space of amateur MMA[meaning that the athletes within these world bodies compete without seeking any financial remunerations]. Currently these world bodies work within the space of amateur mma.

AIMMAA has been hosting district, state and national level MMA championships in India both for amateur and professional athletes, and although we have operated significantly within the amateur space : this amateur platform created better and fruitful opportunities to be seeded to pro MMA events in India like the Super Fight League. These world bodies do not control or regulate the Pro MMA space which is dominated by MMA giants like the UFC and Bellator MMA. And although the UFC has provided support to some of these 'world bodies', these world bodies have never been successful to actually regulate or control the UFC events across the world. The same goes for Bellator MMA. Invicta FC or Super Fight League. In the state of Missouri USA 'Shamrock Fighting Championships' has been hosting amateur, pro-am and pro mma fight nights without any interference from the IMMAF's USA representatives.

Quoting :<https://ummaf.org/ummaf-and-usfl-respond-to-missouri-hb1388/>

'The United States Mixed Martial Arts Kick International Federation (UMMAF,) headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, USA can no longer sanction amateur MMA in the state.

Representative David Gregory's House Bill 1388, also known as the "child safety and deregulation bill" according to The Missouri Times is effective as of August 28. This means control over sanctioning amateur MMA, kickboxing, as well as pro wrestling has shifted to the Missouri Division of Professional Registration's Office of Athletics.'

This goes to show how 'world bodies' and national bodies across the world are still struggling to control the sport within their own national federations.

For Indian MMA : AIMMAA has been organizing Professional MMA events under direct permission from the Govt of India Sports Ministry since 2012 and we continue to be the only MMA organization which receives such permission to host these PRO MMA events. AIMMAA has never needed the support or permission of any world body to function or organize professional mma events in India. Infact AIMMAA has gone a step further over the last few years by hosting an India vs Pakistan SFL event in the UAE and the Bahrain National tryouts without the support of any world body.

AIMMAA continues to be the leader of the sport of Mixed Martial Arts in India. Watch this space to read about new developments and partnerships both in India and Internationally ... coming soon !AIMMAA to support the formation of a new world body ? who knows ?

Just for the record :this article, press note and announcement has been released to provide media, journalists and websites who might have questions regarding our role and our opinion regarding developments of the sport in our region. We want this article to be a source of information regarding

our sport and does not in any way target negatively or demean any person or organization. All statements from this article are the express opinion of our media team and mma experts and we have references available for all statements made. For any questions :info@aimmaa.org