

Optimist International does not encourage, condone, or approve the sponsorship by Optimist clubs of competitive boxing and/or martial arts programs involving youth, and particularly discourages fund raising projects in which youth are involved as boxing and/or martial arts contestants, for the following reasons:

1. Recognition of an alarming number of negative developments and some fatal accidents connected with boxing and martial arts programs in general.
2. The continuing controversial nature and public criticism of boxing and/or martial arts as a competitive sport.
3. An inherent danger in a sport wherein a prime objective of the participants is to deliberately disable or injure their opponents.
4. The possible liabilities developing from such Optimist sponsored activities.

In addition, Optimist International as an organization will not endorse, sponsor or affiliate with any organization whose purpose is or includes the promotion of boxing and/or martial arts for youth.

(Dec 1988; Dec 2003; Dec 2004)