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Date: 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	

### **WHAT IS A NOVICE!!**

The English Oxford Dictionary defines a novice as *"a person new to and inexperienced in a job or situation"* in martial Arts, although in essence this is correct, other factors ought to be taken into account.

In the true spirit of martial arts, novice divisions are in place to give new starters an opportunity to gain experience in a competitive match. Generally a novice fighter is someone who has less than 12 months competition experience in any combat sparring (includes any experience from previous clubs) but in addition their **skill and ability** in the discipline should also be considered when entering a competition, as it is also in everyone's interest to ensure that the safety of each and every competitor is paramount at all times.

If you believe your novices skills and ability is of a good standard, why not test them in the advanced or a more appropriate section?

To aid in policing our beliefs in '**WHAT IS A NOVICES**' our referees and judges have been instructed to continuously assess fights to determine if, in their opinion, a competitor is deemed '**BEYOND NOVICE**' and if this be the case the competitor and/or coach will be requested to back up their entry.

In addition to the above, any of the below **CAN NOT** be deemed a novice:

- a Black Belt
- a Coach/Instructor
- a National Team member
- a competitor how has competed at a World Championships

NB. A novice **CAN NOT** move up a weight division