

WELCOME TO THE MUAYTHAI PREMIER LEAGUE

The MuayThai Premier League (MPL) brings you, without a doubt, the biggest events in the sport's history. Forty of the world's best strikers will compete in five different weight classes for the World MuayThai Council (WMC) World Title and MPL Championship in an exciting league format.

The MPL was born out of a desire to provide sport and fight fans worldwide with an opportunity to see the most skilled and exciting fighters on the planet compete directly against one another.

MuayThai, also known as Thaiboxing, is an extremely effective and lethal martial art utilizing punches, kicks, knees, and elbows. Due to this unique style of fighting, where competitors have eight points of contact as opposed to two or four in other formats, many also know it as "The Art of 8 Limbs."

Originally practiced in the once closed society of Thailand, MuayThai has always flourished in the Asian region. In the last 30 years, it has seen a dramatic increase in international participation, with 128 countries, and 1,200 athletes competing at the 2010 I.F.M.A. Amateur World Championships in Bangkok. MuayThai has also become a favourite of business executives, who have added the intense work-

out to their fitness regimens. Similarly, MMA competitors cite MuayThai as a must-have in their fighting arsenal. It is expected to be included in the Olympics in the near future.

MuayThai has also been included in forms of entertainment beyond the ring including film, video games and television.

Film: Ong Bak, Ong Bak 2, Bloodsport, Kickboxer

Video Games: Street Fighter (series), Tekken (series), Virtua Fighter (series)

Television: Mark Burnett of *Survivor* (and countless other successful TV series) built *The Contender Asia*, and its successor *The Challenger Series*, which is currently in production.

The sport of MuayThai will see its biggest stage ever when the world's best come together, bringing more than 220 Championship belts to the table, to compete for the MPL and WMC World Championships.

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PREPARE FOR THE BIGGEST EVENT IN MUAYTHAI HISTORY



The MuayThai Premier League (The MPL)

A different type of Fight Experience, the League format is a new approach to fighting. Fighters must earn their place in the finals.

Five weight divisions - four male, one female

- 140 lbs/ 63.5 kgs Super Lightweight (F)
- 147 lbs/ 66.7 kgs Welterweight (M)
- 160 lbs/ 72.5 kgs Middleweight (M)
- 182 lbs/ 82.5 kgs Super Light Heavyweight (M)
- 210 lbs/ 95 kgs Heavyweight (M)

Eight competitors in each division are split into two pools - Group A & Group B. In the Round Robin stage, each fighter will face the other three competitors in their group once, earning three points for a knockout victory, two points for a decision victory, one point for a draw. At the conclusion of the Round Robin stage, the top two fighters in each Group will advance to the elimination stage:

- Group A #1 -vs- Group B #2
- Group B #1 -vs- Group A #2

The winners of these Semi-Final matches will then advance to the Finals to compete for the MPL and WMC World Championships in their respective weight classes. At the conclusion of the Round Robin stage (8 events), the top two fighters in each Group will advance to the elimination stage (2 events).

Accompanying the MPL will be a television documentary and online series entitled *Into the Fire*. *Into the Fire* will tell the stories of the fighters, their countries, and how Muay-Thai has affected their lives. The beautifully shot TV series will show the world the beauty, strength and struggle of the MuayThai athlete – in HD. Scheduled to air before each event, the shows will focus on the countries where the events are taking place. Two episodes will accompany the semi-final round, and three will accompany the finals.

We look forward to seeing you at the events...

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