



# **OGA**

## **Ontario Grappling Alliance**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **ONTARIO PROVINCIAL GRAPPLING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **ONLY THREE WEEKS AWAY**

### **Third Ontario Grappling Alliance sanctioned event shaping up to be the biggest and best grappling tournament ever held in Canada**

**Toronto, ON – May 17, 2009** – There are only three weeks remaining until the heavily anticipated Ontario Grappling Championships (OPGC) tournament and event organizers from the Ontario Grappling Alliance (OGA) anticipate that all competitor slots will be filled come the day of the event.

OPGC is set to take place at this year's Mixed Martial Arts Expo on Saturday, June 6 at the International Centre in Mississauga, ON. The event will be governed by FILA rules and will determine participants of an event planned for later that month according to OGA president Rohit Seth who is anticipating a record turnout for the tournament.

"This is the largest tournament that we've run and it is a provincial status tournament under the OGA. We're expecting attendance from athletes across Ontario," says Seth. "There is going to be a very high-caliber of competition. We're hoping to establish a base of competitions throughout the year. This event, in conjunction with the May 9 event, will qualify the seeded athletes to compete in a cage fight on June 27."

The event, which will be broadcast live in streaming HD, via the Internet, will be run utilizing the state-of-the-art SplitDraw bracket and seeding system, which has been met with rave reviews by coaches and athletes who have competed at events that have been executed using the software. Seth, who says that the system has helped tournaments run more efficiently and has all but removed the incidence of human error, is confident that the OPGC will raise the bar yet again.

"This event is going to be run by a computer program developed by SplitDraw to generate the draws and brackets for the event. Every tournament that SplitDraw has been involved in has been a success. The main compliment we heard at the May 9th event we put on was that the tournament was very well organized and ran very smoothly," Seth explains. "It will be completely different from the tournament that has been put on in the past. The organization that is going into the tournament is bar none the best."

MMA Expo president and founder Gerald Chopik predicts that the inaugural event will greatly contribute to the ongoing success of his show and says he is looking forward to a long-term relationship with the OGA.

"When I launched MMA Expo in 2005 I intended it to become an industry event that celebrated all martial arts and combative sports. Ideally, MMA Expo would become known as 'the event' within which

to hold some of the top martial arts tournaments in the country and we are certainly well on our way to achieving that goal,” says Chopik. “The Ontario Provincial Grappling Championships is exactly the type of competition that we aim to provide for Ontario’s talented grappling community and the enthusiastic spectators that follow the sport. We are keen to be working with the OGA on this project. And as an information technology professional for the past 20 years I am very impressed with the SplitDraw software platform. It really does take administration and management of a tournament to a whole other level.”

Despite the fact that other factions are trying to adopt FILA rules, the OGA has been, and continues to be the leader in the arena of organizing and executing not only grappling, but also other disciplines of martial arts tournaments. The organization has set a benchmark on how competitions can be best conducted and organized and continues to raise the bar in regards to the level of competition and quality of events. Although it was just conceived in January of this year itself, the group has made great strides in implementing training programs for officials and coaches and has even helped on a consulting basis to other fledgling grappling regulation organizations.

Seth explains that his group was born out of necessity and frustration with the existing wrestling sanctioning body that groups used to have to rely on to oversee events in the province.

“What ignited our organization was, when working with the Harry Geris Memorial Grappling Games we were unable to get the event sanctioned because we were told that ‘It had to collect last-minute membership fees at the door on top of the tournament fee or the It didn’t meet the proper sanctioning criteria’. We knew we had to do something to ensure the event went on and that this wouldn’t happen again so we came up with the Ontario Grappling Alliance to regulate grappling events under FILA rules,” Seth says. “Above all, OGA’s mission is to work for the grappling community, not to control how they operate. We want to be their voice and to work to bring in changes to the sport that they want to see made. There are ground rules set forth by FILA, but changes to the rules will be made if the community as a whole voices them.”

Weigh-ins for the June 6 tournament begin at 8:30 am with the first matches of the day commencing at 10:30 am. There will be beginner, intermediate and advanced gi and no-gi divisions open to participants who must be 17 and up to compete. Competitors who are under 18 require the written consent of a parent or guardian present on the morning of the tournament to compete.

Cost of the tournament is \$50 for the first weight class/division and \$20 for each additional weight class/division. There will be no additional membership or insurance fees required of participants of the event.

To register, please visit [www.mixedmartialartsexpo.com](http://www.mixedmartialartsexpo.com), click “TOURNAMENTS” then “Ontario Provincial Grappling Championships” from the drop down menu.

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**About the Ontario Grappling Alliance** The Ontario Grappling Alliance is a body that regulates grappling events in Ontario. The goal of the organization is to facilitate the growth of grappling by raising the participation and the level of competition as well as overseeing the certification of trained officials and coaches under the guidelines of FILA.

([www.grapplingontario.com](http://www.grapplingontario.com))

**About the MMA Expo** Mixed Martial Arts Expo is a unique, high-energy, interactive event for people who love martial arts and the full contact sport of MMA, the fastest growing sport in the world. Launched in 2005 in Toronto, MMA Expo was the first ever consumer show for mixed martial arts. Now in its fourth year, MMA Expo gives fight fans the unique opportunity to meet personally with some of the top professional fighters and MMA celebrities in the sport for autographs and pictures.

([www.mixedmartialartsexpo.com](http://www.mixedmartialartsexpo.com))

**About FILA** The Fédération Internationale des Luttes Associées (International Federation of Amateur Wrestling) is an international federation that holds events around the world. It is the governing body of international wrestling and grappling. FILA is governed by a Congress made up of representatives from each of the 174 national federations. National federations that govern at least the two Olympic wrestling styles are admitted as affiliate members.

([www.fila-wrestling.com](http://www.fila-wrestling.com))

**About SplitDraw™** - SplitDraw™ is a computer-aided draw master tool that is used to generate bracket and round-robin draws for competitive events. In addition to this organizational and timesaving feature, SplitDraw™ can also execute and manage events using network computers to update results and brackets as results occur. Event updates and schedules are immediately displayed on large high-resolution projector screens for use by operators, coaches, officials and spectators. In addition, the system can generate large format prints of draws. First-round bout sheets can be printed directly from the software prior to the commencement of a tournament. The method has proven to be extremely accurate and expedient. In addition to local casting and scheduling, SplitDraw's streaming technology makes these events available to the world – Live over the Internet.

([www.splitdraw.com](http://www.splitdraw.com))

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