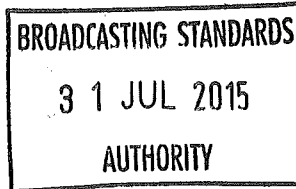


BSA
PO Box 9213
Wellington 6141



Dear Sir/Madam

Draft Code of Broadcasting Practice

I have received your letter of 20 July 2015 inviting submissions to your code review.

I tried the online guides you gave in your letter but found those confusing and unworkable, hence this letter response.

I am no lawyer and therefore don't see myself trying to draft inserts or amendments to the Code. Instead I wish to make the suggestion (bold below) regarding how violence in TV sports programmes (both Free to Air and Pay) should be better controlled.

The background to my comments is the ongoing media coverage of increasing violence in our society at every level – schools, adults, prisons. There is no doubt in my mind that every day viewing of violence via TV sport plays a significant part in escalating violence in all walks of life.

My suggestion is that deliberate ongoing and encouraged violence shown in TV sports programmes unless the sport has rules banning and prosecuting violence, only be allowed viewing at hours when limited viewing is most likely, for example between 11.00 p.m. and 5.00 a.m.

Such restriction would virtually eliminate young viewers and restrict adult viewers.

The argument that sporting rules govern sporting violence, does not apply to certain sports programmes that I have witnessed and have been disgusted with, for example UFC or "cage boxing" that is a throwback to Roman Empire days of cruelty and violence, now reappearing and driven by money driven sports promoters. Prison fighting for example seems directly related to UFC.

Please put forward this submission to the persons responsible. I believe you have a chance to restrict unwanted violence in our society by your actions.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Worthington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Worthington