

MMA MILESTONES: THE FIRSTS

CV (Caliguri and Viola) Productions was the **first** MMA based promotional company in American history, established in 1979.

Bill Viola wrote the **first** codified set of mixed martial arts rules in 1979; implemented in over 130 bouts. Those standards parallel the unified rules of today.

The *World Martial Arts Fighting Association* (WMAFA) sanctioned all CV Productions events and was the **first** regulatory body for mixed martial arts in the United States.

CV Productions introduced open regulated mixed martial arts competitions to the United States March 20, 1980 in Pittsburgh, PA with the inaugural “Battle of the Tough Guys” championship. This was the **first** commercial MMA success and the beginning of a new sport.

Later in 1980, the “Tough Guys” were rebranded as *Super Fighters* to accommodate a professional fighting image: The “Super Fighters League” (SFL). This was the **first** MMA league of its kind and set the tone for mainstream mixed martial arts.

Pennsylvania became the **first** state in history to set a legal precedent for mixed martial arts, officially banning the sport of MMA with the passage of Senate Bill 632 (Session of 1983 Act 1983-62).

The groundbreaking law was drafted specifically to outlaw CV Productions’ events and provided detailed language that defined mixed martial arts competition by prohibiting:

“ANY COMPETITION WHICH INVOLVES ANY PHYSICAL CONTACT BOUT BETWEEN TWO OR MORE INDIVIDUALS, WHO ATTEMPT TO KNOCK OUT THEIR OPPONENT BY EMPLOYING BOXING, WRESTLING, MARTIAL ARTS TACTICS OR ANY COMBINATION THEREOF AND BY USING TECHNIQUES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PUNCHES, KICKS AND CHOKING.”

Ten years after the passage of Senate Bill 632, the first Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) would debut in 1993.