
APPENDIX
To
TSN re an Ultimate Fighting Challenge (CBSC Decision 02/03-1395,
January 30, 2004)

I. The Complaint

The following complaint dated May 27, 2003 was sent to the CRTC and forwarded to the CBSC in due course:

I wish to complain about the Ultimate Fighting Challenge that aired on TSN Monday may 26th. I believe it was on air around 8 pm. This show was extremely violent and showed blood and combatants pounding each other. I could see this being pay per view but due to the graphic nature of this show it should not have been on TSN especially at the hour it was. I have never complained regarding television content but this show I found offensive to say the least. Please investigate why this type of material was allowed to air.

II. THE BROADCASTER'S RESPONSE

The broadcaster responded to the complainant's letter on July 23 with the following:

Dear Mr.[name]:

Thank You for your letter, which we received through the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council on June 9, 2003. I understand and appreciate your concerns regarding Ultimate Fighting Challenge on TSN.

Ultimate Fighting Challenge has a large and loyal following on TSN and is extremely popular in the martial arts community. Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), the sport featured in Ultimate Fighting Challenge, is a combative event combining aspects from many different martial arts and Olympic sports including boxing, wrestling, kickboxing, jiu-jitsu, karate and other combative arts. Ultimate Fighting Challenge abides buy [sic] all laws, rules and regulations stipulated by its governing body.

While the program may seem quite physical to some viewers, TSN had no intention of insulting or offending our viewers and regret that you were upset by the content of this program.

TSN takes its programming responsibilities very seriously and we are always happy to hear from viewers across the country. Thank you for taking the time to write to us.

Yours sincerely,

III. ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

After receiving the broadcaster's response, the complainant wrote to the CRTC the following message (which was forwarded to the CBSC in due course) dated July 23.

With regards to TSN's reply to my concern, I do not see how this justifies airing Ultimate Fighting Challenge. Because they follow the rules of there [sic] governing body is not the point. At least with wrestling you know it isn't real. I feel this program airing requires further investigation.

I have attached the response from TSN.

Thanks.

Signed.