



## **What's New in 2017**

### **New Venue - More Rings - Shorter Day**

After ten great years and stupendous growth thanks to your support, we are very excited to be moving the NEO to a brand new, much larger home! The recently opened Albany Capital Center will offer the NEO a 3x larger competition space, allowing us to run more rings, more competitors simultaneously, and ultimately deliver a SHORTER DAY for everyone! Not to mention the new building is beautiful and state of the art!

### **Larger Rings**

With the larger space will come both larger competition rings and a larger stage!

### **New Website**

With the new venue and a new decade, also comes a brand new updated website. Please check out [www.NorthEastOpen.com](http://www.NorthEastOpen.com) for all of the information you need for this years events, plus lots of great historical information about the event and previous champions!

### **New Breaking Team Event**

The NEO will be the first competition to offer the USBA/WBA's brand new event, Team Creative Multi-Directional Breaking. This event allows a pair of competitors to perform a breaking routine together and compete against other duos. Check out the rules for more info!

### **Demonstration Team Competition**

With the new venue and larger stage size, the Demo Teams may now consist of up to 20 team members/performers.

### **Demo Segment is Back!**

Those of you who attended the North East Open years ago will remember we used to have a very special segment that started as a Mid-Day Demonstration Break and evolved into a Night Show. The purpose of this great part of the NEO was to showcase styles and aspects of traditional martial arts that couldn't otherwise be featured in competition, as well as feature very special Masters and Grandmasters. This segment unfortunately disappeared a few years ago due to time constraints. With the new venue, and much shorter expected competition day, we are very excited to bring back the Demonstrations to the NEO!

### **Mazzone Hospitality Food**

With the new venue brings new opportunities for our attendees. The Albany Capital Center is served exclusively by Mazzone Hospitality, which means that we will have a large variety of high quality food available on site for our competitors and spectators throughout the day.

### **Pre-Taping Power Wood Board Divisions**

This is actually not new this year, but started last year, but we want to make sure everyone knows. All competitors competing in Power Board Breaking, are now, per USBA/WBA rules required to pre-stack their boards before the event starts. This helps make the division and competition go a lot faster and will also help us create the shorter day we are striving for. Carpenter pencils and masking tape will be available when you pick up your boards, however, you are also allowed to bring your own carpenter pencils and masking tape as long as the carpenter pencils are standard.



# **What to Expect at the North East Open:**

## **Expect to Spend the Full Day at the Event**

The North East Open is designed and intended to be a full day event. Competitors can expect the divisions and events to be running all day long consistently with no dead time or breaks. Events and divisions are spread out throughout the day to allow competitors competing in multiple divisions time to rest between divisions and refocus, without a rush or worry of missing an event.

## **Expect a Friendly, Encouraging, Competition experience**

While we are sure to maintain consistent judging and upholding of the rules, the premise of the North East Open is to be a Friendly Tournament that is especially good for timid newcomers and beginning level competitors. We understand that novice competitors may be nervous, so you can expect our Coordinators and Judges to be encouraging, instructional and helpful to the competitors, rather than stone faced and cut throat.

## **Expect a Fair & Consistent Event designed for Beginner through Veteran Competitors**

The North East Open's goal is to strive to provide the best competition experience for any and all competitors. To that end, please do not expect a National Level or Qualifier Style competition. The highest quality of fairness and conformity to the rules will be held at all times. But please allow for moderate amount of flexibility as we attempt to create a welcoming and nurturing environment that accommodates all competitors. The competition will run with the philosophy that all Martial Arts are One Family.

## **Ring Size at the event will be approximately 24' Square.**

## **Pre-Order Boards for Creative Breaking Divisions**

Competitors are allowed to bring their own boards for the Creative Multi-Directional Wood and Creative Open Divisions. Competitors wishing to purchase their breaking materials onsite should fill out the Breaking Material Request Form included with the Registration Packet. There will be limited quantities of extra boards available, so please pre-order. Competitors competing in any "power" division are required to purchase their breaking materials from our supply committee at the NEO. Only stamped approved boards will be allowed in these divisions.

## **Bring Cash**

Admission to the event for parents and spectators will be \$10 per person and only cash is accepted. In addition we will have a multitude of great vendors offering various martial art, health and fitness related products available for sale the day of the event; including great memorabilia like tee shirts and customized trophy plates. Lastly we will be offering 50/50 drawings and Raffle Prizes! There will be an ATM on location.

## **Bring a Bagged Lunch/Food**

With our new venue comes new great food options. The Albany Capital Center offer exclusive Mazzone Hospitality Catering. They will be offering a variety of quality food throughout the day for the attendees. As always attendees are also welcome to bring a cooler, snacks, meals, drinks, etc. Whatever you need to ensure you have a great experience and don't have to leave the venue for food.

## **Awards to Expect**

As a competitive event, divisions over the age of 8 years old will be awarded trophies for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. All competitors in the 8 year old and younger division will receive trophies for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place and finalist awards.

## **Our Expectations of the Spectators**

Like other family oriented sporting events, we ask the spectators to maintain a high level of decorum and sportsmanship. This event is designed to be fun and have camaraderie come before competition. Please see the Spectator Rules in the Program Book the day of the event.

## **Staging**

The NEO utilizes a unique tournament organizational strategy to improve efficiency and the competitors experience. Rather than having competitors sit and wait around rings all day, prior to the start of a divisions, competitors are called to a special area called the "Staging Area". In the staging area, attendance will be taken for the division, and competitors will have an opportunity to warm up, knowing they are "on deck" or competing soon. Once the ring is available and all competitors are accounted for, the group will be brought to the assigned ring where they will be ready to compete without stopping the momentum of the ring.

## **Pre-taping**

Competitors competing in Power Wood Breaking divisions, the USBA/WBA now requires pre-taping of your board stacks. Upon arrival and picking up your pre-ordered boards, masking tape will be available for competitors to prep their boards. This makes the competition flow smoother and run faster. You may also bring your own Masking Tape and Carpenter Pencil Spacers.

## **Changing Areas**

Please be aware that the event venue is a convention center, not a gymnasium, so there are no changing rooms or locker rooms. There are very nice and clean bathrooms available adjacent to the competition room available for competitors to change in.

## **Unique Division Names**

The NEO uses a fun naming convention when it comes to Rank Designation for divisions. Rather than traditional division such as beginner, intermediate and advanced, the NEO uses fun martial arts type names to designate a competitors experience through their number of years training.

## **Live Online Updates**

The day of the event, competitors can log into NEO LIVE on their smart phones or tablets and get live feeds of which divisions are running in each ring and which divisions are being called to staging. The venue also offers many charging stations so every can stay connected and powered up!

## **Registration Confirmation**

We offer E-mail confirmation that your registration has been received. E-mails will be sent at the conclusion of every other week. Please be sure to legibly include your E-mail address on your application. For those who do not have E-mail, we will be offering Phone Call confirmation when requested. Please check the appropriate box on the bottom of your registration application. If you do not receive your email/phone confirmation within two weeks after sending in your application, please contact us immediately at (518) 458-1011.