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Deadly

How the Law Really Views the Hands and Feet of a Martial Artist Part Two

In the first part of this article, the authors discussed liability as it pertains to self-defense. Here, they examine the other side of the coin: consensual combat.

Because most trained martial artists are so disciplined that they seldom get in street fights, a more common concern is injuring a sparring partner at the *dojo*. If that happens and you're the "attacker," can the student sue you? Can he sue the gym and its owner?

Liability of Combatants

Martial arts combat, as a discipline and a sport, provides a unique situation under the law. Certain actions—a jab or right cross, for instance—are the very definition of unlawful conduct, specifically "an offensive touching," and would cause a person to be liable for battery. However, they're the intended goal during a sparring match. The difference is that both combatants in a match have impliedly or expressly consented to a certain degree of foreseeable contact.

Many states speak of this unique situation in

A broken limb or cranked neck are foreseeable injuries in a grappling match. Consequently, an injured student probably wouldn't be able to successfully sue another student or the school owner.

Weapons

by Scott Marrs and Andy McGill

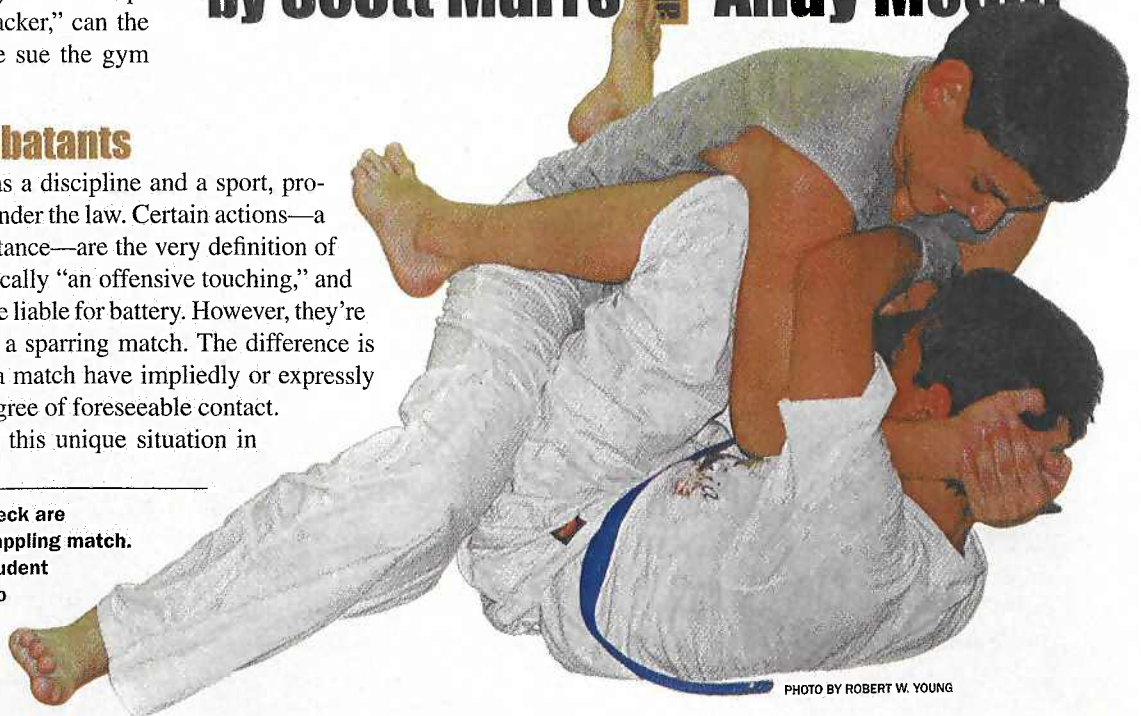


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