



ARTS & CULTURE

'Don't Get Caught Sleeping' as Pillow Fighting Becoming Sport

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Pillow fighting is moving out of the bedroom and into the boxing **ring**. The Pillow Fight Championship, or PFC, plans to hold its first live, pay-to-watch event in Florida on January 29.

Steve Williams had the idea of turning a children's game into a professional fighting sport. The head of PFC said professional pillow fighting will have the excitement of hand-to-hand fighting without the violence of mixed martial arts, or MMA, and boxing. He said it is not a joke.

"It's not something where you sit there and laugh and **feathers** are flying," Williams told *Reuters*. "It's serious. It's **hardcore** swinging with specialized pillows."

The three-round fights will be available to view on sports streaming station FITE.

The male and female athletes in January's event come mostly from MMA and boxing. But Williams said the athletes are not going to get injured.

"The fighters don't like to get hurt, and there's a lot of people who don't want to see the blood. They want to see good competition, they just don't want to see the violence."

Since many people grew up pillow fighting with friends or relatives, Williams hopes the new sport will be relatable and can grow a large audience, including children.

"You can call it an **alternative** sport, but we think it's going to have **mainstream** appeal," he said.

"Think about how they mixed country music with rap music and brought these **diverse** audiences together. That's what we're doing, and we hope it brings in a different kind of viewer."

I'm Dan Novak.

Reuters reported this story. Dan Novak adapted it for VOA Learning English. Hai Do was the editor.

Words in This Story

pillow — *n.* a bag filled with soft material that is used as a cushion usually for the head of a person who is lying down

ring — *n.* an area that is used for shows and contests and is usually surrounded by ropes or a fence

feather — *n.* any one of the light growths that make up the outer covering of the body of a bird

hardcore — *adj.* very active and enthusiastic

alternative — *adj.* not usual or traditional

mainstream — *adj.* the thoughts, beliefs, and choices that are accepted by the largest number of people

diverse — *adj.* made up of people or things that are different from each other