



Combat sports principles that apply to Site Reliability Engineering

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Conf42: Site Reliability Engineering 2022

June 09, 2022



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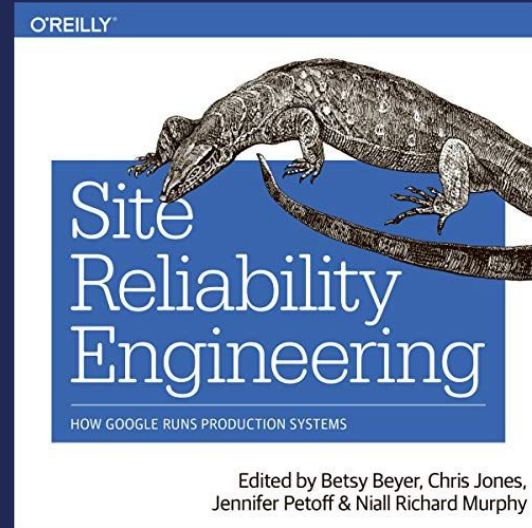
Combat sports and SRE???



≠ These are not the same



!=





Combat sports

principles and guidance



① Sometimes you are the
hammer; sometimes you
are the nail

 1 Sometimes the hammer; sometimes the nail

In Combat Sports:

- You could inflict damage or be on the receiving end
- You need to roll with punches

1 Sometimes the hammer; sometimes the nail

In SRE:

- Never too far away from your next outage
- Great, efficient, productive days are typically balanced with large scale outages



2 Don't throw and hope;
aim and fire



2 Don't throw and hope; aim and fire





2 Don't throw and hope; aim and fire





2 Don't throw and hope; aim and fire

In Combat Sports:

- Temptation to throw “haymakers”
- Precision beats power, timing beats speed



2 Don't throw and hope; aim and fire

In SRE:

- Proper investigation and debugging
- Turning something off and on = throwing haymaker



3 Don't react, respond



3 Don't react, respond

In Combat Sports:

- Keep emotions in check
- A reaction might cause a lose or expose a flaw



3 Don't react, respond

In SRE:

- Avoid placing blame
- It is Incident **Response**, not Incident *Reaction*



④ It only takes one punch
to change a fight

 **4** It only takes one punch to change a fight

In Combat Sports:

- One punch can win you the fight
- One punch can lose you the fight

4 It only takes one punch to change a fight

In SRE:

- You are one command/action from solving an incident
- You are one command/action from making an incident worse



5 The fight is won or lost
based on preparation

 **5** The fight is won or lost based on preparation

In Combat Sports:

- Preparation in the gym is as important as the actual fight
- Fail to prepare, prepare to fail

5 The fight is won or lost based on preparation


In SRE:

- Try to stay prepared and disciplined in Incident Response
- Less reliance on “winging it”



Bonus!



 Everyone has a plan
until they are punched in
the face



Recap



Recap

- 1 Sometimes you are the hammer, sometimes you are the nail
- 2 Don't throw and hope; aim and fire
- 3 Don't react, respond
- 4 It only takes one punch to change a fight
- 5 The fight is won or lost based on preparation



Recap

 Everyone has a plan until they are punched in the face



Thank you!