



CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2010 | Sacramento, CA 95815

Phone: (916) 263-2195 | Fax: (916) 263-2197

Website: www.dca.ca.gov/csac | Email: csac@dca.ca.gov



Members of the Commission

Peter R. Villegas, Chair

Dr. Vernon Williams, Vice Chair

AnnMaria De Mars

Ronald Fiore

Christopher Gruwell

Douglas Hendrickson

Scott Wetch

COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 3, 2025

10:00 a.m. - Conclusion of Business

Location:

IN-PERSON LOCATION:	REMOTE LOCATION:
Ronald Reagan State Building	Zoom
Auditorium 300 S Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90013	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87647947691?pwd=YDsfSi4FDDbZVqzpv4BgCzqA0rezlm.1

Commissioners Present

Chair Peter R. Villegas

Vice Chair Dr. Vernon Williams

Commissioner Ronald Fiore

Commissioner Doug Hendrickson

Commissioner Dr. AnnMaria De Mars

Commissioner Scott Wetch

Staff Present

Andy Foster, Executive Officer

Patrisha Blackstock, Assistant Executive Officer

Mark Relyea, Chief Athletic Inspector

John Kinn, Legal Counsel

OPEN SESSION

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order / Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Villegas. Executive Officer (EO) Andy Foster called roll. A quorum was established. Commissioner Gruwell was absent.

Agenda Item 2 - Welcome – Commission Chairman's Opening Remarks.

Chair Villegas welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2025 and thanked all the Commissioners for their continued dedication and work for combative sports in the state.

Agenda Item 3 - Review and Possible action to approve the December 9,2024 Commission Meeting Minutes.

Chair Villegas presented the December 9, 2024, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

Commissioner Fiore moved to approve the meeting minutes.

Commissioner De Mars seconded the motion.

No Public Comments.

The motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 4 – Election of Officers Pursuant to the Requirements of the Business and Professions Code section 18606.

Legal Counsel Mr. Kinn opened for nominations for Chair. Vice Chair Dr. Williams nominated Chair Villegas. Chair Villegas accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. There were no Commission or public comments.

The implied motion is to elect Chair Villegas as Chair of the Commission.

The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote. Chair Villegas abstained.

Legal Counsel Mr. Kinn opened for nominations for Vice Chair. Chair Villegas nominated Vice Chair Dr. Williams. Vice Chair Dr. Williams accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. There were no Commission or public comments.

The implied motion is to elect Vice Chair Dr. Williams as Vice Chair of the Commission.

The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote. Vice Chair Williams abstained.

Agenda Item 5- Discussion and Possible Action regarding Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship Request for a Promoter License in order to hold events using Bare Knuckle Fighting Rules pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 533.

This item was tabled.

Agenda Item 6 - Discussion and Possible Action regarding waiving the requirement for an ambulance to be present at small USA Boxing events pursuant to Business and Professions Code, chapter 2, article 3, section 18646.

EO Foster presented data and information regarding ambulance usage from USA Boxing representatives. USA Boxing representative, Mike McAtee was present as well as other local boxing club officials.

After due consideration of the data, information, and comments, the Commission affirmatively found the rules and enforcement of the delegated and sanctioning organization, USA Boxing, meet or exceed the safety and fairness standards of the Commission without an onsite ambulance at smaller USA Boxing events of less than twenty (20) amateur bouts.

Commissioner Fiore moved that pursuant to Section 18646 of the California Business and Professions Code, the Commission waives direct application of the laws and rules under the State Athletic Commission Act, the Professional Boxing Rules, and the Amateur Boxing Rules to the extent that they require an onsite ambulance at these smaller USA Boxing events of less than twenty (20) amateur bouts, subject to annual review by the Commission at its first quarterly meeting of each calendar year.

Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion.

Public Comments

Joe Zanders with USA Boxing thanked the Commission for taking this item up and asked that the Commission pass the waiver of the ambulance.

Tony Contreras with USA Boxing echoed Mr. Zanders statement and added that the cost of the ambulance to be at each event has increased over the years. He added that he felt this waiver would allow clubs to hold more shows.

Rose Gracie stated that she felt the waiver of the ambulance was a step backwards and not in the best interest.

The motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote

Agenda Item 7 – Discussion and Possible Action regarding opportunities for Referee Uniform Sponsorships.

This item was tabled.

Agenda Item 8 – Budget Update from the Budget Office of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

This item was discussed in agenda item 9.

Due to technical difficulties, a recording of the meeting is not available.

Agenda Item 9 – Executive Officer’s Report

a. *Budget Update for the Support Fund, the Neurological Fund, Pension Program and MMA Benefit Fund.*

EO Foster stated that the Commission has deposited \$1,636,362.90 to the support fund as of February 19, 2025. He added that the support fund is slightly below of where he would like the Commission to be at but felt confident that it would be made up based on the event schedule.

The Commission has deposited \$52,005.88.00 into the boxer’s pensions fund, \$44,695.35 into the MMA Retirement fund and \$65,396.80. The pension investment account is currently at \$4.807 million as January 31, 2025

b. *Update on Boxers Pension Distributions.*

EO Foster presented a distribution chart that showed the number of boxers who had received a pension since 2013, and amount of money paid to boxers from 2013 to February 21, 2025. The chart can be found in the meeting materials.

c. *Update on the Specialty License Plate.*

EO Foster stated that Commission staff would be submitting the specialty license plate application to the DMV for review and approval this week.

d. *Status Update of Delegated Entities*

- ***California Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Organizations (CAMO)- J. T Steele:*** Mr. Steele has submitted CAMO’s quarterly report which can be found in the meeting materials.
- ***USA Boxing (USA Boxing)- Mike McAtee:*** Mr. McAtee has submitted USA Boxing’s quarterly report which can be found in the meeting materials.
- ***United States Fight League (USFL)-Joe Stevenson:*** Mr. Stevenson has submitted USFL’s quarterly report which can be found in the meeting materials.
- ***International Kickboxing Federation (IKF)- Toni Fossum:*** Mrs. Fossum has submitted IKF’s quarterly report which can be found in the meeting materials.
- ***World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO) - Tom Henninger:*** Mr. Henninger has submitted WAKO’s initial quarterly report which can be found in the meeting materials.
- ***International Sport Karate Association (ISKA)- Cory Schafer:*** Mr. Schafer has submitted ISKA’s quarterly report which can be found in the meeting materials.

e. *Staffing Update*

f. Upcoming Event Schedule

g. Update on the upcoming August 2025 ABC Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

EO Foster stated that the next ABC Conference would be held from August 1st to August 7th. He added that as the Chair of the MMA Rules Committee and Co-Chair of the ABC Medical Committee he had been asked to speak at the conference.

Agenda Item 10 – Public Comments Not on the Agenda

No public comments.

CLOSED SESSION

Agenda Item 11- The Commission will meet in closed session as authorized by Government Code §11126, subdivision (c)(3) to deliberate on disciplinary matters and petitions; and subdivision (e)(1) to confer with and receive advice from its legal counsel regarding the following pending and threatened litigation: Sanchez v. City of Ontario, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. CIVSB2423351; Walker v. Fox Theater Partners, et al., San Mateo County Superior Court, Case No. 24-CIV-03883; and Suarez v. Sweet Science Boxing, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 24TRCV03983.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda Item 12- Next Commission Meeting will be Monday, June 2, 2025, with the location to be determined.

Agenda Item 14 – Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 1:30 PM.