



CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

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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

Thursday, April 10, 2025

2 p.m. - Conclusion of Business

Location:

The State Athletic Commission held a public meeting and via teleconference at the following locations:

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| 1. State Athletic Commission
2005 Evergreen St., Suite 2010
Sacramento, CA 95815 | 2. 238 Townsend St
San Francisco, CA 94107 |
| 3. 10500 Civic Center Dr.
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 | 4. 6801 Park Terrance
Los Angeles, CA 90045 |
| 5. 1231 I Street, Suite 2016
Sacramento, CA 95814 | 6. 244 Kearny Street, 9th Floor
San Francisco, CA
Abner Hotel-Business Center
15 West St
Litchfield, CT 06759 |
| 7. 11461 W Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90049 | |

Commissioners Present

Chair Peter R. Villegas

Vice Chair Dr. Vernon Williams

Commissioner Ronald Fiore

Commissioner Christopher Gruwell

Commissioner Dr. AnnMaria De Mars

Staff Present

Andy Foster, Executive Officer

Patrisha Blackstock, Assistant Executive Officer

Mark Relyea, Chief Athletic Inspector

John Kinn, Legal Counsel

Commissioner Scott Wetch

OPEN SESSION

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

The meeting was called to order at 2 PM. Executive Officer Andy Foster called roll. Commissioner Hendrickson was absent. All Commissioners in attendance joined via WebEx.

Agenda Item 2 - 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

The Commission discussed extending the trial period for bare knuckle fighting events. The Commission has observed a decrease in drug test failures at bare knuckle fighting events. The Commission will continue monitoring drug testing and compliance by the fighters. Some commissioners expressed concerns about the safety and integrity of bare knuckle fighting as a sport. Dr. Wallace, founding member of the Association of Ringside Physicians, has extensive experience in combat sports and spoke to various states that held BKFC events and found that the number of serious injuries (hospitalizations, deaths) that occurred was low. Vice Chair Dr. Williams mentioned data he had seen that suggested that the number of concussive head injuries were reduced due to lacerations that ended the fights early. Dr. Wallace added that he noticed the occurrence of hand injuries was also reduced. The Association of Ringside Physicians is currently collecting data on bare knuckle fighting injuries.

Commissioner Gruwell *moved* to grant BKFC a temporary license for 6 events or one year, whichever comes first. The promoter and the event data from California shall then be reviewed by the Commission.

Commissioner Dr. De Mars *seconded* the motion.

Tom Martinez stated that if approved he would like to hold an event at the State fairgrounds.

Motion passed 5-1 by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 3 - Public Comment on Items Not on The Agenda

No public comment

Agenda Item 4 – Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 2:40 PM

DRAFT