



Members of the Commission

John Carvelli, Chair  
Mary Lehman, Vice Chair  
John Frierson  
Martha Shen-Urquidez  
Van Gordon Sauter  
Vernon Williams, M.D.  
Luis Ayala

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Agenda items may be taken out of order the  
agenda except public comment.  
Action may be taken on any item listed on  
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# CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 24, 2018  
10:00 a.m. - Conclusion of Business

**Location:**

*The Westgate Hotel  
1055 Second Avenue, Riviera Room  
San Diego, CA 92101*

**Teleconference Location:**

102 Deer Run Road  
Ketchum, Idaho 83340

**Commissioners Present**

Chair John Carvelli  
Vice Chair Mary Lehman  
Commissioner Martha Shen-Urquidez  
Commissioner Vernon Williams, MD

**Staff Present**

Andy Foster, Executive Officer  
Sophia Cornejo, Assistant Executive Officer  
Spencer Walker, Legal Counsel  
Heather Jackson, Staff

**Commissioners Present via  
Teleconference**

Commissioner Van Gordon Sauter

**Commissioners Absent**

Commissioner John Frierson  
Commissioner Luis Ayala

### **OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda Item 1 – Call the meeting to Order / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance/  
Establishment of Quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., Executive Officer (EO) Andy Foster called Roll and a quorum was established.

**Agenda Item 2 – Welcome –Chairman’s opening remarks**

Chairman John Carvelli welcomed everyone to the meeting and recounted a recent stakeholder meeting where all major boxing sanctioning bodies were present and cooperative with the Commissions efforts to address severe weight cutting and dehydration in boxing.

**Agenda Item 3 – Approval of the February 27, 2018, Commission Meeting Minutes**

EO Foster presented the February 27, 2018, Commission Meeting minutes for approval.

*Commissioner Shen-Urquidez motioned to approve the minutes.*

*Vice Chair Lehman seconded the motion.*

No commissioner or public comment.

*The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.*

**Agenda Item 4 – Approval of the May 8, 2018, Commission Meeting Minutes**

EO Foster presented the May 8, 2018, Commission Meeting minutes for approval.

*Vice Chair Lehman motioned to approve the minutes.*

*Commissioner Shen-Urquidez seconded the motion.*

No commissioner or public comment.

*The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.*

**Agenda Item 5 – Discussion and possible action regarding the upcoming Association of Boxing Commissions meeting and topics that directly affect California including Report on the June 7, 2018, Stakeholder Summit regarding the 10-point plan expansion to address severe weight cutting in boxing, potential update to sanctioning body ratings criteria, and boxing registry update**

EO Foster reported on the stakeholder meeting (Summit) held on June 7, 2018. He stated the sanctioning bodies offered their support and willingness to adhere to any changes made by the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC). Mr. Foster explained the ABC's authority to adopt new ratings criteria affecting championship boxing bouts. This will ensure any procedures affect everyone in the country equally.

Mr. Foster requested the Commissioners consider implementing CSAC's Mixed Martial Arts 10-Point Plan (Plan) to Boxing. Mr. Foster explained the positive impact the 10-Point Plan has already had in mixed martial arts in California. He stressed this will have a similar positive impact in boxing as well.

According to EO Foster, a 10% body weight cut is very difficult. Yet, there are many athletes still cutting 20% of their body weight immediately to a fight. Mr. Foster explained drastic weight cutting is extremely unhealthy and potentially dangerous.

The intent of CSAC's 10-Point Plan is to get athletes below 10% weight cut. EO Foster concluded his explanation by asking the Commissioners to consider leading the country in stopping the dangerous practice by adopting the plan.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez provided background on the rationale for the Commission's initial efforts in combating weight cutting in mixed martial arts. Initially, there appeared to

be a bigger issue in mixed martial arts because of the lack of weight classes, and because many of the athletes come from wrestling where weight cutting is part of the culture. Also, the increase in events, and event sizes may have had some influence in the increase in extreme weight cutting in MMA.

In the recent past, according to Commissioner Shen-Urquidez, CSAC began seeing more extreme weight-cutting and dehydration in boxing. It's not that it didn't occur at all in boxing before. Currently, it appears to be on the rise.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated television networks were invited to the Summit because one of the consequences of the ratings plan being introduced at the ABC convention is the potential of creating unpredictability in viewership. She acknowledged the plan may affect all aspects of the sport and emphasized the necessity to do outreach to prevent anyone from being blindsided by its effects.

Commissioner Williams asked EO Foster to clarify the rationale behind including only the championship bouts. EO Foster explained the Muhammad Ali act authorizes the ABC to establish ratings criteria for sanctioning bodies to use for championship bouts only. He explained to affect positive change in non-championship bouts, either a regulatory change would have to be made at the state level in each individual state, or the Muhammad Ali act would have to be expanded with a new provision.

Vice Chair Lehman provided the public with an overview of the 10- Point Plan, detailing each item and its effect. She commented, as a former fighter, she knows the best fighters always train as if they are going to for the championship. Therefore, she agrees imposing these requirements on championship bouts will initiate a trickle-down effect to the undercards.

Chairman Carvelli recognized the Summit as a significant day in the sport of boxing to have all five sanctioning bodies appear at the request of the Commission. They were not required to attend. He congratulated EO Foster for organizing the Summit. Chairman Carvelli emphasized their attendance was important because to make real changes, CSAC cannot act unilaterally. CSAC needs to coordinate efforts between many organizations.

EO Foster explained the proposed ratings criteria which will be presented at the ABC convention and which was presented at the summit. He further detailed explained the issue of severe weight cutting has been discussed by the ABC's Medical Committee. They are concerned with the 10% number.

Chairman Carvelli asked EO Foster if he believes the athletes receiving large purses have an advantage over those with less resources. EO Foster stated he does believe money has a large influence on an athlete's ability and motivation to be the bigger competitor. He further explained they are more likely to accept an overweight fine to ensure an advantage over their opponent.

CSAC conducted a weight-cut study consisting of 754 boxers. EO Foster presented the from this weight study. He reported of the 754 boxers studied, the average weight change between weigh-in and fight day was 9.8 pounds, which was 7% of the boxer's body weight. He further reported of the 754 studied, 164 boxers gained more than 10% of their body weight on fight day, and more than 20 boxers gained more than 14% on fight day. He concluded by stating the 10% is an attainable goal for now, but should eventually be reduced.

Commissioner Sauter suggested the Commission consider publishing the weight disparity of the athletes. EO Foster and Commissioner Shen-Urquidez agreed and further suggested increasing media and social media interaction on this topic.

*Commissioner Shen-Urquidez motioned to approve implementation of the applicable sections of the 10-Point Plan for Mixed Martial Arts into Boxing; and approve the ratings criteria update, which will be voted on at the Association of Boxing Commissions Annual Conference in Orlando.*

*Commissioner Williams seconded the motion.*

#### Public Comment

Mr. Roy Englebrecht, CSAC Licensed Promoter, expressed his agreement with this issue being addressed, stating he doesn't believe the plan is going far enough. He suggested a program where athletes weigh-in at the beginning of the calendar year and are monitored on a bi-monthly basis.

Mr. Patrick Russell, CSAC Licensed Official, applauds the Commission's efforts on the weight cutting issue in combat sports. He suggested the primary focus should be on education and potential certification.

Mr. Lorenz Larkin, CSAC Licensed Athlete, echoed the idea of athletes who are making more money are less concerned with the financial consequences of missing weight. He suggested the consequences be more severe. Chairman Carvelli asked Mr. Larkin to describe his experiences with opponents missing weight. Mr. Larkin explained especially in the larger televised bouts, the overweight competitor recognizes their opponent is very unlikely to decline the fight and this behavior will continue if something doesn't change.

*The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.*

Vice Chair Lehman provided suggestions on the Boxer's Application and Physical forms.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Report on Gender Equity Task Force (Shen-Urquidez/Lehman)**

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez reported the task force is currently in the information gathering stage. She presented a report which indicates the difference in the average purse amount between male and female competitors in both boxing and mixed martial arts. She explained the data is arranged by scheduled rounds, identifying female championship boxing is not 12 rounds and therefore included in the 10-round category. She confirmed a future report will separate championship boxing into its own category so the comparisons are equal.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez reported the task force has been working closely with the Contact Sports Foundation which has a subcommittee of its own on gender equity, and is currently commissioning a study from the Global Sports Institute.

Chairman Carvelli asked if the task force has considered addressing safety issues for women in combat sports. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez confirmed several controversial issues have been considered, but the primary focus of the task force is currently on pay disparity.

Vice Chair Lehman and Commissioner Williams reviewed other topics the task force hopes to address in the future, including investigating the difference the effects of dehydration have on female competitors, the relative increased risk in traumatic brain injury for females versus males when they are participating in sports with similar rules. Vice Chair Lehman announced the task force plans to hold a stakeholder meeting inviting the public to express issues and complaints, and gather information and resources.

EO Foster suggested the task force attempt to identify the various revenue streams in both boxing and mixed martial arts. He believes the information will provide a clearer view of the actual pay to be considered in the studies.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Subcommittee Update: Pension Fund (Lehman/Ayala)**

Vice Chair Lehman provided background on the pension fund, explaining the fund amount and the obstacles in paying vested boxers. She reviewed the vesting requirements for the pension fund and clarified the Commission's ability to pay boxers their retirement early, in special circumstances.

She urged the public to reach out to the Commission main office to get more information about the fund. She concluded her report by requesting EO Foster to add a chart to the report which reflects the number of boxers who are vested and eligible for payments that have not yet been distributed. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez clarified boxers do not have to be a California resident to receive their pension benefits from boxing in California.

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. Lorenz Larkin, CSAC Licensed Athlete, asked the Commission if they have considered implementing a pension fund, like boxing has, for mixed martial arts (MMA). Commissioner Shen-Urquidez and Chairman Carvelli confirmed there have been discussions on expanding the pension fund to include mixed martial arts, explaining the administrative and regulatory effort it takes to achieve such expansion is extensive.

#### **Agenda Item 9 – Business and Professions Code section 18640.5 requires the Commission to invite stakeholder testimony at Commission meetings to identify actions that may lead to greater opportunities for licensees to participate in major professional boxing contests.**

No stakeholder comments received.

### **Agenda Item 10 – Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

Mr. Roy Englebrecht, CSAC Licensed Promoter, requested information regarding transgender athletes and the process for applying. Vice Chair Lehman confirmed the Commission worked strenuously to implement a licensing and application process for transgender athletes. She suggested if the process isn't clear or there are issues, to let the Commission know so they can make the necessary changes.

### **Agenda Item 8 – Executive Officer's Report**

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

EO Foster reported for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18, the Commission deposited approximately \$1,983,000.00 into the Support Fund, \$11,089.00 to the Neurological Examination Account and \$304,886.00 to the Boxer's Pension Fund. He stated as far back as the Department's financial history goes, FY 2017-18 was a record high for the Commission, with respect to revenue. He explained the Commission's revenue structure and how it coincides with its expenditures stating the Commission generates approximately 85% of its revenue from event fees. He further explained to have events, the Commission must staff those events, incurring expenditures which can fluctuate dramatically.

#### **b. Report on Pending and Proposed Regulations**

- **Examination of Boxer Applicants (Amendment to Title 4, California Code of Regulations section 280.)**

Assistant Executive Officer, Sophia Cornejo reported the rulemaking package was still over at the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) for review, and the last update she received from DCA was the package had been routed to the Budget Office.

Vice Chair Lehman stated it's her understanding the package has been under review for a year, although the delay is on the front end and her concern is not running out of time at the Office of Administrative Law, she asked if there was a way to expedite the review process at the Department level. DCA Legal Counsel, Spencer Walker stated the Department had to search for the package which and it was found in Mr. Gary Duke's office, at which time Mr. Walker could review it. He further explained the reasoning of the package not being approved by legal until April 2018, adding the package is now on track and back on schedule.

#### **c. Status Update of Delegated Entities**

- **California Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Organizations (CAMO)**

Mr. JT Steele, President, reported since the last Commission meeting there have been no major injuries for review and provided a written report of all suspensions issued since that meeting. He also provided the Commissioners with CAMO's most

recent tax returns, including an internal financial report and stated the CAMO reserves are within operating ranges.

Mr. Steele reported CAMO is in the process of designing a new comprehensive drug testing program that includes anabolic steroids. He explained they intend to use the laboratory services of Request-A-Test, and will allow for collections by CAMO inspectors or Request-A-Test representatives. He mentioned the cost of implementing a drug testing program does present some financial obstacles and requested some guidance from the Commission and EO Foster to help alleviate some of those concerns.

- USA Boxing (USA Boxing)

Mr. Mike McAtee, Executive Director, reported USA Boxing has concluded their 2017 independent audit. He stated he will be posting the results of the audit on their website and including it in his report for the next Commission meeting.

He reported USA Boxing is subject to the U.S. Center for SafeSport (USOC) requirements for member education, regulations, and reporting requirements. As such, USA Boxing requires all non-athlete members, coaches, officials, and administrators and staff, to take USOC's SafeSport Training prior to being approved for membership and/or employment.

In addition to the SafeSport education requirements, he reported USA Boxing has also implemented education courses and certifications for coaches. The first of which being the HeadsUp training offered through the Center for Disease Control's website at no cost. He explained USA Boxing is currently developing a new Coach's Education Plan which includes creating educational videos to address weight management and nutrition practices.

Mr. McAtee further reported USA Boxing has passed their strategic plan and highlighted their efforts toward female growth in the sport. He explained the focus does not end with the female competitors, they are striving to increase female participation in boxing coaches, officials, and administrators. He stated the goal is to increase female participation by 15% by the year 2020, 22.5% by 2022, and 30% by 2024.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez requested Mr. McAtee provide a status of USA Boxing's enhanced background check procedures and policies. Mr. McAtee explained USA Boxing's understanding of their industry, stating Boxing has historically been a second path for a lot of individuals with uneasy pasts. He continued, to provide support for those individuals USA Boxing overhauled their background requirements and implemented criteria for denials, and appeal procedures.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez inquired about USA Boxing's status of adding weight classes for the Olympics. Mr. McAtee responded the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has requested eight male weight classes and five female weight

classes. He added the International Boxing Association (AIBA) recently concluded a meeting and his impression is AIBA is still working with the IOC to finalize weight classes which promote gender neutrality.

- United States Fight League (USFL)

Mr. Jon Frank, President, mentioned the materials omitted the number of bouts on the June 16, 2018, event, which was 16 bouts. He reported USFL held a total of 91 bouts within 7 events since the last Commission meeting. He further reported two suspensions issued since the last meeting, the first was a 17-year-old who fractured their hand during the bout, and the second, a 14-year-old who suffered a fractured arm resulting from a takedown.

Additionally, Mr. Frank reported of the 1294 athletic exposures since their delegation in September 2014, USFL has experienced a total of 20 injuries which required medical suspensions from competition or training. He announced Dr. Adam Brooks is tentatively scheduled to make a presentation before the Association of Ringside Physicians' annual conference in October.

Chairman Carvelli asked Mr. Frank's impression of how the delegation is going. Mr. Frank acknowledged the sport is growing and discussed the various challenges of providing appropriate oversight on a sport so new.

Chairman Carvelli suggested USFL consider increasing their outreach to spotlight participants who have graduated to coaches, community leaders, and advanced athletes. Mr. David Bramlette, USFL Promoter, suggested the lack of participation and positive exposure of the sport may be, in part, a result of the delegation. He clarified the tournaments are currently not feasible because of the cost of registering with USFL. Mr. Lorenz Larkin, USFL Promoter, echoed Mr. Bramlette's concerns regarding the tournament costs and expressed his interest in bringing the youth tournaments back to California, adding the youth tournaments allow the participants to compete multiple times a day in a safe way.

- International Kickboxing Federation (IKF)

Mr. Steve Fossum, President, was unable to attend the meeting. EO Foster presented the Commission with his written report submitted in the meeting materials.

**d. Update on C3 Logix Sports Concussion Management Program**

EO Foster reported he and Mr. Frank Carruba from C3 Logix have been working in consultation with Dr. Williams to expand the C3 Logix testing sites which will allow athletes more access to take the test.

He explained the Ultimate Fighting Championship is now implementing C3 Logix into their protocol. He added, with the authorization of each tested athlete, he hopes to be able to share the results of the Commission's C3 Logix testing with UFC's doctors to prevent duplicative testing.



He further reported the Commission has testing close to 900 athletes tested and feel confident the testing goals will be met. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked EO Foster if any athlete has been baseline tested for a second time. EO Foster responded there have been repeat athletes and the data is available, however neither he nor his staff can decipher the information. Commissioner Williams asked EO Foster to clarify whether the second tests are baselines or follow-up tests after an event. EO Foster responded the tests were secondary baselines.

**e. Upcoming Event Schedule and discussion regarding event activity**

EO Foster presented the Commission with the updated event schedule and directed their attention to the September 9, 2018, K2 Promotions event in Inglewood, California, at the Forum. Additionally, he directed the Commissioner's to the August 11, 2018, Golden Boy event which will be the first ever live streamed world title fight. He discussed the significance streaming services have on the industry and how consumers are receiving content, adding it is constantly changing.

**f. Staffing update**

EO Foster reported he has requested the creation of two retired annuitant positions to assist inspectors in the field. He further reported he was told by Ms. Nicole Le, Deputy Director over Human Resources at the Department of Consumer Affairs, the resurrection of the Chief Athletic Inspector classification did not make it on the State Personnel Board's agenda for the August meeting.

Chairman Carvelli expressed disappointment with the process taking as long as it has.

**Agenda Item 10 – Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

Chairman Carvelli wished Commissioner Williams a happy birthday.

Mr. James Beers, CSAC Referee Applicant, introduced himself to the Commission and gave his background and credentials in the sport.

**Agenda Item 11 – Next Meeting Scheduled for October 2, 2018, in Los Angeles, CA**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2018, in Los Angeles, CA.

**Agenda Item 12 – ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting Adjourned.