

CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION SEEKS BOXER'S PENSION CLAIMANTS

FORMER BOXERS ENCOURAGED TO CHECK IF THEY HAVE A PENSION WAITING TO BE CLAIMED

By Peter Fournier

Consumer Connection staff

The California State Athletic Commission (CSAC) manages the only pension fund for boxers in the United States, offering a one-time payment distribution to former boxers who fought in California and meet California Professional Boxer's Pension Fund requirements.

The pension was created by California law in 1982 to help provide funds for boxers in their later years. Currently, the fund totals more than \$4.6 million. Since 1999, more than \$4 million has been distributed to former boxers through the pension plan. Despite the Commission suffering a significant drop in revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic, pension distributions remained a priority with nearly \$400,000 paid in 2022 alone.

"California has strived to be an industry leader in the fight game," said CSAC Executive Officer Andy Foster. "Although we can always do better, we are proud to have been the first commission in the country to take this step for fighters who have dedicated their lives to fight in the ring."

CSAC strives to ensure every eligible former boxer or their beneficiary gets the pension they earned.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
**CONSUMER
AFFAIRS**

HOW BOXERS QUALIFY

Boxers who fought in California can qualify for a pension distribution if:

- They are at least 50 years old.
- Fought in at least 10 rounds a year for four years in California with no more than a three-year break.
- Fought in at least 75 scheduled professional rounds in California with no more than a three-year break.

WHEN PENSION FUNDS CAN BE CLAIMED

- When a boxer reaches age 50.
- If a beneficiary of a boxer who is deceased prior to age 50 requests pension funds.
- The former boxer is deceased and a beneficiary is claiming pension funds.
- A boxer has retired from boxing and wishes to turn pension funds into an educational fund after the age of 36.

Former boxers who fought in CSAC-sanctioned fights and meet eligibility requirements should check the CSAC website to see if they have a pension waiting to be claimed. CSAC boxer's pension plan webpage with a list of claimants is available at www.dca.ca.gov/boxerspension. Boxers whose name appears on the claimants list can find additional instructions and forms on the CSAC website or can get in touch with CSAC via email, csac@dca.ca.gov, or call (916) 263-2195. Former boxers who believe they are eligible but do not see their name on the list should get in touch with CSAC.

"We are forever grateful to any licensed boxers who stepped into the ring to not just compete for their own success but to entertain Californians for years. If someone is owed money, we want to do as much as possible to find these fighters," Foster said. "We want to be fair to everybody."

Assembly Bill 1136 (Haney, 2023), signed by Governor Gavin Newsom in October 2023, established the world's first retirement benefit fund for mixed martial artists (MMA) who fight at events in California. Beginning in 2024, MMA fighters who fought in at least 39 scheduled rounds in a CSAC-sanctioned professional mixed martial art contest held in the state would be entitled to distribution of the funds when they are at least 50 years of age, with exceptions. Similar to the boxing fund, the MMA fund will not receive General Fund money.

"MMA promotions have seen immense growth in the past three decades, and those fighters/licensees who competed here deserve compensation in retirement, also," Foster said.

For more information—including boxing pension application instructions and distribution request forms for former boxers—visit www.dca.ca.gov/csac. 

