

Department of Consumer Affairs  
California State Athletic Commission

# COMMISSION MEETING

*March 20, 2026*



Peter R. Villegas, Chair  
Dr. Vernon Williams, Vice Chair  
Dr. AnnMaria De Mars, Commissioner  
Ronald Fiore, Commissioner  
Christopher Gruwell, Commissioner  
Douglas J. Hendrickson, Commissioner  
Scott Wetch, Commissioner  
Andy Foster, Executive Officer



Members of the Commission

Peter R. Villegas, Chair  
Dr. Vernon Williams, Vice Chair  
Dr. AnnMaria De Mars  
Ronald Fiore  
Christopher Gruwell  
Douglas J. Hendrickson  
Scott Wetch

## MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

Friday, March 20, 2026  
10:00 a.m. - Conclusion of Business

NOTE: The California State Athletic Commission (Commission) will hold a public meeting, as noted above via a teleconference platform, in accordance with Government Code section 11123, at the following locations:

The State Athletic Commission will hold a public meeting, as noted above, and via teleconference at the following locations:

1. State Athletic Commission  
2005 Evergreen St., Suite 2010  
Sacramento, CA 95815
2. 621 Capitol Mall, Suite 1425  
Sacramento, CA 95814
3. 10500 Civic Center Dr.  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
4. 520 Broadway  
Santa Monica, CA 90401
5. 141 Laurel Grove Ave  
Kentfield, CA 94904
6. 244 Kearny Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA

**FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COMMENT FROM A REMOTE LOCATION, PLEASE LOG ON TO WEBEX:**

<https://dca-meetings.webex.com/dca-meetings/j.php?MTID=m1c2efff6f370d1c54fad0b6c9f92653c>

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Passcode: 2722320

Members of the public may but are not required to identify themselves. When signing into the Webex platform, participants may be asked for their name and email address. Participants who choose not to provide their names will need to provide a unique identifier such as their initials or another alternative, so that the meeting moderator can identify individuals who wish to make public comment. Participants who choose not to provide their email address may use a fictitious email address in the following sample format: [XXXXXX@mailinator.com](mailto:XXXXXX@mailinator.com).

Public comments will be limited to two minutes unless, at the discretion of the Chair, circumstances require a shorter period; members of the public will not be permitted to “yield” their allotted time to other members of the public to make comments.

## AGENDA

### OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance/ Roll Call/ Establishment of a Quorum.
2. Welcome - Chair’s Opening Remarks.
3. Discussion, Review, and **Possible Action** regarding authorizing the delegation International Kickboxing Federation (IKF), dba IKF Kickboxing Muay Thai Federation California, to hold Freestyle Muay Thai events using 10 oz. open palm gloves pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 18646.
4. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda.  
*(The Commission may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this public comment section, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting pursuant to Government Code sections 11125 and 11125.7(a))*
5. ADJOURNMENT

### **Important Notices to the Public:**

The time and order of agenda items are subject to change at the discretion of the Commission Chair. The meeting may be canceled without notice, for verification of the meeting, call (916) 263-2195. The meeting is open to the public except when specifically noticed otherwise, in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.

Public comments will be taken on agenda items at the time the item is heard. Total time allocated for public comment may be limited (see above).

The meeting is accessible to the physically disabled. To request disability-related accommodation, use the contact information below. Please submit your request at least five (5) business days before the meeting to help ensure availability of the requested accommodation.

Contact Person: Patrisha Blackstock  
(916) 263-2915 or [Patrisha.Blackstock@dca.ca.gov](mailto:Patrisha.Blackstock@dca.ca.gov)  
California State Athletic Commission  
2005 Evergreen St., Suite 2010  
Sacramento, CA 95815



## MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	March 20, 2026
<b>TO</b>	Chairman Peter Villegas and Commissioners California State Athletic Commission
<b>FROM</b>	Andy Foster, Executive Officer California State Athletic Commission
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Agenda Item #3– Discussion, Review, and Possible Action regarding authorizing the delegation International Kickboxing Federation (IKF), dba IKF Kickboxing Muay Thai Federation California, to hold Freestyle Muay Thai events using 10 oz. open palm gloves pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 18646</b>

### **BACKGROUND**

The amateur delegation International Kickboxing Federation (IKF), dba IKF Kickboxing Muay Thai Federation California is requesting that the Commission approve them to hold amateur Muay Thai events using Freestyle Muay Thai rules and 10 oz. open palm gloves.

The following items are included in the meeting materials for review.

- Freestyle Muay Thai proposed rules
- Glove specification
- Event results and suspensions for two events held in 2024 in South Carolina that used the proposed rules and gloves.
- Highlight video from one amateur bout in South Carolina.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Business and Professions Code, 18646 (b) states:

*The commission may, however, authorize one or more nonprofit boxing, wrestling, or martial arts clubs, organizations, or sanctioning bodies, upon approval of its bylaws, to administer its rules for amateur boxing, wrestling, and full contact martial arts contests, and may, therefore, waive direct commission application of laws and rules, including licensure, subject to the commission's affirmative finding that the standards and enforcement of similar rules by a club, organization, or sanctioning body meet or exceed the safety and fairness standards of the commission. The commission shall review the performance of any such club, organization, or sanctioning body annually.*

Under this statute, the Commission may waive certain requirements only if the proposed rules meet or exceed the safety standards established by the state. After reviewing the submitted rules and glove specifications, I do not believe they exceed the state's existing safety standards.

If the Commission elects to approve the proposed ruleset and gloves, I recommend that the approval includes a requirement that all amateur athletes competing under this ruleset wear headgear, regardless of their amateur record.

# **IKF RULES OF AMATEUR FREESTYLE MUAY THAI**

## **OVERVIEW**

The IKF Free Style Muay Thai – Open Glove Division represents an advanced competitive format designed to elevate the sport of Muay Thai and expand the athlete development pathway within the International Kickboxing Federation (IKF) framework.

This division is intended for qualified athletes aged 18 and older who have achieved competitive experience under IKF or equivalent sanctioning bodies. While preserving the core structure and regulations of IKF Full Contact or Modified Muay Thai, this format introduces open-palm hybrid gloves (10 oz) to provide a modern, dynamic, and technical striking experience.

The purpose is to offer a refined bridge between high-level amateur and professional competition, advancing both the sport's integrity and the athletes' readiness for international stages.

## **PURPOSE**

The International Kickboxing Federation (IKF) has long been recognized as the global leader in sanctioning safe, fair, and professionally organized combat sports events. Its mission centers on athlete protection, technical accuracy, and the consistent enforcement of rules and standards that elevate the credibility of kickboxing, Muay Thai, and all associated striking arts.

In alignment with that mission, the IKF Free Style Muay Thai – Open Glove Division aims to:

- Elevate the sport of Muay Thai by introducing a modernized, technically demanding format that maintains the spirit of tradition while adapting to contemporary standards of performance and presentation.
- Prepare athletes for higher levels of competition, ensuring that advanced amateurs have the experience, skill, and mental focus required to transition toward professional and international stages.
- Encourage amateur fighters to remain dedicated to their development, providing a tangible goal and a pathway within the IKF system — from IKF Point Muay Thai Technical events at the entry level to Amateur Muay Thai at the mid-level, to the upper level, Elite Open Glove competition.
- Promote safety, control, and technical precision in line with California State Athletic Commission (CSAC) and IKF standards, ensuring consistent officiating, medical oversight, and athlete welfare.

Ultimately, this division exists to inspire focus, discipline, and purpose within the amateur ranks, showing fighters that they can progress responsibly, achieve recognition, and prepare for larger opportunities without compromising safety or professionalism.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- **Age Requirement:** 18 years and over.
- **Experience Requirement:** – Minimum of 8 verified amateur full-contact bouts under IKF or recognized organizations (Muay Thai, Kickboxing, or MMA striking rules). – At least 75% of the athlete's total record must reflect favorable outcomes (wins, draws, or strong performances). – Only disciplined, consistent, and safety-conscious athletes qualify for the Open Glove Division.
- **Medical Clearance:** All participants must meet IKF pre-fight medical standards, including physical examination and pre-bout clearance documentation.

## **SELECTION STANDARDS**

Participation in the IKF Free Style Muay Thai – Open Glove Division is by invitation or approval only. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee eligibility — final approval is reserved for top-ranked, technically verified athletes who demonstrate professionalism, control, and readiness through prior performance under IKF-sanctioned or equivalent events.

This division represents the highest level of amateur Muay Thai within the IKF framework and is not intended for general participation. Athletes must earn the opportunity through proven consistency, discipline, and excellence — both in technical performance and in their conduct as representatives of the sport.

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

### **1. Pilot Debut Event**

- To be hosted at an official IKF-sanctioned event in Southern California.
- Featuring 2–3 demonstration bouts under full IKF supervision.

### **2. Data Collection & Review**

- Referee reports, medical feedback, athlete surveys, and glove evaluations will be compiled for IKF review.

### **3. Formal Conclusion**

- Upon successful pilot evaluation, the division will be proposed for official IKF implementation.

## **GLOVE AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

Fighters are required to wear IKF Free Style Muay Thai–approved gloves designed specifically for this division. • All fighters aged 18 and over will compete using 10 oz gloves. • Gloves must be taped securely by an authorized official to ensure stability and compliance. • All gloves must meet CSAC and IKF safety standards for padding, wrist support, and thumb protection. • Gloves must provide full knuckle coverage and maintain hand integrity consistent with amateur safety guidelines.

**GLOVE SPECIFICATIONS** - 10 oz Open-Palm Hybrid Glove MMA-style design with full knuckle protection, attached thumb, IKF-approved foam density. Designed for advanced control and power absorption, IKF-approved for safety and competition integrity.

## **REGULATIONS & SAFETY STANDARDS**

1. Ruleset Enforcement: All IKF Full Contact and Modified Muay Thai rules apply (legal striking zones, clinch, scoring, and fouls).

2. No Ground Techniques: Stand-up striking only.
3. Throws allowed. (see below) Body slams are NOT.
4. Hand wrap Inspection:
  - Cloth gauze and athletic tape only (1 roll gauze 2"×20 yds, 1 roll tape 10 ft per hand).
  - Wraps must be approved and initialed by an IKF official before glove placement.
5. Referee Oversight: Officials emphasize clean technique, control, and composure.
6. Medical Protocol: Ringside physician required; full IKF medical procedures apply.
7. Rules Meeting: Mandatory briefing before competition to review ruleset, glove use and safety expectations.

## **BASIC RULES**

1. Each bout shall consist of a three (2) minute rounds, with a one (1) minute rest period between rounds. Bouts shall be contested in a ring with not less than four (4) ropes. Bouts shall ordinarily be scheduled for either three (3) rounds or five (5) rounds for championship matches.
2. All fighters are required to wear a mouthpiece during competition.
3. There is A Standing Eight (8) Count.
4. A fighter who has been knocked down CANNOT be saved by the bell in any round, including the final round.

## **JOINT/BODY COVERINGS**

- A. Other than the fighter's hands (as previously listed), there will be no taping, covering or protective gear of any kind on the upper body. This includes, but is not limited to joint sleeves, padding, any form of brace or body gauze/tape.
- B. A fighter may use one soft neoprene type sleeves to cover each ankle joint. Approved sleeves may not have padding, Velcro, plastic, metal, ties, or any other material considered to be unsafe or that may create an unfair advantage. Tape and gauze, or any materials other than the approved sleeves, are not permitted on the lower body. The allowable length and color of sleeves shall be determined by the presiding commission.

## **RING ATTIRE**

- A. All fighters will have the OPTION to wear protective gear as deemed necessary by the IKF.
- B. Headgear fully taped and secured is OPTIONAL. (if one fighter wears headgear, then BOTH fighters MUST wear headgear)

- C. Shin-guards with instep padding is OPTIONAL. (if one fighter wears shin guards, then BOTH fighters MUST wear shin guards)
- No Metal loop fasteners.
  - NO Soccer guards.
  - Material must be made of a soft substance.
  - Must be secured to the shin with their elastic strap and Medical-Athletic Tape.
- D. Male fighters shall not wear any form of clothing on their upper body.
- E. Male and female fighters shall wear the appropriate trunks, mouthpiece, and gloves.
- F. Male fighters shall also wear the appropriate groin protection.
- G. Female fighters shall wear a short sleeved (above the elbow) or sleeveless form fitting rash guard and or sports bra. No loose-fitting tops shall be allowed. Female fighters will follow the same requirements for bottom coverings as the male fighters, minus the requirement for groin protection. Female groin protection is not prohibited.
- H. The hem of the trunks may not extend below the mid-thigh. Long pants or leggings are prohibited.
- I. Compression shorts may be worn under the approved fight trunks, but they may not extend down the leg below the bottom of the trunks.
- J. Fighting shorts/trunks, and sports bras, shall not have exposed Velcro, clasps, pockets, zippers, or other items that may be harmful to the fighter or their opponent.
- K. Fighters shall not wear shoes in the ring.
- L. When deemed necessary by the referee, or presiding commission, all fighters shall have their hair secured in a manner that does not interfere with the vision and safety of either fighter.
- M. No object can be worn to secure the fighter's hair which may cause injury to their opponent.
- N. The wearing of jewelry will be strictly prohibited during all contests. i. Fighters may wear an inscribed cloth, ad amulet, or an inscribed charm around the upper arm or strung around the waist, but neatly wrapped and covered with cloth. Wrapping the ankles or legs with pieces of cloth is prohibited.
- O. If during the contest, the Pra Jiad (arm band) loosens or moves in a way that may be harmful, or a distraction, it may be removed at the discretion of the referee.
- P. Wearing body cosmetics shall be prohibited during all contests. Wearing facial cosmetics shall be at the discretion of the IKF representative and/or referee.

- Q. All Fingernails and Toenails should be trimmed and filed/sanded/buffed down smooth with no fresh sharp edges. Will be subject to inspection.

#### **PERMISSABLE STRIKES:**

- A. Fighters may strike with Punches above the waist. No direct punches to the Neck or Throat.
- B. Kicks above the waist and to the inside and outside of each fighter's legs (*No groin or leg joints*), Direct (*Side Kick Style*) kicks to the front of a fighters knees Are NOT ALLOWED.
- C. Knees to the body and legs, No Knees to the Head, Neck, or Spine
- D. Elbow strikes to the head, body and legs. Elbows with elbow pads when agreed upon between Adult fighters only.

#### **THROWS, TAKEDOWNS & SWEEPS:**

- A. All types of Judo & Wrestling Throws are Legal. (NO BODY SLAMS)
- B. Once a fighter has been thrown to the ground, the Referee will stop the action and stand the fighters up to begin again. There is NO ground game or strikes.
- C. In the working clinch fighters have up to 5 seconds to deliver knees and/or elbows and also: Sweep, Trip, Reap, Throw, and Takedown your opponent or they are separated by the referee.

#### **FOULS**

- A. Head butts
- B. Groin strikes
- C. Thumbing or eye gouging
- D. Biting
- E. Spiting at the opponent
- F. Hair pulling
- G. Attacks to the throat
- H. No slapping
- I. No palm strikes
- J. No Elbow or hammer fist down on top of the head
- K. Striking your opponent while grounded
- L. Strikes (Punches, Kicks, Knees & Elbows) directed to the back of the head or the spine

- M. Intentionally pressing elbow or knee upon on a downed opponent.
- N. **Attempting to spike an opponent on their head.** For example: a full bridge belly to belly or belly to back suplex, atom bomb, pile-driver, DDT, etc. or any technique where the head/neck hits the ground first as the spine and the body compresses.
- O. You CANNOT Slam an opponent into your own body part, like in Professional Wrestling, while cradling someone you post out a knee and slam them down onto your own knee.
- P. You CANNOT take a shot for a takedown like in wrestling where your knee touches the ground performing an explosive lunge. If your knee touches the ground in an attempt to perform a throw / takedown, you will be considered a downed fighter and a STOP to action will be called.
- Q. You CANNOT lock in a FULL NELSON and slam an opponent to the ground.
- R. Fighters CANNOT throw an opponent out of the ring, over or through the ropes.
- S. Striking a downed fighter or fighter entangled in the ropes. Upon a grounding technique and both fighters land on the ground typically one on top of the other, No More Striking is allowed.
- T. Failure to obey the referee's commands
- U. Striking on a break
- V. Striking after a bell
- W. Holding the ropes or using the ropes while striking or clinching
- X. Holding the opponent's shorts
- Y. Timidity or causing intentional delays in the action (Intentionally avoiding engagement with the opponent, spitting out the mouth piece, or falling out of the ring to cause delay)
- Z. Unsportsmanlike behavior including use of abusive language and/or gestures.
- AA. Attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee;
  - i. Once the referee has called for a stop of the action to protect a fighter who has been incapacitated or is unable to continue to compete in the fight, fighters shall cease all offensive actions against their opponent.
- BB. Interference from fighter's corners or seconds;
  - i. Interference is defined as any action or activity aimed at disrupting the fight or causing an unfair advantage to be given to a corner's fighter. Corners are not allowed to distract the referee or influence the actions of the referee in any fashion.

## DEDUCTIONS

1. The Rules Meeting is your 1<sup>st</sup> warning on fouls.
2. If you break a rule in the ring, the Referee will give you a HARD WARNING.
3. The second time you commit a foul, you will LOSE A POINT.

## IKF & ISCF EQUIPMENT SUBMISSION

### 10 oz MMA “Shooter” Gloves for IKF & ISCF Competition

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the International Sport Combat Federation (ISCF) and the International Kickboxing Federation (IKF), we respectfully submit for review and consideration the use of a 10-ounce MMA “Shooter” glove for sanctioned competition.

#### Equipment Overview

The Blackout Fight Gear 10 oz MMA Shooter Gloved system is designed for competition and training environments, providing enhanced safety, controlled striking performance, and grappling dexterity.

#### Technical Specifications

**Weight:** Approximately 10 ounces ( $\approx$  284 grams per glove) providing increased impact absorption compared to traditional 4 oz MMA gloves.

**Materials:** Premium hand-selected cowhide leather outer shell with reinforced stitching for durability.

**Padding System:** Multi-layer impact-absorbing foam with increased protection over primary impact zones.

#### Strategic Impact Protection Design

This glove incorporates purpose-driven padding placement, with enhanced density over the first two knuckles to improve force dispersion and reduce injury risk.

#### Pre-Curved Finger & Knuckle Positioning

The glove features a pre-formed curvature that naturally maintains the hand in a partially closed position, reducing accidental eye poke risk and promoting controlled striking.

#### Wrist Support & Closure

Adjustable hook-and-loop wrist closure with extended wrap design enhances wrist stability and provides a secure fit.

#### Grappling & Dexterity

Open-finger shooter configuration maintains grappling capability while improving control and hand positioning.

#### Interior Hygiene & Moisture Control

Moisture-wicking liner reduces moisture buildup and improves hygiene and comfort.

#### Proven Use & International Adoption

Since 2016, the glove has been used in sanctioned training and competition environments in the United States, Mexico, Mongolia, Norway, and the Netherlands.

#### Training Safety Benefits

The 10 oz design allows athletes to train safely with partners, reducing facial injuries, lowering impact trauma risk, and protecting hands and wrists while maintaining realistic striking mechanics.

### Recommended Usage

- ISCF competition
- IKF Freestyle Muay Thai competition
- Mixed combat sport striking
- Grappling exchanges
- Controlled clinch engagement

### Unique Safety-Oriented Weight Class

Most MMA gloves range from 4 oz to 6 oz. This 10 oz glove provides enhanced protection while preserving grappling functionality for adult athletes.

### Athlete Safety & Sport Integrity

This glove reflects a safety-first evolution in combat sports equipment, balancing athlete protection, competitive performance, regulatory priorities, and sport integrity.

Respectfully Submitted,

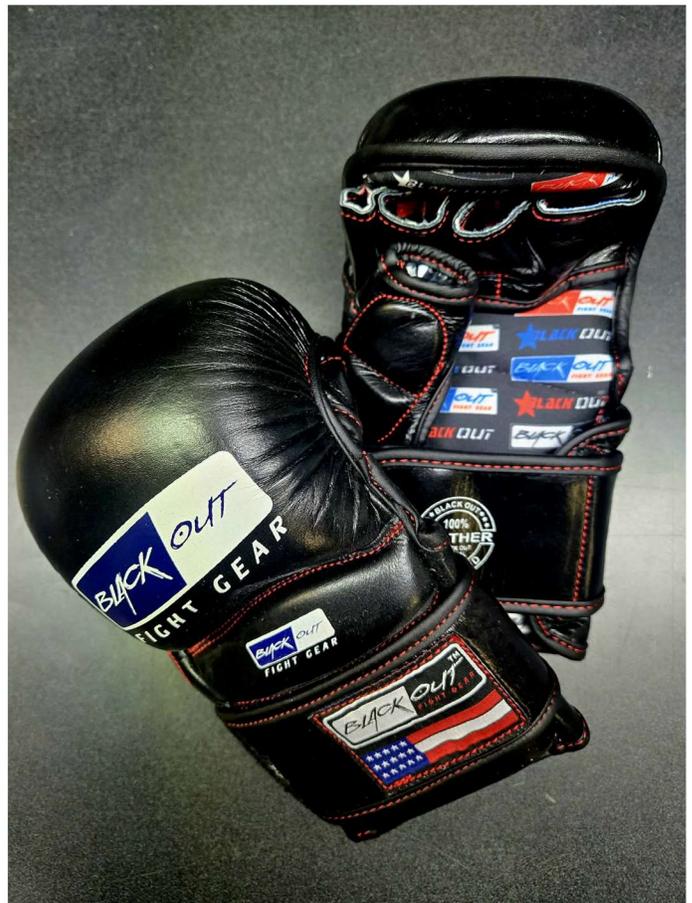
Toni Fossum

President, ISCF & IKF

Supporting Manufacturer:

Blackout Fight Gear

California, USA



# IKF Freestyle Statistics

## October 2024, South Carolina

1. Jack Pennington vs. Antonio Avila AVILA byTKO 1:32 Rd 2 No Transport  
Referee Stoppage (Knee Injury - Fighter planted to kick and hurt his knee. Not due to a blow)  
Pennington issued a 180 day suspension or until cleared by a physician.
2. Rae'Sae Settles vs.Gabriel Thomas THOMAS by Split Decision No Transport
3. Mikel Younger vs. Matt Kelley YOUNGER by TKO 1:11 Rd 3 No Transport  
Referee Stoppage (Fighter chose not to continue due to exhaustion)  
Kelley was issued a 30/45 day suspension
4. Ben Wachacha vs. Juwan Johnson EXHIBITION BOUT only No Transport

## December 2024, South Carolina

1. Tre Lewis vs. Ethan Kanagy LEWIS by KO 1:05 Rd 1 No Transport  
Kanagy issued a 30/45 day suspension.
2. Ben Wachacha vs. Gordon Fox WACHACHA by TKO 1:32 Rd 3 No Transport  
Referee Stoppage (due to exhaustion/hard bout)  
Fox was issued a 30/45 day suspension