



Members of the Commission

John Frierson, Chairperson  
Eugene Hernandez, Vice-Chairperson  
VanBuren Lemons, MD  
Christopher Giza, MD  
Dean Grafilo

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

Monday, December 3, 2012

**9:00a.m. - Conclusion of Business**

Location:

Junipero Serra State Building  
Carmel Room  
320 West Fourth Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

**Commissioners Present**

Chairman John Frierson  
Vice-Chairman Eugene Hernandez  
Christopher Giza, MD  
Vanburen Ross Lemons, MD

**Commissioners Absent**

Dean Grafilo

**Staff Present**

Andy Foster, Executive Officer  
Michael Santiago, Senior Staff Counsel, DCA

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. and a quorum was present.

**Agenda Item 2 – Chairman's Opening Remarks**

Chairman Frierson welcomed the Executive Officer.

**Agenda Item 3 – Approval of October 8, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Giza made a motion, Commissioner Hernandez seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve.

**Agenda Item 4 – Executive Officer's Report**

a) Budget Update

- a. Mr. Foster stated the commission doesn't have a revenue issue as much as it has a spending authority issue.
- b. Commissioner Hernandez stated that after the budget is fixed, he would like to re-establish the advisory subcommittee to address the boxer's pension and neurological fund.

**b) Status of Pending Regulations**

- a. No discussion

**c) Boxer's Pension Fund/Neurological Examination Account Update**

- a. Mr. Foster stated he has been working with Chairman Frierson to develop a press release with the DCA's press office to help locate and identify boxers that are eligible for a pension distribution. Commissioner Hernandez suggested public announcements at events.
- b. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
  - i. Promoter Roy Englebrecht said that it is critical the Commission consider lowering the age a fighter can collect retirement benefits from 50 to 35. Roy stated there are homeless fighters at the age of 35 who need their pension distribution.

**d) Staffing Update**

- a. Mr. Foster stated the Commission has five staff, including the Executive Officer.
- b. An office technician left last Friday and Mr. Foster anticipates filling the position in January.
- c. Two employees from the Department of Consumer Affairs are assisting the Commission, Vern Hines and Robert Taylor.
- d. Commissioner Hernandez motioned and Commissioner Lemons seconded a request for the CSAC to study and adopt if feasible, a flat fee structure for compensating athletic inspectors.

**e) Past Audit Recommendations Progress Report**

- a. The Commission has developed financial and cashiering controls based on the 2003 and 2008 audits.
- b. The fighter database is approximately 75 percent done and includes licensing data.
- c. Mr. Foster stated the Commission plans to send out paper licenses in the near future when the financial resources are available to do so.
- d. Several old CSAC laptop computers have been restored and issued to lead inspectors in the field to assist with the efficiency and effectiveness of box office reporting.

**f) Update on Current Audits in Progress**

- a. Mr. Foster stated that the Bureau of State Audits (BSA) and the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) are auditing the Commission.
- b. Mr. Foster stated the audits are focused on different aspects of the Commission's operations and is looking forward to moving the Commission into full compliance with the audit recommendations.

**g) Update on Strategic Plan Items and Progress**

- a. Mr. Foster stated the Commission has established a licensing database.
- b. The Commission has not established a medical database yet, however, some medical information will be included in the licensing database.
- c. The next athletic inspector training will be held on 12/16 in southern California.
- d. Mr. Foster stated that for the first time, the Commission has standard operating procedures.
- e. Mr. Foster stated that he is working with the Chief Athletic Inspector, Che Guevara, to review athletic inspector assignments and make sure assignments are based, when possible, on geographic proximity to an event.
- f. Mr. Foster stated that he noticed an inconsistency in athletic inspector timesheets for the same events.

- g. The Commission is in the process of developing a test for inspectors.
- h. Fighter Federal ID cards will not be issued at events anymore unless an emergency arises.
  - i. Issuing Federal ID cards before an event will better ensure that fighters do not fight without a federal number.
  - ii. Weigh-ins will be more efficient as a result of ID cards being issued before earlier and should reduce athletic inspector billed hours (1-2) as a result.
  - iii. Mr. Foster will conduct a stakeholder's meeting with promoters over the holiday season to ensure they understand the changes.
  - iv. The changes in issuing Federal ID cards will put California in line with other state athletic commissions.

**Agenda Item 5 – Sunset Review Report**

- a) Mr. Foster commented that the report is very straightforward and that he did the best he could given the amount of time he had.
- b) Commissioner Giza commended Mr. Foster for his work on the sunset report.
- c) Michael Santiago reminded the Commissioners that they still have to approve the final draft the report.
- d) Commissioner Lemons stated the budget section of the report looked good by laying out all the information.
- e) Commissioner Hernandez motioned to approve the document in order to comply with a strict Legislative deadline. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lemons and passed 4-0.

**Agenda Item 6 – Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) Mixed Martial Arts Database**

- a) The Commission authorized Mr. Foster to work with the ABC and stakeholders regarding the payment for access to the database.
- b) The fee for access to the ABC database is \$100 per event.
- c) Mr. Foster stressed how useful the database is and that California has never paid into the database. In addition, most states pass the database costs onto the promoter.
- d) **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Promoter Roy E. said he doesn't like having to pay the database fee, however, promoters pay the fee in other states and he thinks it is worth it.

**Agenda Item 7 – Unified Rules of Professional Mixed Martial Arts**

- a) Mr. Foster feels strongly that California should be using the unified rules and to separate MMA and Kickboxing as they are two different sports.
- b) Commissioner Hernandez asked why California has not already used unified rules, however, Mr. Foster could not answer.
- c) **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Referee John McCarthy said Mr. Foster is doing the right thing by getting everyone on the same page. A motion was made by Commissioner Hernandez and seconded by Commissioner Lemons to direct staff to begin the process to adopt the unified rules.

**Agenda Item 8 – Unified Rules of Amateur Mixed Martial Arts**

- a) Mr. Foster stated that we need to amend Rule 702 if the Commission will be regulating amateur MMA.
- b) Currently, CSAC delegates the authority to regulate amateur MMA to CAMO.
- c) The CSAC has been regulating some amateur MMA events.
- d) Mr. Foster stated that either the Commission has to regulate amateur MMA, via Rule 702, or all of it should be done by CAMO.