



**CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION**  
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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, May 8, 2018  
10:00 a.m. - Conclusion of Business

**Location:**

*Ronald Reagan Building - Auditorium  
300 South Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90013*

**Teleconference Location:**

*Blue Moon Cafe  
362 Huku Lii Pi #101  
Kihei, Hawaii 96753*

**Commissioners Present**

Chair John Carvelli  
Vice Chair Mary Lehman  
Commissioner John Frierson  
Commissioner Van Gordon Sauter  
Commissioner Vernon Williams, MD  
Commissioner Luis Ayala

**Commissioners Present -Teleconference**

Commissioner Martha Shen-Urquidez

**Staff Present**

Andy Foster, Executive Officer  
Spencer Walker, Legal Counsel  
Heather Jackson, CSAC Staff

**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 the Roll and a quorum was established.

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

Chairman Carvelli welcomed everyone to the meeting and read aloud a policy memorandum from October 2, 2015, in which the Commission, by way of internal policy, granted exclusive authority of selecting and assigning officials to the Executive Officer. The memorandum further stated any official who believes the criteria is not being followed,

or has issues with their assignments, are encouraged to address their concerns before the Commission, in writing or in person, during a publicly noticed Commission meeting. The criteria for assigning officials was also read aloud and include, among other things, experience, qualifications, track record, reputation in the field, scheduling flexibility, positive cooperative attitude, and CSAC budget constraints.

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

Mr. Spencer Walker, Legal Counsel, suggested the Commission consider tabling the approval of the February 27, 2018, Commission Meeting minutes. EO Foster agreed and further explained a significant amount of revisions were provided by Commissioner Shen-Urquidez to staff the night prior.

*This agenda item was tabled to allow revisions and a clean version to be available for approval at the next Commission meeting.*

**Agenda Item 4 – Review and Possible Action on Petition to Change the Decision for Michael Guy vs. Junior Younan bout on July 29, 2017, in Long Beach, CA**

EO Foster presented the Commission with background on the petition to change the decision of the bout. He introduced the parties involved; Mr. Michael Guy, present at the meeting and representing himself, Mr. Dino Duva and Mr. Joshua Dubin, present via teleconference, representing Mr. Junior Younan.

Video footage of the bout was presented to the Commissioners and Mr. Guy provided the Commission with a narrative of each video.

Vice Chair Mary Lehman recalled discussion from a previous meeting where the score resulting from just one knockdown would shift the overall decision of the bout and requested to review the scorecard from the bout. Mr. Guy explained his understanding was that the first knockdown would have resulted in a draw, and the second and third knockdowns would have resulted in a win on the cards.

Referee Wayne Hedgepeth, present at the meeting, approached the Commission for testimony. Commissioner Ayala asked Mr. Hedgepeth to describe his thoughts, following the review of each video. Mr. Hedgepeth stated that during the bout, and after review of the video footage, he cannot point to a definitive punch which resulted in a knockdown.

Mr. Josh Dubin, applauded Mr. Hedgepeth's letter describing his observations during the bout. He explained at many points during the bout, Mr. Guy engaged in wrestling tactics and recognized Mr. Hedgepeth's restraint, as it would have been well within his right to have disqualified Mr. Guy at one point. He concluded by stating rule 368 requires a clear violation of the rules and suggested the Commission defer to the judgement of their referee in this case.

EO Foster presented the Commission with the scores of the bout, as requested. He explained a referee, licensed by the Commission and assigned by the EO, not only made

a ruling on the bout, he reviewed available tape and maintains his original ruling. EO Foster concluded the issue is a discretionary call for the referee to make.

*Vice Chair Lehman motioned to change the decision of the bout to a Draw.*

*Commissioner Shen-Urquidez seconded the motion.*

### DISCUSSION

Commissioner Van Gordon Sauter stated although Mr. Guy has an incredible case, he is not convinced it is a compelling case and considering the circumstances he stays with the judgement of the referee. Commissioner Ayala, Commissioner Frierson and Chairman Carvelli each stated their agreement with Commissioner Sauter.

Vice Chair Lehman suggested the Commission's role is to review these controversial bouts and stated the decision should not always default to the referee as things are sometimes out of view and missed. She explains the knockdown in round 7 was clear to her and one other was arguable, which was her rationale for changing the decision to a draw.

Commissioner Vernon Williams stated in the absence of some clear and obvious mistake, the Commission should rely on and trust the referee's assessment from in the ring and after review of video footage. He further explained if the Commission was considering a revision based on an omission, the other potential omissions during the bout would also have to be considered.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez summarized her review of the videos from the bout and explained the problem with the judgement being in real-time, is there are also mistakes made by officials. She explained the lack of an evaluation process for officials has resulted in mistakes being made with little repercussion on the official and much repercussion on the athletes' careers. She concluded with suggesting an evaluation process be established to alleviate errors.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Delilah Ponce, USA Boxing Referee, explained she was present at the bout and stated the bout was a wrestling match. She further stated she thought both athletes were going to be disqualified, but commended the referee for addressing the issues during the bout and believes he made no mistake.

*After a roll call vote, the motion failed 5-2, upholding Mr. Younan as the winner.*

*Carvelli – No; Lehman – Yes; Frierson – No; Shen-Urquidez – Yes; Sauter – No; Dr. Williams – No; Ayala – No.*

Commissioner Ayala explained although he agreed with Commissioner Shen-Urquidez's suggestion to formulate a plan to filter these petitions, he wished to clarify he did not agree with her interpretation that the Commission believed the referee made a mistake. He concluded that after reviewing the video footage, his basis for his position relied on the fact that he did not see substantial evidence that the decision should be overturned.

**Agenda Item 5 – Review and approval of Application for Referee/Judge License from Ray Corona**

EO Foster explained an incident occurred at the March 29, 2017, at California Golden Gloves #3 Qualifier in Los Angeles, CA, which involved Mr. Ray Corona. He detailed his review which included USA Boxing materials, multiple videos and used his authority as the EO to issue a suspension letter for the balance of Mr. Corona's license term. He explained Mr. Corona chose not to appeal the suspension and completed the term of the suspension, losing approximately one year of his career.

EO Foster recommended the Commission consider granting Mr. Corona a temporary referee/judge license, pending USA Boxing's investigation and final disciplinary action, at which time the Commission may determine the appropriate action.

Mr. Ray Corona apologized to the Commission and to USA Boxing and expressed his remorse for the incident occurring.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked Mr. Corona if he is still appealing the USA Boxing suspension. Mr. Corona explained that he was suspended for 10 years, and that he is in the process of appealing. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked Mr. Corona what exactly he is sorry and remorseful for. Mr. Corona explained he feared for his son and reacted, although in retrospect, made the wrong decision by fighting instead of using other means to protect his son.

Vice Chair Lehman inquired about USA Boxing's investigation status. EO Foster stated he has the materials of the investigation and explained as the appeal process continues, there will be more information available.

Mr. Mike McAtee, President of USA Boxing, provided the Commission with extensive background on the investigation of Mr. Corona's suspension.

Commissioner Frierson provided a brief history involving anger and forgiveness and stated he believes one year is long enough of a suspension. Commissioner Ayala reviewed the two suspensions and asked EO Foster to clarify whether his recommendation involves just Mr. Corona's California license or if the decision being made will impact the USA Boxing process. EO Foster explained Mr. Corona's temporary license would only allow him to work professional bouts in California or overseas when requested by a sanctioning body. He further explained his temporary license would not have the ability to transfer to another state, nor would it allow him to work for USA Boxing.

Commissioners Sauter state he was surprised by the degree of the penalty USA Boxing has imposed on Mr. Corona. Chairman Carvelli asked EO Foster to clarify the rationale for his recommendation for the temporary license approval being linked with the USA Boxing determination. EO Foster stated the item is not a result of an appeal of Mr. Corona's license suspension. He explained had Mr. Corona appealed, he would have been

prepared to disclose further details of the USA Boxing case. However, since he chose to accept the full term of the Commission's suspension, the determination would be to grant a temporary license, or not.

*Commissioner Williams motioned to grant a temporary referee/judge license to Mr. Corona, pending USA Boxing's investigation and final disciplinary action, at which time the Commission may determine the appropriate action.*

*Commissioner Frierson seconded the motion.*

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mike McAtee, President of USA Boxing, stated the day the incident occurred, Mr. Corona was acting in the capacity of a USA Boxing Coach, not as an official. He explained his reluctance of disclosing evidence at a public Commission meeting and stated USA Boxing's Judicial Committee would be a more appropriate venue, if or when Mr. Corona does move forward with his appeal.

Ms. Delilah Ponce, USA Boxing Referee, stated Mr. Corona's apologies have been toward everyone but her, the Referee of the bout. She expressed her disappointment with Mr. Corona's actions following the incident.

Mr. Joe Zanders, President of USA Boxing's Southern California Association, explained he was not in the room at the venue of the incident, however he was on-site, and in his years of involvement with USA Boxing he has never experienced an incident like what occurred with Mr. Corona. He stated coaches are not allowed in the ring, suggested this incident was racially motivated, and invited the Commission to request testimony on what happened from the individuals who were present at the event.

Ms. Arlene Corona, Wife of Mr. Corona, spoke on behalf of her husband and encouraged the Commission to consider Mr. Corona's remorse and focus on the punishment he has already endured.

*After a roll call vote, the motion passed 6-1, to grant Mr. Corona a temporary license.*

*Carvelli – Yes; Lehman – Yes; Frierson – Yes; Shen-Urquidez – No; Sauter – Yes; Dr. Williams – Yes; Ayala – Yes.*

#### Agenda Item 9 – Executive Officer's Report

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

EO Foster reported the Commission deposited this fiscal year \$1,454,475.69 into the Support Fund, \$8,876.84 to the Neurological Fund and \$273,126.32 to the Boxer's Pension Fund. He explained these revenue numbers and the upcoming event schedule, the Commission is and will continue to be in a healthy financial standing. He further explained since the additional appropriation of \$100,000.00 is available to the Commission, he requested it previous to receiving a budget report from the

Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), just to be safe. He stated since receiving the updated budget report, he does not believe the Commission will need to utilize those funds, however they are still available in the case of unforeseen expenses.

EO Foster reported the Pension Fund's starting balance was \$5,057,369.82 with an ending balance of \$5,044,982.62. He explained he does not currently have a report for the Neurological fund, but is confident the Commission will receive the appropriation.

Vice Chair Lehman recalled discussions about reallocating the pension fund's investments and asked if that has already occurred. EO Foster confirmed those adjustments have been made.

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

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

Mr. Spencer Walker, Legal Counsel, reported to the Commission that the DCA's Assistant Chief Counsel reviewed the Examination of Boxer Applicants rulemaking package and requested minor revisions. He further explained once those changes are made and sent back to DCA, the rulemaking package will move forward to DCA's Deputy Director for review.

**c. Status Update of Delegated Entities**

- California Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Organizations (CAMO)

Mr. JT Steele, President, directed the Commission's attention to his report detailing results of bouts and injuries. He explained the results of the report shows a consistency with the safety of the sport which he describes as a testament to the exceptional pool of officials in California. Vice Chair Lehman suggested the names be removed from the report and suggested Mr. Steele work with Mr. Fossum of the IKF to mirror his format. Mr. Steele agreed to revise his report accordingly.

Mr. Steele further reported the caliber of events being sanctioned by CAMO has significantly increased throughout the years and suggested, among other benefits, the shows continue to increase officials' experience and training. He added CAMO's online training tool and equipment availability expansion are both well underway.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez requested Mr. Steele provide an updated financial report at the next meeting.

- USA Boxing (USA Boxing)

Mr. Mike McAtee, Executive Director, introduced Mr. Mike Campbell, Events and Boxing Operations Manager, explaining when he is not available to attend California Commission meetings, Mr. Campbell will be sent as his proxy.

Mr. McAtee reported of 551 bouts and 1,653 rounds, there were a total of 2 injuries in California. He further reported on USA Boxing's efforts to enhance training of officials including required tests and announced implementation of a ranking system for their officials nationwide.

Mr. Campbell thanked the Commission for the hard work that goes into creating policy with becomes the precedent for the rest of the country. He reviewed USA Boxing's schedule, coordination of California LBCs, and shared how the licensing data for their California population compares to the rest of the United States.

Vice Chair Lehman asked the USA Boxing representatives to clarify their financial report and asked what they attribute the \$6,346.00 loss in Southern California to. Mr. McAtee explained the Southern California LBC and Mr. Joe Zanders put additional time, effort and money into each event. He added although the events are not necessarily revenue positive, the Southern California LBC is ensuring a higher quality event for their jurisdiction.

Vice Chair Lehman asked Mr. McAtee to elaborate on the Ringside Boxing Tournament which was on the verge of being cancelled on account of sanctioning fees being too high. Mr. McAtee explained the Ringside World Championship started in 2001 in Kansas City, and mentioned that at the time, he was a marketing director for them. He explained the purpose of that tournament was to provide opportunity for boxers to compete, but more importantly, it provided Ringside an avenue to create relationships and sell boxing equipment. He added it was ultimately a marketing opportunity for Ringside. He stated since the magnitude of the event was higher in terms of insurance with the number of athletes, bouts, and rings being significantly greater than a typical club show, the sanctioning fee was proportionate.

- United States Fight League (USFL)

Mr. Jon Frank, President, began with acknowledging a passed board member, Mr. Mario Mendez, who will be greatly missed. He reported USFL's event schedule since the last Commission meeting, as well as the upcoming events. He further reported in 1,096 athletic exposures (548 bouts) they have experienced 17 injuries which required suspension from competition or training.

Mr. Frank explained many of the injuries may seem insignificant, however to allow complete transparency, anytime a ringside physician makes a note it is reported. Chairman Carvelli commended Mr. Frank on the report and expressed his appreciation of the USFL's transparency with regard to injuries.

Mr. Frank further announced the optional training being made available to USFL officials called SafeSport which is a 90-minute course designed to prevent, detect and report inappropriate conduct and abuse of youth athletes. Chairman Carvelli requested Mr. Frank forward the information of the training to EO Foster.

Vice Chair Lehman inquired about why USFL's financial report is missing from this meeting. Mr. Frank explained his understanding was that requirement was on an annual basis. Vice Chair requested EO Foster confirm and inform each sanctioning body as to the frequency of which they must submit updated financial reports.

- **International Kickboxing Federation (IKF)**

Mr. Steve Fossum, President, reported IKF implemented a new study which introduced fight day weigh-ins for all IKF events with pre-day weigh-ins. He detailed over the course of 3 events which totaled 66 athletes, 3 athletes lost weight after the weigh-in, 18 athletes gained between 0.0-5.0lbs., 22 athletes gained between 5.1-10.0lbs., 21 athletes gained between 10.1-15.0lbs – 21, and 2 athletes gained over 15 lbs.

He further reported 16 athletes who won with more weight gain than their opponent, and 50 athletes won with less weight gain than their opponent. He explained the largest weight gain they experienced was 15.8 lbs., in the 127 weight-class. Vice Chair Lehman suggested including the percentage of body weight change instead of just the number of pounds.

Commissioner Ayala expressed interest in the study, particularly with how the information and results of the study can be communicated and utilized. He added it may be a helpful tool in persuading athletes that weight cutting and dehydration does not actually help them win. Mr. Fossum explained he hopes to continue the practice and have a larger study pool to report back to the Commission at future meetings.

Commissioner Williams suggested the goal is to ultimately associate the weight cutting data with not only win/loss statistics, but also other performance measures such as speed of mental processing, reaction times, dynamic visual acuity, and balance.

Vice Chair Lehman suggested Mr. Fossum consider taking on an intern to devise the study for IKF. She stated with summer approaching, he may find success in reaching out to UC Davis.

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

EO Foster reported the Commission's goal remains at the 1100 evaluations by year end. He explained many of the athletes who compete in California, tend to compete more than once within the year. He expects to still reach the goal, however he reported the pool of licensed athletes in diminishing.

Vice Chair Lehman asked in EO Foster is aware of any comparisons being made to check for differentials on athletes who have chosen to test twice. EO Foster mentioned once the baseline testing is completed, the intent is to submit the information to the Medical Advisory Committee for review.



**e. Report on 10-point plan expansion to address severe weight cutting in boxing**

EO Foster reported the Commission has been conducting a weight study on both mixed martial arts and boxing. He explained the more extreme cuts of weight happen in mixed martial arts, however the results of the study show extreme weight cutting is occurring in boxing. He stated he has scheduled a Weight Cutting Summit to discuss this issue with the Boxing sanctioning bodies on June 7, 2018, in Los Angeles, and mentioned the importance of including the sanctioning bodies comments and thoughts on the matter, as they independently control the championship belts in boxing.

He explained, with the help of the Boxing sanctioning bodies, his plan is to assemble a recommendation to present to the Commission on how and when to best implement the 10-point Plan to boxing.

Chairman Carvelli directed EO Foster to forward the information on the Weight Cutting Summit to all Commissioners.

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

EO Foster presented the Commission with the updated event schedule for their review.

**g. Staffing update**

EO Foster reported the Commission office currently has two staff members on maternity leave. He detailed the office is operating with 2 office technicians, 2 analysts and a seasonal clerk. Vice Chair Lehman acknowledged this time of year is busy for the Commission.

Chairman Carvelli asked EO Foster what his budget allocation is for staffing the office. EO Foster explained he has allocation for 10 full time positions, however positions are on maternity leave, leaving him unable to fill those positions. Chairman Carvelli and Vice Chair Lehman provided EO Foster with suggestions for getting help in the office through the busy season.

EO Foster explained he is still working to get the Chief Athletic Inspector back, he stressed that position is crucial to the Commission's success. He further explained that position was in existence since the 1930's up until last year.

Chairman Carvelli asked EO Foster's opinion on what else can be done to obtain appropriate staffing levels in the office. EO Foster responded he must proceed with caution in hiring more staff and mentioned this in effort to protect the Commission from a situation like what they experienced in 2012. Chairman Carvelli mentioned his appreciation for EO Foster's fiscal responsibility and stated the reserve fund is above a million dollars.

He further described the Commission's primary responsibility is to protect the health and safety of the athletes. To do so, EO Foster must get the office back to appropriate staffing levels and expressed his discomfort with the amount of current office staff.

**Agenda Item 6 – Discussion of possible creation of a task force to research issues related to gender equity in combat sports**

EO Foster provided background on the issue and how they came to light for the Commission. He explained the task force would be beneficial to cover topics such as sexual harassment in gyms and competitions, length of rounds in female boxing compared to female mixed martial arts, the income and pay disparity, weight cutting for females, education for trainers to understand gender specific issues, and improper barriers to different genders for fight, coaching, and management opportunities.

EO Foster recommended the Commission form a task force to research the issues and report back in one year with possible solutions. Chairman Carvelli clarified the topics suggested are a good start and stated the Commission is open to any other suggestions for this task force.

Vice Chair Lehman explained her vision for the task force is to utilize its resources to identify the issues in the sport. She clarified some of the suggestions have been included but the Commission may not be aware of specific instances where they occurred. She added it's something she hopes the task force will identify, consider and provide support for. She suggested utilizing a hotline.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated the Contact Sports Foundation has a Women's Issues Subcommittee which was created last year. She suggested the Commission consider working with the Foundation to cover similar and perhaps larger ground.

Commissioner Williams suggested adding traumatic brain injury and concussion awareness to the list of issues to consider. He explained in sports with similar rules, there are gender differences in terms of concussion and associated symptoms presenting higher risk in women.

Chairman Carvelli created a subcommittee by appointing Vice Chair Lehman and Commissioner Shen-Urquidez, as well as three volunteers; Mr. JT Steele, Mr. Mike McAtee, and Mr. Steve Fossum.

**Agenda Item 7 – Discussion of the 2019 Strategic Plan**

EO Foster explained it is time for the Commission to start assembling a Strategic Plan for the next few years. He presented several suggestions for topics to discuss including, CSAC office staffing and redundancy, lack of an official database for kickboxing, increasing the television tax cap from 35k to 45k and the 2-million-dollar gate tax cap to 3 million dollars at the next sunset review, tribal outreach and agreements, pension outreach, and an applications and licensing database.

Chairman Carvelli explained the suggestions from EO Foster are a starting point and invited all Commissioner to provide any other suggestions for the next strategic plan. EO Foster suggested the Commission also consider restructuring the television tax in a way to alleviate the current loophole of streaming and online entertainment options. He

proposed assessing a percentage of the total value of the purse amounts which tend to run consistent with the value of the television proceeds.

Commissioner Ayala inquired about the timing for having a finalized list of issues to include in the strategic plan. EO Foster responded he hopes to have a completed list by the final Commission meeting of the year. Commissioner Ayala requested EO Foster provide more context on each item.

**Agenda Item 8 – Subcommittees Updates:**

a. **Pension Fund Subcommittee (Commissioners Lehman and Ayala)**

EO Foster reported the Commission continues to distribute pension benefit checks. He explained he continues to look for opportunities for the Commission to publicly present a pension check.

Vice Chair Lehman asked EO Foster to begin working on a formal recognition for the World Boxing Council (WBC) for their efforts in assisting the Commission with locating potentially eligible boxers. Chairman Carvelli suggested the upcoming weight cutting summit may be an appropriate venue to present the recognition and provide pension forms to the public.

**Agenda Item 10 – Business and Professions Code section 18640.5 requires the Commission to invite stakeholder testimony at Commission meetings in order to identify actions that may lead to greater opportunities for licensees to participate in major professional boxing contests.**

No stakeholder comments received.

**Agenda Item 11 – Public Comment on Items Not on The Agenda**

No public comment received.

**Agenda Item 12 – Next Meeting Scheduled**

Proposed meeting on Tuesday, July 24, 2018, in San Diego, CA.

**Agenda Item 13 – ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting Adjourned.