



**CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION**  
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Members of the Commission

John Carvelli, Chair  
Douglas J. Hendrickson  
Michael Hardeman  
Van Gordon Sauter  
Peter Villegas, Vice Chair  
Dr. Vernon Williams

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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

Monday, September 13, 2021  
10:00 a.m. - Conclusion of Business

Location:

*Teleconference*

**Commissioners Present**

Chair John Carvelli  
Vice Chair Peter Villegas  
Commissioner Hardeman  
Commissioner Van Gordon Sauter  
Commissioner Dr. Vernon Williams

**Staff Present**

Andy Foster, Executive Officer  
Sophia Cornejo, Assistant Executive Officer  
Mark Relyea, Chief Athletic Inspector  
Patrisha Blackstock, Staff  
Kenneth Swenson, Legal Counsel  
Heather Hoganson, Legal Counsel  
Sean Wells, Athletic Inspector

**OPEN SESSION**

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chair John Carvelli. Executive Officer (EO) Andy Foster called roll and a quorum was established.

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

Chair Carvelli welcomed everyone to the Commission’s video/teleconference meeting and stated that he regretted that we were unable to have the meeting in person. Chair Carvelli stated that he and Andy discussed the recent Holyfield bout that took place in Florida as the bout was initially brought for approval in California but was denied.

**Agenda Item 3- Approval of the June 7, 2021, Commission Meeting Minutes**

EO Foster presented the June 7, 2021, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

*Vice Chair Villegas motioned to approve the minutes with non-substantive changes.*

*Commissioner Sauter **seconded** the motion.*

*The motion **passed** 4-0 by roll call vote; Commissioner Hardeman abstained.*

**Agenda Item 4- Appeal of Colby Madison, Administrative Suspension and Fine for Violation of California Code of Regulations Title 4, Section 303, issued on August 5, 2021**

EO Foster presented the Commission with background information on the administrative suspension and fine of professional boxer, Colby Madison. Mr. Madison competed in a bout against Mihai Nistor at a Golden Boy event at Banc of California Stadium, Los Angeles California. The results of his urine sample, specimen ID #1633640, were reported positive for the following prohibited substances: drostanolone, boldenone, 19-morandrosterone and methenolone.

On August 5, 2021, the Commission notified Mr. Madison of the positive findings from his July 9, 2021 test and informed him that a one (1) year suspension had been imposed against him and a fine of \$1,200. On August 12, 2021, Mr. Madison submitted a request for appeal of his suspension and fine.

Chair Carvelli welcomed Mr. Madison to the Commission meeting and informed him that it was his right to appeal the suspension and fine.

Mr. Madison stated he was deeply sorry for the positive test as he was not aware that the supplements were bad for him. He added that once he found out, he discontinued the use of all supplements. Mr. Madison stated he respects the process of the suspension and fine but is requesting that the suspension be shorten or removed.

**Commissioner Comments**

Commission Sauter stated he had no questions for Mr. Madison but was impressed by his tone and sincerity.

Vice Chair Villegas asked if this was Mr. Madison's first offense, EO Foster stated it was.

Chair Carvelli clarified to the Commissioners that Mr. Madison has requested the Commission remove the or shorten the suspension. EO Foster stated a one (1) year suspension was standard and the Commission has given a nine (9) month suspension before. He added he gave Mr. Madison a one (1) year suspension based on the number of items found in the sample with only a ten percent fine of his purse. EO Foster stated the Commission has issued a suspension as low as six (6) months before to as long as three (3) years.

Chair Carvelli added Mr. Madison has also volunteered to do additional drug testing.

*Commission Sauter **motioned** to reduce the suspension from one (1) year to six (6) months with the fine of \$1,200 remaining in place.*

*Commissioner Dr. Williams **seconded** the motion.*

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Hardeman stated he could see how Mr. Madison didn't know the supplements he was taking would be illegal. He added he agreed with Commissioner Sauter and appreciated the attitude of Mr. Madison.

Chair Carvelli stated he understood what Commissioner Hardeman was saying but not knowing isn't an excuse.

### **No Public Comments**

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

### **Agenda Item 5- Discussion and Possible Action on Ringside Physician and Officials Pay Scale**

EO Foster informed the Commission in recent years, California has experienced an increase in the number of scheduled fights and title fights. He added that Ringside Physicians play one of the most important roles in all these bouts, sometimes having to work more than ten bouts in one night. EO Foster stated the officials pay scale was updated years ago to a three-tier system for all other officials but not the Ringside Physicians. EO Foster recommend a move to a three-tier system in line with the other officials with a pay increase for assigned Ringside Physicians working events and weigh-ins. The recommended pay is:

Net Gate	Proposed Physicians Pay
0-\$50,000	\$500.00
\$50,001-\$99,999	\$550.00
\$100,000 AND ABOVE	\$750.00

Increase in pay for Physicians who work weigh-ins from \$250.00 to \$500.00.

Chief Inspector Relyea stated a raise for the Ringside Physicians was long overdue as it is difficult to schedule Physicians especially during the week when they have to close their clinics.

Vice Chair Villegas asked how the Commission recruits their Physicians. EO Foster stated that the Medical Board has helped in the past, some is word of mouth and some come from the amateurs.

*Vice Chair Villegas **motioned** to approve the Ringside Physicians pay increase proposed by EO Foster.*

*Commissioner Hardeman **seconded** the motion.*

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Hardeman asked how the Ringside Physicians were paid and what fund was used. EO Foster stated the proposed pay scale is set by the Commission, however, the Physicians are paid by the Promoter of the event.

### **Public Comments**

Promoter Roy Englebrecht stated he had no problem with the \$500 pay increase for the weigh-in Doctor but asked if the Commission could move the minimum number of bouts to 8 from 6. EO Foster stated he considered this but was debating moving the number to 7. Chief Inspector stated he is fine with moving the number of the bouts to 7.

Mr. Englebrecht asked if it was possible to increase the base pay in order to cover for suture costs when a Ringside Physicians has to stitch fighters at events instead of Promoters being charged per stitch by the Ringside Physician. EO Foster stated he understood what Mr. Englebrecht was asking but not all of the Ringside Physicians assigned to events suture. EO Foster added when a Ringside Physician chooses to suture a fighter after their event the fighter becomes the patient of the Physician.

*Vice Chair Villegas **amended** his **motion** to approve the Ringside Physicians pay increase proposed by EO Foster and to pay the additional \$40 per extra athlete over fourteen athlete pre-bout examinations (7 bouts).*

*Commissioner Hardeman **seconded** the **amended** motion.*

### **No Commissioner or Public Comments**

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

### **Agenda Item 6- Consideration and Possible Adoption of Section 280 of Title 4 of the California Code of Regulations: Examination of Boxer Applicants**

EO Foster informed the Commission the final regulation package for Examination of Boxer Applicants was ready to file, however, DCA Legal was concerned that the language from the 2017 motion didn't state "adopt" nor did it include delegation to the EO to make technical or grammatical changes. Legal Counsel Kenneth Swenson stated the Commission would need to make a motion for the Commission to officially adopt the regulation.

*Commissioner Dr. Williams **motioned** to **adopt** California Code of Regulations, Title 4, Section 280, regarding Examination of Boxer Applicants, as it was noticed to the public in January 2021, direct the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to complete the rulemaking process, and delegate to the Executive Officer the authority to make any technical or nonsubstantive changes that may be required in completing the rulemaking file with the Office of Administrative Law.*

*Vice Chair Villegas **seconded** the motion.*

### **No Commissioner or Public Comments**

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

### **Agenda Item 7- Update from the Instant Replay for Boxing Events Subcommittee**

EO Foster informed the Commission the Instant Replay Subcommittee met on June 29, 2021. In attendance was Vice-Chair Villegas and former Commissioner Shen-Urquidez. The Subcommittee discussed various scenarios and watched videos on instant replay practices. EO Foster presented a video of Instant Replay performed by the Oklahoma Athletic Commission with California referee Jack Reiss visiting their Commission as the outside official. He added the use of the replay was professional and quick.

Vice Chair Villegas stated the use of Instant Replay is something the subcommittee will continue to look at, as they want to make sure they get it correct.

Referee Jack Reiss thanked the Commission for bringing Instant Replay before them to look at utilizing as he feels it will help the Officials in case they need to review a call in the ring. He added this will also bring instant justice to the fighters.

Commissioner Dr. Williams asked Mr. Reiss about the training mechanics on the use of Instant Replay by other Commissions. Mr. Reiss stated it varies based on the Commission but has no doubt that if California chooses to use Instant Replay, the training will be top notch.

Commissioner Sauter suggested as the subcommittee moves along any proposed Instant Replay guidelines are live tested.

Commissioner Dr. Williams stated he agreed with Commissioner Sauter's recommendation on testing the guidelines at an event.

Vice Chair Villegas thanked the Commissioners for their comments as these were all items the subcommittee has discussed and will continue to look at.

Chair Carvelli asked for the subcommittee to try to have Instant Replay Guidelines prepared to present at the first meeting of 2022.

**Agenda Item 8- Executive Officer's Report**

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

EO Foster presented the Commission the updated revenue numbers as of September 13, 2021. This fiscal year, the Commission deposited \$274,727.02 to the support fund with another \$19,265 that was deposited last week, \$2,311.49 to the neurological fund, and \$12,280.88 to the Boxer Pension Fund, which includes a \$300,000 transfer from the Boxer Pension investment account. EO Foster stated that the Commission took a financial hit during the first months of COVID during fiscal year 19-20 only bringing in \$1.83 million. He added that in fiscal year 20-21 the Commission took a larger hit because of COVID only bringing in \$893 million. EO Foster stated he believes the Commission will not reach the projected revenue of \$1.8 million in fiscal year 21-22.

EO Foster stated the Pension Investment account is healthy with approximately \$5.336 million dollars as of July 30, 2021.

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

EO Foster asked AEO Cornejo to update the Commission on the proposed regulations. The Examination of Boxer Applicants regulatory package, Agenda Item number 6, was voted on at today's meeting will now move forward to the Office of Administrative Law. Staff is working on the regulation changes to Section 299, Dehydration and Rehydration. Staff is currently finalizing the regulation package for the Boxers Pension Plan.

**c. Status Update of Delegated Entities**

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

JT Steele, President of CAMO, submitted his written report to the Commission, which is contained in the meeting materials. Mr. Steele stated that CAMO oversees anywhere between 80 to 150 amateur events per year. Mr. Steele informed the Commission that the first show back when the state reopened was June 19<sup>th</sup> and CAMO is following the COVID protocols set forth by the Commission.

• **USA Boxing**

Mr. Ethan Figge, submitted his written report to the Commission, which is contained in the meeting materials. Mr. Figge stated that events have just now started back in California, but the number of events scheduled is significantly less than in past years. Mr. Figge added that they have had zero reported cases of COVID-19 transmission. Vice Chair Villegas asked how did team USA do in

the Olympics? Mr. Figge stated that team USA brought home 3 silver medals and 1 bronze.

- **United States Fight League (USFL)**

Jon Frank submitted his written report to the Commission, which is contained in the meeting materials. Mr. Frank stated that USFL is struggling to get started in California but is looking to combine with CAMO on events. Mr. Frank informed the Commission that team USA placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the Worlds with 18 of those athletes being from California.

- **International Kickboxing Federation (IKF)**

Steve Fossum submitted his written report to the Commission, which is contained in the meeting materials. Mr. Fossum stated that July 24<sup>th</sup> was the first IKF event back since COVID and to date have held five events so far in 2021.

**d. Staffing Update**

EO Foster reported that due to the loss in revenue this fiscal year, the Commission's staff was reduced to one Associate Analyst, one Staff Analyst, the Chief Athletic Inspector, the AEO and the EO. One staff member is currently on maternity leave and due back in January 2022. Claudia Ron who was temporarily working at Osteopathic Medical Board due to the Commission's loss of revenues, accepted a promotion with the Osteopathic Medical Board. Her last day with the Commission was August 31, 2021. EO Foster stated the Commission now has one (1) Staff Analyst temporarily working at the Naturopathic Medical Board and two (2) vacancies. EO Foster thanked the Commission staff for all their hard work over the last year working and running the events.

**e. Upcoming Event Schedule and discussion regarding event activity under the Commission's emergency COVID-19 regulations**

EO Foster stated events are coming back to California, but they are sporadic. An updated event schedule was included in the meeting materials.

**Agenda Item 9- Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

Roy Englebrecht stated he was incredibly proud of EO Foster for choosing safety over revenue and not to approving the Holyfield bout.

**Agenda Item 10- Next Commission Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 16, 2021**

No Commissioner or Public Comments.

**Agenda Item 11- Adjournment**

Meeting Adjourned at 11:35 a.m.