



**EDMONTON COMBATIVE SPORTS COMMISSION
DRAFT
MEETING MINUTES**

**August 11, 2025
7:00 PM
Online via Google Meet**

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Trevor Kelly, at 7:04 pm., Monday, August 11, 2025.

It was acknowledged that the Edmonton Combative Sports Commission meets on the traditional territories of the indigenous peoples of the Treaty 6 region and the Métis settlement in the Métis Nation of Alberta in regions 2, 3 and 4. The Chair acknowledged that we respect the histories, language and cultures of First Nations, Métis and Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada whose presence continues to enrich our community.

2. Roll Call, Recording of Attendance

Present: Chair Trevor Kelly, Vice-Chair Andrew Soto
Commission Members: Brandy Badry, Farrel Shadlyn,
Rashi Khullar, Nateram Seecharan, Rob Sevigny
Executive Director, Forrest Gavins
Recorder, Christopher Bishop

Absent with Regrets: Ally McCullough, Forrest Gavins

3. Call for Requests to Speak from the Public

There were no requests to speak from the public.

4. Adopt Agenda

MOVED: That the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

5. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

MOVED: That the July 14, 2025, minutes be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

6. Policy Review Project Working Group Updates

- Recommendation 4 is 50% complete.
- Still some questions about director's insurance for Recommendation 8 (F. Gavins to check with legal).
- Need to follow up with F. Gavins about how recent MRI/scan/evaluation info needs to be.

7. ABC Conference & Chair's Report (from New Orleans):

- Aruba wants to join ABC.
- The new ABC President is Tim Shipman.
- Chris Palmquist presents on the Combat Registry and what information it collects including MMA suspension info. Pro MMA events are declining.
- Switching to online fighter IDs.

Day 1 Highlights:

- Boxrec now tracks more sports like power slaps. More fights are going the distance. Also discusses issues with fights out of Russian and the issues with tracking them.
- Unified Muay Thai rules adopted (slips aren't knockdowns, cartwheel kicks are fouls).
- Simon Haslan on handwrap application and styles of wraps.
- Guest of Honor Q&A with retired boxing champ Mia St. John.
- Misfits Boxing (youtuber boxing) discussed cross-promotion. New sport "survivor tag team boxing" got some pushback on regulation.
- Sean from BKFC *Bare Knuckle boxing talks history and concussion rates.

Day 2 Highlights:

- The Chief Medical Officer discussed the limitations of virtual medical exams.
- A scoring guide for judges: C (close), M (moderate), D (decisive).
- George Piero does a presentation on drug testing statistics.
- Dr. Daniel Eichner - Drug testing stats and new tech (no need to chill samples, testing for l-carnitine,
- Dr. Swartz discusses the effects of Ozempic for weight cutting and why it might be banned.
- Dr Saef Izzy presents a nasal spray for CTE (Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy) based on clinical trials on Alzheimer's patients and its potential for other types of injuries

- A presentation on supplements for combat sports - What's not banned and what are the benefits.
- Dr. Lou Durkin discusses cannabis use in competition and its implications. Conclusion: not a performance enhancer, shouldn't be discouraged in competition, testing not beneficial.
- Smartnosis app to detect concussion symptoms post-fight. The hope is that using this app post fight could detect concussion symptoms for the purpose of prompt treatment - to identify "red flag symptoms"
- Controversial: ABC supports changes to the Muhammad Ali Act, even though some are strongly against it due to risks for fighters.
- The Medical committee examines Platelet Growth Factor for faster healing of wounds.
- Matt Bellagio discusses changes rules committee discussed new judging criteria (taking a knee will count against fighters).
- Discussion about uploading scorecards to Boxrec.
- Bare knuckle handwrap consistency.
- Debate about amateur boxers getting paid.

Day 3 Highlights:

- Pat English discusses Mental illness in fighters and the issues it causes.
- John Duggan speaks against Ali Act changes.
- Fight Book presentation about database to connect promoters and fighters.
- John English presents on the retired fighters fund.
- Unfortunately Randy Couture couldn't make it.
- Next year's conference is in Orlando.

Discussion regarding amendments to the Muhammad Ali Act and the risk to fighters under this model.

The Chair's verbal report was accepted.

MOVED: To receive the Chair's verbal report as presented.

CARRIED

8. Executive Director Report

R. Sevigny on behalf of F. Gavins reviewed the written Executive Director's report.

- Still waiting on "old fighters" definition.
- No event inquiries.
- Waiting for TD Bank update on direct investing.
- Alberta commissions meeting TBD.
- The Canadian Commissioners Committee noted common issues: medical eye exams, blood work, officials training.

The written report was accepted.

ABC - Covered

MOVED: That the written report from the Executive Director be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

9. Financial Statements – June 30, 2025

MOVED: That the June 30, 2025, Financial statements be approved as presented.
CARRIED

10. Next Meeting - September 8, 2025

The next Commission meeting will be held virtually on September 8, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

11. Adjournment

MOVED: That the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

I certify that the preceding minutes represent an accurate account of the proceedings at the Commission meeting on August 11, 2025.



Trevor Kelly, Chair

October 16, 2025

Date



Christopher Bishop, Recorder