



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, October 2, 2018  
10:00 a.m. - Conclusion of Business

Location:

*Millennium Biltmore Hotel  
Bernard's Meeting Room  
506 South Grand Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90071*

**Commissioners Present**

Chair John Carvelli  
Vice Chair Mary Lehman  
  
Commissioner John Frierson  
Commissioner Martha Shen-Urquidez  
Commissioner Vernon Williams, MD  
Commissioner Van Gordon Sauter

**Staff Present**

Andy Foster, Executive Officer  
Sophia Cornejo, Assistant Executive  
Officer  
Spencer Walker, Legal Counsel  
Heather Jackson, Staff

**Commissioners Absent**

Commissioner Luis Ayala

**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 Roll and a quorum was established.

**Agenda Item 2 – Welcome –Chairman's opening remarks and Tribute to  
Commissioner Frierson**

Chairman John Carvelli welcomed everyone to the meeting and discussed a recently created guidance memo regarding Injuries at regulated events. He read the policy aloud and mentioned it will be sent out by staff and copies will be available for distribution.

Chairman Carvelli announced the Commission recently secured a World Heavyweight Championship Fight – Deontay Wilder vs. Tyson Fury, set for December 1, 2018.

The Commission honored Commissioner Frierson on his retirement. EO Foster presented and read aloud the commendation for Commissioner Frierson from the Legislature. Commissioner members, officials, department representatives, and inspectors in attendance offered personal words of appreciation.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Approval of the July 24, 2018, Commission Meeting Minutes**

EO Foster presented the July 24, 2018, Commission Meeting minutes for approval.

*Commissioner Shen-Urquidez motioned to approve the minutes.*

*Commissioner Sauter seconded the motion.*

No commissioner or public comment.

*The motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote.*

### **Agenda Item 4 – Review and Possible Action of Petition to Change the Decision for Rommel Caballero vs. Erick Rodriguez bout on April 12, 2018, in Indio, CA**

EO Foster presented the Commission with background on the petition to change the decision of the bout. He introduced the parties involved; Lead Inspector Mark Relyea, Athletic Inspector Rogelio Chapa, and Mr. Roberto Gomez, Matchmaker, Golden Boy Promotions.

Video footage of the bout was presented to the Commissioners. Mr. Diaz provided the Commission with a narrative of the petition with reference to the video footage.

Lead Inspector Mark Relyea recalled the bout and the details of the stoppage. He confirmed Referee Wayne Hedgepeth stopped the bout because the athlete was unable to see due to the cut above his eye. He further explained Referee Hedgepeth instructed him to go to the cards. According to the California Code of Regulations Rule 339, if the referee determines that the bout may not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an injury inflicted by an unintentional foul which later becomes aggravated by fair blows, the bout must be declared a draw if the bout is stopped before the bell rings to begin the fourth round.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated she would have to see better mechanics from Referee Hedgepeth, suggesting in this instance, he should have allowed the athlete time to recover to see if he could have continued.

Commissioner Frierson inquired who the Ringside Physician was for the bout. Inspector Relyea answered it was Dr. Andre Guerrero.

Vice Chair Lehman explained the rule for determining defeat due to refusal to continue a bout resulting in a TKO only happens when the athlete refuses to answer the bell, or if the corner literally throws in a towel.

Inspector Relyea explained the rule for throwing in a towel is antiquated and the Commission's policy is to figuratively 'throw in the towel.' This is done by the cornermen notifying the Inspector the fighter cannot continue. He explained the question is whether the corner or the referee stopped the fight. He stated if the corner stopped the bout, the

fight would have resulted in a Technical Knockout; whereas if the referee made the call on his own evaluation, the result should remain a Technical Draw.

Vice Chair Lehman stated rule as it stands would have been effective in this case as the towel would have been helpful in identifying who stopped the bout. She further stated if the Commission determines the rule needs to be changed, steps should be taken to do so.

Inspector Rogelio Chapa, the inspector assigned to Mr. Erick Rodriguez's corner during the bout. He explained during the timeout, Mr. Rodriguez communicated in Spanish "No puedo ver" or "I cannot see." Inspector Chapa stated at that point he informed Referee Hedgepeth that the athlete cannot see. He stated the athlete said once again "no puedo ver" at which point the corner told him they are going to stop the fight. He confirmed with the fighter he wanted to stop the fight, to which the boxer replied "no puedo ver."

Chairman Carvelli confirmed with Inspector Chapa whether he told the referee the corner wants to stop the fight or that the athlete was unable to see. Inspector Chapa replied he told the referee the corner wanted to stop the fight after he confirmed with the athlete.

Commissioner Williams asked Inspector Chapa if it would have made a difference to him if a further evaluation was performed to determine why the athlete was unable to see. He agreed with Commissioner Shen-Urquidez that a headbutt could have resulted in a concussive injury with vision loss and had nothing to do with blood from the cut. Inspector Relyea responded the doctor did not ask that question and cleared the athlete to continue. He added perhaps had the doctor asked the question, the result may have been more conclusive, however he did not.

Chairman Carvelli reviewed Referee Hedgepeth's written testimony where he wrote "...I asked boxer Rodriguez if he was able to continue boxing and he replied no, at that point I made the decision to stop the fight by waving my arms above my head..." He asked EO Foster for guidance of the Commission's options. EO Foster offered a brief summary of the appeal and explained the options are to uphold the Technical Draw or change the decision.

Vice Chair Lehman explained rule 339 give the Referee explicit right to stop a bout, for essentially any reason, if the damage is caused by an unintentional foul – resulting in a Technical Draw. She added the rules, as they stand, are consistent with the protection of the athlete.

Mr. Diaz explained if the cut was the reason the athlete could not continue and the doctor or the referee stopped the bout, the result would be clearly correct and undisputed. He added he believes the referee and doctor were going to let the fight continue, until the athlete's corner indicated they are stopping the bout.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez explained every bout stopped is waved off by the referee. She added the question is why he waved the fight off.

*Vice Chair Lehman motioned to deny the petition and continue the ruling as a Technical Draw.*

*No second. Motion failed.*

*Commissioner Frierson motioned to change the decision of the bout from a Technical Draw to a Technical Knockout win for Rommel Caballero.*

*Commissioner Shen-Urquidez seconded the motion.*

No further commissioner or public comment.

*The motion passed 5-1 by roll call vote.*

### **Agenda Item 5 – Review and approval of the All Event Officials’ Pay Scale**

EO Foster provided background on the Official’s Pay Scale and its history with the Commission. He explained in recent years, the Commission experienced an increase in the number of title fights scheduled during an event. He added the All Event Officials’ Pay Scale, as it stands today, does not allow officials assigned to title bouts to also work any other bout other than the title bout they were assigned. He suggested the Commission needs some level of discretion to allow title fight officials to be used in undercard bouts when necessary. This will ensure events in California are staffed appropriately.

He recommended the Commission consider amending the note under “Minimum Pay for Professional Referees and Judges for most Recognized World Championship Bouts” to allow the EO or his/her designee discretion to allow the Referees and Judges to work up to two undercard bouts.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez provided additionally historical background on the topic of officials pay scale. She explained about 25 years ago, give or take, there was a group of officials who supported the idea of officials assigned to a championship bout should be assigned to anything else. She added this was their way of keeping things fair. She acknowledged at that time, there was some fractioning within the Commission and this was a way to address those issues. However, the Commission has since realized utilizing this practice not only puts a strain on official personnel during busy event weekends, it also creates a greater financial burden on the promoters of championship bouts.

EO Foster presented the Commission with data on the rising amount of title fights in California and explained how he anticipates the number to continue to rise.

Vice Chair Lehman asked if there is a rule which governs this practice. EO Foster responded that it is just a policy the Commission can vote to change.

*Commissioner Williams motioned to revise the note under “Minimum Pay for Professional Referees and Judges for most Recognized World Championship Bouts” to read ‘NOTE: Referees and Judges who are assigned to work these bouts may work up to two undercard bouts at the discretion of the Executive Officer or his/her designee.’*

*Commissioner Frierson seconded the motion.*

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez confirmed with EO Foster that two undercard bouts will help to solve the issue. EO Foster confirmed the recommendation is realistic and appropriate for now.

Dr. Lou Moret, CSAC Licensed Referee, provided his support for granting EO Foster discretion to make such decisions about official assignments.

*Commissioner Williams amended his motion to revisit and review this matter in six (6) months.*

*Vice Chair Lehman seconded the amended motion.*

*The motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote.*

**Agenda Item 6 – Discussion and Review of Association of Ringside Physicians’ Concussion Protocol and the California State Athletic Commission’s minimum medical suspension requirements.**

EO presented this item and stated that the Los Angeles Times had recently put out an article “Boxing regulations still lacking to protect fighters from head injuries”. He further stated that the Association of Ringside Physicians also released a new consensus statement titled “Concussion management in Combat Sports”. The EO stated that the California Commission already does many of the protocols laid out on the consensus statement, such as the C3 Logix testing; however, more can be done. One of the bigger changes in the consensus statement is whether or not the Commission should move to a standard 60 days suspension from a head blow, which the EO feels is appropriate. The EO also stated that the Commission should focus on providing education to trainers and athletes that the medical suspensions also mean that athletes should not be sparring in gyms during the suspension period.

The EO recommended that the Commission ask the Advisory Committee on Medical and Safety Standards (MAC) to review the statement and provide a recommendation to the Commission on possible adoption in California.

Chairman Carvelli stated that he felt the article was good but didn’t agree with some of the statements made. He further stated that he called the EO and asked that he share the article to the Commissioners at the meeting. He stated that he doesn’t think the Commission is not getting enough credit for all of the work that they are doing.

Dr. Williams agreed with the Chair and stated that he was aware of the consensus statement and said that there are aspects of the statement that make sense and other aspects that might be problematic. He reminded everyone that this is a consensus opinion; it is not based on evidence or evidence-based review, so this should be taken into consideration, but it is something the MAC should review and discuss to determine which parts of the document should be adopted.

Vice-Chair Lehman asked if other Commissions have taken steps to adopt this consensus statement. The EO responded that not to his knowledge. He knows that Michael Mazzulli and the EO of the New York Commission looked at it, but he hasn't heard of them adopting it.

*Vice Chair motioned to request that the MAC review the statement and provide a recommendation to the Commission on possible adoption in California.*

*Commissioner Dr. Williams seconded the motion.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - Michael Mazzulli, President of the Association of Boxing Commissions, stated that he works closely with the EO on safety issues the industry faces. He agrees that this is something that has to be done throughout the country and trying to make it unified. Something else that is being looked at is unified minimum medical requirements throughout the country.

Commissioner Dr. Williams asked Mr. Mazzulli if there were any parts of the document that he found to be problematic or would he accept the entire document as it stands. He stated that the people that put the document together are the experts and he doesn't have a problem with it at all.

Commissioner Dr. Williams stated that one of the things the MAC should discuss is that what was done when they put this statement together they looked at examples and models or guidelines in consensus statements made in other sports and they looked at how they can apply that to combat sports, which he understands; however, combat sports are very different than non-combat sports, particularly when it comes to the issue of brain or head injuries. He further stated that if the Commission followed the letter of the law from this document, anytime an athlete is dazed, we stop the fight. This changes combat sports dramatically.

Chairman Carvelli stated that this is a great topic of discussion for the MAC and that the at the summit the Commission held this year with all of the sanctioning bodies they discussed weight cutting, dehydration and rehydration and the approach the Commission took was a slow, methodical analysis: find the areas that everyone can agree that need to be address and proceed there. He stated that the MAC should do the same.

*The motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote.*

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Subcommittee Update: Pension Fund (Lehman/Ayala)**

Vice Chair Lehman stated that they are trying to look at more way of reaching out to potential claimants and something they came up with was presenting pension checks to retired boxers at fights/events in a public setting. She further stated that it's been difficult to find claimants that are in the vicinity of an event and scheduling conflicts; however,

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez was able to present a pension check to a retired boxer. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated that the retired boxer received a lot of money and that he was so excited and grateful. The presentation of the check took place in the ring and was televised.

Vice-Chair thanked the EO and staff for the hard work in scheduling to give out checks at fights.

### **Agenda Item 8 – Executive Officer’s Report**

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

The EO presented to the Commissioners a letter from the DCA Budget Office regarding our budget reports and that we cannot close out fiscal year 2017/18 until March 2019. He further stated is that the Commission hit a revenue record of almost 2 million deposited in fiscal year 2017/18. Deposits this fiscal year (2018/19) are at approximately 530K not including this past weekend of 10 events. The EO stated that he does not have an accurate expenditure report to provide the Commissioners due to FI\$Cal issues; however, he doesn’t have any reason to be concerned.

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

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

Legal Counsel Spencer Walker stated that this rulemaking package made it out of the DCA Budget Office yesterday, October 1, 2018, and is now on the Deputy Director of Legal Counsel’s desk for review and approval.

The EO stated that this new process has taken a long time. The package started moving again; however, once approved then it will be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The only benefit to this new process is that the OAL time clock has not started until DCA’s final review and approval.

The AEO, Sophia Cornejo, gave a summary of the new process within the Department when processing rulemaking packages.

#### **c. Status Update of Delegated Entities**

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

JT Steele, President of CAMO, stated that CAMO had a busy last couple of months, with October being the busiest month in a long time. Mr. Steele provided the Commissioners in their meeting materials event results and statistics for the past two months since the last Commission meeting. He further stated that CAMO fights are incredibly safe, with knock outs being low. Mr. Steele stated that CAMO is continuing to explore their drug testing efforts and that he doesn’t want to officially announce anything yet, but he hopes by the next Commission meeting he will have

more to announce. He also stated that CAMO now has an online training for Inspectors and he will have more information about this at the next meeting.

- USA Boxing (USA Boxing)

The EO stated that Mr. Mike McAtee was unable to attend the meeting. EO Foster presented the Commission with his written report submitted in the meeting materials.

Vice Chair Lehman stated that as a member of the Commission's Gender Equity Task Force, she was impressed at USA Boxing's efforts to promote women as fighters, officials and coaches. She also stated that the money USA Boxing offered to go to the training camp was higher for women than the men.

- United States Fight League (USFL)

The EO stated that Mr. Frank is ill and could not attend the meeting. EO Foster presented the Commission with his written report submitted in the meeting materials.

- International Kickboxing Federation (IKF)

Mr. Steve Fossum, President, was unable to attend the meeting. EO Foster presented the Commission with his written report submitted in the meeting materials.

Vice Chair Lehman stated that she attended an IKF event a month ago and it was great. She felt it was very entertaining and ran very well. She wanted to acknowledge IKF for a job well done.

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

EO Foster stated that the Commission is at 891 C3 Logix Neurological tests and that we are close to our 1200 tests by year end. He thanked the Inspectors for their efforts in getting all athletes tested. The EO further stated that he will work with the MAC on incorporating Phase 2 of the C3 Logix testing in 20196 since the Commission will have neurological baselines for the majority of athletes licensed by the Commission. Dr. Williams stated that this C3 Logix data will assist the Commission in publishing the data obtained.

**e. BoxRec database system update**

EO Foster presented a PowerPoint presentation on the BoxRec system updates. He stated that the 86% of the Worlds Boxing happens outside of the United States. He further stated that out of 30 spots of the top used officials, California has 16 of those spots for the most used official in the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC). EO

Foster recognized Fernando Villarruel for winning an award for the most used judge in the ABC. EO Foster named off the list of top used California officials in the ABC.

**f. Fiscal year end summary**

The EO reiterated fiscal year 2017/18 record revenue of almost 2 Million deposited into the Support Fund.

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

EO Foster stated that we are on track to set a record for title fights in California this year. He stated that there will be a big fight on November 9, 2018. November 26 will be a Golden Boy MMA fight with Ortiz vs. Lidell. He also stated that California will have a big fight on December 1, Tyson Fury from the UK fighting Deontay Wilder from Alabama.

**h. Staffing update**

The EO is working with DCA on resurrecting the Chief Athletic Inspector position. In addition, Commission staff posted and will conduct interviews on October 25 for an Associate Governmental Program Analyst position. Once we fill this vacancy, the Commission will be fully staffed.

**Agenda Item 9 – 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 10 – Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

The EO stated that HBO left boxing after 45 years. Commissioner Sauter asked what the implications are to the Commission. The EO responded that he noticed that HBO has decreased televised boxing and Showtime and Fox has increased. EO further stated that streaming online is on the rise in this industry.

**Agenda Item 11 – Next Meeting Scheduled for December 11, 2018, in Sacramento, CA**

The next meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2018, in Sacramento, CA.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Agenda Item 12 – The Board will meet in closed session as authorized by Government Code § 11126(e) (2)(B)(i) to confer with legal counsel regarding possible litigation.**

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda Item 13 – California State Athletic Commission Strategic Planning Session**

The Commissioners and staff took part in a Strategic Planning Development Session with staff from DCA.

**Agenda Item 14 - ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting Adjourned.