

1st Vice President
Scott Bowler
60 East South Temple, S#300
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
801-538-8607
sbowler@utah.gov

Treasurer
Dennis Reno
512 North Salisbury St
Raleigh, NC 27699
919-710-8885
ncboxingcommission@gmail.com

Secretary
Matt Schowalter
443 Lafayette Rd, North
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-666-9415
Matt.schowalter@state.mn.us



President
Michael Mazzulli
Dept. of Athletics, #1 Mohegan Blvd
Uncasville, CT 06382
860-862-7583
mmazzulli@moheganmail.com

2nd Vice President
Greg Alvarez
1106 Clayton Ln
Austin, TX 78723
512-659-5034
greg.alvarez@tdlr.texas.gov

Past President
Brian Dunn
1313 Farnam St.
Omaha, NE 68102
402-595-8467
Brian.Dunn@nebraska.gov

Board Administrator
Lydia Robertson
PO Box 17304
Little Rock, AR 72222
501-837-4948
Lydia.abc@sbcglobal.net

August 1-August 3, 2023

DRAFT ABC Minutes Las Vegas, NV

35th Annual Association of Boxing Commissions Conference

Welcome by ABC President Mike Mazzulli

President Mazzulli spoke on the success of this year's officials training and conference. For the 2016 conference in Nevada there were a total of 590 room nights booked and the 2023 conference had 847 room nights booked. Mazzulli addressed the body stating that we need to stay unified on our rule sets. Mazzulli spoke about the upcoming retirement of Pennsylvania Executive Director Greg Sirb and the positive impact Sirb has had on combat sports over the last 20+ years. Sirb was given a special recognition award from the ABC. Sirb thanked the body and expressed his gratitude to all he's worked with over the years.

Introduction of Attendees

Mazzulli had each person in attendance state their name, where they were from, and their favorite movie.

Presentation Regarding Power Slap Hunter Campbell (UFC)

Hunter Campbell from the UFC spoke to the body about Power Slap and the growth of slap fighting in the United States. Discussion and questions to Mr. Campbell. Many questions regarding safety of slap fighting. Campbell stated that the UFC wants to see the ABC create a set of Unified Rules for slap fighting and for states to regulate the sport. He also stated that commissions should not regulate taste, just fighter health and safety.

Financial Report Dennis Reno

Dennis Reno provided a report which was summarized in writing. He went over each item in the report and took questions.

Approval of 2022 Conference Minutes

Approval of Minutes from 2022 Conference; No discussion. Motion to Approve the minutes by Scott Bowler (UT), Seconded by Haskell Alexander (Chickasaw Nation). Unanimously carried on a voice vote.

Boxing Rules Update Greg Sirb

- Commissions should not be allowed fighters will no record to compete as professionals. Fighters looking to turn pro should have some amateur experience.
- Commissions need to record in BoxRec when a fighter lacks skills.
- Commissions should be doing extensive research on fighters prior to issuing them a Federal ID.
- There have been a lot of instances of breach of contract lately. Commissions should be suspending these fighters and putting a note in the database.
- Commissions should not be releasing suspensions early. If a fighter is suspended for 30-days, commissions should enforce that timeline and not allow for a fighter to be released early.
- Commissions should be upholding medical suspensions from other countries. Administrative suspensions issued by other countries do not need to be uphold and commissions can make their own decision on whether or not to enforce.
- Commissions need to reinforce the use of 10-8 rounds with their boxing judges. Judges need to start taking a point away on a knockdown.

New Officer Declarations Lydia Robertson

Nominations for Board Officers were opened by Board Administrator Lydia Robertson

- Andy Foster of California nominated Michael Mazzulli for President, and the motion was 2nded by Kim Sumbler of New York. A call was made inviting other nominations, and there being none, the Body chose to vote by acclimation and Mazzulli was elected unanimously by voice Ayes.
- Following elections for President, nominations for Board 1st VP were next. Matt Schowalter of Minnesota nominated Scott Bowler for 1st VP President, and the motion was 2nded by Greg Alvarez of Texas. There being no other nominations after a call for such, the Body chose to vote by acclimation and Bowler was elected unanimously by voice Ayes.
- Nominations continued for Board Officers continued when Brian Dunn of Nebraska nominated Matt Schowalter of MN for 2nd Vice President. Current 2nd VP, Greg Alvarez of Texas, seconded the motion and there were no further nominations. There being no others, after the call for them, the Body chose to vote by acclimation and Schowalter was elected unanimously by voice Ayes.
- Nominations moved on to Treasurer. Mike Mazzulli of Mohegan Sun Department of Athletics nominated Dennis Reno of North Carolina, and the motion was 2nded by Scott Bowler of Utah. A call was made for additional nominations and there being none, the Body chose to vote by acclimation and Reno was elected unanimously by voice Ayes.
- Final Election was for the position for Secretary of the Board. Nominations began when Andy Foster nominated Tim Shipman of Florida. The motion was seconded by Bryan Lambert of MA. No other nominations were forthcoming, and a voice vote was held. Timothy Shipman was unanimously elected Secretary of the Board.

Inspector Training Committee Update Tim Shipman (FL) and Scott Bowler (UT)

- Committee is getting a big response form individuals looking to take the training.
- A manual and PowerPoint has been developed.
- Committee would like to standardize inspector training so that fighters are getting the same information from state to state.
- Committee wants to include in the training things that may pertain to “Lead” inspector

Bare Knuckle Boxing (BKB) Committee Tim Shipman (FL)

- The committee presented to the body a proposed set of Unified Rules for Bare Knuckle Boxing.
- BKB has an increased cut and KO rate (most KOs are from the increase in body shots), but a lower TKO and concussion rate than that of other combat sports.
- BKB events do require that a promoter have a dedicated suture doctor on site. The state of Florida will use 4-5 ringside physicians per BKB event.
- All BKB events should have results reported to BoxRec and commissions should provide as much info as possible.

Discussion and questions were presented to the committee.

Combat Registry Update Presentation by Chris Palmquist and Kirik Jenness

BoxRec Update Presentation by John and Mariana Sheppard

Gift Recognition by Mike Mazzulli

President Mazzulli recognized all the groups and individuals that donated gifts for the 2023 Conference.

MMA Rules Committee Andy Foster (CA)

Andy Foster presented the following changes:

- Allowing a cutperson to be utilized after a foul, but during a round
- Positioning fighters for a restart after a foul warning, physician's examination or point deduction
- Standing up fighters from the downed position and/or breaking fighters while they are standing and pinned against the cage

Managing Pro Fighters Ali Abdelaziz

Abdelaziz discussed the relationship between managers, fighters, and commissions. He stated that the relationship between these parties is not great. He feels that there needs to be improvement in the relationship between managers and commissions. Discussion and questions were presented to Abdelaziz.

WBC Presentation "Bridge Weight Division" Mauricio Sulaiman

- Sulaiman proposed the addition of a "Bridge Weight Division" between the cruiserweight and heavyweight divisions. The "Bridge Weight Division" would be 200-224 pounds. Fighters competing in this division would still be eligible to compete for a Heavyweight title.
- Sulaiman also addressed the body regarding the use of instant replay. He believes that all states should be using instant replay to their advantage when it's available.
- Sulaiman feels that Open Scoring should be used more in the United States. Many foreign commissions are using open scoring in boxing and seeing success.

Medical Committee Report by Dr. Michael Schwartz

- Pre-Fight Ringside Physician Responsibilities by Dr. Michael Schwartz
- Update on Transgender Athletes by Dr. Randa Bascheron
- Chokes and Strangles by Dr. Sam Stellflug
- Commotio Cordis in Fighters by Dr. Don Muzzi
- Portable Handheld Concussion Testing by Dr. Chris Davlentes
- Clearance of Older Fighters by Dr. Louis Durkin

Eye Pokes Procedure Andy Foster (CA)

- Referee call time
- Fighter allowed the maximum of 5 minutes to recover
- Use a wet towel/cold compress on eye
- After 1-2 minutes have the doctor examine. Doctor should not use a light to shine in eye
- Doctor should wait before asking the fighter if they can see

Suspending a Fighter After the Fact/Falsifying Medical Records Brian Dunn (NE)

- Commissions should take their time when reviewing medical records and verify anything that looks suspicious
- Commissions shouldn't hesitate to reach out to providers even though they may not be able to provide detailed information
- Commissions should make sure to add notes to a fighter's record if they are caught falsifying medicals
- Commissions can make it a point to only accept medicals from the lab or clinic that performed the work
- Commissions should not be suspending an individual for something that happened at weigh-ins, but still allow them to fight the next day. If a commission is going to issue a suspension for something that happened at weigh-ins, then they should honor their own suspension by not allowing that fighter to compete.
 - Kim Sumbler (NY) recommended that commissions should issue a monetary penalty for something that happened at weigh-ins if they choose to allow the fighter to compete the next day

Membership Vote on BKB Unified Rules

Membership voted on the BKB Unified Rules presented by the BKB Rules Committee

Kim Sumbler (NY) moved to accepted the BKB Unified Rules that were presented by the BKB Rules Committee. Seconded by Ernie Gallardo (Pascua Yaqui). MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE WITH ABSTENTION BY GREG ALVAREZ (TX)

Minimum Medical Requirements Dr. Michael Schwartz

Dr. Schwartz addressed the body regarding the need for all commissions to have basic medical requirements including:

- Hep B, Hep C, and HIV
- Complete physical exam
- Dilated eye exam
- One time EKG
- Yearly neuro testing (CT, MRI)

Discussion and questions were presented to Dr. Schwartz.

Retired Fighters Fund Update John English

- There were 6 applicants over the last year; 5 of the applicants did not qualify
- There was one payout
- Trivia night at the 2023 Conference raised \$1,410
- Apparel sales at the 2023 Conference raised \$1,150

Team Combat League – Presentation by Ahmed Sheikh

Athlete's Voice Committee Kim Sumbler (NY)

The Athlete's Voice Committee made 3 recommendations to the body:

- Minimum Educational Standards for Combat Sports Licensing
- Proposed Unified Standards for Manager Regulation
- Proposed Unified Appeal Standard Reforms for Combat Sports Athletes

Discussion and questions to Committee.

Muhammad Ali Act as it Pertains to MMA

A group of MMA fighters addressed the body regarding the expansion of the Muhammed Ali Act into MMA. The group presented their reasonings for why they feel the body should push to have MMA added.

Discussion and questions to the group.

Combat Sports Insurance Warnings – Presentation by Laurence Cole

USA Amateur Boxing Update – Presentation by Mike McAtee

Resurgence of Muay Thai and Kickboxing - Presentation by Johnny Davis

Matchmaking High Level Fights – Panel Discussion led by Pat English

RIZIN MMA – Presentation by RIZIN

Swearing in Board of Directors

The newly appointed Board of Directors was sworn in.

Membership Vote on MMA Rule Procedure Changes

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE

Commission to Commission Communication – Presentation by Caitlin Caputo

Motion by Tim Shipman (FL) to adjourn, seconded and approved.

Registered Voting Members

1. Arizona (Danny Vella)
2. California (Andy Foster)
3. Chickasaw (Scott Colbert)
4. Connecticut (Dimitri Bogidtzopoulos)
5. Comanche Nation (John Goombi)
6. DC (Skip Brown)
7. Florida (Timothy Shipman)
8. Georgia (Matt Woodruff)
9. Indiana (Joanna Holland)
10. Kentucky (Matt Byrd)
11. Maine (John Lavitt)
12. Mashantucket Pequot (Mai Provost)
13. Massachusetts (John Navier)
14. Mille Lacs (Ezra Sam)
15. Minnesota (Matt Schowalter)
16. Mississippi (Michael Callahan)
17. Mohegan (Mike Mazzulli)
18. Nebraska (Luis Cruz)
19. Nevada (Jeff Mullen)
20. New York (Kim Sumbler)
21. North Carolina (Valerie Dorsett)
22. Oklahoma (Mike Bower)
23. Oneida Indian Nation (Sam Mallaro Jr)
24. Oregon (David Hagan)
25. Pascua Yaqui Tribe (Ernie Gallardo)
26. Pennsylvania (Greg Sirb)
27. Seneca Nations (Jackie Grant)
28. South Carolina (Jon Hollingsworth)
29. Texas (Greg Alvarez)
30. Utah (Scott Bowler)
31. Virginia (Jermaine Gray)
32. Wisconsin (Mary Murphy-Edwards)
33. Wyoming (Nick Meeker)