

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

**Treasurer**  
Alyson Tuley  
1500 N. Country Club Rd  
Ada, OK 74820  
580-453-1020  
Alyson.Tuley@chickasaw.net

**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

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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

July 25-27, 2022

*DRAFT ABC Minutes Niagara Falls, NY*

*34<sup>th</sup> Annual Association of Boxing Commissions Conference*

**Welcome by ABC President Mike Mazzulli**

- Financial Report: In the absence of Treasurer Alyson Tuley, Lydia Robertson provided a report which was summarized in writing. She went over each item in the report and took questions.
- Motion to Approve Matt Woodruff (GA); Second by Haskell Alexander (Chickasaw) The Motion to Approve the Treasurer's Report Unanimously carried on voice vote.
- Approval of Minutes from 2021; No discussion. Motion to Approve the minutes by Frank Gentile (FL), Seconded by Ernie Gallardo (Pascua Yaqui Tribe) Unanimously carried on a voice vote.

President Mazzulli spoke on the success of this year's officials training. There were 257 people in total that attended this year's officials training including 36 for boxing referee, 55 for MMA referee, 83 for boxing judge, 47 for MMA judge, and 33 for inspectors.

**Presentation** by Dr. Michael Schwartz

- Anatomy of a KO. Dr. Schwartz discussed different ways a fighter can be KO'd and signs to look for when a fighter may be in danger.

**Presentation** by Greg Sirb

- Boxing Update
  - There were no boxers that compete in the US while on suspension in 2021
  - There were 3 boxers that were not paid in the last 6 months; Every commission should have a bond in place to cover fighter pay
  - Commissions should start providing more information in the database for KO/TKO losses;

Provide information such as body shot, head strikes, etc

- There are boxers who are still competing without a valid Federal ID. Additionally, there are boxers being issued Federal IDs without providing a photo. Federal law requires that a photo be provided and that IDs must be issued every 4 years
- When suspending fighters, commissions should be providing the fighter with a suspension notice and informing fighters that the suspension applies to all combat sports. Commissions should also ensure that any suspension being issued is added to both ABC official registries (BoxRec and Combat Registry)
- When issuing a boxing Federal ID, or MMA National ID, check to see if the fighter is in the other database and if so, provide a link to that record on the ID you are issuing
- When reviewing bouts, make sure to look at any notes on the fighter's record and not just the win-loss record
- Boxing debuts – Review a fighter's amateur boxing record and possibly have their coach complete a form attesting to the fighter's ability and experience to turn pro
- Commissions should provide referees with a form that explains the signs of a concussion
- Commissions should have someone other than referees picking up score cards between rounds so that referees can focus on the fighters.
- When completing master score sheets, you should note when cuts happen, the reason the cut occurred, where the cut is, and what round the cut happened. This will help if the fight is ever stopped at a later time due to the cut.
- Any time a fight is stopped, judges should score the last partial round in case there is an appeal.
- One of the benefits of being an ABC member is that you can contact a fellow member to get a fighter's medicals. Commissions should put a medical sharing release on their applications.
- Federal law allows a commission to deny any fight where appropriate.

#### **Creation of Communication Coordination Committee** Mike Mazzulli

- At the request of Mary Murphy-Edwards (WI), a new committee is being formed to encourage more collaboration and communication among ABC members
- Communication Coordination Committee will work to gather data from ABC members to share information on trends, policies, etc.

#### **Tips and Tricks for Training Inspectors** – Presentation by Scott Bowler (UT) and Tim Shipman (FL)

- The Inspector Training Committee developed a manual for inspectors that is based on the manual created by California. It is an open source PDF so commissions can edit it to meet their specific needs.

#### **Rival Glove Damage** – Presentation by Rival

- During boxing glove assignments, commissions should not be writing directly on the gloves. When gloves are written on, and then not used, they cannot be put back into rotation even though they are new. Rival has included a sticker for all signatures and then a bag to put the gloves in and place the sticker on. Commissions can contact Rival about obtaining stickers and bags.

#### **Combat Registry Update** – Presentation by Chris Palmquist

## **BoxRec Registry Update** – Presentation by John and Marina Sheppard

### **MMA Rules Committee Report** by Andy Foster (CA)

The MMA Rules Committee is proposing two changes to the MMA Unified Rules:

- Time Consideration for Eye Pokes – When a fighter has received an eye poke, as called by the referee, that fighter is allowed up to 5-minutes to recover. This change will be consistent with the time consideration for a low blow.
- Joint/ Body Coverings – Add wording to the Unified Rules that states, *“The sleeves must be Black in color, with the exception of matching the athletes Commission assigned corner with sleeves being Red or Blue in color as appropriate.”*

Discussion and questions to Committee. Several commissions spoke against the use of joint coverings while others were in support. There were questions about the use of joint coverings for medical reasons and if fighters were wearing them without it being medically necessary. Some discussion regarding if the use of joint coverings should be approved by the ringside physician.

There was some discussion regarding whether strikes to the back of the head should also be considered for a 5-minute rest period.

- Foster presented a document that clarified the MMA scoring criteria. This document is a great tool for judges and does not change the criteria previously added to the Unified Rules.
- Foster stated that in 2023, the Rules Committee will be proposing a change to the definition of a grounded fighter.

### **Open Scoring** by Din Thomas

Retired fighter, and current commentator, Din Thomas spoke regarding his support of open scoring in combat sports. Discussion and questions to Mr. Thomas. Some states spoke in favor of open scoring, some spoke against open scoring, and some were open to exploring the idea.

### **2023 Conference Presentation** by Lydia Robertson

The 2023 ABC Conference is slated to be held in Las Vegas, NV and membership indicated approval. The exact location of the conference is not yet determined. Board of Directors is still looking at possible locations and checking pricing.

### **Medical Committee Report** by Dr. Michael Schwartz

- SportGait Concussion Testing presentation by Dr. Chris Newton
- Effects of Extreme Weight Manipulation on Performance and Health in Combat Sports presentation by Dr. Christopher Kirk
- Therapeutic Use Exemptions presentation by Dr. Gerald Varlotta
- Transgender Athletes in Combat Sports: To Fight or Not to Fight presentation by Dr. Nitin K Sethi
- The Older Fighter presentation by Dr. Lou Durkin
- Professional Boxing Fatalities From 2000-2019 presentation by Dr. John Neidecker

### **Amateur Boxing Regulation** presentation by Leon Ramsey (WV)

There are many states that have no regulation over amateur boxing/fight clubs. Commissions should have some oversight over amateur boxing so that they have the ability to shut down these illegal events. It's important to have control of all records.

### **Glove Approval Process** presentation by Greg Sirb (PA)

### **Update on Retired Fighter Fund Auction** by John English

The Retired Fighter Fund held an auction at the ABC banquet. The total amount of money raised at the auction was \$11,720.

### **Committee Openings** by Mike Mazzulli

Anyone interested in joining an ABC Committee should contact ABC Secretary, Matt Schowalter, to be added.

### **Combat Sports Law and Questions You Were Afraid to Ask** by Pat English

Pat English entertained questions from the body in regards to combat sports law.

### **Membership Voting**

Membership voted on the Unified Rule changes presented by Andy Foster

Proposal 1 – Change Joint/Body Coverings (8)b to read, *“A competitor may use soft neoprene type sleeves to cover only the knee or ankle joints. Approved sleeves may not have: padding, Velcro, plastic, metal, ties or any other material considered to be unsafe or that may create an unfair advantage. Tape and gauze or any materials other than the approved sleeves are not permitted on the lower body. The sleeves must be Black in color, with the exception of matching the athletes Commission assigned corner with sleeves being Red or Blue in color as appropriate.”*

Parliamentarian Walsh entertained motion. Tim Shipman (FL) moved to accept the joint/body coverings change proposed by Foster and the MMA Rules Committee. Seconded by Dennis Reno (NC). MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE

Proposal 2 – Include the following to D. Time Consideration, *“Eye Poke A fighter who has received an eye poke as called by the referee is allowed up to five minutes to recover from the foul as long as the ringside doctors confirms the fighter may possibly continue in the contest once recovered. If the fighter states they can see and wish to continue, and confirmed by doctor, the referee shall as soon as practical restart the fight. If the fighter goes over the five-minute time allotment the fight cannot be restarted and the contest must come to an end with the outcome determined by the round and time in which the fight was stopped.”*

Parliamentarian Walsh entertained motion. Greg Sirb (PA) moved to accept the eye poke time consideration change proposed by Foster and the MMA Rules Committee. Seconded by Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan). MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE

### **Bare Knuckle Boxing Committee Report** by Brian Dunn (NE)

The following BKB rule recommendations were proposed:

- BKB should be held in an enclosure. The enclosure should be any type of enclosure (ring or cage) that provides a safe barrier between the combatants and the commission and fans
- The length of a round should be a maximum three minutes
- Individuals should not be allowed to compete in more than one BKF contest in a 24-hour period
- Bouts should not exceed fifteen minutes
- A fighter may not be saved by the bell in any round
- The three knockdown rule should not be used
- Fighters may engage in the clinch as long as they are active
- Fighters should not be allowed to advance their hands towards their opponent’s face with their fingers extended
- Hammer fists should be allowed
- Pivot blows (spinning back fists) should **NOT** be allowed

- Fighters should be allowed to intentionally leave the fighting surface while delivering a blow (superman punch)
- Fighters should be given up to five minutes to recover from a groin strike
- If a fighter cannot continue as a result of a groin strike, they shall not be deemed the loser of the fight based upon that fact.
- Fighters should be given up to five minutes to recover from an eye-poke
- Fighters should be given a mandatory two-point deduction for a second eye-poke
- Bouts will be considered official when a majority of the scheduled rounds are completed (2/3, 3/5, 4/7).

Parliamentarian Walsh entertained motion. Ken Reels (Mashantucket Pequot) moved to accept the recommendations proposed by Dunn and the BKB Rules Committee. Seconded by Tim Shipman (FL). MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE with abstentions by Mississippi, California, Utah, and Texas

**WBO Presentation** by John Duggan

WBO is matching the money raised by the RFF auction.

**Update on Conference Officials Training** by Bryan Miner

This year's MMA training was split into two groups; Novice and Advanced. This seemed to be something everyone enjoyed and was a success. Miner recommends that this be used for future trainings.

**Boxing Registry Contract** by Mike Mazzulli

The ABC and BoxRec came to an agreement on a new contract for BoxRec to be the ABC's official boxing registry.

Secretary Schowalter entertained motion. Ernie Gallardo (Pascua Yaqui) moved to accept the contract between the ABC and BoxRec. Seconded by Juan Carlos Estrada (AZ). MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE

**Social Media, Commissioner Conduct, and Code of Ethics** presentation by Haskell Alexander.

**Fraud Prevention** by Lydia Robertson

The ABC bank account has had some fraud attempts by outside parties. The attempts were discovered immediately and handled appropriately. Two additional volunteers to the Finance Committee were added: Kenny Reels (Mashantucket) and Bonnie Davis (VA).

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

Registered Voting Members in attendance

1. Arizona (Juan Carlos Estrada)
2. California (Andy Foster)
3. Chickasaw (Haskell Alexander)
4. Colorado (Anthony Cummings)
5. Connecticut (Dimitri Bogditzopoulos)
6. DC (Skip Brown)
7. Florida (Timothy Shipman)
8. Georgia (Matt Woodruff)
9. Iowa (Dawn Chamberlain)
10. Kentucky (Matt Byrd)
11. Mashantucket Pequot (Kenneth Reels)
12. Massachusetts (Bryan Lambert)

13. Miccosukee (Frank Gentile)
14. Mille Lacs (Ezra Sam)
15. Minnesota (Eileen McNiff)
16. Mississippi (Michael Callahan)
17. Mohegan (Mike Mazzulli)
18. Nebraska (Brian Dunn)
19. Nevada (Jeff Mullen)
20. New Mexico (Richard Espinoza)
21. New York (Kim Sumbler)
22. North Carolina (Dennis Reno)
23. North Dakota (Timothy Stark)
24. Oklahoma (Malcolm Atwood)
25. Oneida Indian Nation (Dan Gustafson)
26. Oregon (David Hagan)
27. Pascua Yaqui Tribe (Ernie Gallardo)
28. Pennsylvania (Greg Sirb)
29. Rhode Island (Peter Timothy)
30. Saint Regis Mohawk (Brandon Smoke)
31. Seneca Nations (Jackie Grant)
32. South Carolina (Jon Hollingsworth)
33. Tennessee (Alex Martin)
34. Texas (Chris Russey)
35. Utah (Scott Bowler)
36. Virginia (Bonnie Davis)
37. Wisconsin (Mary Murphy-Edwards)