



**EDMONTON COMBATIVE SPORTS COMMISSION
DRAFT
MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE
7:00 PM
Online via Google Meet**

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Andrew Soto, at 7:00 pm., Monday, February 9, 2026.

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

Absent with Regrets:

3. Guest Speaker

- Presentation by **Meilai Ha** of the **Civic Agencies Team**

4. Call for Requests to Speak from the Public

There were no requests to speak from the public.

5. Adopt Agenda

MOVED: That the agenda be adopted as presented.
Adopted without objection

6. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

MOVED: That the January 12, 2026, minutes be adopted as circulated.
Approved without objection

7. Policy Review Project Working Group Updates

Policy Working Groups Policy 2 (Approval)

- Action: Policy 2, which was previously reviewed, was put to a vote for approval.
- Motion: To approve Policy 2.
- Mover: Trevor Kelly
- Secunder: Rashi Khullar
- Vote: Approved by consent (No objections).

Policy 6 (Review by Rashi Khullar and Trevor Kelly)

- **Report:** Trevor Kelly presented the proposed amendments to Policy 6, which deals with competing event permits.
- **Key Amendments:**
 - Clean up language to reflect that permitting decisions are the exclusive jurisdiction of the **Executive Director (ED)**, not the Commission.
 - Remove the requirement for promoters to submit event requests by October 1st.
 - Maintain the existing requirement for event permit applications to be submitted no later than 45 days before a proposed event.
- **Discussion:**
 - Andrew Soto requested adding a reference to the relevant bylaw within the policy.
 - Forrest Gavins and Rashi Khullar suggested adding a reference to the **appeals regulation** for clarity for promoters.
- **Action/Disposition:** Trevor Kelly will make the suggested edits and forward the revised policy to the Commission for a vote at the next meeting.

Policy 10 (Ringside Privileges)

- **Action/Disposition:** Andrew Soto assigned Brandy Badry and Alexandra McCullough to review Policy 10 (ringside privileges) for the next meeting.

Policy 11 (Advertising and Temporary Tattoos - Review by farrel Shadlyn and Nate Seecharan)

- **Report:** farrel Shadlyn presented his review and questions regarding Policy 11, noting concerns about:
- **Inappropriate Content:** Tattoos/banners being racist, sexist, homophobic, etc.
- **Sponsor Conflicts:** A fighter's temporary tattoo competing with an event sponsor.
- **Freedom of Expression:** Concerns about infringing on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (specifically freedom of expression).

Discussion:

- **Code of Conduct:** Andrew Soto agreed with the Executive Director's suggestion (via farrel Shadlyn) to develop a contestant code of conduct to address inappropriate behaviors (hate speech, harassment, etc.). Forrest Gavins offered to put together a framework with links to similar documents from other commissions (Lethbridge, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Boxing Alberta).
- **Sponsorship:** Rashi Khullar and Farrell Shadlyn advocated for the Commission to "stay in its lane" and not interfere with sponsorship conflicts between a fighter and a promoter, as this is a business matter outside the Commission's purview, provided no offensive content violates the code of conduct.
- **Safety:** Brandy Badry and Forrest Gavins debated the safety concern of temporary tattoos, with Forrest stating approval would hinge on being able to determine they are safe (similar to not allowing stick-on eyelashes) and Brandy asserting there has never been a safety risk associated with them.

Action/Disposition: The development of a contestant code of conduct will be a takeaway item. Farrell Shadlyn will encourage members to review other commission policies and send questions to the Executive Director.

MOVED: That the **Policy Review Project Working Group Updates** be adopted as presented. **CARRIED**

8. Chair's Report (Andrew Soto)

- **Provincial Commission Meeting Takeaway:** Andrew Soto reported being "shocked" to hear that other commissions are approving promoters to compete in their own events.
- **Discussion:**
 - Forrest Gavins stated that both Edmonton and Calgary Commissions do not allow this practice, citing safety and event management concerns (promoter could sustain a brain injury and be unable to account for the event).
 - Brandy Badry advocated for supporting the practice for high-level athletes, citing examples of Floyd Mayweather and Oscar De La Hoya, as long as a second in command is present.
- **Feedback for Future Reports:** The group unanimously requested that the Chair's Report prioritize sharing **highlights and context of external meetings** (provincial commission, etc.) that the Commission members were excluded from.

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

Approved without objection

9. Executive Director Report (Forrest Gavins)

- **Canadian Commissioners Committee Update:**
 - **Event Times and Insurance:** Discussion on how to prevent late-starting events with numerous bouts from running past midnight, which could lead to insurance issues. Forrest will follow up with the ECSC's insurer.
 - **Anonymous Allegations:** Commissions agreed they would not act on anonymous allegations of a contestant using performance-enhancing supplements or drugs, as it could be weaponized or used for distraction. Action would only be considered if the concern came from a medical source.
- **Association of Boxing Commissions and Competitive Sports (ABC) Update:**
 - **Ali Act Revival/Amendment:** Forrest reported on the recent approval of an amendment to the American Ali Act (which predates MMA and separates promotion/management) that allows organizations like **Zufa Boxing** (created by the UFC) to act as both the promotion and the management of contestants.
 - **Note:** Canadian Commissions are non-voting affiliate members of the ABC, so this was outside of the ECSC's control.

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

Approved without objection

10. Financial Statements – Year End

MOVED: That the December, 2025 Financial statements be approved as presented.

Approved without objection

11. New Business****In-Person Meetings Proposal

- **Proposal:** The Chair, Andrew Soto, proposed holding a minimum of **two in-person meetings per year**, with the first target being the March meeting or, failing that, the April meeting.
- **Action/Disposition:** The Chair opened the floor for discussion and input on the best dates for the proposed in-person meetings.

Next Meeting - March 9, 2026

The next Commission meeting will be held virtually on March 9, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

12. Adjournment

MOVED: That the meeting be adjourned.

Approved without objection

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

I certify that the preceding minutes represent an accurate account of the proceedings at the Commission meeting on DATE.



Andrew Soto, Chair

March 9, 2026
Date



Christopher Bishop, Recorder