



**EDMONTON COMBATIVE SPORTS COMMISSION  
DRAFT  
MEETING MINUTES**

**September 8, 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 7:05 pm., Monday, September 8, 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,  
Executive Director, Forrest Gavins  
Recorder, Christopher Bishop

**Absent with Regrets:** Ally McCullough

**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 August 11, 2025, minutes be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

## 6. Policy Review Project Working Group Updates

### Policy Review (Recommendation 4) Update:

- **Insurance:** It was reported that board insurance against negligence/liability is not required. F Gavins will clarify city insurance coverage for the commission's governance role. F Shadlyn suggested legal counsel clarify if commission-specific insurance is necessary given its governance-only function.
- **Medical Exams:** Discussion arose regarding the recency of required MRI/CT scans for fighters. The Executive Director advised that the timelines are contained in Regulation 8.
- **Cognitive Testing:** B Badry proposed supplementing MRIs with cognitive assessments (e.g., MOCA, MMSC) for a more comprehensive view of fighter neurological health, noting MRIs only show brain structure. F Shadlyn raised cost as a potential barrier to such examinations.
- **Chief Medical Advisor's Recommendation:** F Gavins shared Dr. DeFreides' recommendation for neurological exams by a neurologist, including an "imPACT" concussion test or equivalent, after a fighter's last bout if they suffered a concussion, KO, or TKO. This exam must be conducted after full recovery. F Shadlyn suggested inviting Dr. DeFreides to a future meeting to present to the commission.

**Policy Review (Policy 4) Update:** No progress was reported by A Soto and A McCullough on Policy 4.

## 7. Chair's Report

- No significant updates from the Chair since August.
- A training session on Robert's Rules of Order is scheduled for Thursday, which Andrew will endeavor to attend to seek clarification on streamlining voting procedures (e.g., negative votes).
- The next provincial municipal combative sport meeting is scheduled for September 24th, which the Chair and F Gavins plan to attend and report back on.

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

## 8. Executive Director Report

- **Older Fighters Definition:** Awaiting a decision from the chief medical advisor on the definition of "older fighters."
- **Event Updates:** No new event interests or applications.
- **TD Bank Account:** Difficulties in opening a new bank account due to the commission lacking a corporate number. Attempts will be made at the downtown branch; otherwise, alternative banks may be explored.
- **Canadian Commissioners Committee Update:**
  - The August convention was beneficial for discussing common practices among provinces.
  - Luke Kotick (Ontario Commission) was elected the new chair of the committee. Ontario is progressing with new legislation and staffing.
  - **Standardized Medical Form:** Development of a common medical form is expected.
  - **UFC Pro Jiu-Jitsu:** A non-striking sport, its regulation varies by province. Its potential to attract casual fans was questioned.
  - **BKFC (Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship):** A presentation on BKFC highlighted medical statistics, with one noted omission of a death. BKFC's research suggests it could be safer for head injuries than traditional boxing.
  - **Bare Knuckle in Canada:** No provincial commissions currently sanction BKFC due to legal challenges with the Criminal Code and general concerns.
  - **Provincial Commission Support:** The provincial commissions support the province taking over the sanctioning of combative sports in Alberta.
  - **New Business/Open Discussion:** F Shadlyn suggested adding a "new business" or "open discussion" item to future agendas.
  - **Honoring Past Combatants:** F Shadlyn proposed honoring past Edmonton combatants, given the commission's substantial surplus. F Gavins noted impartiality concerns and the discontinuation of such awards previously. Nate suggested honoring older fighters to mitigate conflicts of interest and volunteered to assist with outreach.
  - **Doctor Stoppage Rule:** F Gavins highlighted a provincial recommendation from the Tim Haig inquiry, leading to Ontario's new rule allowing doctors to stop fights directly by notifying the timekeeper. F Gavins believes this is a beneficial evolution for fighter safety. He recommends formally adopting the ABC Unified Rules via policy, with an additional policy for the doctor stoppage rule. F Shadlyn strongly supported this proposal.
  - **ABC Voting Rights:** F Shadlyn expressed surprise at Canada's lack of voting rights at the ABC. T Kelly explained this is due to the Ali Act's definition of commissions as state or tribal, not international.
  - **ABC Rules Application:** F Gavins clarified that commissions typically adopt ABC Unified Rules with minor adjustments. T Kelly recalled past criticism for using alternate rules (e.g., Dream FC) and emphasized adhering to Unified Rules.

- **Official Notification:** An agreement was made among provincial commissions to notify each other when using officials from other provinces to ensure awareness of their situations and ongoing issues.
- **Canadian Official Utilization:** A push to utilize more Canadian officials for major events was noted for local talent development and skill sharing.
- **Christmas Get-Together:** F Gavins offered to commence planning for the Christmas gathering.

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

CARRIED

#### 9. Financial Statements – July 31, 2025

- F Gavins presented the June and July financial reports. The cumulative surplus is \$362,222.
- Mike Tubbs and Jordan Morley, officials who sought funding, were reimbursed (\$1,986 and \$2,000, respectively). A full report on their findings will be provided next month.

MOVED: That the July 31, 2025, Financial statements be approved as presented.  
CARRIED

#### 10. Next Meeting - October 20, 2025

The next Commission meeting will be held virtually on October 20, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

#### 11. Adjournment

MOVED: That the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

I certify that the preceding minutes represent an accurate account of the proceedings at the Commission meeting on September 8, 2025.



Trevor Kelly, Chair

November 23, 2025

Date



Christopher Bishop, Recorder