



Combative Sports Commission

MANDATE

The purpose of the Calgary Combative Sports Commission is to regulate, govern and control professional combative sporting events and contestants within the City of Calgary. ([link](#))

COMPOSITION

6 Members:

- 5 Public Members
- 1 Chief Licence Inspector

ANNUAL UPDATE & KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Standards and protocols for combative sports resumption were developed in conjunction with a working group, which included representatives from the Province, the Commission, and municipal combative sports commissions throughout Alberta.
- Collaboration between the province's municipal commissions that was spearheaded as a part of COVID-19 resumption protocols was recognized by the commissions as a valuable practice. This working group has continued to meet regularly to update resumption plans and share best practices as the pandemic evolves.

CHALLENGES

- The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has impacted sporting events worldwide. As a result, there were no combative sports events sanctioned by the Commission in 2021.
- No events being held in 2021, compounded with only one event being held in 2020 due to COVID-19 health restrictions has led to a significant reduction in fees being collected.

WORKPLAN FOR THE NEXT YEAR

- Development of a Citizen Advisory Panel, which will help build a Commission membership that reflects the diversity of combative sports participants and increases the retention of organizational knowledge.
- Continue to support advocacy to develop a provincial combative sports commission in Alberta.

OPERATIONS

- Since 2021 May the Commission held five meetings. Participation was entirely virtual through Microsoft Teams or via conference call. The Commission intends to resume in-person meetings beginning 2022 June.
- Meeting agenda and minutes are published on the Commission [website](#) for all regular meetings. There were no barriers to participation beyond standard technological issues associated with virtual meetings.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Calgary Combative Sports Commission – 2021 Annual Report



Calgary Combative Sports Commission

2021 Annual Report



Introduction

Governing Body

Calgary Combative Sports Commission (Commission) provides governance for professional combative sports events (mixed martial arts, boxing, Muay Thai, and kickboxing) in Calgary to reduce inherent risk associated with these events. The Commission is a volunteer body whose regulations maintain a safe environment for participants, officials, and spectators and provides oversight of combative sports with the authority granted under the Combative Sports Commission Bylaw 53M2006. A cost recovery model is used to fund the Commission, where fees paid by combative sports promoters are used for costs associated with regulatory activities.

Report Overview

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has impacted sporting events worldwide. As a result, there were no combative sports events sanctioned by the Commission in 2021. The 2021 Annual Report highlights the provincial plan for safe resumption of combative sports, a provincial commission advocacy update, and a financial overview.

Commission Activity

There were no combative sports events in 2021 due to the public health environment, in comparison to an average of nine event that were held each year from 2015-2019. No events being held in 2021, compounded with only one event being held in 2020 due to COVID-19 health restrictions has led to a significant reduction in fees being collected. Because of this, cost saving measures were implemented and only essential work continued.



Planning for Resumption of Combative Sports

Standards and protocols for combative sports resumption, including event procedures, participant travel, isolation protocols, and COVID-19 testing were developed in conjunction with a working group, which included representatives from the Province, the Commission, and municipal combative sports commissions throughout Alberta. Guidelines were intended to create consistency across the Province, ensuring compliance with public health guidelines to protect the safety of participants, officials, and spectators, while supporting the highest possible safety standards when combative sports events are permitted to resume.

Collaboration between the province's municipal commissions that was spearheaded as a part of COVID-19 resumption protocols was recognized by the commissions as a valuable practice. This working group has continued to meet regularly to update resumption plans and share best practices as the pandemic evolves.



2021 Key Performance Indicators

The Commission has key performance indicators that focus on improving fighter safety and ensuring policies are adhered to. There are 13 key performance indicators that the Commission tracks to clearly reflect the objectives, provide performance transparency, and create a mechanism for ongoing monitoring of safety standards. Three of these performance measures are reported as part of the annual report. There were no new applications received in 2021 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, as a result all performances measures have been reported as not applicable.

Key Performance Indicators	Target	2021	2020	2019
Promoter application process time	<30 days	n/a*	n/a*	15 days
Fighters screened against medical records from other combative sports commissions	100%	n/a*	100%	100%
Fighters medical suspension report to global database	100%	n/a*	100%	100%

*No new applications were received in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19

Provincial Commission

Alberta is the only province in Canada with combative sports regulation at the municipal level, resulting in bylaws and regulations that are created locally and run independently of each other.

There has been advocacy for a provincial commission that started in 2017 with the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) resolution calling for a provincial combative sports commission. In 2019, the decision was made that the province would not move ahead with a commission, but the then- Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism, and the Status of Women, Honourable Leela Aheer permitted municipalities to independently facilitate the creation common standards. Commissions province-wide continue to share best practices and align standards where possible.

Revenues and Expenditures

The Commission uses a cost recovery model, where regulatory activities are funded from event fees. Over the last several years the Commission has undertaken several initiatives to lower ongoing operating costs. Even with the cost reduction efforts, the fluctuation in number of combative sporting events and the recent absence of events due to COVID-19 restrictions, has led to increased reliance on the contingency fund. The primary source of the contingency fund is from large-scale events, such as the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) that took place in 2018. The contingency fund has been significantly depleted and there are currently no large-scale events anticipated in Calgary.

The full impact of the reduced contingency will be better understood when combative sporting events are able to resume, and promoters begin to apply to host events.

Calgary Combative Sports Commission				
2020 & 2021 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures (\$000)				
2022 & 2023 Proposed Budget				
	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>2022 Proposed</u>	<u>2023 Proposed</u>
Revenues/Other Funding Sources:				
Gate Fees*	\$6	\$0	\$24	\$36
Draw from Contingency Fund**	\$21	\$37	\$25	\$20
	\$27	\$37	\$49	\$56
Expenditures				
<u>Ongoing Operating Expenses</u>				
Salary, Wage and Benefits	15	25	27	28
Honorarium Expenses (for attending regular Commission meetings, weigh-in and events)	9	7	11	13
Business Expenses (parking, meeting supplies, bank service charge, conference)	1	2	5	9
Communication and IT Services (computer, phone, printing, interpretation services)	2	3	6	6
	\$27	\$37	\$49	\$56
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note:

* The 2021 decrease in event revenue and Commission expenditures is a direct result of COVID-19 restrictions.

** As of December 31, 2020, the contingency fund balance was at \$37K.

Members

As per the Combative Sports Commission Bylaw members shall be appointed for three-year terms, expiring on the day of the Organizational Council Meeting in the year of the expiry of the member's term. Members may serve a maximum of five consecutive terms. The Commission structure provides the opportunity for Commission members to attain the required knowledge and skill to develop a robust succession management plan and adequately reflect the complexity associated with ensuring safety standards.

Member	Role	Current Appointment	Expiry Year
TJ Madigan	Vice Chair	2012	2024
Marc Pesant	Commission Member	2019	2024
Allison Kavanagh	Commission Member	2013	2024
Shane Moore	Commission Member	2017	2024
Kent Pallister	Commission Member	2020	2022
Michael Briegel	Chief Licence Inspector (non-voting)	n/a	n/a