

**Community Services Report to
SPC on Community and Protective Services
2018 July 18**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
CPS2018-0921
Page 1 of 3**

Calgary Combative Sports Commission Annual Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 2014 May 20, as part of the Calgary Combative Sports Commission (CCSC) Governance Review, Council directed CCSC to provide an annual report in accordance with the corporate governance framework. Council's direction recognizes CCSC's role in protecting The City's reputation by ensuring combative sporting events are conducted in a safe environment for participants, officials, and spectators. Annual reporting also assists in understanding CCSC's evolution, as the nature of combative sports and societal expectations change.

This report presents activities conducted in 2017 to enhance the safety of combative sporting events held within Calgary in addition to work anticipated in 2018 to continue to reduce risk. In accordance with the Combative Sports Commission Bylaw 53M2006, the report provides a detailed financial statement for 2017, an annual activity summary and proposed 2018-2019 budget.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

That the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services receive the 2017 Calgary Combative Sports Commission annual report for information.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

A detailed listing of previous reports is included in Attachment 1.

BACKGROUND

CCSC is the sanctioning body that regulates, governs, and oversees combative sporting events in Calgary. Council direction for CCSC to provide an annual report recognizes that an accessible and competent commission will encourage promoters to run sanctioned events that are conducted in a safe environment for participants, officials, and spectators.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The 2017 Calgary Combative Sports Commission annual report (Attachment 2) provides the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services with oversight of the combative sports regulatory function and provides a forum for CCSC to raise issues with the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services in accordance with the corporate governance framework.

The 2017 annual report highlights rule enhancements, matchmaking policy, and the proactive evaluation of recommendations resulting from the City of Edmonton Combative Sports Review Report.

2017 Accomplishments

Rule Enhancements: To maintain relevance with the combative sports industry, CCSC implemented multiple rules changes in 2017. Mixed Martial Arts rules were updated to enhance overall safety and ensure compliance with industry standards. These changes included comprehensive definitions to enhance clarity, reduce ambiguous scoring criteria language, and new weigh-in procedures to address drastic weight cutting. New rules for kickboxing enhanced clarity, achieving alignment with other CCSC safety standards.

Calgary Combative Sports Commission Annual Report

Matchmaking Policy: Matchmaking in combative sports refers to pairing two contestants in a bout, with the intent of creating a safe match by selecting fighters of comparable ability and experience. Appropriate matchmaking is important as mismatched fights can lead to increased risk of injury. In Calgary, it is the promoter's responsibility to create the fight card with assigned matches, for which the new CCSC matchmaking policy provides strict guidance. Once matches are assigned by the promoter, the policy outlines the CCSC's authority to review and ultimately suspend a fight where the contestants appear to be mismatched.

The City of Edmonton Combative Sports Review Report: In December 2017, MNP consultants released a Combative Sports Review Report (The Edmonton Report), commissioned by the City of Edmonton following the death of boxer Tim Hague, who passed away after participating in a June 2017 boxing match in Edmonton. The purpose of The Edmonton Report was to examine policies and compliance, identifying opportunities to ultimately improve contestant safety.

CCSC independently chose to review the recommendations resulting from The Edmonton Report and, where practical, implement suggested improvements. The review identified that, of the 18 recommendations resulting from The Edmonton Report, CCSC already achieves compliance or has actions underway to achieve compliance with 16 of the recommendations (Attachment 3). Of the two remaining recommendations, licensing of matchmakers and creating a provincial commission, the first requires further investigation by CCSC and Administration regarding industry best practice and the second is outside the CCSC's scope.

Looking Ahead

Recommendations from The Edmonton Report: CCSC demonstrates compliance or has actions underway to achieve compliance with 16 of the 18 recommendations that resulted from The Edmonton Report. Several projects will take place in 2018 to finalize actions to achieve compliance, including developing Key Performance Indicators and finalizing a policy framework.

Encourage the Resumption of Combative Sporting Events in Calgary: The number of combative sporting events within Calgary in 2017 has decreased. The decline in the number of events being held in Calgary could indicate that promoters perceive barriers with CCSC, which compromises the ability for CCSC to achieve their mandate of ensuring combative sporting events are conducted in a safe environment for participants, officials, and spectators. A declining economy, changes to the fee structure and business opportunities in other jurisdictions are all potential factors in the reduced number of combative sporting events held in Calgary.

A review will commence in 2018 to determine possible factors contributing to the overall decline and the development of strategies to encourage resumption of events. An assessment of the feasibility, benefits, and risks of strategies will be performed.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Members of CCSC attend the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports (ABC) conference annually to keep abreast of industry best practices. Policy updates are conducted after extensive research on industry best practices, input from medical professionals, and Administration.

**Community Services Report to
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**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
CPS2018-0921
Page 3 of 3**

Calgary Combative Sports Commission Annual Report

Strategic Alignment

This report aligns with, and contributes to, the following Citizen Priority areas:

- A city of safe & inspiring neighbourhoods
- A prosperous city
- A well-run city

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

A strong combative sports commission creates an environment where the safety of participants, officials, and spectators is paramount at every event. Supporting combative sporting events serves to facilitate the city's economic development.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

CCSC is funded through a cost recovery model, charging a standard event fee based on the facility capacity. CCSC members are volunteers who receive an honorarium and a portion of a City staff position is allocated to support CCSC. 2017 expenditures were covered through event fees and the CCSC contingency fund. The CCSC 2018-2019 budget (Attachment 4) outlines future expense and anticipated funding sources.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no capital budget implications associated with this report.

Risk Assessment

While there are no significant risks associated with the 2017 Calgary Combative Sports Commission annual report, there is inherent risk associated with any combative sporting event. It is the role of CCSC to proactively manage this risk through ongoing monitoring of industry best practices and updating policies and procedures to reflect advancements in safety and regulation.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Council's direction recognizes CCSC's role in protecting The City's reputation by ensuring events are conducted in a safe environment for participants, officials, and spectators. In accordance with Combative Sports Commission Bylaw 53M2006, the report presents 2017 and anticipated 2018 activities that enhance combative sports safety and provides a detailed 2017 financial statement, an annual activity summary and proposed 2018-2019 budget.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Attachment 1 – Previous Council Direction/Policy
2. Attachment 2 – 2017 Calgary Combative Sports Commission Annual Report
3. Attachment 3 – The Edmonton Report Recommendations
4. Attachment 4 – Calgary Combative Sports Commission 2018-2019 Budget