



2017 Calgary Combative Sports Commission Annual Report



Introduction

For over 100 years, the Calgary Combative Sports Commission (CCSC) has been the body that regulates, governs, and oversees combative sporting events in Calgary to ensure events are conducted in a safe environment for participants, officials, and spectators. CCSC duties and governance have evolved as the nature of combative sports and societal expectations have changed.

Combative sporting events carry inherent risks to competitors, spectators, and promoters representing a continual reputation risk for The City. The authority granted to CCSC under Bylaw 53M2006 to establish policies and procedures governing combative sports is intended to minimize these risks.

CCSC functions are performed by volunteers, with support from Administration. In 2014, CCSC underwent a review which resulted in increased Administrative support and a new fee structure which aligns with a self-supported entity, funded from event fees collected from promoters.

The 2017 Calgary Combative Sports Commission annual report highlights rule changes, creation of a matchmaking policy, the proactive evaluation of recommendations resulting from the City of Edmonton Combative Sports Review Report, and an overview of declining combative sporting events within Calgary's jurisdiction.

The report provides an activity summary of sanctioned events held in Calgary in 2017, event trends and a financial overview with a statement of revenues and expenditures.

Calgary Combative Sports Commission Board Members

Member	Role	Current Appointment	Expiry Year
Shirley Stunzi <i>Chair</i>	Member appointed by resolution of Council	2007	2018
TJ Madigan <i>Vice Chair</i>	Member appointed by resolution of Council	2012	2018
Michael Gadde	Member appointed by resolution of Council	2015	2019
Shawn Hiron	Member appointed by resolution of Council	2014	2019
Allison Kavanagh	Member appointed by resolution of Council	2013	2019
Kirstin Morrell	Member appointed by resolution of Council	2012	2018
Shane Moore	Member appointed by resolution of Council	2017	2019
Kent Pallister <i>Non-voting</i>	Chief Licence Inspector	2015	2019
Bob Cameron <i>Non-voting</i>	Chief Licence Inspector Designate	2015	2019



Calgary Combative Sports Commission ensures events are conducted in a safe environment for participants, officials, and spectators



Calgary Combative Sports Commission 2017 Accomplishments

Rule Enhancements

CCSC strives to keep abreast of industry changes and best practices that augment safety, fairness, and consistency, reinforcing Calgary's position as a distinguished venue for combative sports. In order to stay relevant with the combative sports industry, CCSC implemented multiple rule changes in 2017.

Based on recommendations resulting from the Association of Boxing Commission and Combative Sports (ABC) conference of sanctioning bodies, the Mixed Martial Arts rules were updated to keep pace with the evolving sport. These changes include comprehensive definitions to enhance clarity, reduce ambiguous scoring criteria language, and weigh-in procedures which give CCSC new ways to address drastic weight cutting. These changes not only enhance overall safety, they ensure CCSC remains compliant with the highest regulatory and enforcement standards and maintain their reputation as a world class organization.

CCSC introduced new rules for kickboxing and variant sports, including Thai Boxing. The updated rules enhance clarity and achieve alignment with safety standards demonstrated in other CCSC rules.

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. The practice of evenly matching contestants is incredibly complex, with a multitude of elements being taken into consideration and quickly adjusted when the inevitable late substitutions and last-minute changes occur.



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 CCSC's authority to review, and ultimately suspend a fight, where the contestants appear to be mismatched.

The matchmaking policies provides a framework that creates mutual responsibility between the promoter and CCSC to enhance fighter safety with matches which are fair, safe, and competitive.

The City of Edmonton Combative Sports Review Report

In December 2017, MNP consultants released a Combative Sports Review Report (The Edmonton Report) that the City of Edmonton commissioned following the death of Tim Hague, a boxer 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, and compare them to best practices in other jurisdictions to see if revisions were possible 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 have actions underway to achieve compliance with 16 of the recommendations. 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 CCSC's scope.

Recommendations resulting from The Edmonton Report focus on improving contestant safety, through actions like applying unified medical suspension rules among different combative sport types, Chair oversight ensuring minimum medical suspensions, and providing a means for concerned citizens to anonymously report information.

The proactive compliance to recommendations resulting from The Edmonton Report ensures CCSC is adhering to industry best practice, protecting the safety of participants, officials, spectators, and the integrity of Calgary's sports industry.



Combative Sporting Events Decline

In 2017, there were a total of eight combative sporting events held within the City of Calgary, which is a slight decrease from previous years. A declining economy, changes to the fee structure, and business opportunities in other jurisdictions are all potential factors in the decline of combative sporting events held in Calgary.

The decline in the number of events being held in Calgary could indicate that promoters find CCSC inaccessible, which compromises the ability of CCSC to fulfil its mandate to preserve the safety of combative sports participants. For these reasons, CCSC will review the current model, with the support of Administration.

The review will assist in determining factors contributing to the overall decline in the number of combative sporting events held in Calgary in the past several years, with the aim to encourage events to resume in our municipality.

Activity Summary

Calgary Sanctioned Events History

Year	Total Events	MMA	Boxing	Muay Thai
2017	8	2	6	0
2016	11	7	4	0
2015	16	8	6	2
2014	16	6	7	3
2013	9	4	2	3
2012	18	10	3	5
2011	22	9	6	7
2010	19	7	7	5
2009	9	5	1	3
2008	17	8	4	5



2017 Sanctioned Events

Event	Date	Venue	Gate Fee	Event Type
Hard Knock Events Ltd.	2017-JAN-17	Markin McPhail Centre	\$6000	MMA
Teofista Boxing Club	2017-FEB-04	Deerfoot Inn & Casino	\$6000	Boxing
Dekada Corporation	2017-FEB-18	Genesis Centre	\$6000	Boxing
Hard Knocks Events Ltd.	2017-MAR-17	Markin McPhail Centre	\$6000	MMA
Teofista Boxing Club	2017-APR-01	Deerfoot Inn & Casino	\$6000	Boxing
Dekada Corporation	2017-JUN-24	Genesis Centre	\$6000	Boxing
Dekada Corporation	2017-OCT-14	Genesis Centre	\$6000	Boxing
Teofista Boxing Club	2017-OCT-21	Deerfoot Inn & Casino	\$6000	Boxing

Revenues and Expenditures

Calgary Combative Sports Commission 2017 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures (Dollars in Thousands)		2017 Actual
Revenues/Other Funding Sources:		
Gate Fees		48
Draw from Contingency Fund*		48
		\$96
Expenditures		
<u>Ongoing Operating Expenses</u>		
Salary, Wage and Benefits**		22
Honorarium Expenses (for attending regular CCSC meetings, weigh-in and events)		41
Business Expenses (including parking, meeting supplies, bank service charge, conference etc.)		16
Communication and IT Services (including computer, phone, printing, interpretation services, etc)		10
Drug Testing		0
<u>CCSC Strategic Initiative Project</u>		
Technology Enhancements		7
Staff Training and Knowledge		0
Process Enhancements		0
		\$96
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		\$0

Note:

*As of December 31, 2017, the contingency fund balance was \$100, 092

**A portion of a City staff position is allocated to CCSC support and is cost recovered in relation to the amount of administrative support allocated