

2016 CALGARY COMBATIVE SPORTS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report, developed collaboratively by the Calgary Combative Sports Commission (CCSC) and Administration, provides an overview of the Commission's 2016 accomplishments and sanctioned events, as well as the 2017 workplan. Additionally, the report provides the 2016 financial overview with a statement of revenues and expenditures and the proposed budgets for 2017 and 2018, as required by the Calgary Combative Sports Commission Bylaw 53M2006.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the SPC on Community and Protective Services receive the 2016 Calgary Combative Sports Commission Annual Report for information.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 2016 May 16, Council received the 2015 CCSC Annual Report for information.

On 2016 February 08, through CPS2016-0019, Council received the 2016 CCSC work plan, and projected budget.

Council approved the 2014 CCSC Annual Report (CPS2015-0704) on 2015 December 14. This report highlighted the implementation of the Commission's governance review, which commenced in 2014 and continued over the course of 2015. The report included the 2014 Commission events summary, 2014 statement of revenues and expenditures, 2015 budget and minor bylaw amendments to clarify definitions and align the bylaw with industry terminology.

BACKGROUND

The CCSC has been regulating combative sports in Calgary for over 100 years and has a mandate to ensure combative sports events are conducted in a safe environment for the contestants, officials and spectators. The CCSC is responsible for the regulation and oversight of combative sports events through the provision of officials and medical staff and the coordination of pre-event activities such as weigh-ins.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The 2016 Calgary Combative Sports Commission Annual Report, provided in Attachment 1, was developed collaboratively by CCSC and Administration and provides highlights of the Commission's 2016 customer service and safety enhancements. The report also provides an activity summary with details of the sanctioned events held in Calgary over the last year and a 2016 financial overview with a statement of expenditures and revenues. The CCSC budget for 2017 and 2018 are provided in Attachment 2.

CCSC 2016 Accomplishments

Drug Testing Program Development

To enhance the safety and fairness of combative sports in Calgary, the CCSC developed regulations and an overall implementation plan for drug testing in 2016. The drug testing policy, approved by City of Calgary Law department and the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES), aligns with the World Anti-Doping Code, the core document that harmonizes anti-doping policies, rules and regulations within sport organizations and among public authorities around the world.

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CCSC Website Development

The CCSC is continually examining options to further enhance service delivery to event promoters through its website content, with a focus on increasing the ease of accessing and submitting information. In 2016, scoping work was completed to create a CCSC specific website where information, updates and changes to combative sports can be found. This site will simplify access to information for promoters, participants and the general public.

CCSC Policy Manual Development

The CCSC Policy Manual is the amalgamation of 100 years of policy and procedures from the Commission including meeting minutes, policy documents and event decisions. The consolidation includes links to important documents which promoters and contestants commonly use and will serve as a base for succession planning to inform future Commission members of decisions made by the board.

Creation of the Mixed Martial Arts Calgary Unified Rules

In 2016, CCSC created the Mixed Martial Arts Calgary Unified Rules for Combative Sports in Calgary. Prior to the creation of these Calgary-specific rules, the CCSC utilized rules adopted from the Nevada State Athletic Commission. These rules contained many U.S. state legislative and administrative processes which CCSC had to disregard.

Further details of the CCSC's 2016 accomplishments can be found in Attachment 1.

2016 Summary of Sanctioned Events

In 2016, CCSC oversaw 11 events in Calgary, consistent with the number of sanctioned events held in 2015 and on par with the average number of events since 2008. The CCSC is the busiest of similar municipal commissions in Alberta and far exceeds most provincial commissions across Canada. Some contributing factors to this are the continual improvements by the CCSC and Administration on processing, staff training, and accessibility to information.

2017 CCSC Workplan

Within the 2017 workplan, the CCSC has identified a number of initiatives that will be implemented throughout the year, including the implementation of the previously developed drug testing program; technology enhancements; the implementation of unified mixed martial arts rules for Calgary; and staff training and knowledge. These initiatives enhance safety, improve sustainability, strengthen customer service and support the growth of combative sports in Calgary.

Drug Testing Program Implementation

CCSC is in negotiations with the CCES to begin implementation of a number of random drug tests throughout 2017. CCES performs drug testing for Olympic athletes in Canada and will be contracted to perform testing under this policy. Having drug testing in place provides the Commission with the ability to ensure that all contestants are competing legitimately. Additionally, CCSC will continue to promote awareness about the health and ethical aspects of doping in addition to the legal and social consequences to uphold the integrity of sport.

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Technology Enhancements – Website Enhancement

CCSC is working with a consultant to finalize web design and layout for the launch of the new website, anticipated to be completed by 2017 Q2.

Mixed Martial Arts Calgary Unified Rules– Implementation and Support

In 2017 January, the CCSC began implementation of the unified mixed martial arts rules for Calgary. Developed for the Calgary mixed martial arts community, the rules provide equality, clarity and transparency to all fighters and promoters and align with world standards for mixed martial arts. Within a month of implementation in Calgary, the rules were adapted and adopted by other commissions in Alberta. To support smaller jurisdictions throughout the province, CCSC acts as a resource to by providing strategic and logistic support.

Staff Training and Knowledge

CCSC stays up-to-date and aware of current practices in the combative sports industry with ongoing training, through conferences such as Association of Boxing Commissions, and in regular communications with commissions across Canada and the United States. This helps to identify and mitigate issues commonly experienced in regulating combative sports. The CCSC consolidates important information gathered through conferences and communication with other jurisdictions and holds education sessions with impacted individuals and agencies.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

CCSC works closely with Administration and the combative sports community in both the development of the CCSC annual reports and ongoing Commission activities. This includes research partnerships to support Commission process efficiencies along with fostering the development of industry best practices.

Strategic Alignment

The 2017 budget and workplan ensure that CCSC can achieve its goal to regulate, govern and control professional combative sporting events and contestants within the city of Calgary, in consultation with Administration.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Council, over 100 years ago, determined that combative sports were part of a vibrant and diverse sporting environment. Today, combative sports continue to be a source of culture and entertainment for many Calgarians. The volunteer CCSC is a valuable community resource to ensure the future success of combative sports within Calgary.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

CCSC utilizes a self-supporting financial model, securing a percentage of event gate fees to regulate and coordinate combative sports events. While Commission members are volunteers, they receive an honorarium for supporting combative sports events. In 2016, all expenditures were covered through gate fees and CCSC's contingency fund. Page 7 of Attachment 1 outlines the 2016 CCSC Statement of Revenues and Expenditures.

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Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no capital funding implications associated with this report.

Risk Assessment

Combative sports, such as those sanctioned by the CCSC, carry inherent risks to competitors. The CCSC mitigates risks by providing oversight through the bylaw provisions for licensing, rules, monitoring at events and enforcement. Risks are further mitigated through awareness of combative sports best practices, including safety processes.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

In accordance with the Calgary Combative Sports Commission Bylaw 53M2006 and Council direction, the CCSC and Administration are providing the SPC on Community and Protective Services with an overview of the Commission's 2016 accomplishments and sanctioned events, as well as the 2017 workplan. Additionally, the report provides the 2016 financial overview with a statement of revenues and expenditures and the proposed budgets for 2017 and 2018.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. 2016 Calgary Combative Sports Commission Annual Report
2. Calgary Combative Sports Commission Budget 2017 and 2018