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State Athletic Commission

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Massachusetts State Athletic Commission
Virtual Meeting Minutes
Date: January 14, 2026
Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

1. Roll Call

Josh Zakim - Chair	X present <input type="checkbox"/> absent
John Navien	<input type="checkbox"/> present X absent
Brett Miller	X present <input type="checkbox"/> absent
Melissa Kelly	X present <input type="checkbox"/> absent
Sean Pierce	X present <input type="checkbox"/> absent

2. Discuss / Vote Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2025

- Commissioner Pierce made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 10, 2025, which was seconded by Commissioner Miller. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

3. Executive Director Report

- Associate Deputy Commissioner Bruce Johnson introduced new MSAC Executive Director Bryan Freitas.
- Associate Deputy Commissioner Bruce Johnson reported that the Boxers' Fund current balance as of 1/13/2026 is \$170,297.06

4. Board Counsel Report

- Nothing to report.

5. Applications

a. Dr. Ballenas, Boxing Second's Application

- After a brief conversation with the applicant, Commissioner Zakim tabled this application until next month for further discussion amongst the Commission, before any decision is made.

b. Dr. Dhar, Ringside Physician's Application

- Dr. Dhar was not present at the meeting and his application was tabled.

c. Greg Savage, MMA Promoter Application

- Mr. Savage was not present at the meeting. Representatives from PFL advised that this application is being abandoned.

d. Michael Kogan, MMA Matchmaker Application

- After a brief conversation with the applicant, Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve the MMA Matchmaker Application for Michael Kogan, which was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

6. Variance Requests

a. Variance requests from Frederic Belleton for 2026 No Boundary events

- Mr. Belleton submitted a variance request from 523 CMR 23.08 regarding "protective equipment" to allow the optional use of shin guards for the title fights of experienced fighters for up to five 2026 No Boundary events, and a second request under 523 CMR 10.06 regarding the "maximum number of unarmed combatants per program" to allow 34 combatants rather than 32, at up to five 2026 No Boundary events.

Regarding 523 CMR 23.08, Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the variance as submitted, which was seconded by Commissioner Pierce. A roll-call vote was held, and the motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Regarding 523 CMR 10.06, Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the variance as submitted, which was seconded by Commissioner Miller. A roll-call vote was held, and the motion passed unanimously, 4-0.



b. Variance request from Michael Polvere for 2026 Cage Titans events

- Mr. Michael Polvere submitted a variance request from 523 CMR 23.02, 10.05, 23.09, 23.08, and 10.06 regarding “Requirements for Ring, Minimum Number of Rounds for Program, Gloves, Protective Equipment, and Maximum Number of Unarmed Combatants for Program” to allow the optional use of “Seak matches in a cage, allow the number of rounds required to be combined combat and use the current MMA requirements, SEAK in MMA gloves, not require shin guards for amateurs, maximum number of combatants to go to 34” at the 2026 Cage Titans Events held at Plymouth Memorial Hall.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve the variance as submitted, which was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0

7. Request for Change of Decision from Gabriel Mercedes pursuant to 523 CMR 14.20

- Mr. Mercedes requested a change of decision pursuant to 523 CMR 14.20 for a contest on December 13, 2025. After discussion, Commissioner Pierce made a motion to approve the request for a hearing under 523 CMR 14.20 on the grounds that flagrant error may have resulted in a decision for the wrong contestant; Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously, 4-0

8. Hearing for Request of Change of decision for October 18, 2025 (Christina Yohou Morisco)

- The Commission began the hearing at approximately 1:54 p.m. Ms. Morisco and her witness Elizabeth Nguyen both testified. Ms. Morisco’s opponent for this contest did not attend but was notified of the hearing. Ms. Morisco requested time to provide the Commission with an additional video of the contest, and the Commission assented. After discussion, Commissioner Zakim made a motion to take this matter under advisement, while holding the evidence open to allow additional video, and Commissioner Pierce seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

9. Discussion of 523 CMR 6.08 – licensing of officials

- Commissioners continued discussing licensing requirements for ring officials. The discussion focused on experience and considered whether letters of recommendation or different specific requirements for different license types would be appropriate. This topic will be added to the February 11, 2026, MSAC Monthly meeting agenda to continue the discussion.

10. Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Kelly to adjourn the public meeting and move into closed session and adjourn the meeting from there, which was seconded by Commissioner Pierce. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.
- The public meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

11. Investigatory Conference - CLOSED per M.G.L c. 112, § 65C

- C25-00134
- C25-00135
- C25-00136
- C25-00137

12. Executive Session CLOSED per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1), to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual.