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Massachusetts State Athletic Commission
Virtual Meeting Minutes
Date: March 11, 2026
Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

1. Roll Call

Josh Zakim - Chair	X present <input type="checkbox"/> absent
John Navien	X present <input type="checkbox"/> 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 February 11, 2026

- Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 11, 2026, which was seconded by Commissioner Navien. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed, 4-0, with Commissioner Zakim abstaining.

3. Executive Director Report

- Executive Director Bryan Freitas reported that the Boxers' Fund current balance as of 3/09/2026 is \$150,523.84

4. Board Counsel Report

- Nothing to report.

5. Applications

a. Dr. Ballenas, Amateur Boxing Ringside Physician Application

- After a brief conversation with the applicant, Commissioner Zakim made a motion to approve the Amateur Boxing Ringside Physician's Application for Dr. Ballenas pending receipt of the application fee. The motion did not receive a second. Commissioner Pierce then made a motion to deny the Amateur Boxing Ringside Physician's Application for Dr. Ballenas, which was seconded by Commissioner Navien. A roll-call vote was conducted, and the motion passed 4-1, with Commissioner Zakim the nay vote.

b. Danny Vella, Boxing Matchmaker Application

- After a brief conversation with the applicant, Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the Boxing Matchmaker Application for Danny Vella, which was seconded by Commissioner Navien. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

c. Chris Palmquist, MMA Timekeeper, Muay Thai Timekeeper, and Boxing Timekeeper Applications

- After a brief conversation with the applicant, Commissioner Navien made a motion to approve the MMA, Muay Thai, and Boxing Timekeeper Applications for Chris Palmquist, which was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

d. Stephen Clark, Boxing Matchmaker Application

- After a brief conversation with the applicant, Commissioner Navien made a motion to approve the Boxing Matchmaker Application for Stephen Clark, which was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

e. Thomas Clark, Boxing Promoter Application

- After a brief conversation with the applicant, Commissioner Navien made a motion to Approve the Boxing Promoter Application for Thomas Clark, which was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

f. Justin Bombadier, MMA Referee Application

- After a brief conversation with the applicant, Commissioner Zakim made a motion to deny the application and permitting him to reapply after six months, which was seconded by Commissioner Pierce. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.



6. Variance Request

- a.** Variance requests VAR26-0012, VAR26-0013, and VAR26-0016 from Danny Vella for Team Boxing League 2026 events.
 - Requesting variances from 523 CMR 14.04 (1) (a), 523 CMR 10.05 (1), and ABC Boxing Rules regarding reducing minimum rounds from 28 minimum to 24, altering the rest period from 4 days between bouts to permit contestants to compete in up to two (2) single-round bouts in the same night followed by a 3 day rest per round fought at the conclusion of the event, and increasing the duration of rounds for female fights from two to three minutes.

After a brief discussion with the requestor, Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve variances VAR26-0012 and VAR26-0013 as submitted, which Commissioner Navien seconded. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0. The Commission made a finding that VAR26-0016 required no action as what was requested is already permitted under 523 CMR.

7. 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 discussions on future revisions to regulations.

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

- A motion was made by Commissioner Pierce to adjourn the public meeting and move into closed session and adjourn the meeting from there, which was seconded by Commissioner Miller. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.
- The public meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

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

10. Quasi-Judicial Session - CLOSED per M.G.L c. 30A, § 18(d)

If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in the meeting, please reach out to Cheryl Yebba at 617-701-8711. While the Board will do its best to accommodate you, certain accommodations may not be available if requested immediately before the meeting.