



Sunset Report
**Alabama Athletic
Commission**
Birmingham, Alabama

October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2025

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
EXAMINERS of Public Accounts

Rachel Laurie Riddle, *Chief Examiner* | 334-777-0500 | www.alexaminers.gov



Rachel Laurie Riddle
Chief Examiner

State of Alabama
Department of
Examiners of Public Accounts

P.O. Box 302251, Montgomery, AL 36130-2251
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 280
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-4338
Telephone (334) 777-0500
FAX (334) 242-1775

August 12, 2026

Representative Margie Wilcox
Chairman, Sunset Committee
Alabama State House
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Representative Wilcox:

This report was prepared to provide information for use by the Sunset Committee in conducting its review and evaluation of the operations of the Alabama Athletic Commission in accordance with the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 41-20-9.

The report contains unaudited information obtained from the management, staff, and records of the Alabama Athletic Commission in addition to information obtained from other sources.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this report.

Sincerely,

Rachel Laurie Riddle
Chief Examiner

Examiner
Kierra Burston

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PROFILE

Purpose/Authority

The Alabama Boxing Act, Act Number 2009-622, Acts of Alabama, initially established the Alabama Boxing Commission to be the sole regulator of professional boxing in Alabama. Act Number 2010-222, Acts of Alabama, extended the Commission's authority to include the regulation of mixed martial arts, and renamed the commission the Alabama Athletic Commission. Act Number 2013-285, Acts of Alabama, extended the Commission's authority to regulate professional wrestling and tough man contests. Act Number 2021-518, Acts of Alabama, extended the Commission's authority to include any form of unarmed combat. Current statutory authority for the Commission can be found in the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 41-9-1020 through Section 41-9-1040.

<u>Characteristics</u>	
Members and Selection	The Commission is comprised of six members. • Two members appointed by the Governor. • One member appointed by the Alabama Athlete Agents Commission. • One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. • One member appointed by the President of the Senate. • One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 41-9-1023(b)(1)
Term	Members serve four-year, staggered terms. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 41-9-1023(b)(2)
Qualifications	Members must be residents of Alabama. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 41-9-1023(b)(2)

Consumer Representation	No specific statutory requirement.
Racial Representation	No specific statutory requirement. Three minority members are serving.
Geographical Representation	No specific statutory requirement.
Other Representation	All appointing authorities shall coordinate their appointments so that diversity of gender, race, and geographical areas is reflective of the makeup of this state. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 41-9-1023(b)(1)
Compensation	Members do not receive compensation, but are reimbursed for necessary travel expenses at the same rate as provided for public officials of this state. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 41-9-1023(e)
Attended Board Member Training	None.
<u>Operations</u>	
Administrator	The Commission contracts with Parris Enterprises, Inc. to provide administrative services. John Parris, President of Parris Enterprises, serves as the Commission's Executive Director. The current annual contract amount is \$110,004.00 (\$9,167.00 per month) and expires November 12, 2026. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i> , Section 41-9-1023(c)
Location	5809 Feldspar Way, Suite 109 Birmingham, Alabama 35244 Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Real Property Ownership	The Commission does not own real property.
Employees	None.
Legal Counsel	J. Matt Bledsoe, Assistant Attorney General, an employee of the Attorney General's Office, serves as the Commission's legal counsel.

Subpoena Power	Yes. The Commission may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, and records, and administer oaths to and examine any witnesses. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 41-9-1024(h)(1)
Internet Presence	https://aac.alabama.gov The website contains the Commission's current statutes, rules, license applications, licensee rules, a licensee search, complaint form, news, and contact information. Minutes of the Commission's meetings are not available on the website.
<u>Financial</u>	
Source of Funds	Licensing fees, match fees, permit fees and fines.
State Treasury	Yes, Special Revenue Fund 1226. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 41-9-1039
Required Distributions	None.
Unused Funds	The Commission retains unused funds at year-end.

Licensure

Licensees

As of June 23, 2026:

Type of License	Number
Amateur Kickboxing: Kickboxer	23
Amateur Mixed Martial Artist (MMA)	159
Bare Knuckle Boxing: Boxer	1
Bare Knuckle Boxing: Corner/Second	3
Boxing: Boxer	100
Boxing: Corner/Second	68
Boxing: Judge	6
Boxing: Matchmaker	1
Boxing: Promoter	6
Boxing: Referee	7
Chief Inspector	7
Inspector/Door Warden	76
Kickboxing: Corner/Second	20
MMA: Corner/Second	247
MMA: Judge	6
MMA: Promoter	8
MMA: Referee	4
MMA: Timekeeper	3
Physician	8
Professional Mixed Martial Artist	67
Professional Wrestling: Participant	1,104
Professional Wrestling: Promoter	50
Tough Man: Competitor	210
Tough Man: Promoter	5
Total	2,189

Source: Executive Director

Licensure Qualifications	All applicants: • Must be United States citizens or legally present. All applicants for licensure as an athlete must: • Provide Social Security number or, in the case of a foreign licensee, any similar citizen identification number. • Complete application form. • Provide a photo ID. • Be at least 18 years of age. • Submit to a general background investigation. • Meet applicable medical examination requirements. To qualify for the specified license type, applicants must fulfill the following requirements: <u>Promoters</u>: An appropriate security bond shall accompany the application. Promoters shall provide the Commission's executive director a video of the match, contest, or exhibition. <u>Matchmakers</u>: Demonstrate that he or she has the necessary background in matchmaking and produce a list of all professional fighters matched, the promoters who promoted the matches, and the results of the matches. <u>Cutman</u>: Demonstrate that he or she has the necessary background to serve as cutman, and produce a list of all professional events they have worked. <u>Trainers</u>: Demonstrate that he or she has experience in training the particular type of athlete and produce a list of all professional fighters trained, the promoters who promoted the matches, and the results of the matches. <u>Seconds</u>: Demonstrate that he or she has the necessary background to serve as a second and produce a list of all professional fighters that he or she has served as a second, the promoters who promoted the matches, and the results of the matches.
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Licensure Qualifications (continued)	<u>Referees:</u> For Professional Boxing, referees may demonstrate that he or she has experience in refereeing and produce a list of all professional matches that he or she served as referee, the judges who scored the matches, and the results of the matches. For Professional Mixed Martial Arts, Professional Kickboxing, and Amateur Kickboxing, referees shall demonstrate that he or she has experience in refereeing and produce a list of all professional matches that he or she served as referee, the judges who scored the matches, and the results of the matches. Applicants must pass an examination. <u>Judges:</u> Demonstrate that he or she has experience in judging and produce a list of all professional matches that he or she has served as official judge, the referees who refereed the matches, and the results of the matches. For Professional Mixed Martial Arts, Professional Kickboxing, and Amateur Kickboxing, applicants must pass an examination. <u>Timekeepers:</u> Demonstrate that he or she has experience in timekeeping and produce a list of all professional matches that he or she has served as official timekeeper, the referees who refereed the matches and the results of the matches. <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Sections 41-9-1030(c)(4), 41-9-1031(b), 41-9-1033(1), and 41-9-1036 <i>Administrative Rules</i> 165-X-1-.02; 165-X-1-.07; 165-X-2-.02; 165-2-.07; 165-X-3-.02; 165-X-3-.07; 165-X-4-.02; 165-X-4-.07; 165-X-5-.02; 165-X-6-.02; 165-X-6-.07; 165-X-7-.02; 165-X-7-.07; 165-X-8-.02; 165-X-8-.07.
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Examinations	Examinations are not administered by the Commission but by American Boxing Commission certified instructors. Referees and Judges for Professional Mixed Martial Arts must pass the Association of Boxing Officials and Combative Sports referee examination to be licensed. <i>Administrative Rule</i> 165-X-2-.07 Referees and Judges for Professional Kickboxing and Amateur Kickboxing must pass an examination administered by the Commission, Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports, and/or another recognized commission to be licensed. <i>Administrative Rules</i> 165-X-6-.07 and 165-X-7-.07 <i>Source:</i> Executive Director
Reciprocity	None.
Renewals	Must be done annually by December 31. Online renewal is available. 75-85% of renewals are completed online <i>Code of Alabama 1975</i>, Section 41-9-1029(a)(2) and Section 41-9-1030(a) <i>Source:</i> Executive Director
Licensee Demographics	Data not collected by agency <i>Source:</i> Executive Director
Continuing Education	No statutory requirement.

ORGANIZATION



PERSONNEL

The Commission does not employ personnel. The Commission contracts with Parris Enterprises, Inc. to provide administrative services. John Parris, President of Parris Enterprises, serves as the Commission's Executive Director. The current contract compensates Parris Enterprises, Inc. \$110,004.00 annually to be paid in monthly installments of \$9,167.00. The current contract is for twelve months and expires on November 12, 2026.

Legal Counsel

Assistant Attorney General, J. Matt Bledsoe, an employee of the Attorney General's Office, serves as the Commission's legal counsel.

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Number of Licensees for the Past Four Fiscal Years

Type of Licenses	Fiscal Year			
	2022	2023	2024	2025
Amateur Kickboxing - Kickboxer	2	64	34	34
Amateur MMA – Mixed Martial Arts	264	475	172	223
Bare Knuckle Boxing – Boxer	20	20	3	5
Bare Knuckle Boxing - Corner/Second	19	20	4	5
Bare Knuckle Boxing - Cutman	2	2		
Bare Knuckle Boxing - Judge	1	1		
Bare Knuckle Boxing - Manager	3	3		
Bare Knuckle Boxing - Matchmaker	1	1		
Bare Knuckle Boxing - Promoter	2	2		
Bare Knuckle Boxing - Referee	2	2		
Bare Knuckle Boxing - Trainer	10	10		
Boxing - Boxer	219	264	80	130
Boxing - Corner/Second	124	152	71	108
Boxing - Judge	11	15	1	9
Boxing - Manager	5	5		
Boxing - Matchmaker	5	5	1	3
Boxing - Promoter	5	6	2	9
Boxing - Referee	9	12	3	15
Boxing - Timekeeper	2	2		
Boxing - Trainer	55	56		4
Chief Inspector	6	9	2	6
Grappling - Promoter		2	1	
Inspector/Door Warden	159	258	63	79
Kickboxing - Corner/Second	1	28	13	27
Kickboxing - Judge		1		
Kickboxing - Promoter	1	4	1	1
MMA - Corner/Second	312	576	170	292
MMA - Judge	12	21	7	7
MMA - Manager	4	4		
MMA - Matchmaker	4	7	1	
MMA - Promoter	9	13	5	12
MMA - Referee	7	13	5	3
MMA - Timekeeper	3	6	3	3
MMA - Trainer	89	89		
Physician	31	41	7	11
Professional Kickboxing - Kickboxer	2	5		
Professional MMA - Mixed Martial Artist	108	176	58	88
Professional Wrestling - Participant	913	1,676	763	1,414
Professional Wrestling - Promoter	45	84	34	65

Type of Licenses	Fiscal Year			
	2022	2023	2024	2025
Toughman – Competitor		1	141	215
Toughman – Corner/Second		2	2	
Toughman – Judge			6	
Toughman – Matchmaker			1	
Toughman – Promoter			3	5
Toughman – Referee			3	
Total	2,467	4,133	1,660	2,773

Operating Disbursements per Licensee (FY 2025) – \$53.03

Fines/Penalties as a Percentage of Operating Receipts

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Total Receipts	\$145,699.27	\$147,355.40	\$155,866.95	\$149,878.15
Fines	\$8,625.00	\$1,180.00	\$1,100.00	
Percentage	5.92%	0.80%	0.71%	0.00%

Notification of Commission Decisions to Amend Administrative Rules

The Commission complied with notification procedures prescribed in the Administrative Procedure Act, which includes publication of proposed rules in the Administrative Monthly, and public hearings on proposed rules. Licensees are not specifically notified of proposed changes.

COMPLAINT HANDLING

The Commission's complaint process is described in *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 41-9-1038 and *Administrative Rule* 165-X-9-.01 and is summarized below.

Initial Contact/Documentation	Any person may file a written and signed complaint with the Commission. A complaint form is available on the Commission's website. Written acknowledgment of receipt is sent to the complainants.
Anonymous Complaints Accepted	No
Investigative Process/Probable Cause Determination	Complaints are investigated by an investigative committee consisting of a Commission member, the executive director, the attorney of the Commission, and an investigator or the chief inspector of the Commission. If a Commission member is involved in investigating a complaint, they are eliminated from further involvement in the complaint, except as a witness.
Negotiated Settlements	Yes
Notification of Resolution to the Complainant	A letter is sent to the complainant.

Source: Executive Director

Complaint Data

Schedule of Complaints Resolved Fiscal Year 2022 through 2025				
Year/Number of Complaints Received	Year/Number Resolved			
	2022	2023	2024	2025
2022 / 6	6			
2023 / 5		5		
2024 / 4			4	
2025 / 1				1
Source: Executive Director				

Average Time to Resolve Complaints – 40 business days.

Disposition of Resolved Complaints

Number of Complaints	Resolution
2	Administrative Fine
4	Administrative Fine and Probation
1	Probation
4	No Probable Cause
5	Insufficient Evidence

REGULATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER ENTITIES

There is no direct overlap of regulation with other state or federal agencies.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Source of Funds

Application fees, license fees, penalties, and fines are deposited into the Alabama Athletic Commission's Special Revenue Fund 1226 maintained in the State's Treasury.

Schedule of Fees

Fee Type/Purpose	Statutory Authority	Rule	Amount Authorized	Amount Collected
Bare Knuckle Boxing				
Boxer	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-8-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$30.00
Judge	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-8-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Manager	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-8-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$75.00
Match Permit Application	41-9-1029(c)	165-X-8-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$250.00
Match Permit Fee	41-9-1029(c)	165-X-8-.02(3)(b)	Set by Rule	5%*
Matchmaker	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-8-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Promoter	41-9-1029(b)	165-X-8-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$250.00
Referee	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-8-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Second	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-8-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$40.00
Cutman	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-8-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$40.00
Timekeeper	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-8-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Trainer	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-8-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$40.00
Returned Check	8-8-15	165-X-8-.02(2)	≤\$30.00	\$30.00
Professional Boxing				
Boxer	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-1-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$40.00
Judge	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-1-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Manager	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-1-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Match Permit Application	41-9-1029(c)	165-X-1-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$250.00
Match Permit Fee	41-9-1029(c)	165-X-1-.02(3)(b)	Set by Rule	6%**
Matchmaker	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-1-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Promoter	41-9-1029(b)	165-X-1-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$250.00
Referee	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-1-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Second	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-1-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$40.00
Timekeeper	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-1-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Trainer	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-1-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Returned Check	8-8-15	165-X-1-.02(2)	≤\$30.00	\$30.00
Identification Card	41-9-1024(j)	165-X-1-.02(2)	≤\$100.00	\$25.00

Fee Type/Purpose	Statutory Authority	Rule	Amount Authorized	Amount Collected
Professional and Amateur Mixed Martial Arts				
Mixed Martial Artist	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-2-.02(2) 165-X-3-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$40.00
Judge	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-2-.02(2) 165-X-3-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Manager	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-2-.02(2) 165-X-3-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Match Permit Application	41-9-1029(c)	165-X-2-.02(2) 165-X-3-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$250.00
Match Permit Fee	41-9-1029(c)	165-X-2-.02(3)(b) 165-X-3-.02(3)(b)	Set by Rule	6%**
Matchmaker	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-2-.02(2) 165-X-3-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Promoter	41-9-1029(b)	165-X-2-.02(2) 165-X-3-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$250.00
Referee	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-2-.02(2) 165-X-3-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Second	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-2-.02(2) 165-X-3-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$40.00
Timekeeper	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-2-.02(2) 165-X-3-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Trainer	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-2-.02(2) 165-X-3-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Returned Check	8-8-15	165-X-2-.02(2) 165-X-3-.02(2)	≤\$30.00	\$30.00
Professional and Amateur Kickboxing				
Kickboxer	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-6-.02(2) 165-X-7-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$40.00
Judge	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-6-.02(2) 165-X-7-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Manager	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-6-.02(2) 165-X-7-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Match Permit Application	41-9-1029(c)(2)	165-X-6-.02(2) 165-X-7-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$250.00
Match Permit Fee	41-9-1029(c)(2)	165-X-6-.02(3)(b) 165-X-7-.02(3)(b)	Set by Rule	6%**
Matchmaker	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-6-.02(2) 165-X-7-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Promoter	41-9-1029(b)	165-X-6-.02(2) 165-X-7-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$250.00
Referee	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-6-.02(2) 165-X-7-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00

Fee Type/Purpose	Statutory Authority	Rule	Amount Authorized	Amount Collected
Timekeeper	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-6-.02(2) 165-X-7-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Trainer/Second	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-6-.02(2) 165-X-7-.02(2)	≤\$250.00	\$40.00
Returned Check	8-8-15	165-X-6-.02(2) 165-X-7-.02(2)	≤\$30.00	\$30.00
Professional Wrestling				
Sanctioning Organization	41-9-1030(b)	165-X-5-.02(2)	≤\$1,000.00	\$100.00
Participant	41-9-1030(a)	165-X-5-.02(3)	≤\$250.00	\$30.00
Promoters	41-9-1029(b)	165-X-5-.02(3)	≤\$250.00	\$100.00
Match Permit Application	41-9-1029(c)(2)	165-X-5-.02(3)	≤\$250.00	\$25.00
Match Permit	41-9-1029(c)(2)	165-X-5-.02(2)	Set by Rule	6%***
Returned Check	8-8-15	165-X-5-.02(3)	≤\$30.00	\$30.00
Tough Man				
Competitor	41-9-1024	165-X-4-.02(1)		\$30.00
Promoter	41-9-1029(b)	165-X-4-.02(3)	≤\$250.00	\$250.00
Match Permit Application	41-9-1029(c)(2)	165-X-4-.03(3)	≤\$250.00	\$250.00
Match Permit	41-9-1029(c)(2)	165-X-4-.03(3)	Set by Rule	5%*
Returned Check	8-8-15	165-X-4-.02(3)	≤\$30.00	\$30.00

*5% of gross receipts from ticket sales. For television and broadcasts, 3% of gross receipts from the first one million dollars of revenue and 1% of the next two million. Capped at \$50,000 total.

**6% of gross receipts from ticket sales. For television and broadcasts, 3% of gross receipts from the first one million dollars of revenue and 1% of the next two million. Capped at \$50,000 total. (\$250 minimum for Amateur MMA, Professional/Amateur Kickboxing)

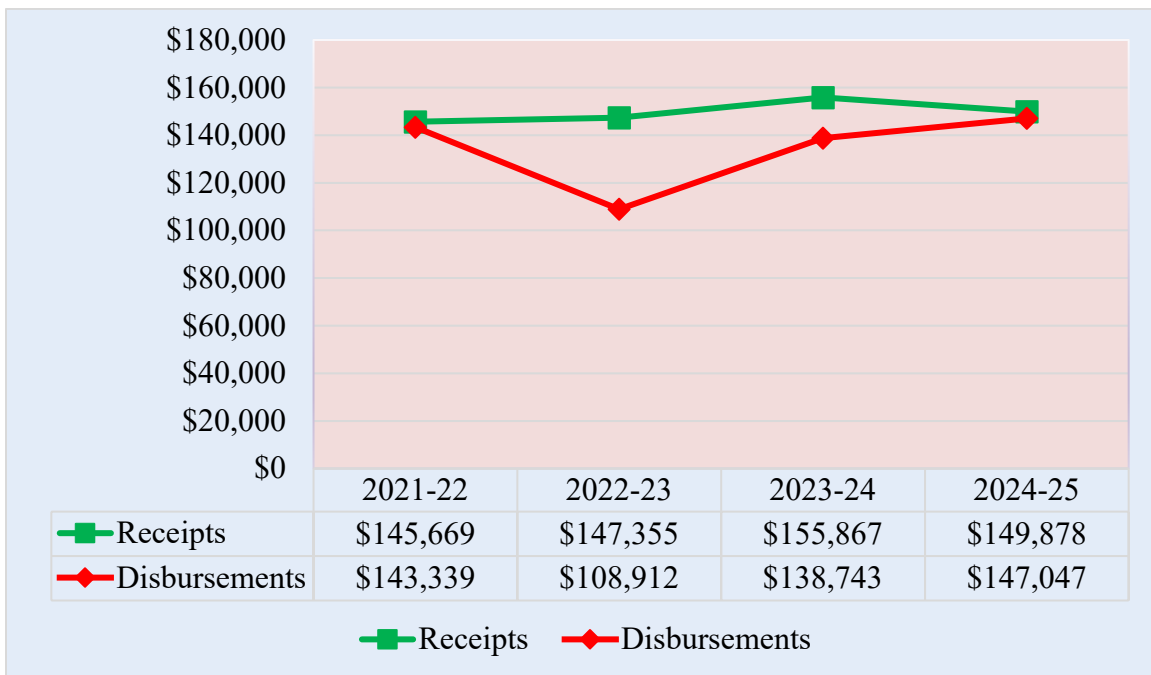
***6% gate fee for all compensated tickets. Live and taped broadcasts are subject to a 3% broadcasting fee. Combined event fees are not to exceed \$50,000.

Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances

October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2025

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
<u>Receipts</u>				
Licenses and Permits	\$137,044.27	\$146,175.40	\$154,866.95	\$149,878.15
Professional/Occupational Board Penalties	8,625.00	1,180.00	1,100.00	
Total	145,669.27	147,355.40	155,866.95	149,878.15
<u>Disbursements</u>				
Travel, In-State	22,069.46	3,089.14	3,548.56	2,547.31
Utilities & Communications	1,730.27	285.59	1.30	15.13
Professional Services	116,425.96	103,925.40	133,047.14	130,371.87
Supplies, Materials, & Operating Expenses	3,113.38	1,611.50	2,146.53	2,966.76
Other Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,146.24
Total	143,339.07	108,911.63	138,743.35	147,047.31
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts over Disbursements	2,330.20	38,443.77	17,123.60	2,830.84
Cash Balance at Beginning of Year	8,871.02	11,201.22	49,644.99	66,768.59
Cash Balance at End of Year	11,201.22	49,644.99	66,768.59	69,599.43
Reserved for Year-End Obligations	(10,530.00)	(11,407.75)	(8,500.00)	(25,300.00)
Unobligated Cash Balance at End of Year	\$671.22	\$38,237.24	\$58,268.59	\$44,299.43

Operating Receipts vs. Operating Disbursements

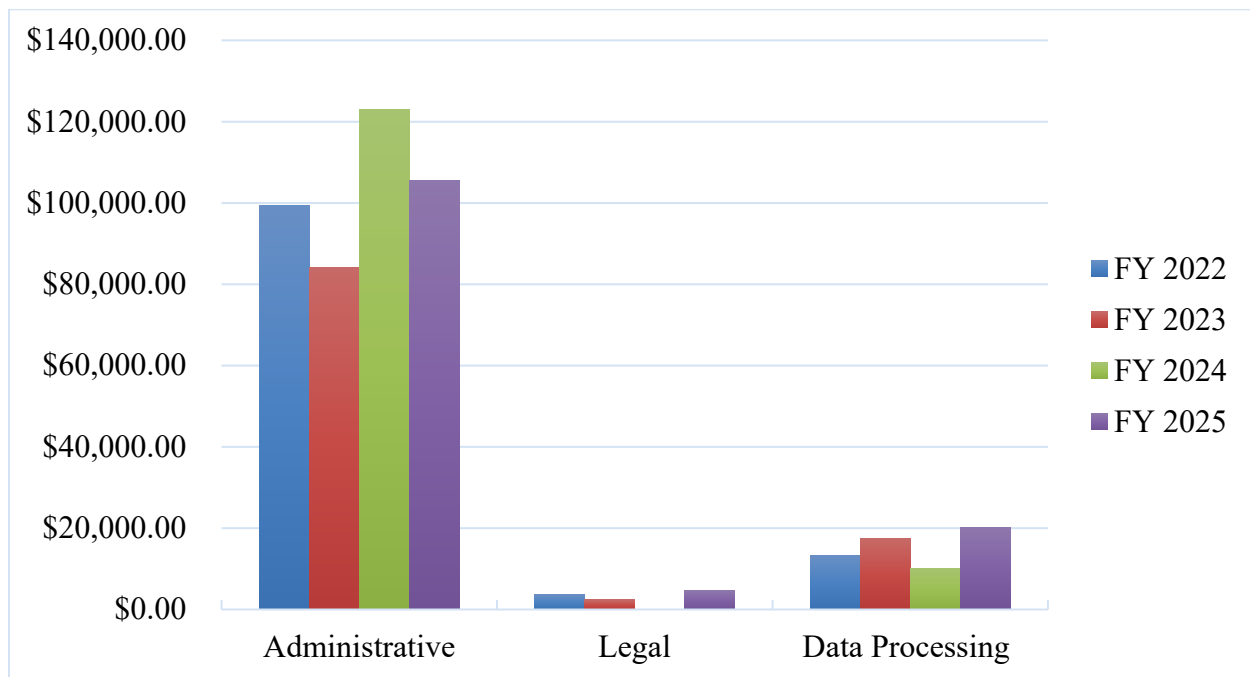


Summary Schedule of Professional Service Disbursements*

As of September 30th				
Type of Service	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Administrative	\$ 99,486.05	\$ 84,013.80	\$ 122,869.90	\$ 105,573.00
Legal	3,660.00	2,431.50		4,708.44
Data Processing	13,279.91	17,480.10	10,177.24	20,090.43
Total	\$116,425.96	\$103,925.40	\$133,047.14	\$130,371.87

*Detailed information presented in Appendix II of this report.

Professional Service Disbursements



SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Significant Issue 2025-001: The Commission is charging a \$30 fee for tough man competitors that is not specifically authorized by statute. While the statutes are clear that the Commission has the authority to license them, implying a fee is allowed to be charged, there is no specific statute to set a fee for the license. **Additionally, the percentage of gross receipts collected for the bare-knuckle boxing match permit fee is not clear in the Commission's Administrative Rules.** *Administrative Rule* 165-X-8-.02(2)(a)(v) states the match permit is 6% of gross receipts. Conversely, *Administrative Rule* 165-X-8-.02(3)(b)(3) states the match permit is 5% of gross receipts. The Commission should ensure any fees collected are authorized by statute and the percentage of gross receipts collected for the bare-knuckle boxing match permit fee is consistent throughout the Administrative Rule.

STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS/SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

All prior findings/significant issues have been resolved, except for the following:

Prior Finding: 2023-003: The Commission did not always deposit checks in a timely manner. One hundred and thirty-eight deposits were examined to determine whether the checks were deposited in a timely manner. Twenty-seven deposits (19%) contained one or more checks that were deposited six to twenty-two business days after receipt. Failure to promptly deposit checks can increase the risk of loss or misuse of state funds.

The Commission is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that amounts received by the Commission are deposited into a Treasury bank account in a timely manner.

Current Status: Unresolved. The Commission did not always deposit checks and money orders timely. One hundred and one checks and money orders were reviewed during the examination period. Of the one hundred and one, twelve checks and money orders (12%) were deposited between six and fourteen days after the Commission received them.

Prior Finding: 2023-004: The Commission did not notify the Secretary of State of a vacancy occurring as a result of the expiration of a member's term. The Commission member's term expired July 18, 2023; however, the vacancy notice was not posted until September 25, 2023, seventy-one days after the expiration of the term. As a result, this could cause potential candidates not to receive sufficient notice and cause the Commission to not receive input from all interested candidates to fill the vacancy.

The *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 36-14-17(c)(1), states that the chair of an existing board shall notify the Secretary of State by electronic means at least 45 days before a vacancy occurs as a result of an expired term.

Current Status: Unresolved. The Commission did not notify the Secretary of State of a vacancy occurring as a result of the expiration of a member's term at least forty-five days before the vacancy occurred. As a result, this could cause potential candidates to not receive sufficient notice and cause the Commission to not receive input from all interested candidates for a position.

MATTERS OF CONCERN FROM QUESTIONNAIRES

Matter of Concern 2025-001: Both Commission members responding to our survey expressed concerns about insufficient staffing for events contributing to unlicensed events. These same commission members indicated they believe the Commission is not adequately funded nor adequately staffed.

Matter of Concern 2025-002: Two out of two (100%) complainants responding to our survey expressed concerns about the Commission not acknowledging their complaint's resolution and concerns about ensuring fighter safety.

PRIOR MATTERS OF CONCERN FROM QUESTIONNAIRES

Prior Matter of Concern 2022-01: Twenty-one licensees responded to our survey.

- Thirteen (62%) do not think regulation of their profession is necessary to protect the public welfare.
- Fourteen (67%) believe some of the laws, rules, or policies are an unnecessary restriction on the practice of their profession.
- Eighteen (86%) indicated they are not adequately informed of changes to and interpretation of the Commissions position, policies, rules and laws.
- Twelve (57%) indicated the Commission does not respond to inquiries in a timely manner.

Current Status: Unresolved. Fourteen out of twenty-two (64%) licensees responding to our survey do not believe regulation by the Commission is necessary; twelve licensees (55%) stated that the Commission's laws, rules, or policies are an unnecessary restriction on the practice of their profession; and thirteen (59%) stated that they are not adequately informed by the Commission of changes to and interpretations of the Board's positions, policies, rules, and laws.

QUESTIONNAIRES

Board Member Questionnaire

A letter was sent to all six members of the Alabama Athletic Commission requesting participation in our survey. Two participated in our survey. The percentages are based on the number who responded to the question.

1. What do you consider the most significant issue(s) currently facing the Alabama Athletic Commission and how is the Commission addressing these issues?

Commission Member #1 – “Providing the same oversight, at an affordable fee, for small events as compared large events. We staff events accordingly base on size and expected attendance/revenue, however some requirements (onsite paramedics, insurance, etc..) are not optional and carry a high cost. This can lead to promoters having unlicensed events.”

Commission Member #2 – “The Alabama Athletic Commission biggest issues:

1. Not enough resources to stop illegal fighting events happening throughout the state.
2. Provide for direct funding to increase commission staff to handle the almost 200 events held annually.”

2. What, if any, changes to the Commission’s laws are needed?

Commission Member #1 – “None at this time.”

Commission Member #2 – “Provide for direct funding to support the commission’s mandate to expand amateur boxing, amateur MMA and amateur wrestling already contained within the law.”

3. Do you think the Commission is adequately funded?

No	2	100%
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4. Do you think the Commission is adequately staffed?

No	2	100%
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5. Does the Commission receive regular reports on its operations from the Executive Director?

Yes	1	50%
No	1	50%

6. Has the Commission experienced any significant change to its operations?

No	2	100%
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7. Does the Commission plan to make any significant changes to its operations?

No	1	50%
Unknown	1	50%

8. Do you have any additional comments you would like to make?

Commission Member #1 – “Because our commission does not receive state funding it is difficult to be properly staffed. To overcome this the per event fees charged to promotions can be very costly, particularly to small events. This leads to more illegal events in our state. Additional state funding would be helpful in increasing our budget to hire a full time investigator to closely monitor unlicensed events.”

Commission Member #2 – “There are concerns about the company, [REDACTED], contracted to perform the duties of Executive Director, continued ability to perform as outlined in the awarded contract. The company has failed on several occasions to properly vet promoters seeking a license which has resulted in fighters not getting paid and a lack of security personnel at events. In addition, medical personnel have not been assigned to pro boxing and pro mma events as required by state law and commission rules and regulations. These matters have been addressed directly with [REDACTED] and no appreciable changes have been made.”

Licensee Questionnaire

A letter was sent to one hundred licensees requesting participation in our survey. Twenty-two participated in the survey. The percentages are based on the number who responded to the question.

1. What do you consider the most significant issue(s) facing your profession in Alabama?

Respondent #1 – “Rules for situations on the ground as an amateur fighter.”

Respondent #2 – “Just some things.”

Respondent #3 – “Regarding the ACC? The lack of...well, anything. They do nothing but collect money from us, and we get nothing in return for it. They don't enforce their rules, they give nothing back to the industry, they rarely even give us physical copies of our licenses.”

Respondent #4 – “Ageism, 18+ rule to be a professional wrestler when you allow tackle football at 6 years old.”

Respondent #5 – “Out of state wrestlers struggling to convince themselves to work the state due to the requirement of the license, and young up and coming wrestlers and seasoned vets needing to be in possession of one. It doesn't do anything other than just says I can wrestle. Hurts the sport at times.”

Respondent #6 – “Silly restrictions and over regulation of shows that make the most money, outside of the major national promotions.”

Respondent #7 – “I wonder what they're good for honestly other than just take money from promotions for taxes and money from wrestlers for licenses. I've been licensed by Alabama since 2020 or 2021 and I've yet to even meet a commissioner but they sure don't have any problem in taking my money.

I do not know of one policy or procedure that is used to protect the professional wrestling business in the state of Alabama, and I am from Kentucky which is also a commission state that has been involved in pro wrestling for decades and have met commissioners on several occasions and know of policy changes and I work exponentially more as a wrestler in Alabama compared to my home state of Kentucky.”

Respondent #8 – “Liability.”

Respondent #9 – “The license I and a lot of other people feel like it's a scam.”

Respondent #10 – “I don't know of any issue as of yet.”

Respondent #11 – “N/A.”

Respondent #12 – “N/a.”

Respondent #13 – “Nothing.”

Respondent #14 – “Too many improperly trained participants receiving licenses.”

Respondent #15 – “High cost of producing events due to commission fees.”

Respondent #16 – “The most significant issue facing my profession in Alabama is the inconsistency in how standards are applied. In certain areas, the expectations enforced by the commission or other governing bodies do not appear to be upheld uniformly, which creates the perception that these standards apply to some individuals but not to others.”

Respondent #17 – “With this being the first year of my licensing, I haven't had good opportunity to answer this in a meaningful way.”

Respondent #18 – “People being untrained in the sport of professional wrestling and people running shows who do not have any business doing so.”

Respondent #19 – “The fact that the Athletic Commission will use this survey to purposely search for the very few homophobic and transphobic answers to use as an excuse to promote disinformation and discrimination.”

Respondent #20 – “I don't have any consideration.”

Respondent #21 – “The cost to run shows is too high due to the commission.”

Respondent #22 – “AACs over reach.”

2. Do you think regulation of your profession by the Alabama Athletic Commission is necessary to protect the public welfare?

Yes	8	36%
No	14	64%

3. Do you think any of the Commission’s laws, rules, or policies are an unnecessary restriction on the practice of your profession?

Yes	12	55%
No	6	27%
Unknown	4	18%

4. Are you adequately informed by the Commission of changes to and interpretations of the Board’s positions, policies, rules, and laws?

Yes	8	36%
No	13	59%
Unknown	1	5%

5. Does the Commission respond to your inquiries in a timely manner?

Yes	7	32%
No	8	36%
Unknown	7	32%

6. Has the Commission performed your licensing and renewal in a timely manner?

Yes	16	73%
No	6	27%

7. Do you have any additional comments you would like to make?

Respondent #1 – “No.”

Respondent #2 – “No.”

Respondent #3 – “2. The ACC does literally nothing to protect anyone at all involved with professional wrestling in any way. They ask basic questions, require no proof of answers, and then do no follow up.

3. Pro Wrestling does a good job of policing itself, since safety is reliant on everyone involved being "up to snuff." The shows that follow the ACC rules were already making sure the performers were trained and knew what they were doing, and getting licensed has done nothing but allow people to "pay to play" now.

In addition, it has put the performers at risk by placing our real names and addresses on the internet. Part of our job as performers includes inducing anger in those in attendance, and to be honest, not all "indie wrestling fans" are exactly the best and brightest. There are people that threaten violence against some, and stalk others. It's one thing when it was limited to online interactions or just at the show, but now? Our families can be put at risk bc our location and name are freely accessible.

4. We never hear anything from the ACC regarding rules being changed. Unless someone checks the website randomly, there is no way to know about changes.

5. As a general rule, the ACC has never responded to questions, complaints, or concerns within any sort of acceptable time frame, if at all. It got to the point where we all just gave up.

6. They are definitely good at letting us know it's time to renew our licenses and emailing us a pdf with our number on it.”

Respondent #4 – “Yes, the AAC regulating pro wrestling on the independent promotions in Alabama is unnecessary. If you’re gonna post rules and policies, you need to enforce them. Half of the promotions are running weekly, and you don’t enforce them to register their events, you have minors wrestling, tons of events in AL do not have mats around the ring, many people were not licensed in 2025, etc. if you’re going to have rules and policies, then you need to have people actually police that these things are happening if you’re not going to enforce the rules, then lift the rules.”

Respondent #5 – “Wrestling is renown for its self policing, plus it’s something we have to do anyways regardless of the license or not, so why not let us do it that way wrestlers of the past got to, because frankly there’s nothing that it’s doing to benefit us.”

Respondent #6 – “It is a waste of taxpayer money to regulate wrestling. It isn't a competitive sport.”

Respondent #7 – “I have no idea what the usefulness or the benefit Is of the commission for promotions, wrestlers, and the patrons that attend the wrestling events in Alabama.”

Respondent #8 – “No.”

Respondent #9 – “I just am tired of spending the money every year. And it never gets checked. They never show up to shows to check. If they did cool. But also it’s just a money grab.”

Respondent #10 – “None.”

Respondent #11 – “Professional Wrestling shouldn’t require a License.”

Respondent #12 – “N/a.”

Respondent #13 – “No.”

Respondent #14 – “The general consensus is the commission works against us and not with us. It comes off as nothing more than a power flex and a cash grab. Representatives show up to strictly search for something to cause an issue when they have no real knowledge of the profession or how it works. Improperly trained participants are everywhere and because they give money, they are allowed a license. The bar shouldn’t be unnecessarily high, but an obvious basic standard of how to perform the simplest of actions safely. A representative of the commission should be able to identify this and not solely focus on some other violation that are way less concerning to the safety of the performers.”

Respondent #15 – “The rules are not enforced consistently across the state. Some groups are being given special treatment and allowances others aren’t.”

Respondent #16 – “I am not, and likely never will be, a supporter of the Alabama Athletic Commission. While I believe some of its policies are well intentioned and effectively implemented, the majority restrict our ability to perform at our full capacity. Additionally, the presence of clear double standards undermines fairness and makes the system feel unjust.”

Respondent #17 – “None at this time.”

Respondent #18 – “I feel that the commissions request for a certain percentage of a sports gate interferes with things that could bring in more talent to shows. For example if a show advertises someone who is a draw and the gate would help provide payment to said talent and other talents on the card.”

Respondent #19 – “Do better.”

Respondent #20 – “None.”

Respondent #21 – “Due to the commission the cost to run shows is high and not getting information in time or the commission not being there doesn't help either.”

Respondent #22 – “No.”

Complainant Questionnaire

A letter was sent to 10 complainants requesting participation in our survey. Two participated in the survey. The percentages are based on the number who responded to the question.

1. Was the receipt of your complaint acknowledged by the Commission?

No	2	100%
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2. Approximately how long after filing your complaint did the Commission contact you?

Unknown	2	100%
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3. Did the Commission communicate the results of its investigation into your complaint to you?

No	1	50%
Unknown	1	50%

4. Do you think the Commission did everything it could to resolve your complaint?

No	2	100%
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5. Do you have any additional comments you would like to make?

Respondent #1 – “I came from Texas for my amateur debut, I was needing the growing over five times and needed to see a doctor after. I lost a judges decision. The judge was friends with my opponent in real life, and they have an extensive history. My opponent came in 2.8 pounds overweight and would not cut.”

Respondent #2 – “Commission did a terrible job at ensuring fighter safety and then zero follow up on the incident that occurred.”

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Applicable Statutes

Section 41-9-1020 Short Title.

This article shall be known and may be cited as the Alabama Unarmed Combat Act.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §1; Act 2010-222, p. 392, §1; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1; Act 2021-518, §1.)

Section 41-9-1021 Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) AMATEUR. An individual who engages in a match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, tough man contests, wrestling, mixed martial arts, or other form of unarmed combat, for no compensation or thing of value for participating, which is governed or authorized by any of the following:

- a. U.S.A. Boxing.
- b. The Alabama High School Athletic Association.
- c. The National Collegiate Athletic Association.
- d. Amateur Athletic Union.
- e. Golden Gloves.
- f. The local affiliate of any organization listed in this subdivision.
- g. USA Wrestling.
- h. The National Junior College Athletic Association.
- i. The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.
- j. The National Collegiate Wrestling Association.
- k. Any organization licensed by the commission.

(2) BARE KNUCKLE BOXING. The original form of boxing, involving two individuals fighting without boxing gloves or other padding on their hands.

(3) BOXING MATCH. A contest between two individuals in which contestants score points in rounds of two or three minutes by striking with gloved fists the head and upper torso of the opponent or by knocking the opponent down and rendering the opponent unconscious or incapable of continuing the contest by the blows, which contest is held in a square ring supervised by a referee and scored by three judges.

(4) BOXING REGISTRY. A registry created or designated pursuant to subsection (k) of Section 41-9-1024.

(5) CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION. An entity described by either of the following: a. Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3)). b. Section 170(c), Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. § 170(c)).

(6) COMMISSION. The Alabama Athletic Commission.

(7) EXHIBITION. A contest where the participants engage in the use of boxing skills and techniques, bare knuckle skills and techniques, tough man skills and techniques, wrestling skills and techniques, or mixed martial arts skills and techniques, or any or all of these, and where the objective is to display the skills and techniques without striving to win.

(8) FACE VALUE. The dollar value of a ticket or order shall reflect the dollar amount that the customer shall pay in order to view the match, contest, exhibition, or entertainment event. Face value shall include any charges or fees, such as dinner, gratuity, parking, surcharges, or any other charges or fees which are charged to and must be paid by the customer in order to view the match, contest, exhibition, or entertainment event. It shall exclude any portion paid by the customer for federal, state, or local taxes.

(9) GROSS RECEIPTS. Any of the following:

- a. The gross price charged for the sale or lease of broadcasting, television, closed circuit, or motion picture rights without any deductions for commissions, brokerage fees, distribution fees, production fees, advertising, or other expenses or charges.
- b. The face value of all tickets sold.

(10) MANAGER. An individual who, under contract, agreement, or other arrangement with a boxer, bare knuckle boxer, or a mixed martial arts competitor, undertakes to control or administer, directly or indirectly, a matter on behalf of a boxer or a mixed martial arts competitor. The term includes, but is not limited to, a person who functions as a booking agent, adviser, or consultant.

(11) MATCHMAKER. A person who is employed by or associated with a promoter in the capacity of booking and arranging professional matches, contests, or exhibitions of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, or mixed martial arts between opponents or who proposes professional matches, contests, or exhibitions of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, or mixed martial arts and selects and arranges for the participants in such events and for whose activities in this regard the promoter is legally responsible.

(12) MIXED MARTIAL ARTS. Unarmed combat involving the use of any combination of techniques from different disciplines of the martial arts, including, without limitation, grappling, submission holds, throws, and striking or kicking with the hands, feet, knees, or elbows. The term mixed martial arts includes kickboxing.

(13) PERSON. An individual, partnership, firm, association, corporation, or combination of individuals of whatever form or character.

(14) PHYSICIAN. A doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy licensed to practice medicine in the State of Alabama.

(15) PROFESSIONAL. A person who is participating or has participated in a match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, wrestling, or mixed martial arts which is not governed or authorized by one or more of the organizations listed in subdivision (1) and any of the following:

- a. Has received or competed for or is receiving or competing for any cash as a salary, purse, or prize for participating in any match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, wrestling, or mixed martial arts.
- b. Is participating or has participated in any match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, wrestling, or mixed martial arts to which admission is granted upon payment of any ticket for admission or other evidence of the right of entry.
- c. Is participating or has participated in any match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, wrestling, or mixed martial arts which is or was filmed, broadcast, or transmitted for viewing.
- d. Is participating or has participated in any match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, wrestling, or mixed martial arts which provides a commercial advantage by attracting persons to a particular place or promoting a commercial product or enterprise.

(16) PROFESSIONAL MATCH OF BOXING, BARE KNUCKLE BOXING, WRESTLING, MIXED MARTIAL ARTS, OR UNARMED COMBAT. A boxing match, contest, or exhibition; a bare knuckle boxing match, contest, or exhibition; a wrestling match; a mixed martial arts match, contest, or exhibition; or other unarmed combat match, contest, or exhibition, which is not governed or authorized by one or more of the organizations listed in subdivision (1) and which does any of the following:

- a. Rewards a boxer, bare knuckle boxer, wrestler, mixed martial arts competitor, or other unarmed combat competitor participating with cash as a salary, purse, or prize for such participation.
- b. Requires for admission payment of a ticket or other evidence of the right of entry.
- c. Is filmed, broadcast, or transmitted for viewing.
- d. Provides a commercial advantage by attracting persons to a particular place or promoting a commercial product or enterprise.

(17) PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING. Any organized event between two unarmed contestants in which participants compete primarily for the purpose of providing entertainment to spectators that may or may not comprise a bona fide athletic contest or competition.

(18) PROMOTER. The person primarily responsible for organizing, promoting, and producing a match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, bare knuckle boxing, tough man contest, professional wrestling, or mixed martial arts and who is legally responsible for the lawful conduct of the professional match, contest, or exhibition.

(19) PURSE or RING EARNINGS. The financial guarantee or any other remuneration, or part thereof, which a professional boxer, bare knuckle boxer, wrestler, or mixed martial arts competitor participating in a match, contest, or exhibition will receive and includes any share of any payment received for radio broadcasting, television, or motion picture rights.

(20) TOUGH MAN CONTEST. A boxing match and tournament where each contestant wears headgear and oversized gloves. A contestant in a tough man contest is not an amateur or a professional and cash prizes may be awarded.

(21) UNARMED COMBAT. Any form of competition between human beings in which both of the following occurs:

1. One or more blows are struck which may reasonably be expected to inflict injury on a human being.
2. There is some compensation or commercial benefit arising from such competition, whether in the form of cash or non-cash payment to the competitors or the person arranging the competition; the sale of the right to film, broadcast, transmit, or view the competition; or the use of the competition to attract persons to a particular location for some commercial advantage or to promote a commercial product or commercial enterprise.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §2; Act 2010-222, p. 392, §1; Act 2011-164, p. 297, §3; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1; Act 2019-491, §1; Act 2021-518, §1.)

Section 41-9-1022 Application.

This article shall not be construed to apply to any match, contest, or exhibition of boxing or wrestling in which the contestants are all amateurs and which is governed or authorized by any of the following:

- (1) U.S.A. Boxing.
- (2) The Alabama High School Athletic Association.
- (3) The National Collegiate Athletic Association.
- (4) Amateur Athletic Union.
- (5) Golden Gloves.
- (6) USA Wrestling.
- (7) The National Junior College Athletic Association.
- (8) The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.
- (9) The National Collegiate Wrestling Association.
- (10) The local affiliate of any organization listed in this section.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §3; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1.)

Section 41-9-1023 Alabama Athletic Commission - Creation; Composition; Medical Advisory Panel.

(a) There is created the Alabama Athletic Commission composed of six members.

(b)(1) All appointing authorities shall coordinate their appointments so that diversity of gender, race, and geographical areas is reflective of the makeup of this state. The six initial members shall be as follows:

- a. Two members appointed by the Governor.
- b. One member appointed by the Alabama Athlete Agents Commission.
- c. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- d. One member appointed by the President of the Senate.
- e. One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

(2) Initial appointments by the Governor shall be for one and three years, the initial appointment by the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be for four years, the initial appointment of the President of the Senate shall be for two years, and the initial appointment of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall be for one year. The initial appointment by the commission shall be for four years. All subsequent appointments shall be for terms of four years. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired terms under the same procedures and requirements as appointments for full terms. Each member of the commission shall be a resident of this state.

(c) The commission shall elect a chair from among its membership for a term of one year. While serving as chair, a member may not vote on any matter coming before the commission. The commission may elect a vice chair from its membership for a term of one year. Any member serving as chair shall be eligible for successive election to the office by the commission. The chair may designate another member of the commission to perform the duties of chair in his or her absence. The commission may employ an executive director to manage the day-to-day operations of the commission within the available funds of the commission.

(d) A medical advisory panel of the commission shall be appointed by the Governor and shall consist of four persons licensed to practice medicine in this state, with one member each representing the specialties of ophthalmology and general medicine and two members representing the specialty of sports medicine. The medical advisory panel shall advise and assist the commission and its staff regarding issues and questions concerning the medical safety of professional boxers, bare knuckle boxers, tough man contestants, professional wrestlers, amateur mixed martial arts competitors, professional mixed martial arts competitors, and other unarmed combat competitors including, but not limited to, matters relating to medical suspensions. The medical advisory panel may meet separately from the commission to discuss and formulate recommendations for the commission in connection with medical safety. Members of the medical advisory panel shall not be counted in determining a quorum of the commission and shall not vote as commission members.

(e) Each member of the commission and the medical advisory panel shall be reimbursed for expenses and travel as provided for public officials of this state.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §4; Act 2010-222, p. 392, §1; Act 2011-164, p. 297, §3; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1; Act 2019-491, §1; Act 2021-518, §1.)

Section 41-9-1024 Alabama Athletic Commission - Powers and Duties.

(a)(1) The commission shall be the sole regulator of professional boxing in this state and shall have authority to protect the physical safety and welfare of professional boxers and serve the public interest by closely supervising all professional boxing in this state.

(2) The commission shall be the sole regulator of professional and amateur matches, contests, or exhibitions of mixed martial arts and shall have the authority to protect the physical safety and welfare of professional competitors in mixed martial arts and serve the public interest by closely supervising all competitors in mixed martial arts. The commission shall regulate professional and amateur mixed martial arts to the same extent as professional boxing unless any rule of the commission is not by its nature applicable to mixed martial arts.

(3) The commission shall be the sole regulator of professional matches, contests, or exhibitions of wrestling and shall have the authority to protect the physical safety and welfare of professional competitors in professional wrestling and serve the public interest by closely supervising all competitors in professional wrestling. The commission shall regulate professional wrestling to the same extent as professional boxing unless any rule of the commission is not by its nature applicable to professional wrestling.

(4) The commission shall have the sole authority to license a wrestling sanctioning organization to safeguard the public health, to protect competitors, and to provide for competitive matches by requiring each licensed organization to abide by rules adopted by the commission. The commission, at the request of a licensed sanctioning organization, may provide direct oversight of any event sanctioned by the organization for a fee negotiated between the commission and the licensed sanctioning organization.

(5) The commission shall have the sole authority to license the promoters of tough man contests to safeguard the public health, to protect competitors, and to provide for competitive matches by requiring each licensed promoter to abide by rules adopted by the commission. The commission, at the request of a promoter, may provide direct oversight of any tough man match for a fee negotiated between the commission and the promoter.

(6) The commission shall be the sole regulator of professional bare knuckle boxing matches, contests, or exhibitions of bare knuckle boxing and shall have the authority to protect the physical safety and welfare of professional competitors in bare knuckle boxing and serve the public interest by closely supervising all competitors in bare knuckle boxing. The commission shall regulate professional bare knuckle boxing to the same extent as professional boxing unless any rule of the commission is not by its nature applicable to bare knuckle boxing.

(7) The commission shall be the sole regulator and shall have the sole authority to regulate any form of unarmed combat held in the state as the commission deems necessary.

(b) The commission shall have the sole jurisdiction to license the promotion or holding of each match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, bare knuckle boxing, tough man contests, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, professional mixed martial arts, or other form of unarmed combat promoted or held within this state.

(c) The commission shall have the authority to license participants in any match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, professional mixed martial arts, or other form of unarmed combat held in this state.

(d) The commission shall have the authority to direct, manage, control, and supervise all matches, contests, or exhibitions of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough man contests, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts including, but not limited to, the authority to enforce safety measures and restrict access to certain areas for the protection of the public and participants. The commission may adopt bylaws for its own management and adopt and enforce rules consistent with this article. The commission may immediately implement medical guidelines that have been vetted by the medical advisory panel and approved by the commission and competition guidelines that have been approved by the commission. Medical and competition guidelines approved by the commission pursuant to this subdivision are exempt from the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act.

(e) The commission shall have the sole authority to inquire into the plans or arrangements for compliance of a licensed organization with rules adopted by the commission. The commission may require a wrestling sanctioning organization to pay an annual licensure fee and any other fee determined necessary by the board and may penalize any organization for violation of this article or any rule adopted by the commission pursuant to this article.

(f) The commission may appoint one or more inspectors as duly authorized representatives of the commission to ensure that the rules are strictly observed. The inspectors shall be present at all professional matches, contests, or exhibitions of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, wrestling, or mixed martial arts.

(g) The commission may designate physicians as duly authorized representatives of the commission to conduct physical examinations of boxers, bare knuckle boxers, or mixed martial arts competitors licensed under this article and shall designate a roster of physicians authorized to conduct prefight physicals and serve as ringside physicians in all professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough man, or mixed martial arts matches held in this state.

(h)(1) The commission or any agent duly designated by the commission may do any of the following:

a. Make investigations.

b. Hold hearings.

c. Issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, and records.

d. Administer oaths to and examine any witnesses for the purpose of determining any question coming before it under this article or under the rules adopted pursuant to this article.

e. Swear out a warrant of arrest against any person violating the criminal provisions of this article, and the commission shall not be liable in damages or to any action for damages by reason of swearing out a warrant or for causing the arrest and detention or imprisonment of any person under such warrant, unless the commission or agent fails to act in a reasonably prudent manner.

f. Assess fines, not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation, for violations of the rules and guidelines of the commission.

(2) During an investigation of any allegation which, if proven, would result in criminal or civil sanctions as provided in this article, the commission may withhold all or a portion of the gross receipts to which the person under investigation is entitled until such time as the matter has been resolved.

(i) The commission may engage in activities that promote amateur boxing, amateur wrestling, and amateur mixed martial arts in this state and contract with any nonprofit organization which is exempted from the taxation of income. To support amateur boxing, amateur wrestling, and amateur mixed martial arts in this state, the commission may promote voluntary contributions through the application process or through any fund-raising or other promotional technique deemed appropriate by the commission.

(j) Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 6301, et seq., the commission may issue to each boxer who is a resident of this state an identification card bearing the photograph of the boxer and in such form and containing such information as the commission deems necessary and appropriate. The commission shall ensure that the form and manner of issuance of the identification cards comply with any applicable federal law or regulation. The commission may charge an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) per card for the issuance or replacement of each identification card.

(k) The commission may create a boxing registry or designate a nationally recognized boxing registry and register each boxer who is a resident of this state or who is a resident of another state which has no boxing registry.

(l) The commission may inquire into the financial backing of any professional match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, wrestling, or mixed martial arts and obtain answers to written or oral questions propounded to all persons associated with the professional event.

(m) The commission, pursuant to rule, may license any concessionaire, ring announcer, photographer, or other person receiving any portion of the gate proceeds from a match, contest, or exhibition held in the state pursuant to this article.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §5; Act 2010-222, p. 392, §1; Act 2011-164, p. 297, §3; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1; Act 2019-491, §1; Act 2021-518, §1.)

Section 41-9-1025 Alabama Athletic Commission - Executive Director.

The commission shall designate a person to serve as executive director and the executive director shall issue licenses and identification cards and perform other duties as the commission may direct in the enforcement of this article.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §6; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1.)

Section 41-9-1026 Alabama Athletic Commission - Meetings.

(a) The commission shall meet upon the call of the chair or upon the call of any two members. The business of the commission shall be conducted by a majority vote of the members present. A majority of the commission members shall constitute a quorum.

(b) The chair, if necessary, may within 10 days of receiving an application and license fee call a meeting of the commission for the purpose of approving or rejecting an application for a license or match permit which has been submitted to the commission. The meeting shall be held within 20 days of the call of the chair at a place designated by the chair.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §7.)

Section 41-9-1027 Alabama Athletic Commission - Rules and Regulations.

The commission shall adopt rules and regulations governing professional boxing, tough man contests, amateur mixed martial arts, and professional mixed martial arts to establish the following:

(1) Procedures to evaluate the professional records and physician certifications of each boxer participating in a match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, tough man contests, amateur mixed martial arts, and professional mixed martial arts and to deny authorization for a professional boxer, tough man contestant, amateur mixed martial arts competitor, or professional mixed martial arts competitor to fight where appropriate.

(2) Procedures to ensure that, except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of Section 41-9-1032, no professional boxer, amateur mixed martial arts competitor, or professional mixed martial arts competitor shall be permitted to participate while under suspension from any state boxing or athletic commission because of any of the following:

- a. A recent knockout, technical knockout, or series of consecutive losses.
- b. An injury, requirement for a medical procedure, or physician's denial of certification.
- c. Failure of a drug test.
- d. The use of false aliases or falsifying official identification cards or document.
- e. Other reasons as determined by the commission.

(3) Procedures to report to the boxing registry the results of all professional matches, contests, or exhibitions of boxing held in this state or being supervised by the commission and any related suspensions.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §8; Act 2013-285, §1.)

Section 41-9-1028 Alabama Athletic Commission - Conflict of Interest.

A member or employee of the commission and any person who administers or enforces this article or rules adopted in accordance with this article shall not be a member of, contract with, or receive any compensation from any person or organization who authorizes, arranges, or promotes matches, contests, or exhibitions of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough man contests, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts or who otherwise has a financial interest in any activity or licensee regulated by the commission. The term compensation does not include funds held in escrow for payment to another person in connection with a professional match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, wrestling, or mixed martial arts.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §9; Act 2010-222, p. 392, §1; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1; Act 2019-491, §1.)

Section 41-9-1029 Promoter License; Match Permit; Performance Bond; Certification of Results.

(a)(1) No person shall promote or hold a match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough man contests, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts within this state without first applying for and obtaining a promoter's license from the commission.

(2) Licenses shall be issued annually and shall expire on December 31 of each calendar year.

(b) Promoters shall apply to the commission for a license required by subsection (a) on a form provided by the commission. The application shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The application shall also be accompanied by a performance bond in an amount and under any conditions required by the commission.

(c)(1) In addition to the license required by subsection (a), a match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough man contests, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts within this state shall not be staged unless a match permit has been issued by the commission for the match, contest, or exhibition.

(2) Each application for a match permit shall be on a form provided by the commission and shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable application fee not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The commission may charge an additional match fee in accordance with rules adopted by the commission.

(d) The commission, prior to issuing any match permit, may require a performance bond in addition to that required in subsection (b).

(e) The commission may refund any portion of the match permit fee in excess of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) to any person who paid the excess fee if the match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough man contests, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts for which the fees were paid is not held.

(f) The commission shall have the sole authority to certify the results of each amateur mixed martial arts match, contest, or exhibition held within the state.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §10; Act 2010-222, p. 392, §1; Act 2011-164, p. 297, §3; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1; Act 2019-491, §1.)

Section 41-9-1030 Participant License.

(a) Prior to participating in a match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts supervised by the commission, referees, judges, timekeepers, matchmakers, boxers, bare knuckle boxers, wrestlers, mixed martial arts competitors, managers, trainers, and each person who assists a boxer, bare knuckle boxer, wrestler, or mixed martial arts competitor immediately before and after a match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, wrestling, or mixed martial arts and between rounds during a match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, wrestling, or mixed martial arts shall be required by the commission to apply for and be issued a license. Licenses shall be issued annually and shall expire on December 31 of each calendar year. Each applicant shall make application on a form provided by the commission and pay an annual license fee not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The commission may issue a temporary license to any applicant who applies for a license less than 30 days before participating in a scheduled, sanctioned event.

(b) The nonrefundable initial licensing fee and annual renewal fee for a professional wrestling sanctioning organization may not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

(c) The commission shall issue a license under this section only if:

(1) The commission has determined to the best of its ability that the applicant has the training or skills necessary to perform in a manner appropriate to the license.

(2) The applicant has complied with all applicable requirements of this article and any rules adopted pursuant to this article.

(3) The commission or its designated representative has determined from information provided by the applicant and from any medical evaluation required by the commission that the health, welfare, and physical safety of the applicant will not be unduly jeopardized by the issuance of the license.

(4) The applicant is a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §11; Act 2010-222, p. 392, §1; Act 2011-164, p. 297, §3; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1; Act 2019-491, §1.)

Section 41-9-1031 Participant Registration.

(a) In addition to the license required in Section 41-9-1030, each professional boxer, professional bare knuckle boxer, amateur mixed martial arts competitor, or professional mixed martial arts competitor who is a resident of this state or another state which has no state boxing or athletic commission shall register with a boxing, bare knuckle boxing, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts registry created or designated by the commission and renew his or her registration as prescribed by rules of the commission.

(b) At the time of registration and renewal, the boxer, bare knuckle boxer, amateur mixed martial arts competitor, or professional mixed martial arts competitor shall provide the registry with a recent photograph of the licensee and the Social Security number of the licensee or, in the case of a foreign licensee, any similar citizen identification number or licensee number from the country of residence of the licensee, along with any other information the commission requires. The registries shall issue a personal identification number to each licensee and the number shall appear on the identification card issued to the licensee as a result of registration. Each licensee shall present to the commission an identification card issued by the state in which he or she resides not later than the time of the weigh-in for a match, contest, or exhibition.

(c) The commission may charge a registration fee in an amount calculated to cover the administrative expense of the registration.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §12; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1; Act 2019-491, §1.)

Section 41-9-1032 Refusal to Grant License; Disciplinary Action; Suspension or Revocation of Match Permit.

(a) The commission may refuse to grant a license to an applicant upon a finding by a majority of the entire commission that the applicant has failed to demonstrate the qualifications or standards for a license contained in this section or under the laws and rules under which licensure is sought. The applicant shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the commission that he or she meets all the requirements for the issuance of a license, and, if the commission is not satisfied as to the qualifications of the applicant, it may deny a license without a prior hearing; however, the applicant shall be allowed to appear before the commission if he or she so desires.

(b)(1) The commission, by majority vote, after prior notice to the holder of a license and after affording such a holder an opportunity to be heard, may fine the license holder; revoke or suspend the license, or take other disciplinary action against the licensee upon the recommendation of any officially designated representative for reasons involving the medical or physical safety of any professional boxer, tough man contestant, amateur mixed martial arts competitor, or professional mixed martial arts competitor licensed by the commission; summarily suspend any license previously issued by the commission; or take other disciplinary action against any licensee. The licensee shall, after the summary suspension, be afforded an opportunity to be heard, in accordance with the rules of the commission and the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act. A summary suspension imposed against such a licensee may include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

a. Prohibiting any professional boxer, professional bare knuckle boxer, tough man contestant, amateur mixed martial arts competitor, or professional mixed martial arts competitor from competing, appearing in, or participating in any match, contest, or exhibition within 60 days of having suffered a knockout.

b. Prohibiting any professional boxer, professional bare knuckle boxer, amateur mixed martial arts competitor, or professional mixed martial arts competitor, from competing, appearing in, or participating in any match, contest, or exhibition within 30 days of having suffered a technical knockout where evidence of head trauma has been determined by the attending ringside physician.

(2) The length of any summary suspension invoked pursuant to this subsection, upon the recommendation of the ringside physician, may be extended to any number of days. The terms and conditions of the suspension or revocation may require that the boxer submit to further medical evaluation as determined by the ringside physician.

(c) The commission, its executive director, or its duly authorized representative, at any time prior to the completion of a permitted match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, a tough man contest, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts, may summarily suspend or revoke the match permit or the license of any specific boxer, bare knuckle boxer, wrestler, or mixed martial arts competitor should it be determined by such person that the continuation of the match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts may jeopardize the health, welfare, morals, or safety of the citizens of this state or may jeopardize the health or personal safety of any participant of the match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts; provided, however, that the licensee, after a summary suspension, shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard, in accordance with the rules of the commission and the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act.

(d) The commission may revoke a suspension of a professional boxer, professional bare knuckle boxer, professional wrestler, amateur mixed martial arts competitor, or professional mixed martial arts competitor if any of the following applies:

(1) The professional boxer, professional bare knuckle boxer, professional wrestler, or mixed martial arts competitor was suspended pursuant to rules adopted pursuant to Section 41-9-1027 and has furnished proof of a sufficiently improved medical or physical condition.

(2) The professional boxer, professional bare knuckle boxer, professional wrestler, or mixed martial arts competitor furnishes proof that a suspension pursuant to Section 41-9-1027 was not or is no longer merited by the facts.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §13; Act 2010-222, p. 392, §1; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1; Act 2019-491, §1.)

Section 41-9-1033 Participant Requirements.

No person shall arrange, promote, organize, produce, or participate in a match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts unless he or she has complied with the following requirements:

(1) An examination by a physician who has certified that the boxer, bare knuckle boxer, or mixed martial arts competitor is physically fit to compete safely. Copies of each certificate shall be provided to the commission prior to the match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts. The commission may require a boxer, bare knuckle boxer, tough man contestant, wrestler, or mixed martial arts competitor to undergo a physical examination, including neurological or neuropsychological tests and procedures.

(2) A physician approved by the commission shall be continuously present at ringside during every match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough man contest, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts. The physician shall observe the physical condition of the boxers, bare knuckle boxers, tough man contestants, wrestlers, or competitors in mixed martial arts and advise the referee with regard to the boxers, bare knuckle boxers, tough man contestants, wrestlers, or competitors.

(3) One or more inspectors appointed by the commission as duly authorized representatives of the commission shall be present at each match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough man contests, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts to ensure that the rules are strictly observed. An inspector or other duly authorized representative of the commission shall be present at the weigh-in and at the ring during the conduct of the match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts. Inspectors and other duly authorized representatives of the commission shall have free access to the dressing rooms of the professional boxers, professional bare knuckle boxers, tough man contestants, and mixed martial arts competitors.

(4) Each boxer, bare knuckle boxer, tough man contestant, wrestler, or competitor in mixed martial arts shall be covered by health insurance that will cover injuries sustained during the match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough man contest, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts.

(5) An ambulance and medical personnel with appropriate resuscitation equipment shall be continuously present at the site during any match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough man contest, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §14; Act 2010-222, p. 392, §1; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1; Act 2019-491, §1.)

Section 41-9-1034 Impairment of Participant by Alcohol or Drugs.

It shall be unlawful for any professional boxer, professional bare knuckle boxer, tough man contestant, professional wrestler, amateur mixed martial arts competitor, or professional competitor in mixed martial arts to participate or attempt to participate in a match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough man contest, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts while under the influence of alcohol or any drug. A professional boxer, professional bare knuckle boxer, tough man contestant, professional wrestler, amateur mixed martial arts competitor, or professional mixed martial arts competitor shall be deemed under the influence of alcohol or a drug for the purposes of this section if a physical examination made during a period of time beginning not more than six hours prior to the beginning of the match, contest, or exhibition and ending not more than one hour after the completion of the match, contest, or exhibition reveals that the mental or physical ability of the professional boxer, professional bare knuckle boxer, tough man contestant, professional wrestler, amateur mixed martial arts competitor, or professional mixed martial arts competitor is impaired as a direct result of the use of alcohol or a drug.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §15; Act 2010-222, p. 392, §1; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1; Act 2019-491, §1.)

Section 41-9-1035 Site Requirements.

All buildings or structures used or intended to be used for holding or giving matches, contests, or exhibitions of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough man contest, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts shall be safe and shall in all manner conform to the laws, ordinances, and regulations pertaining to buildings in the municipality or unincorporated area of the county where the building or structure is situated.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §16; Act 2010-222, p. 392, §1; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1; Act 2019-491, §1.)

Section 41-9-1036 Age Requirement.

No person under the age of 18 years shall participate as a contestant in any match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough man contest, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §17; Act 2010-222, p. 392, §1; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1; Act 2019-491, §1.)

Section 41-9-1037 Jurisdiction of Commission.

The commission shall have jurisdiction over any match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough man contests, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, professional mixed martial arts, or other form of unarmed combat which occurs or is held within this state, is filmed in this state, or is broadcast or transmitted from this state.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §18; Act 2010-222, p. 392, §1; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1; Act 2019-491, §1; Act 2021-518, §1.)

Section 41-9-1038 Violations.

(a) Any person may file a written and signed complaint with the commission alleging that any other person has violated Sections 41-9-1029 to 41-9-1037, inclusive. A complaint shall be made in the manner prescribed by the board and shall be referred by the commission to a standing investigative committee, consisting of a commission member, the executive director, the attorney for the commission, and an investigator or the chief inspector of the commission. If the investigative committee finds that no probable cause exists, the investigative committee may dismiss the charges and prepare a statement in writing, detailing the reasons for the decision.

(b)(1) If the investigative committee finds that probable cause exists, the commission shall initiate an administrative proceeding. If the commission determines the person has violated any provision of Sections 41-9-1029 to 41-9-1037, inclusive, the commission may do any of the following:

a. Issue a cease and desist order.

b. Suspend or revoke a license.

c. Impose an administrative fine of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation.

(2) The commission may petition the circuit court of the county where the violation occurred to enforce a cease and desist order and to collect any assessed fine.

(c) The criminal penalties in this section shall not be construed to repeal other criminal laws. Whenever conduct prescribed by this article is also prescribed by other provision of law, the provision which carries the more serious penalty shall be applied.

(d) Any person aggrieved by an adverse action of the commission may appeal the action to the Circuit Court of Montgomery County in accordance with the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §19; Act 2010-222, p. 392, §1; Act 2013-285, p. 961, §1; Act 2019-491, §1; Act 2021-518, §1.)

Section 41-9-1039 Alabama Athletic Commission Fund.

There is established a separate trust fund in the State Treasury to be known as the Alabama Athletic Commission Fund. All receipts collected by the commission shall be deposited into this fund and used only to carry out the provisions of this article. Monies shall be disbursed only by warrant of the state Comptroller drawn upon the State Treasury supported by itemized vouchers approved by the commission. No funds shall be withdrawn or expended except as budgeted and allotted according to Sections 41-4-80 to 41-4-96, inclusive, and 41-19-1 to 41-19-12, inclusive, and only in amounts as stipulated in the general appropriations act or other appropriation acts.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §20; Act 2010-222, p. 392, §1.)

Section 41-9-1040 Sunset Provision.

The Alabama Athletic Commission shall be subject to the Alabama Sunset Law in Chapter 20 of Title 41, as an enumerated agency, and shall have a termination date of October 1, 2011, and every four years thereafter, unless continued as provided in the Alabama Sunset Law.

(Act 2009-622, p. 1872, §22; Act 2010-222, p. 392, §1.)

Appendix II: Professional Services by Vendor

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
<u>Administrative Services</u>				
<i>Advertising</i>				
Legislative Services Agency	\$900.00	\$	\$10,470.00	\$
<i>Mailing Services</i>				
Department of Finance	86.05	13.80		
<i>Managerial Services</i>				
Parris Enterprises Inc.			81,599.94	20,400.00
<i>Accounting and Auditing</i>				
Smith Warren Management Services, Inc.	83,500.00			
McCormick Co.	15,000.00			
Parris Enterprises Inc.		84,000.00	30,799.96	85,173.00
Total Administrative Services	99,486.05	84,013.80	122,869.90	105,573.00
<u>Legal Services</u>				
<i>Legal - Professional</i>				
Attorney General's Office	3,660.00	2,431.50		4,708.44
Total Legal Services	3,660.00	2,431.50		4,708.44
<u>Data Processing Services</u>				
<i>Data Processing Personnel Services</i>				
Office Of Information Technology	3,053.75	2,108.25	401.50	190.75
Key Asset Lifecycle Mgmt. Serv.	7,150.00	9,100.00	6,800.00	18,050.00
<i>Comptroller Services</i>				
Department of Finance	937.31	1,467.00	2,040.00	1,791.00
<i>Inter-departmental Professional Services</i>				
Department of Finance	2,138.85	4,804.85	935.74	58.68
Total Data Processing Services	13,279.91	17,480.10	10,177.24	20,090.43
Total Professional Services	\$116,425.96	\$103,925.40	\$133,047.14	\$130,371.87

Appendix III: Commission Members



Alabama Athletic Commission

5809 Feldspar Way Suite 109
Hoover, Alabama 35244
Phone: 205-438-6209

February 2, 2026

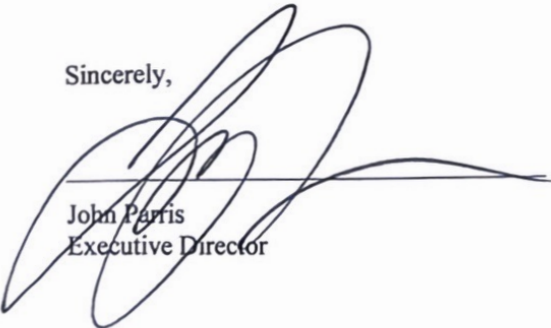
Kierra Burston
Accounts Examiner
Examiners of Public Accounts
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 280
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
(334) 242-9200 (main)
(334) 242-1775 (fax)

Dear Ms. Burston,

Please find attached the Commission Members that served during the audit period. Present and past members

<u>Commission Member</u>	<u>Appointment Date</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>	<u>Position</u>
Mr. Joel R. Blankenship, Esq. Homewood, AL	08/10/2025	08/09/2029	Chair
Dr. John Marshall Tuscaloosa, AL	11/22/2022	11/22/2026	Vice-Chair
Mr. Larry H. Bright, Jr. Huntsville, AL	03/09/2023	07/17/2026	
Mr. Casey C. Sears Tuscaloosa, Alabama	06/23/2023	06/23/2027	
Mr. Terrence Collins Montgomery, AL	12/11/2024	12/11/2029	
Mr. Johnny Jackson Tuscaloosa, AL	06/17/2024	07/17/2027	

Sincerely,



John Parris
Executive Director

Appendix IV: Commission's Response



Alabama Athletic Commission

5809 Feldspar Way Suite 109

Hoover, Alabama 35244

Phone: 205-438-6209

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Significant Issue 2025-001: The Commission is charging a \$30 fee for tough man competitors that is not specifically authorized by statute. While the statutes are clear that the Commission has the authority to license tough man competitors, implying a fee is allowed to be charged, there is no specific statute to set a fee for the license. **Additionally, the percentage of gross receipts collected for the bare-knuckle boxing match permit fee is not clear in the Commission's Administrative Rules.** *Administrative Rule* 165-X-8-.02(2)(a)(v) states the match permit is 6% of gross receipts. Conversely, *Administrative Rule* 165-X-8-.02(3)(b)(3) states the match permit is 5% of gross receipts. The Commission should ensure any fees collected are authorized by statute and the percentage of gross receipts collected for the bare-knuckle boxing match permit fee is consistent throughout the Administrative Rule.

Response:The Commission will work with the Legislature to add statutory language to allow the Commission to charge a licensure fee for tough man licenses. The Commission will correct the Administrative Rule to ensure the bare-knuckle boxing match permit fee is consistent throughout the Administrative Rule.

STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS/SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

All prior findings/significant issues have been resolved, except for the following:

Prior Finding: 2023-003: The Commission did not always deposit checks in a timely manner. One hundred and thirty-eight deposits were examined to determine whether the checks were deposited in a timely manner. Twenty-seven deposits (19%) contained one or more checks that were deposited six to twenty-two business days after receipt. Failure to promptly deposit checks can increase the risk of loss or misuse of state funds.

The Commission is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that amounts received by the Commission are deposited into a Treasury bank account in a timely manner.

Response: The Alabama Athletic Commission will make deposits every 5 days.



Alabama Athletic Commission

5809 Feldspar Way Suite 109

Hoover, Alabama 35244

Phone: 205-438-6209

Current Status: Unresolved. The Commission did not always deposit checks and money orders timely. One hundred and one checks and money orders were reviewed during the examination period. Of the one hundred and one, twelve checks and money orders (12%) were deposited between six and fourteen days after the Commission received them.

Response: The Alabama Athletic Commission will make deposits every 5 days.

Prior Finding: 2023-004: The Commission did not notify the Secretary of State of a vacancy occurring as a result of the expiration of a member's term. The Commission member's term expired July 18, 2023; however, the vacancy notice was not posted until September 25, 2023, seventy-one days after the expiration of the term. As a result, this could cause potential candidates not to receive sufficient notice and cause the Commission to not receive input from all interested candidates to fill the vacancy.

The ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 36-14-17(c)(1), states that the chair of an existing board shall notify the Secretary of State by electronic means at least 45 days before a vacancy occurs as a result of an expired term.

Response: The Alabama Athletic commission will make sure that the vacancies are announced within the correct time period.

Current Status: Unresolved. The Commission did not notify the Secretary of State of a vacancy occurring as a result of the expiration of a member's term at least forty-five days before the vacancy occurred. As a result, this could cause potential candidates to not receive sufficient notice and cause the Commission to not receive input from all interested candidates for a position.

Response: The Alabama Athletic Commission will make sure that the vacancies are announced within the correct time period.

MATTERS OF CONCERN FROM QUESTIONNAIRES



Alabama Athletic Commission

5809 Feldspar Way Suite 109

Hoover, Alabama 35244

Phone: 205-438-6209

Matter of Concern 2025-001: Both Commission members responding to our survey expressed concerns about insufficient staffing for events contributing to unlicensed events. These same commission members indicated they believe the Commission is not adequately funded nor adequately staffed.

Matter of Concern 2025-002: Two out of two (100%) complainants responding to our survey expressed concerns about the Commission not acknowledging their complaint's resolution and concerns about ensuring fighter safety.

Response: The Alabama Athletic Commission plans to hire additional employees in the future.

PRIOR MATTERS OF CONCERN FROM QUESTIONNAIRES

Prior Matter of Concern 2022-01: Twenty-one licensees responded to our survey.

- Thirteen (62%) do not think regulation of their profession is necessary to protect the public welfare.
- Fourteen (67%) believe some of the laws, rules, or policies are an unnecessary restriction on the practice of their profession.
- Eighteen (86%) indicated they are not adequately informed of changes to and interpretation of the Commissions position, policies, rules and laws.
- Twelve (57%) indicated the Commission does not respond to inquiries in a timely manner.

Current Status: Unresolved. Fourteen out of twenty-two (64%) licensees responding to our survey do not believe regulation by the Commission is necessary; twelve licensees (55%) stated that the Commission's laws, rules, or policies are an unnecessary restriction on the practice of their profession; and thirteen (59%) stated



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5809 Feldspar Way Suite 109

Hoover, Alabama 35244

Phone: 205-438-6209

that they are not adequately informed by the Commission of changes to and interpretations of the Board's positions, policies, rules, and laws.

Response: In response to Prior Significant Issue – 2022-01, it is hard for this office to directly address the concerns of the respondents without having more information as to the nature of their licenses with this Commission. The Alabama Athletic Commission (AAC) regulates a broad range of licenses, including Fighters, Trainers, Promoters, and Professional Wrestlers. The AAC is tasked with ensuring the health and safety of all participants, along with complete impartiality and fairness of all combative events.

The rules and regulations that have been enacted by the AAC are in compliance with the standard rules and regulations of the international organizations that license these events in other States and Countries. Our published rules and regulations are derived from the Association of Boxing Commissioners (ABC), Unified Rules of MMA, and surveys of other commissions. I am unaware of any rule or regulation that exists in this State that does not exist under Commissions in other States.

These rules and regulations not only exist for the safety of combatants, but also ensure that the State of Alabama is in a position to host World renowned events. Over the duration of this Commission, we have hosted numerous World Title Fights in Boxing as well as regional Title Fights for MMA that are only possible under our current ruleset as a universally recognized sanctioning body. This includes the sanctioning of Professional Wrestling, where the major federations (WWE and AEW) have consistently told our Commission that they prefer running in a Commission State as it provides better protection for their companies.

The rules and regulations were made for the safety fighters of the multiple combat sports that the Alabama Athletic Commission regulates. These rules were derived from required rules by the WBA, WBC, IBF, and WBO to keep the status of a recognized state sanctioning body. This allows for Alabama to have world title fights such as Deontay Wilder's championship fights that were held in Alabama.

Communication continues to be my top priority. I personally answer every phone call and email.



Alabama Athletic Commission

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Communication was one of the main focuses of the past year. I always call people back personally. I answer all emails within 24 hrs. I have made myself as available to reach as I can be. This has improved many of the issues with any confusion over the rules and regulation. This also has improved compliance and attitudes across the board. Licensees know that if they call me that they are going to get help.

John Parris

Executive Director

Alabama Athletic Commission

5809 Feldspar Way, Suite 109

Birmingham, AL 35244

O: 205-438-6205

F: 205-438-6193

www.aac.alabama.gov