

June 30, 2006

Raymond "Skip" Avansino, Jr.
Chairman
Nevada State Athletic Commission
555 E. Washington
Suite 3200
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Dear Skip:

First, we would like to commend you and your fellow Commissioners for having the foresight to be proactive in reviewing better and more stringent regulations that will work towards protecting the health and safety of boxers and other unarmed combatants who fight in Nevada. Boxing has been exceptionally good to the State of Nevada and our Commission has always been at the forefront of calling for reforms to improve the sport and safeguard its participants. Our hope is that this committee is one more example of that.

It has been a privilege for us to be a part of the ongoing proceedings of the Advisory Committee on Boxer Health and Safety and I am happy to report that we have agreed to recommend to the Commission some significant changes that we believe will have an extremely positive impact on the way the sport of boxing and other competitive fights are regulated for the safety of the competitors.

Specifically, we have tried to address the primary concerns, related to the health and safety of boxers, of the people who are intimately involved with the sport such as referees, promoters, managers, trainers and the fighters themselves. We believe the recommendations contained in this report are reflective of some of the most pressing health and safety matters facing the sport of boxing and our intent with these measures is not to punish fighters, but rather to attempt to change the culture of unhealthy and potentially life threatening training practices that appear to be prevalent among many in the sport.

At the first meeting of our committee, we invited anyone with a concern to share them with our members so that we could develop a better understanding of the nature and scope of the most critical safety issues facing the sport. Taking the expressed concerns, we compiled a list of issues and identified three primary areas that the committee should focus its attention on, as well as identifying who would best serve to provide us with guidance in terms of making significant, yet practical, recommendations.

The three primary subject areas identified include:

- Medical issues and testing
- Equipment
- Trainers and Gyms

Having identified the subject areas we wanted to address, the committee asked a group of doctors to act as our medical advisors and assigned individual members to evaluate various issues related to these primary areas. Several meetings were held with various stakeholders in the sport and recent incidents of boxer death and serious injury were evaluated and considered.

Medical Issues and Testing

The committee members and the medical advisors reviewed a wide range of medically related issues and while there are a number of issues that warrant further consideration and review, there were two key areas of concern that the committee felt it could address through recommendations to the Commission.

Weight Management/Dehydration—Extensive discussions were held about fighters trying to make weight and the methodology used by trainers and the fighters to meet their contractual obligation to fight at a certain weight. There was general consensus that many fighters, specifically in the lighter weight classes, try to fight at a body weight that would be considered abnormal for their size. What was most disturbing revelation and the result of many of the committee’s recommendations was the discovery of the prevalence of a culture of abnormal weight loss measures being employed by fighters on a regular basis throughout their careers.

This culture of trying to reach an abnormal body weight to achieve a perceived advantage is pervasive throughout the sport and has resulted in the adoption of extreme measures that are unsafe and potentially deadly due to a combination of factors that occur prior to a fighter stepping into the ring.

One of the most significant of these factors is dehydration. Fighters restrict their food and water intake prior to a weigh-in and then if they do not meet the weight requirement, the current system allows, and to some extent encourages them, to do potential further harm by sending them off to meet their weight requirement through sweating if off in a sauna or further depleting themselves through exercise.

Dehydration and re-hydration were topics that received a significant amount of attention because of the prevalence of dehydration among fighters trying to make weight as well as the adverse effects dehydration has on a fighter’s health and well being, including potentially fatal consequences.

The Health and Well Being of Fighter before and after a Fight—Much of what was discovered in discussions with fighters, trainers, promoters and others involved in the sport, as well as our informal review of the incidents that resulted in the death of fighters, revealed that information about a fighter’s training and injuries prior to a fight could prove invaluable in preventing further tragedies in the ring.

It is considered common knowledge that not reporting injuries to the appropriate officials is common practice among fighter, their trainers, managers and gym owners. Of particular concern, were the seriousness of the injuries not reported and specifically being “buzzed” or concussed before a fight. Without prior knowledge

that a fighter was severely hurt during training, the Commission is left unaware of a fighters state of health and readiness to fight which creates the potential for dangerous results.

Additionally, there was lengthy discussion about the importance of early recognition of any medical symptoms that are a result of a fight and ways to address that through timely evaluation and testing. It was agreed that timely diagnosis of a serious injury makes a significant impact on the outcome of a fighter's treatment and that fighters in Nevada should know that they will receive timely and quality care.

With regards to the medical component of our findings, the committee has determined that the following recommendations are appropriate and respectfully request due consideration by the Commission on the following:

Weigh-in Penalties

Issue: To discourage boxers from trying to reach an unreasonable goal weight and in an attempt to change the culture of relying on extreme measures to make weight, the committee looked at ways that it could build in disincentives.

Current Regulation(s): If a boxer fails to make the weight agreed upon in his bout agreement, he forfeits (a) twenty-five percent of his purse if no lesser amount is set by the Commission's representative; or (b) a lesser amount set by the Executive Director and approved by the Commission, unless the weight difference is 1 pound or less. NAC 467.522(1). Under this regulation, a boxer will be fined only if he fails to make weight after all his weigh-in attempts.

Recommendation: As an added incentive to prevent boxers from trying to lose a significant amount of weight right before a fight, or an unreasonable amount of weight overall, the Committee recommends an automatic fine of ten percent of their purse if they fail to make their contracted weight on their first attempted weigh-in. This fine would be permitted under the current regulations but would require additional language. The committee would also recommend that this issue be revisited in a year's time to determine if it is acting as an effective deterrent for fighters.

In addition, the committee would also recommend that the Commission monitor individual fighters and their weigh-ins to see if there are particular fighters who consistently don't make weight or use dangerous rapid weight loss measures to make weight. Using this information, the committee recommends that the Commission put fighters who are identified through the monitoring process on notice that they may be subject to further action as deemed appropriate by the Commission to prevent this type of activity from continuing.

Weigh-In Allowance

Issue: As dehydration is a significant concern with fighters trying to make weight, the idea of allowing fighters a weight allowance following the initial weigh-in was discussed at great length. The debate surrounded the issue of allowing boxers to gain a certain

percentage of their body weight after their initial weigh-in to afford them an opportunity to re-hydrate, eat and sleep the night prior to their fight without worrying about missing weight.

Current Regulation(s):

NAC 467.496.

An unarmed combatant who has signed a bout agreement is subject to an order by the Commission to appear at any time to be:

- 1. Weighed; or**
- 2. Examined by any physician whom the Commission may designate.**

NAC 467.514.

- 1. Each unarmed combatant must be weighed in the presence of the public, his opponent, a representative of the Commission and an official representing the promoter, on scales approved by the Commission at any place designated by the Commission.**
- 2. The unarmed combatant must have all weights stripped from his body before he is weighed in, but may wear shorts.**
- 3. Representatives of newspapers and the electronic news media who properly identify themselves as such must be admitted to each official weighing in of an unarmed combatant.**
- 4. The owner or operator of the premises in which the weighing in is held shall provide adequate security for the unarmed combatant and other persons who are present.**
- 5. The Commission may require unarmed combatants to be weighed more than once for any cause deemed sufficient by the Commission.**

NAC 467.476 reads in pertinent part:

- 3. After the time of the weigh-in:**
 - (a) Weight loss in excess of 2 pounds is not permitted for an unarmed combatant who weighed in at 147 pounds or less.**
 - (b) Weight loss in excess of 3 pounds is not permitted for an unarmed combatant who weighed in at over 147 pounds.**
- 4. The weight loss described in subsection 3 must not occur later than 2 hours after the initial weigh-in.**

Recommendation: There was concern that the committee did not have enough information and was not in a position to make a recommendation on a second weigh-in. Of particular concern was the fact that fighters might feel additional pressure to maintain their weight from dramatic weigh loss measures and the recommendation would not achieve the desired results of altering the culture of dangerous weight loss practices including dehydration.

As a way to monitor the change in the culture of dramatic weight loss among fighters and to recognize the importance that the issue of dehydration plays in terms of a fighter's well being before a fight, the committee recommends that that Commission mandate to their medical board or other appropriate body, that they review all weigh-ins for the upcoming 12 months and make a recommendation on whether or not a second weigh-in should be conducted, permitting fighters an allowance of a certain percentage of their body weight to be gained after the initial weigh-in. The committee had discussed with their medical advisors allowing between 5 and 7%.

Hydration

Issue: As mentioned previously, dehydration and a fighter's ability re-hydrate following a weigh-in is a significant concern as it directly correlates to a fighter's ability to perform and function in the ring. Of particular concern are fighter's who use extremely restrictive dieting measures to make weight and their inability to replenish the liquids and electrolytes necessary to normalize their systems and restore full functionality before a bout. Even if the fighter is not able to fully replenish his body's fluids, the committee felt that by allowing the consumption of an electrolyte drink by fighters during their bouts would help to mitigate the extent of dehydration and could aid in the prevention of injuries that result from symptoms of dehydration.

Current Regulation(s): The Commission allows only water to be consumed by contestants during fights.

Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Commission permit specific electrolyte drinks be consumed by contestants during a bout. As part of that recommendation, the committee recommends that the Commission define electrolyte to avoid problems with additional stimulants or prohibited substances from inadvertently being included through a general approval of electrolyte drinks. There is a minimal cost factor associated with this recommendation.

Increased Random Drug and Steroid Testing

Issue: To prevent the use of illegal substances that may contribute to injury during training or competition, it was agreed that increasing random testing of fighters before a fight as well as after a fight would act as a significant deterrent.

Current Regulation(s): The Commission currently tests all title bout contestants for drugs and steroids. The Commission also performs random tests if a card does not have a title bout.

Recommendation: The committee would recommend that the Commission consider requesting additional funding from the State Legislature to expand random testing for drugs and steroids for all fighters before and after scheduled fights in Nevada. Currently the promoters of a fight pay for the drug testing of their fighters, but should the Commission expand random testing, they would need to seek funding from the State Legislature to cover the costs of administering the tests.

At Least Three Doctors at Ringside

Issue: The idea behind having two doctors ringside was so that both fighters could be monitored throughout a bout. However, if one of the doctors was called away to assist someone outside the ring, it left only one doctor to monitor both fighters. Having a third doctor ensures that both fighters are being monitored throughout their fight.

Current Practice: In the past, the Commission has assigned two ringside physicians to work boxing cards if the arena is small in size. Over the past six months, as a test, the Commission has had at least three ringside physicians at every card.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends the formalization of the practice of assigning at least three ringside physicians to each fight card. Currently this is a cost that is paid by the promoters of the fight and is between \$400 and \$500 per physician.

Hiring a Part-Time Doctor to Work for the Athletic Commission

Issue: Currently physicians who are paid to work a fight for the Commission are periodically called upon to volunteer their time to review medical tests and offer recommendations and input based on their medical specialty and knowledge of the sport of boxing. Given the request for consideration of additional testing as well as the issue of many fighters from outside the United States providing medical tests from other countries, it seems logical that the Commission should have a physician that they can call upon to verify authenticity, order additional tests in Nevada as appropriate and offer advice to the Commission on medical issues that may arise from their review.

Current Practice: At present, the Commission hires physicians on an as needed basis.

Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Commission hire a licensed physician to work for them part-time under terms to be agreed by the Commission. Since the cost of having physicians ringside and to conduct random testing is currently absorbed by the promoters, this would require a request from the Commission for additional funding from the State Legislature in the range of \$100,000 to \$150,000 as well as a possible request to establish a new salaried position at the Commission.

Medical Examination Immediately Following a Fight

Issue: Early detection and treatment of an injury is significant in terms of a positive outcome for a patient. Making it mandatory for a fighter to undergo a medical examination immediately following a fight, would allow for signs and symptoms of potentially significant injuries to be detected earlier, saving critical time.

Current Practice: Examinations are conducted at the discretion of the ringside physicians.

Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Commission institute a regulation that would require each fighter, regardless of the outcome of a bout, be examined by a ringside physician *immediately* following a fight. This would require new regulations that change the way a fighter's corner is managed following a bout including precluding media interviews and postponing awards ceremonies until after a fighter is evaluated by a doctor.

Requiring a CAT Scan for every fighter following a bout and having information compiled in ongoing monthly reports.

Issue: Injuries to the head are a serious consequence of the sport of boxing and the requirement of mandatory scans has long been a topic of discussion in Nevada and throughout the world. The issue of cost and the reticence of fighters to have the scans due to the fear of losing their license are prime concerns, but in the end, the upside outweighs the downside since requiring a CAT scan would allow for the immediate identification of severe injury, preventing permanent damage or even death in the ring.

Currently Regulation(s): NAC 467.017(3) reads: **The Commission will not issue or renew a license to engage in unarmed combat to an applicant or unarmed combatant who has suffered cerebral hemorrhage.**

Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Commission consider a requirement that every fighter have a CAT scan immediately following every bout. We would also recommend that the Commission apply to the State Legislature for funding to purchase a portable CAT scan machine that would allow fighters to have the scan on sight and to pay for a qualified physician to be on hand to conduct and read the scans. No changes to the legislative language are recommended at this point.

The committee also recommends that the Commission mandate to their medical advisory board or other appropriate body that the data from all of the CAT scans be compiled and submitted to the Commission in the form of a monthly report that abides by patient confidentiality rules.

The committee has received preliminary information regarding the cost associated with obtaining a portable CAT scan machine and it ranges from \$250,000 to \$800,000. One of the medical advisors to the committee, Dr. Michael Seiff, is conducting additional research into the cost of the machine, maintenance costs and upkeep as well as staffing requirements in order to provide a complete recommendation. This will be made available as an addendum to our recommendations.

Health and Welfare Fund

Issue: Many medical problems that fighters have develop or reoccur long after a fight or even their career has ended. Also, the more bouts in which a fighter participates, the more risk he undertakes. Such risk comes not just from the punishment received during the bouts, but also from his training for the bouts.

Current Regulation(s): The Commission requires the promoter of a professional bout to provide primary insurance coverage in the amount of \$50,000 or more for each licensed boxer to provide medical, surgical and hospital care for boxers who are injured while engaged in a bout. *See* NRS 467.125 and NAC 467.149(1). The contestant is not required to pay any deductible for the medical, surgical or hospital care for injuries he sustains while engaged in a bout. NAC 467.149(2). Moreover, if a boxer initially pays for such care himself, “the insurance proceeds must be paid to the contestant or his beneficiaries as reimbursement for the payment.” NAC 467.149(3).

Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Commission look at establishing a fund to assist aging and retired fighters/unarmed combatants who have fought in Nevada and who need medical assistance. The committee recommends that the source of the funds comes from an established amount placed on every fight in Nevada and from the State of Nevada in the form of funds matched on an annual basis. This recommendation would require changes to current regulations as well as seeking matching funds from the State Legislature. In addition, the Commission may be able to find medical providers willing to treat unarmed combatants on a low-cost or no-cost basis. The Commission has already been extremely successful in obtaining low-cost MRIs, MRAs and neuropsychological tests for boxers.

Pension Fund

Issue: Not only has the Commission considered this issue before, but so have other state athletic commissions, the United States Congress, sanctioning organizations, labor unions and other private boxing groups. There are many obstacles that must be overcome, such as the fact that many boxers have very short careers in which they do not earn a lot of money, and, related thereto, many boxers can ill afford another deduction from their purses, even one that would provide them with substantial long-term benefit. It is also difficult to provide for any sort of pensions because, unlike league sports, many boxers compete for several different promoters during their careers, and the pay a boxer receives may vary widely from bout to bout. Finally, many steps are unavailable to the Commission because federal law may preempt state law provisions in this area.

No Current Practice.

Recommendation: Even given all of the obstacles detailed above, the committee feels this is an important issue, worthy of undertaking, and thus recommends that the Commission form a sub-committee that includes legal expertise to look at and begin development of a pension fund for unarmed combatants who fight in Nevada that would have a source of funding from ticket sales.

Equipment

As with the medical component, there was a great deal of discussion about the size of gloves used by fighters and whether or not there was a case to be made for requiring a larger glove for both training and competitive bouts to prevent more significant injuries. Information about the amateur boxing requirements was provided and discussed, particularly as it relates to the size of boxers and the glove requirements based on weight.

There was some concern about the lack of scientific reasoning behind the opinions on glove recommendations, particularly on size. However it was agreed that the committee would look at the consistency of material used in each of the approved manufacturers' gloves to determine if a recommendation in that regard was possible.

We would like to add that our committee has chosen to err on the side of caution and is hesitant to make recommendations without any science to back our opinions. In that regard, our recommendations with respect to equipment are limited to further study and possible involvement with the manufacturers to ensure safety is a factor in the consistency of their gloves.

Given the above, following are the recommendations our committee submits with respect to equipment.

Manufacturer Consistency of Gloves

Issue: As part of our investigation and review of gloves and how the use of one over the other might adversely affect the safety of a fighter, the gloves of each approved manufacturer were cut open and reviewed. It was found that there was a significant difference in the material used by manufacturers of boxing gloves. In fact, not one glove that was opened by the committee matched another in terms of type of material or amount of padding. The committee members agreed that while they didn't know what impact this would have on a fight, they were certain that it would play a role.

Current Regulation(s): NAC 467.427(7) Both unarmed combatants shall use only those brands and models of gloves for their contest or exhibition that have been approved by the Commission.

Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Commission review their findings on the consistency of the approved gloves and use that as a basis for undergoing further scientific study as to the effect the consistency has on the impact of a glove and how it changes after multiple uses. It is also recommended that the Commission contact Wayne State University about the impact studies it has conducted including its study of boxing gloves, to see if they could be of assistance in a scientific analysis of what impact a gloves consistency has on the force it delivers including whether one consistency is safer than another.

Glove Size for Training and Fights

Issue: The committee discussed glove size at great length and particularly whether or not it should be required that 10 ounce gloves be used for weight classes in the range of 135 to 147. Currently 10 ounce gloves are required for fighters weighing 147 and above. Most of the committee and the people we spoke with about this issue felt that larger gloves would be a safer alternative; however, the committee did not have any scientific evidence to prove this to be the case.

Current Regulation(s): There is no requirement as to the size of gloves required for training, but there is a regulation on gloves worn during fights. NAC 467.427(5) provides:

For contests or exhibitions of boxing, other than elimination boxing contests, and for contests or exhibitions of kickboxing, each unarmed combatant must wear gloves which weigh not less than 8 ounces and not more than 10 ounces, except that the Commission will set the weight of gloves to be used in a championship contest....

The current application of NAC 467.427(5) is that boxers weighing-in at 147 pounds and under, use 8 oz. gloves, while boxer over 147 pounds, use 10 oz. gloves.

Recommendation: Given the fact that the committee did not have any scientific proof as to the advantage of one glove size over another, the committee recommends that the Commission look at conducting a scientific study on glove size and whether the size of gloves used makes a difference. The committee recommends that they conduct an equal study on all weight classifications but would point out that there have been a greater number of problems in the 135 to 147 weight range, so that weight range of fighters might be worthy of some additional focus.

Trainers and Gyms

The third subject area that the committee focused its attention on was the monitoring of fighters during training and bouts in terms of overall health, injuries and ability to continue fighting. Several issues arose surrounding the training of fighters and in some cases the lack of knowledge and inexperience of a fighter's corner during a bout. Of particular concern was negligence on the part of managers, trainers and even gym owners in reporting injuries sustained during training. The practice of not reporting a fighter being "buzzed" or concussed before a fight is a dangerous and all too common practice.

In that regard, following are our recommendations to the Commission as it relates to the issue of the responsibility of a fighter's corner and his management.

Certification Procedure for Trainers

Issue: Several people involved in the sport of boxing expressed concern about the lack of experience and knowledge in some of the fighters' corners. In looking at ways to address the issues of dangerous training practices and how to ensure that the people in the corners are knowledgeable on all facets of a fighter's health and well being, the committee agreed that there should be some sort of certification process for trainers.

Current Practice: The only current requirement for licensure as a trainer (called a second) in a fighter's corner is completing a short application and paying \$50.

Recommendation: To the extent that it is not the intent of the committee to make the certification process of trainers a full-length curriculum, it is our recommendation that the Commission look at establishing a form of test that would be required to be a certified trainer in Nevada. In that same regard, we would suggest that the Commission adopt language that states that only certified trainers are permitted to be in a fighter's corner. Given all we have learned about the grave effects of dehydration and dramatic weight loss, it is envisioned that the test would not only encompass general knowledge of Nevada's regulations, but would also include testing on general nutrition and the effects of dehydration on a fighters capabilities. This test would need to be developed together with educational materials and be offered in both English and Spanish. This would require changes to current regulations to reflect the certification requirement.

Educational Material on Training and Nutrition

Issue: It was agreed that most fighters would not change their training practices unless they felt that the information provided would give them an advantage and demonstrate a positive outcome. By informing trainers and through them, fighters, of the disadvantages and the sometimes grave ramifications of dehydration and other common but dangerous practices, it is the hope of this committee that they will develop better, healthy training methods.

No Current Information or Practice.

Recommendation: As part of the testing for the certification process for trainers, the committee would recommend that the Commission look at developing educational material on the benefits of losing and maintaining weight with proper nutrition and training and that also highlights the dangers of trying to lose too much weight through the denial of food, water and excessive sweating immediately before a bout. This training information could also touch on the basics of what to look for and how to look for indications that a fighter is unable to keep fighting during a bout. The committee recommends that this material also include the definition of electrolytes that is agreed to by the Commission for use in Nevada. These materials would need to be available in both English and Spanish.

Mandatory Reporting Requirement for Licensees Who Observe a Fighter Getting Hurt In Training

Issue: One of the most dangerous and disturbing topics our committee addressed, was how common it is to have fighters get seriously injured during training without it being reported to the Commission. What was most concerning was the fact that in a number of a cases, fighters have been knocked out or "buzzed"/concussed during a training session weeks or even days before a fight without it being reported to the Commission. This factor alone could have a deadly consequence for fighters who are unaware of how severe an injury they sustained. Entering competition just weeks or days after being knocked out or buzzed without undergoing a physical examination is a dangerous if not deadly proposition that should be treated as such by all parties involved in a fighter's training, including trainers, managers, promoters and even gym owners. It was discussed at great length that although the Commission only has jurisdiction over license holders in terms

of accountability in this regard, there should be burden of responsibility through good standing measures placed on all parties aware of a fighter's condition before a fight.

Current Regulation(s):

NAC 467.885.

The Commission may suspend or revoke the license of, otherwise discipline or take any combination of such actions against a licensee who has, in the judgment of the Commission:

- 1. Violated the laws of Nevada, except for minor traffic violations;**
- 2. Violated any provision of this chapter;**
- 3. Provided false or misleading information to the Commission or a representative of the Commission;**
- 4. Failed or refused to comply with a valid order of a representative of the Commission;**
- 5. Conducted himself at any time or place in a manner which is deemed by the Commission to reflect discredit to unarmed combat;**
or
- 6. Knowingly dealt or consorted with any person who:**
 - (a) Has been convicted of a felony;**
 - (b) Engages in illegal bookmaking;**
 - (c) Engages in any illegal gambling activity;**
 - (d) Is a reputed underworld character;**
 - (e) Is under suspension from any other Commission; or**
 - (f) Is engaged in any activity or practice that is detrimental to the best interests of unarmed combat;**

Recommendation: The committee recommends the following amendment to **NAC467.885** to reflect significant consequences for any licensee who fails to report a serious injury of a fighter. This includes any licensee who is aware of a fighter's injury even if the fighter is training or fighting outside of Nevada. The additional language states: ***7. Failed or refused to inform the Commission about a serious injury suffered by an unarmed combatant during training about which the licensee has personal knowledge.***

The intent of this language is to make it mandatory for all licensees to report serious injuries to the Commission. It would then be incumbent upon the Commission or its medical designee, to determine if a fighter can or should be allowed to fight in Nevada, or, if the fighter is training to fight outside of the state, to report the injury to the appropriate governing body where the fighter will be competing.

In addition, the committee would also like to note for the Commission that it came close to making a recommendation that the Commission require gym owners to obtain a privileged license in Nevada so that there would be jurisdiction over the gym owners and significant recourse for not reporting serious injuries to the Commission. However there were a number of variables that the committee felt needed further review and evaluation before such a recommendation could be made including dealing with fighters who train at their homes and those that train out of the country. The Committee would recommend that the Commission look at implementing language that would state that a gym would lose its good standing with the Commission if they do not report serious injury to a fighter before their bout.

Other

There were a few other miscellaneous issues that arose during conversation and debate over possible recommendations to the Commission that would further enhance the proactive measures towards better health and safety for unarmed combatants who compete in the State of Nevada. Following is a listing of these items and the Committee's recommendations:

Medical Research Funding for projects that would directly benefit fighters

Issue: The idea of providing funding to medical research projects that would directly benefit fighters was discussed at length and deemed a beneficial recommendation since the sport has been an economic engine for the State of Nevada and this is a way to give something back to the fighters as a whole.

Current Practice: The Commission currently does not have any funds available for such projects.

Recommendation: The committee recommends that the Commission consider seeking funds from the State Legislature for medical research projects that directly benefit fighters. It would also recommend that the Commission provide written reports on a bi-annual basis to the Legislature on studies it has been a part of funding.

Medical Advisory Board

Issue: Since 2001, the current Medical Advisory Board appointed by the Governor of the State of Nevada, has met approximately seven times. The infrequency of the board's meetings and a seeming lack of response to medical issues facing the sport of boxing, does not allow for any significant medical recommendations or guidance for the Commission. Without this important medical guidance and knowledge, there is not an effective outlet for the Commission to get feedback or insight on potential medical issues related to fights in general or individual competitors specifically.

Current Practice: Currently the board does not meet on a regular basis.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends that the Commission look at dissolving the current Medical Advisory Board as it is constituted now and look at establishing a board of doctors that the Commission would appoint and who would be under their direction. We would recommend that this board meet once a month and have a standing spot on the agenda for all of the Commission meetings to make recommendations to the Commission on ways to further enhance safety measure through the review of the medical and weigh-in data that we recommend be collected and used to benefit the sport. Additionally, the committee would recommend that this board of doctors help the Commission going forward to address medical issues facing the sport and establish policies that are important to maintain the health and safety of unarmed combatants in the State of Nevada.

While we understand that this list of recommendations is not exhaustive, we feel that these first steps are significant in terms of ensuring the health and well being of the fighters who come to compete in Nevada. On behalf of our committee and all of the people who contributed to our efforts, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to be involved in this important process and we request that you give these recommendations due consideration.

Respectfully Submitted:

_____/s/_____
Sig Rogich
Chairman

_____/s/_____
Luther Mack
Member

_____/s/_____
Assemblyman Harvey Munford
Member

_____/s/_____
Dr. Jim Nave
Member

Dr. Charles Ruggero
Member-Deceased

cc: Dr. Tony Alamo
John R. Bailey
Joe W. Brown
TJ Day