



2020-2021 Annual Report

Florida Athletic Commission



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Message from the Secretary

Dear Fellow Floridians:

I am happy to report that Fiscal Year 2020-21 was a successful year for the Florida State Boxing Commission, now known as the Florida Athletic Commission. Revenue and the number of events increased significantly this fiscal year. While health and safety remain the top priority, we continue to focus on attracting new business, increasing revenue and decreasing unnecessary regulation. To that end, the Commission continued efforts to make Florida a more attractive place to do business, including channeling applicants to our online license portal and increasing flexibility in hosting events in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commission sanctioned 100 professional events during the fiscal year, including 66 boxing events, 31 mixed martial arts events, and 3 kickboxing events. This number of events is more than double the prior fiscal year. While other jurisdictions were closed during the pandemic, Florida remained open for business. These events promoted Florida as a destination for future professional events and stimulated local economies.

The increase in the number of events created a corresponding increase in the number of licensees. The Commission issued 2,777 licenses. I am pleased to report the Commission staff has done a spectacular job, and I thank them for their hard work.

Amateur combat sports remain popular in Florida. The Commission is responsible for periodic compliance checks of amateur sanctioning organizations to ensure enforcement of approved health and safety standards and supervision of matches. During Fiscal Year 2020-21, there were 136 amateur events and the Division of Regulation conducted 19 compliance checks on behalf of the Commission.

It is truly an honor to continue improving the combat sports industry in Florida. We have had great success over the past year, and I look forward to building on that and making this year even better!

Sincerely,

Julie I. Brown
Secretary

Mission

License efficiently. Regulate fairly.

Our Vision

We will make DBPR and Florida great places to do business. To that end, we will invest in our employees, treat our licensees as valued customers and partners and uphold laws that protect the public and Florida's competitive marketplace.

Our Values

Accountability

We hold ourselves to the highest standards on behalf of our customers and the public.

Innovation

We foster an environment that encourages everyone to seek ways to make DBPR and Florida great places to do business.

Integrity

We are fair and honest in all we do so our employees and customers trust our decisions.

Ownership

We embrace our responsibility to serve and see things through to resolution.

Responsiveness

We are approachable and empathetic; we provide timely, accurate and consistent information; and we offer alternative solutions when available.

Respect

We treat our employees and customers with fairness and courtesy and appreciate each person's viewpoint.

Teamwork

We understand, rely upon and cultivate the talents of our colleagues and customers to help us reach our goals.



Executive Summary

This report was prepared pursuant to Section 548.005, Florida Statutes. It details the Commission's long-range planning and monitoring process and provides statistics regarding the professions it regulates. This report also includes estimates of the Commission's revenues, expenditures, cash balances and performance statistics for the next five years.

The Commission licenses and regulates professional boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts, and approves amateur boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts sanctioning organizations. Safety is the Commission's top priority. It ensures that all matches are conducted in accordance with provisions of state laws and rules. It also makes certain that health and safety requirements are met and that matches are competitive and physically safe for participants. During Fiscal Year 2020-21, the Commission continued the annual review of rules to ensure the highest levels of safety and to decrease overly burdensome regulation.

Revenue increased over previous years, primarily due to increased tax revenue resulting from the increase in number of events, including major televised events. The Commission sanctioned 100 professional events, which indicates that activity in Florida has increased significantly. The Commission issued 2,777 licenses. There were 136 amateur events in Florida and the Division of Regulation conducted 19 compliance checks on behalf of the Commission.

The Commission continued to achieve the goals established during the previous year. Commission staff continued to conduct orientations for new promoters. In addition, Commission staff continued to conduct post-event audits to ensure the proper licensure of all individuals involved, proper collection of revenue, and verification that medical suspensions were properly reported in the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports national database.

The Commission remains committed to its mission to protect the health and safety of participants, to improve regulatory processes, and to maintain the integrity of combat sports in Florida.

Florida Athletic Commission

The Florida Athletic Commission regulates professional boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts, and approves amateur sanctioning organizations pursuant to Chapter 548, Florida Statutes, and Rule Chapter 61K1, Florida Administrative Code. The Commission’s mission is to provide customer-focused services related to the combat sports industry in Florida in order to protect the health and safety of participants and to maintain its integrity.

In Fiscal Year 2020-21, the Commission was budgeted \$1,191,421¹ and staffed with four full-time employees: Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, Government Analyst and Administrative Assistant. In addition, part-time employees are utilized throughout the state to ensure the health, safety and integrity of Commission-sanctioned matches.

Amateur combat sports continue to be popular in Florida. Amateur sanctioning organizations are licensed to monitor and oversee amateur activities. The Commission is responsible for periodic compliance checks of the approved amateur sanctioning organizations to ensure enforcement of approved health and safety standards and supervision of matches. The Division of Regulation conducts compliance checks on behalf of the Commission. During Fiscal Year 2020-21, there were 136 amateur events and the Division of Regulation conducted 19 compliance checks.

The Commission collects revenue via license fees, event permit fees, fines, and taxation on gross receipts associated with live events. The number of licenses issued during Fiscal Year 2020-21, and the number of boxing, kickboxing and mixed marital arts events over the last five years are depicted below.

License Type	Total
Participant	1,006
Second	879
Trainer	524
Manager	86
Promoter	54
Matchmaker	39
Judge	84
Referee	33
Amateur Sanctioning Organization	33
Ringside Physician	39
Total Licenses	2,777

Professional Events	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Boxing	31	30	31	25	66
Kickboxing	2	0	1	2	3
Mixed Martial Arts	20	26	27	22	31
Total Events	53	56	59	49	100

¹ Includes \$747,746 from the Professional Regulation Trust Fund and \$443,675 in General Revenue.

Long-Range Policy Planning and Monitoring Overview

Section 548.005, Florida Statutes, requires the Commission and Department, where appropriate, to develop and implement a long-range policy planning and monitoring process, including estimates of revenues, expenditures, cash balance and performance statistics for each profession. The period covered shall not be less than five years. The Department is required to monitor compliance with the approved long-range plan and provide concise management reports to the Commission quarterly. Detailed copies of the financial management reports and five-year projections are provided herein.

As part of its long range-plan, the Department shall evaluate:

- Whether the Commission is operating efficiently and effectively, and whether there is need to assist the Commission in ensuring cost-effective regulation.
- How and why combat sports are regulated.
- Whether there is a need to continue regulation and to what degree.
- Whether licensee and consumer protection is adequate and how it may be improved.
- Whether unlicensed activity is adequately enforced.

Efficient and Effective Operations

Section 548.005 (2) (a), Florida Statutes, requires the Department to evaluate whether the Commission is operating efficiently and effectively.

The Florida Athletic Commission regulates 10 professional license types, including amateur boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts sanctioning organizations. The Commission collects revenue via license fees, event permit fees, fines, and taxation on gross receipts associated with live events.

The Commission continued to achieve the goals established during the previous year, which include:

- Commission staff conducted orientations with new promoters. This included explaining health and safety regulations; staffing and officials' needs; and ring and cage set-up requirements. In addition, Commission staff strived to improve the service provided to promoters by conducting a pre-event meeting to address pending issues, as well as a post-event meeting to address the overall event outcome.
- Commission staff conducted post-event audits to ensure the individuals involved were properly licensed; that all medical records were collected; and that medical suspensions were properly processed.
- Investigators received training to ensure they are up to date on the latest safety standards. Training makes Florida's investigators among the most knowledgeable in the industry.
- Commission staff performed timely audits of each post-event tax report filed with the Commission to ensure the proper collection of revenue.

Regulation and Consumer Protection

Section 548.005 (2) (b)-(d), Florida Statutes, requires the Department to evaluate how and why combat sports are regulated; whether there is a need to continue regulation and to what degree; and whether consumer protection is adequate and how it may be improved.

Section 11.62 (2), Florida Statutes, provides that the intent of the Florida Legislature is that no profession or occupation be subject to regulation by the state unless the regulation is necessary to protect the public health, safety or welfare from significant and discernable harm or damage, and that the police power of the state be exercised only to the extent necessary for that purpose. The statute also provides that no profession or occupation be regulated by the state in a manner that unnecessarily restricts entry into the practice of the profession or occupation or adversely affects the availability of the professional or occupational services to the public.

Department regulatory activities are designed to protect the public health, safety and welfare. Regulatory oversight is appropriate to enforce the specific qualifications for each license type, to accept and investigate complaints against licensees, and to provide support to the Commission in rulemaking and disciplinary proceedings. The Department is continuously working to improve customer service and to reduce regulatory barriers while maintaining a high standard of consumer protection.

The Commission works with the Department's Division of Regulation and Office of General Counsel to provide complaint intake, investigation and prosecution of violations of Chapter 548, Florida Statutes. To improve customer service and accountability, the Commission conducted rule workshops to evaluate Rule Chapter 61K1, Florida Administrative Code, in order to obtain input from licensees and to conduct rule review to address the continually evolving national standards of combat sports.

Unlicensed Activity Program

Section 548.005 (2) (e), Florida Statutes, requires the Department to evaluate whether unlicensed activity is adequately enforced. With a duty to protect the health, safety and welfare of Florida citizens and visitors, the Department places great emphasis on unlicensed activity through proactive efforts and investigations.

Officials assigned by the Commission ensure the integrity of sanctioned professional events. The Commission is required by Section 548.017, Florida Statutes, to ensure that all referees, judges, and other officials are Florida-licensed. The Florida Administrative Code sets forth licensing requirements for these officials and specifically notes that no person may act as a referee (61K1-3.012), judge (61K1-3.008) or ring-side physician (61K1-3.004), without first obtaining the appropriate license. A promoter, matchmaker, manager, participant, second and trainer must be licensed as well.

Commission office staff, inspectors, and event coordinators utilize the following processes to curtail unlicensed activity:

- Pre-event audit of Commission records to ensure each referee, judge, ring-side physician, promoter, matchmaker and manager is properly licensed. This includes verification a ring-side physician holds an active medical license that is unencumbered and in good standing.
- Post-event audit of Commission records to ensure each participant, second and trainer was properly licensed prior to the event or submitted a proper license application at the event.
- During professional events, Commission inspectors utilize checklists and wristbands to ensure all individuals in and around a ring, cage and dressing room are licensed.

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
FLORIDA ATHLETIC COMMISSION
OPERATING ACCOUNT
ACTUAL AND PROJECTED REVENUES, EXPENSES
AND CHANGES IN ACCOUNT BALANCE
FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, 2017 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

	Actual					Projected					
	JUNE 30 2017	JUNE 30 2018	JUNE 30 2019	JUNE 30 2020	JUNE 30 2021	JUNE 30 2022	JUNE 30 2023	JUNE 30 2024	JUNE 30 2025	JUNE 30 2026	
REVENUES											
Fees and Charges	\$ 110,284	\$ 80,860	\$ 111,845	\$ 114,405	\$ 216,385	\$ 126,756	\$ 126,756	\$ 126,756	\$ 126,756	\$ 126,756	
Licenses	65,920	63,560	76,990	77,865	119,195	80,706	80,706	80,706	80,706	80,706	
Taxes Post Event	79,574	151,453	273,975	349,709	595,262	289,994	289,994	289,994	289,994	289,994	
Fines	12,979	337	5,343	4,717	13,911	7,457	7,457	7,457	7,457	7,457	
Investment Earnings	1,157	11	654	1,654	855	663	663	367	564	266	
Refund Revenue	905	2,509	115	137	5						
Unassigned	(888)	39,790	15,882	4,927	(41,629)						
Other Revenues	55,418	15,350	7,379	12,290	65,547						
Total Revenues	325,348	353,870	492,183	565,705	989,530	510,483	505,577	505,280	505,478	505,179	
EXPENSES											
Commission Office											
Commission Administrative Office	555,184	555,236	611,326	596,268	745,953	612,793	612,793	612,793	612,793	612,793	
Pending Budget Amendment						44,830	67,244	67,244	67,244	67,244	
Refunds	3,290	17,493	22,089	4,595	3,951						
Service Charge to General Revenue	24,225	38,827	46,628	59,285	59,285	40,839	40,446	40,422	40,438	40,414	
Attorney General	20,390	10,504	13,572	12,875	13,095	14,087	14,087	14,087	14,087	14,087	
Investigations	21,483	37,784	55,021	23,181	22,829	32,059	32,059	32,059	32,059	32,059	
Call Center	2,243	2,173	2,462	1,729	1,631	2,047	2,047	2,047	2,047	2,047	
Central Intake	17,498	17,003	10,994	214	1,422	9,426	9,426	9,426	9,426	9,426	
Bank Charges	454	787	3,458	3,951	6,768	3,084	3,084	3,084	3,084	3,084	
Department Administrative Costs											
Administration	34,993	97,948	55,561	42,755	55,191	57,290	57,290	57,290	57,290	57,290	
General Counsel/Legal	5,862	8,020	6,947	5,784	5,689	6,460	6,460	6,460	6,460	6,460	
Information Technology	30,140	29,390	38,815	17,439	11,615	25,480	25,480	25,480	25,480	25,480	
Total Expenses	715,762	802,588	859,071	755,418	927,428	848,396	870,417	870,393	870,409	870,385	
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	(390,414)	(448,718)	(366,888)	(189,713)	42,102	(337,903)	(364,840)	(365,113)	(364,931)	(365,206)	
TRANSFERS											
Cash Bonds to Promoters											
Total Transfers											
CHANGE IN ACCOUNT BALANCE	(390,414)	(448,718)	(366,888)	(189,713)	42,102	(337,903)	(364,840)	(365,113)	(364,931)	(365,206)	
ACCOUNT BALANCE, Beginning of Period	32,325	146,938	(51,780)	25,007	278,969	321,071	33,168	18,328	28,215	13,284	
Transfer in from General Revenue	326,527	250,000	443,675	443,675	-	50,000	350,000	375,000	350,000	375,000	
Transfer in from General Revenue Non Recurring	178,500										
ACCOUNT BALANCE, End of Period	\$ 146,938	\$ (51,780)	\$ 25,007	\$ 278,969	\$ 321,071	\$ 33,168	\$ 18,328	\$ 28,215	\$ 13,284	\$ 23,078	