

# Combat Sports Authority of Maine

## Agenda

**Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026**

**Location: Westbrook Community Center and virtually via Zoom**

**Chairperson: Steven Wallace**

1. Welcome/Role Call
2. Secretary's Report:
  - a. Approval of minutes of 4 May 2026 Meeting
3. Treasurer's Report:
  - a. Financial Update and Finance Report for Month Ending May 2026
4. Updates from AAG/Complaint Officer (See attached Statements)
5. Old Business/Pending Action Items:
  - a. After Action from NEF 66 Event (Steve, Darcie, John L.)
  - b. Review of Armored MMA Event (for future regulation consideration)
  - c. FYA – Official Business Email
  - d. FYI - Forms Review/Policy Updates and Recommendations
6. New Business
  - a. Initial NEF 67 Fight Card Approval
  - b. FYI – “Sparwars” events
7. Comments from Board/Public
8. Next regularly scheduled meeting: July 6, 2026 (of special note, elections of officers will be held at this meeting)
9. Adjourn

## **CSAM Meeting Summary (Plain Language)**

**Meeting Date:** May 2026 (based on transcript)

**Meeting Called to Order:** 5:01 PM

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:27 PM

### **Attendance**

A quorum was present. Commissioners in attendance were Steve Wallace, Darcy, John P., and John Levitt. Guests included Kevin MacDonald and Malinda McKinnon. The Assistant Attorney General (AAG) also attended portions of the meeting.

### **Key Discussion: Kevin MacDonald (Referee and Regional Official)**

Kevin MacDonald joined the meeting to provide feedback and answer questions regarding MMA officiating and regulation.

### **Main Points Raised**

- Maine's published MMA rules contain several outdated provisions and inconsistencies when compared to current ABC Unified Rules.
- Some online regulations contradict one another and should be updated.
- Kevin recommended reviewing and modernizing the rulebook to align with current national standards.
- He encouraged allowing officials to hold multiple certifications (judge, referee, etc.) to provide flexibility when staffing events.
- He emphasized that fighter safety is the primary concern, while competitiveness is often best managed by promoters and matchmakers.

### **Discussion on Fight Approval Standards**

Commissioners discussed:

- The Commission's responsibility to protect the integrity of combat sports in Maine.
- Concerns regarding fighters entering MMA competition without training at a dedicated MMA gym.
- The distinction between fighter safety, competitive fairness, and the Commission's regulatory role.

No specific fights were identified as having been improperly rejected in the past.

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### **Secretary's Report**

The Commission approved minutes from:

- April 6 meeting
- April 20 special meeting

The minutes will be posted publicly.

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## **Treasurer's Report**

### **Financial Status**

Current balances reported:

- Business Checking: approximately **\$14,605**
- Business Shares: approximately **\$7,124**
- Total Assets: approximately **\$21,729**

Additional notes:

- A new Commission laptop was purchased for approximately **\$724**, below the amount
- Based on current projections and expected events, the Commission appears financially stable and capable of meeting its obligations for the remainder of the year.

The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

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## **AAG Report**

### **Complaint Matters**

The AAG reported that complaint reviews had been completed and related correspondence would be mailed.

### **Rulemaking Update**

- The revised Muay Thai rules completed the required review process.
- The Commission conducted a formal adoption vote.
- Following approval, the rules will move through final state review and filing before becoming official.

### **Public Meeting Recording Guidance**

The AAG discussed best practices for recording public meetings:

- Use consistent equipment and setup.
- Minimize disruptions during meetings.
- Ensure recordings are conducted professionally and consistently.
- Members of the public remain free to record meetings.

The Chair noted that Commission meetings are now being recorded and transcribed through the Commission's Zoom account.

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## **Muay Thai Rules Adoption**

The Commission unanimously voted to formally adopt the revised Muay Thai rules and advance them for state filing.

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## **NEF 66 Event Review**

### **Event Status**

- The card currently consists of 10 bouts.
- Several previously approved fights had been removed from the card.
- Three new amateur bouts required Commission review and approval.

### **Fighter Review Process**

Commissioners discussed:

- Fighter experience and training backgrounds.
- Gym affiliations and coaching support.
- Amateur records and medical clearances.
- Whether independent fighters without formal gym representation should raise concern.

The Commission reviewed each bout individually and voted on approvals. Discussion focused heavily on fighter preparedness and safety.

The NEF fight card was ultimately approved.

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### **Commission Operations Discussion**

Toward the end of the meeting, commissioners discussed:

- Roles and responsibilities during events.
- The Chair's authority to assign duties and ensure operational tasks are completed.
- The need for better organization, written procedures, and accountability.
- Ensuring commissioners understand their responsibilities before events rather than improvising on fight night.

There was general agreement that responsibilities should be discussed in advance and clearly assigned.

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### **Action Items**

1. Follow up with Kevin MacDonald for assistance during rule revisions.
  2. Finalize and file adopted Muay Thai rules with the State.
  3. Continue using Zoom recording and transcription for Commission meetings.
  4. Develop clearer event-day task assignments and operational procedures for commissioners.
- 

### **Adjournment & Next Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 pm. The next meeting will be June 1, 2026.

## **Treasurer's Report**

**To:** Combat Sports Authority of Maine  
**From:** CSAM Treasurer  
**cc:** Chairperson, CSAM  
**Date:** June 7, 2026  
**Re:** Treasurer's Report for Month Ending May 2026

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The following information regarding the finances of the Combat Sports Authority of Maine is provided:

- a. Account Balances at Month's End:
  - Standard Business Checking: \$13,290.05
  - Standard Business Shares: \$7,271.52
  - Account Totals before AP/AR reconciliation: \$20,561.57
- b. Pending Accounts Payable: Paid but have not cleared bank: \$120.00
- c. Pending Accounts Receivable: NEF 66 payments
- d. Reconciled Month End Account Totals after accounting for known AP and AR: TBD
- e. Pending concerns/issue from last meeting: None

Respectfully Submitted,

John Leavitt, CSAM Treasurer

Attachments:

(1) May 2026 Bank Statement

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TO

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PO BOX 741  
LEWISTON, ME 04243-0741  
(207) 784-5435



**DIRIGO**

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
dirigofcu.com

ACCOUNT NUMBER  
60026412

STATEMENT PERIOD  
05/01/26 05/31/26

Page 1

COMBAT SPORTS AUTHORITY OF MAINE  
PO BOX 10525  
PORTLAND ME 04104

Did you know your savings could be earning more? A Dirigo FCU Money Market Account offers competitive dividend rates while keeping your money local and supporting the communities we call home.

Posting Date	ID # / Eff. Date	Transaction Description	Payment Credits or Debits	Interest Charge	Fees or Charges	Transaction Amount	Balance Subject to Interest Rate*
05/01	ID 00	<b>BUSINESS SHARE Previous Balance</b>					<b>7124.43</b>
		Authorized Signers: CHRISTOPHER M GUILD STEVEN W WALLACE					
05/01		Deposit ACH Square Inc				28.83	7153.26
		TYPE: SQ260501 CO: Square Inc					
05/05		Deposit ACH Square Inc				57.66	7210.92
		TYPE: SQ260505 CO: Square Inc					
05/07		Deposit ACH Square Inc				259.47	7470.39
		TYPE: SQ260507 CO: Square Inc					
05/08		Deposit ACH Square Inc				86.49	7556.88
		TYPE: SQ260508 CO: Square Inc					
05/11		Deposit ACH Square Inc				28.83	7585.71
		TYPE: SQ260511 CO: Square Inc					
05/11		Deposit ACH Square Inc				28.83	7614.54
		TYPE: SQ260511 CO: Square Inc					
05/13		Deposit ACH Square Inc				57.66	7672.20
		TYPE: SQ260513 CO: Square Inc					
05/14		Deposit ACH Square Inc				86.49	7758.69
		TYPE: SQ260514 CO: Square Inc					
05/15		Deposit ACH Square Inc				172.98	7931.67
		TYPE: SQ260515 CO: Square Inc					
05/15		Withdrawal				-950.00	6981.67
		Cash Disbursed 950.00					
05/18		Deposit ACH Square Inc				86.49	7068.16
		TYPE: SQ260518 CO: Square Inc					
05/18		Deposit ACH Square Inc				201.81	7269.97
		TYPE: SQ260518 CO: Square Inc					
05/31		Deposit Dividend 0.250%				1.55	7271.52
		Annual Percentage Yield Earned 0.25% from 05/01/26 through 05/31/26					
		Based on Average Daily Balance of 7,308.40					
05/31		New Balance					7271.52
		Dividends Earned Year to Date 7.16					
05/01	ID 71	<b>STANDARD BUSINESS CHECKING Previous Balance</b>					<b>14604.57</b>
		Authorized Signers: STEVEN W WALLACE CHRISTOPHER M GUILD					
05/01		Recurring Withdrawal Debit Card				-76.80	14527.77
		VZWRLSS*APOCC VI 899 HEATHROW PARK L LAKE					
		MARY FL					
		Date 05/01/26 588329 4814					
05/03		Recurring Withdrawal Debit Card				-11.95	14515.82
		CCSI METROFAX 700 S FLOWER ST 15T LOS					
		ANGELES CA					
		Date 05/02/26 636263 5968					
05/04		Deposit ACH GOOGLE				0.07	14515.89
		TYPE: ACCTVERIFY CO: GOOGLE					
05/05		Draft 618 - Computer				-724.47	13791.42
05/13		Draft 614 - ABC DUES				-205.00	13586.42
05/15		Deposit by Check				100.00	13686.42
05/16		Withdrawal POS #015982				-24.31	13662.11
		POS STAPLES 0307 DEB 855 LISBON ST					
		LEWISTON ME					

INSPECTION  
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ACCOUNT NUMBER  
 60026412

STATEMENT PERIOD  
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 PO BOX 10525  
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Did you know your savings could be earning more? A Dirigo FCU Money Market Account offers competitive dividend rates while keeping your money local and supporting the communities we call home.

Posting Date	ID # / Eff. Date	Transaction Description	Payment Credits or Debits	Interest Charge	Fees or Charges	Transaction Amount	Balance Subject to Interest Rate*
05/26		Draft 620				-151.25	13510.86
05/27		Recurring Withdrawal Debit Card				-144.00	13366.86
05/31		05/26 924182 4816 IONOS INC 701 Lee Road CHESTERBROOK PA				-76.81	13290.05
		Recurring Withdrawal Debit Card					
		VZWLSS*APOCC VI 899 HEATHROW PARK L LAKE MARY FL					
		Date 05/31/26 213403 4814					
05/31		New Balance					13290.05
		Dividends Earned Year to Date	0.00				
Drafts Cleared							
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	
	614	205.00	618*	724.47	620*	151.25	
* Asterisk next to number indicates skip in number sequence							
3 Drafts Cleared for 1,080.72							
Total Dividends Earned Year to Date						7.16	

Account Balance Summary

Total Shares	Balance	Total Loans	Balance
BUSINESS SHARE	7271.52		
STANDARD BUSINESS CHECKING	13290.05		
	-----		
	20561.57		

# NEF

## NEF 67: Brawl At Town Hall

Saturday, July 11, 2026  
Doors 6:00 PM · First Fight 7:00 PM  
Rumford Falls Auditorium · Rumford, ME

HYBRID

### MAIN EVENT CHAMPIONSHIP



**Hussin Al-Saadi**  
MMA 5-2 · Choi Institute

vs



**Ryan Burgess**  
MMA 3-3 · Team Lawton

Bout #13 · Amateur MMA · 125 lbs · 5x3

### CO-MAIN EVENT CHAMPIONSHIP



**Sean Wakefield**  
MMA 7-4 · Evolution Athletix

vs



**Preston LaPointe**  
MMA 4-1 · Fight Lab by Lee Brothers

Bout #12 · Amateur MMA · 170 lbs · 5x3



**Ezra Butler**  
MMA 5-2 · Fight Lab by Lee Brothers

vs



**Eric Checinski**  
MMA 2-1 · American Top Team

Bout #11 · Amateur MMA · 155 lbs · 3x3



**Hannon Sanford**  
MMA 2-5 · CMBJJ

vs



**Adam Johnson**  
MMA 0-0 · Fight Lab by Lee Brothers

Bout #10 · Amateur MMA · 155 lbs · 3x3



vs



**Preston Garland**

MMA 1-0 · Kingsguard BJJ/ME Freestyle Wrestling

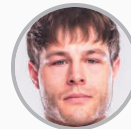
**Julian Menjivar**

MMA 2-2 · Karasu Tengu Academy

Bout #9 · Amateur MMA · 115 lbs · 3x3



vs



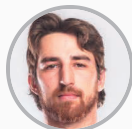
**Zakariya Mohamud**

MMA 0-1 · Choi Institute

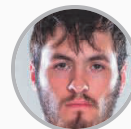
**Tyler Campbell**

MMA 0-0 · All Day Martial Arts

Bout #8 · Amateur MMA · 155 lbs · 3x3



vs



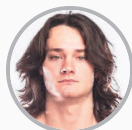
**Bryce Whittemore**

MMA 0-0-0 · Dirigo Wrestling

**Avry Jones**

MMA 1-0 · Black Bear BJJ & Fitness

Bout #7 · Amateur MMA · 165 lbs · 3x3



vs



**Sam Charles**

MMA 1-0 · First Class MMA/Choi Institute

**Ben Rogers**

MMA 1-1 · The Academy

Bout #6 · Amateur MMA · 155 lbs · 3x3



vs



**Qasim Abdullah**

KB 0-1 · Choi Institute

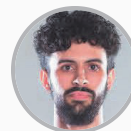
**Colby McCutcheon**

KB 0-2 · Karasu Tengu Academy

Bout #5 · Amateur Kickboxing · 145 lbs · 3x2



vs



**Juan Zambrano**

KB 0-0 · First Class MMA

**Richard Clark**

KB 2-5-1 · CMBJJ

Bout #4 · Amateur Kickboxing · 135 lbs · 3x2



**William Lagasse**

KB 0-1 · Sarro's Boxing Club

vs



**Joseph Lawrence**

KB 0-0 · New England Top Team

Bout #3 · Amateur Kickboxing · 145 lbs · 3x2



**Tyler Murray**

MMA 0-0-0 · GRCC

vs



**Corey O'Reilly**

MMA 0-0-0 · Karasu Tengu Academy

Bout #2 · Amateur Kickboxing · 185 lbs · 3x2



**Rudy Lopez**

KB 0-1 · Choi Institute

vs



**Caden Carlil**

KB 0-0 · Highlander MMA

Bout #1 · Amateur Kickboxing · 145 lbs · 3x2

Card subject to change · New England Fights



Chris Sarro

May 6 · 🎧 No Church In The Wild (feat. Frank Ocean, The-Dream) · JAY-Z Kanye West · 🌐

### Spar Wars III at Sarro Boxing Academy this Saturday

👉 Titles are generated by AI from Meta

This Saturday... SPAR WARS III returns to Sarro Boxing Academy 🥊🔥

A night of high-level combat fun featuring some of the toughest and most dedicated talent around, headlined by AJ Grant and veteran PRO mixed martial artist Ed Davis.

10 matchups.

All local athletes.

Real energy. Real pressure. Real atmosphere.

Doors open at 5 PM

Sparring begins at 6 PM:

- 📍 180 Abram Way, Ellsworth
- 🆓 FREE ENTRY
- ❤️ Donations appreciated

This is about sharpening skills, testing composure, and bringing the community together through the sport we love. Come experience the atmosphere live. [#SparWars](#) [#MaineBoxing](#) [#ControlledSparring](#) [#SarroBoxingAcademy](#) [#EllsworthMaine](#)

**SARRO BOXING ACADEMY PRESENTS**

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# SPAR WARS 3

**THIS SATURDAY!**

**AJ GRANT VS ED DAVIS**

**MAY 9TH** **DOORS OPEN 5:00PM** **FIGHTS START 6:00PM**

**10 FIGHTS ON THE CARD** **ALL LOCAL FIGHTERS** **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FREE ENTRY**



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🔥 This Saturday at SARRO BOXING ACADEMY! 🔥

Join us for our open house "SPAR WARS", featuring dedicated local boxers stepping into the ring to test their skills in controlled, technical bouts.

We're opening the doors to the community so you can see the hard work, discipline, and heart that goes into real boxing training. Six action-packed rounds of high-level ring IQ, teamwork, and growth — all happening right here.

📅 Saturday

📍 SARRO BOXING ACADEMY 180 Abram way Ellsworth

🕒 doors open 4pm matches start 5pm



December 2, 2025

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# Sparring Event Risk Alert

**Issue:** Some “sparring” events are being marketed, streamed, ticketed, or used as tryouts. Once that happens, they can stop looking like private gym training and start looking like an **unsanctioned exhibition or combat sports event**.

## Why this matters

A 2025 Brooklyn “Sparring Club” event reportedly raised major safety concerns: no effective referee control, questionable medical supervision, mismatched participants, a knockout, and lack of immediate medical care. The event was described as crossing the line from sparring into an unregulated spectacle.

New York’s rules are a useful comparison point: no person may arrange, promote, organize, produce, or hold a professional boxing or MMA **match or exhibition** unless participants and officials are licensed by the commission.

## CSAM concern

Maine should watch for events advertised as:

- “Sparring night”
- “Open sparring showcase”
- “Fight team tryout”
- “Hard sparring event”
- “Smoker”
- “Exhibition bouts”
- “Influencer sparring”
- “Gym vs. gym sparring”
- Ticketed or streamed “sparring”

## Suggested CSAM position

Private, controlled gym sparring is training. But once sparring is **publicly promoted, matched, ticketed, streamed, judged, awarded, or conducted before spectators**, CSAM should consider whether it is really an exhibition or unlicensed combat sports event.

## Recommended action

Add “**public sparring/smoker events**” as a standing category in the national intelligence scan.

Risk level: **High**

Reason: unclear jurisdiction, poor medical controls, mismatches, knockouts, and later liability exposure.

Are there any other commissions, or the ABC, that are looking at this type of event more closely? Is it a problem?

The short answer is **yes, several commissions are paying much closer attention to these events, and yes, many regulators view them as a growing problem.**

What is interesting is that regulators are increasingly saying:

"We don't care what you call it. If people are striking each other under organized conditions, it may fall under commission jurisdiction."

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## What I'm seeing nationally

### Utah is the most aggressive commission right now

In February 2026, the Pete Suazo Utah Athletic Commission issued a formal enforcement notice specifically targeting:

- Smokers
- Sparring events
- Semi-contact events
- Limited-contact bouts

The commission stated that organized contests involving striking or submission attempts may constitute regulated "unarmed combat" regardless of how promoters label the activity. Utah also announced that fighters competing in unsanctioned events may face licensing consequences and additional medical requirements before returning to sanctioned competition.

From a commissioner's perspective, that is a major development.

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### California has made "illegal smokers" a reporting category

The California State Athletic Commission website specifically includes a mechanism to report illegal "smoker" events. That alone tells you California considers the issue significant enough to dedicate enforcement attention to it.

California's concern appears less about ordinary gym sparring and more about:

- Public events
- Organized matchmaking
- Ticketed events

- Unsanctioned exhibitions
  - Events lacking medical oversight
- 

## **Kansas is regulating smokers rather than ignoring them**

The Kansas Athletic Commission published procedures specifically addressing smoker events.

Kansas law defines regulated sports broadly enough to include sparring conducted as practice or exhibition and states that the commission has begun further regulation of smoker events for fighter safety.

This is notable because Kansas did not simply prohibit them—it acknowledged they exist and decided to regulate them.

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## **Arizona has publicly warned against unsanctioned events**

The Arizona Department of Gaming issued a public warning in 2025 urging participants and licensees to avoid unregulated combat sports activities.

That suggests commissions are increasingly worried about liability and participant safety outside sanctioned events.

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## **Is the ABC looking at it?**

I have not found an ABC policy specifically targeting smokers or sparring events.

However, the ABC consistently emphasizes:

- Licensed events
- Medical oversight
- Official supervision
- Recognition of suspensions
- Uniform regulation

The ABC's historical position has generally been that combat sports should occur under recognized regulatory structures rather than in informal environments.

I would not characterize the ABC as leading the charge on smokers at this point. Instead, individual commissions appear to be driving the issue.

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## Why commissions are becoming concerned

Historically, a smoker was:

- Closed gym environment
- Known participants
- Experienced coaches
- Little or no public attendance
- Controlled training exercise

The new generation of events looks different.

The Brooklyn "Sparring Club" event that drew national attention was:

- Publicly promoted
- Streamed online
- Attended by spectators
- Used for athlete exposure
- Involved serious mismatches
- Resulted in a reported concussion

The criticism wasn't that people were sparring.

The criticism was that the event looked increasingly like a fight card while avoiding the requirements imposed on a fight card.

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## If I were briefing CSAM

I'd assign this:

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>
Private gym sparring	Low
Inter-gym training day	Low-Moderate
Organized smoker	Moderate
Ticketed smoker	High
Streamed smoker	High
Public "sparring showcase"	High
Influencer sparring event	High
Sparring event with matchmaking and spectators	Very High

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## What concerns me most as a regulator

Not the legality.

Not the licensing.

The biggest concern is **medical bypass**.

A fighter who would never be approved by a commission because of:

- Recent knockout
- Medical suspension
- Lack of experience
- Poor matchmaking history
- Missing medicals

may still be able to participate in a smoker or "sparring event."

That is exactly the type of circumstance that tends to produce catastrophic injuries and, later, lawsuits.

Based on what I'm seeing nationally, I think this issue is where weight-cutting was about 15 years ago: a growing concern that a handful of commissions are starting to address aggressively, and one that could become a major ABC conference topic within the next few years.