

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- Maine's published MMA rules contain several outdated provisions and inconsistencies when compared to current ABC Unified Rules.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.

Secretary's Report

The Commission approved minutes from:

- April 6 meeting
- April 20 special meeting

The minutes will be posted publicly.

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.

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.

Muay Thai Rules Adoption

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

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.

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.

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.
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Adjournment & Next Meeting

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