



2023 - 2024

ANNUAL REPORT

"Protect and Serve Combative Sports"

Table of Contents

Title	Page
DBPR Information	
• Message from the Secretary	2
• Executive Summary	3
• Florida Athletic Commission Overview	4
Long-Range Policy Planning and Monitoring	
• Overview	5
• Efficient and Effective Operations	6
• Regulation and Consumer Protection	7
• Unlicensed Activity Program	8
• Actual and Projected Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Account Balance Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2020, through June 30, 2029	9

Message from the Secretary

Dear Fellow Floridians:

I am happy to report that Fiscal Year 2023-2024 was a successful year for the Florida Athletic Commission. The Commission successfully sanctioned hundreds of professional combative sports events throughout the state during this period while increasing revenue over the previous 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 maintaining a flexible and business-friendly approach to hosting combative sports events.

The Commission sanctioned 119 professional events during the fiscal year, including 76 boxing events, 2 kickboxing events and 41 mixed martial arts events. The Commission also issued 2,940 licenses. I am pleased to report the Commission staff has done a spectacular job, and I thank them for their hard work.

The Commission is also 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 2023-2024, there were 111 amateur events, and the Division of Regulation conducted 19 compliance checks on behalf of the Commission.

It is truly an honor to continue improving and expanding the combative sports industry in Florida. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 was an overwhelming success for the Florida Athletic Commission, and I look forward to building on that success in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Melanie S. Griffin
Secretary

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 2023-24, 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 major events. The Commission sanctioned 119 professional events, a slight decrease in comparison to the prior fiscal year due to two active promoters temporarily ceasing operations. The Commission issued 2,940 licenses. There were 111 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 Chapter 61K1, Florida Administrative Code. The Commission’s mission is to provide customer-focused services related to the combat sports industry in Florida to protect the health and safety of participants and to maintain its integrity.

In Fiscal Year 2023-24, the Commission was budgeted \$1,645,931¹ and staffed with seven full-time employees: Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, Senior Management Analyst, Government Analyst II, Government Analyst I and two Administrative Assistant II’s. 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 2023-24, there were 111 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 2023-24, and the number of boxing, kickboxing and mixed marital arts events over the last five years are depicted below.

License Type	Total
Participant	1,020
Second	1,119
Trainer	422
Manager	86
Promoter	46
Matchmaker	36
Judge	87
Referee	37
Ringside Physician	42
Amateur Sanctioning Organization	45
Total Licenses	2,940

Professional Events	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Boxing	22	66	60	60	76
Kickboxing	2	3	0	0	2
Mixed Martial Arts	25	31	71	61	41
Total Events	49	100	131	121	119

¹ Includes \$1,424,094 from the Professional Regulation Trust Fund and \$221,837 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, all medical records were collected, and 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.

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 (Rule 61K1-3.012, F.A.C.), judge (Rule 61K1-3.008, F.A.C.) or ringside physician (Rule 61K1-3.004, F.A.C.) 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, ringside physician, promoter, matchmaker and manager is properly licensed. This includes verification a ringside 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, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2029

	Actual										Projected				
	JUNE 30 2020	JUNE 30 2021	JUNE 30 2022	JUNE 30 2023	JUNE 30 2024	JUNE 30 2025	JUNE 30 2026	JUNE 30 2027	JUNE 30 2028	JUNE 30 2029					
REVENUES															
Fee and Charges	\$ 114,405	\$ 216,385	\$ 246,790	\$ 238,910	\$ 231,720	\$ 209,642	\$ 228,689	\$ 231,150	\$ 228,022	\$ 225,945					
License	77,865	118,185	141,445	130,790	131,170	120,093	128,598	130,407	128,200	127,682					
Port Event Taxes	349,709	695,282	1,377,083	1,600,249	1,459,564	1,076,393	1,221,730	1,347,024	1,341,012	1,289,145					
Fines	4,717	13,911	11,189	14,885	3,966	7,095	7,095	7,095	7,095	7,095					
Investment Interest	1,654	855	394	896	1,723	2,790	7,952	22,838	28,755	31,583					
Refund Revenue	137	5	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-					
Unassigned	4,927	(41,829)	298	3,876	185	-	-	-	-	-					
Other Revenues	12,290	65,547	21,580	48,471	18,710	-	-	-	-	-					
Total Revenues	655,705	968,530	1,798,759	2,038,158	1,947,078	1,418,013	1,584,005	1,738,513	1,731,084	1,581,348					
EXPENSES															
Commission Office	696,268	745,953	938,531	950,288	1,082,290	882,866	916,188	950,232	952,372	952,789					
Refunds	4,595	3,951	5,947	21,750	1,820	1,820	-	-	-	-					
Service Charge to General Revenue	48,628	59,285	161,318	166,294	156,352	113,281	127,520	139,081	138,487	134,508					
Attorney General	12,875	13,085	21,959	12,585	9,795	14,082	14,299	14,540	13,056	13,150					
Investigations	23,181	22,829	75,844	61,808	1,209	38,975	39,733	43,114	38,588	31,520					
Call Center	214	1,631	802	1,178	1,711	1,410	1,946	1,280	1,387	1,428					
Central Intake	3,951	1,422	1,553	7,856	1,681	1,286	1,477	1,488	1,475	1,477					
Bank Charges		6,788	7,152		6,888		7,489		7,701	7,670					
Department Administrative Costs															
Administration	42,755	55,181	80,777	58,457	71,829	61,822	65,895	87,724	65,113	66,445					
General Counsel/Legal	5,784	5,689	11,478	9,722	4,957	7,528	7,874	8,311	7,878	7,289					
Information Technology	17,439	11,615	18,308	20,566	32,477	20,039	20,599	22,348	23,156	23,716					
Total Expenses	755,418	927,428	1,324,667	1,311,757	1,372,909	1,128,129	1,202,099	1,255,737	1,248,993	1,239,973					
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	(189,713)	42,102	474,092	724,400	474,188	289,884	391,906	482,776	484,081	441,376					
TRANSFERS															
Grant Bonds to Promoters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Total Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
CHANGE IN ACCOUNT BALANCE	(189,713)	42,102	474,092	724,400	474,188	289,884	391,906	482,776	484,081	441,376					
ACCOUNT BALANCE, Beginning of Period	25,007	278,989	321,070	795,181	1,519,592	1,993,730	2,283,614	2,675,520	3,158,296	3,642,387					
Transfer in from General Revenue															
Transfer in from General Revenue Non Recurring															
ACCOUNT BALANCE, End of Period	278,989	321,070	795,181	1,519,592	1,993,730	2,283,614	2,675,520	3,158,296	3,642,387	4,083,763					