

Pursuant to NRS 467.070, the **Nevada Athletic Commission has the sole direction, management, control and jurisdiction over all contests or exhibitions of unarmed combat to be conducted, held or given within the State of Nevada.**

Unarmed combat includes boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts. Amateur contests or exhibitions of unarmed combat conducted by or participated in exclusively by any school, college or university, when each participant in the contests or exhibitions is a bona fide student in the school, college or university are exempted from the jurisdiction of the Athletic Commission. With regard to all unarmed combat within the jurisdiction of the commission, the commission licenses all of the participants, including the contestants (boxers, kickboxers and mixed martial artists), the ring officials (referees, judges, timekeepers and ringside physicians), the promoters, the seconds, managers, trainers, matchmakers and ring announcers. Pursuant to the commission's mission statement, the commission administers the state laws and regulations governing unarmed combat for the protection of the public and to ensure the health and safety of the contestants.



# We Have All Heard of Athletic Commission, What is the Jurisdiction

## Filing an Application for Licensure with the Nevada Athletic Commission

An application for a license constitutes a request for a determination of the applicant's general suitability, character, integrity and ability to participate or engage in, or be associated with, contests or exhibitions of unarmed combat. The burden of proof is on the

applicant to establish to the satisfaction of the commission that the applicant is qualified to receive a license. By filing an application with the commission, an applicant accepts the risk of adverse public notice, embarrassment, criticism, financial loss or other action with respect to the application, and expressly waives any claim for damages as a result thereof. Any written or oral statement



made by any member of the commission or any witness testifying under oath that is relevant to the application and investigation of the applicant is absolutely privileged and does not impose liability for defamation or constitute a ground for recovery in a civil action. NRS 467.100(3).

Applicants must submit complete sets of their fingerprints to the commission along with their applications; the commission may forward these prints to the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its report. After an application has been submitted to the commission, the application may not be withdrawn unless the commission consents to its withdrawal. Before issuing a license, the applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the commission an understanding of the commission's drug testing program, including, without limitation, an understanding of anti-doping violations and the penalties for those violations set forth in the Nevada Administrative Code. NAC 467.012(6).

- b. Participates in any sham or fake contest or exhibition of unarmed combat;
- c. Participates in a contest or exhibition of unarmed combat pursuant to a collusive understanding or agreement in which the contestant competes in or terminates the contest or exhibition in a manner that is not based upon honest competition or the honest exhibition of the skill of the contestant;
- d. Is guilty of a failure to give his or her best efforts, a failure to compete honestly, or a failure to give an honest exhibition of his or her skills in a contest or exhibition of unarmed combat;
- e. Is guilty of an act or conduct that is detrimental to a contest or exhibition of unarmed combat, including but not limited to, any foul or unsportsmanlike conduct in connection with a contest or exhibition of unarmed combat; or
- f. Fails to comply with any limitation, restriction or condition placed on his or her license.

Pursuant to NAC 467.885, the Nevada Athletic Commission may suspend or revoke the license, approval, registration or sanctioning of; impose a ban on participation in unarmed combat in this state for a certain period against; otherwise discipline; or take any combination of such actions against a person licensed, approved, registered or sanctioned by the commission or otherwise associated with unarmed combat in this state who has, in the judgment of the commission:

- a. Violated the laws of Nevada or the U.S., except for minor traffic violations;
- b. Violated any provision of Chapter 467 of the Nevada Administrative Code regulating unarmed combat;
  - c. Provided false or misleading information to the Nevada Athletic Commission or a representative of the commission;
  - d. Failed or refused to comply with a valid request of a representative of the Nevada Athletic Commission;
- e. Engaged in conduct, at any time or place, that is deemed by the commission to reflect negatively upon the reputation of the state of Nevada, the commission or unarmed combat;
- f. Knowingly dealt or consorted with any person who has been convicted of a felony, engages or has engaged in illegal bookmaking, engages or has engaged in any illegal gambling activity, is or has been a "reputed underworld character," is or has been under suspension from any other commission, or is engaged or has engaged in any activity or practice that is detrimental to the best interests of this state, the commission or unarmed combat; or

# the Nevada but Extent of its ?

BY SCOTT G. WASSERMAN, ESQ.

## Revocation or Refusal by Commission to Issue a License, Registration or Sanction

Pursuant to NRS 467.110, the Nevada Athletic Commission may refuse to issue a license to an applicant, or suspend or revoke the license of, otherwise discipline or take any combination of such actions against any contestant, promoter, ring official or other participant who, in the judgment of the commission:

- a. Enters into a contract for a contest or exhibition of unarmed combat in bad faith;

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# What is the Extent of its Jurisdiction?



UFC 90 at Greater Nevada Field

the commission shall not have any dealings related to unarmed combat with any person whose license, approval, registration or sanctioning has been suspended or revoked by the commission. NAC 467.890. Also, if any person who is licensed, approved, registered or sanctioned by the commission, or otherwise associated with unarmed combat in this state, is approached with a request or suggestion that a contest or exhibition not be conducted honestly, that person must immediately report the matter to the commission. Failure to do so is a ground for disciplinary action. NAC 467.875.

## Consequences of a Suspended or Revoked License, Registration or Sanction

A person whose license, approval, registration, or sanctioning has been suspended or revoked is barred from:

- g. Had knowledge, or in the judgment of the commission, should have had knowledge that an unarmed combatant suffered a serious injury during training for a contest or exhibition and failed or refused to inform the commission about that serious injury.

A license, approval, registration or sanctioning issued by the commission may also be suspended if the holder is convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude. NAC 467.887.

## Prohibited Conduct of Persons Licensed, Registered or Sanctioned by the Commission

A person who is licensed, approved, registered or sanctioned by

- a. The dressing rooms at the premises where any program of unarmed combat is being held;
- b. Occupying any seat, approaching within six rows of the ring platform or, if the program is being held in a fenced area, within six rows of the platform of the fenced area; and
- c. Communicating in the arena or near the dressing rooms with any of the principals in the contests or exhibitions, their managers, their seconds or the referee, whether directly or by a messenger, during any program of unarmed combat. NAC 467.895(3).

## Regulation of all Aspects of Unarmed Combat

In addition to the licensing of all participants in unarmed combat, the Nevada Athletic Commission regulates all other aspects of the unarmed combat, from the provision of ambulances, medical personnel and emergency equipment; to the ring or cage requirements for boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts; the duration of the bouts; the weight of unarmed combatants; requirements for gloves used in unarmed combat; proper attire; method of judging; the bandages for the hands of unarmed combatants; and even the requirements of the bell (or gong) and the equipment of the timekeeper. (See, NAC 467.412 through 467.452.)



The Nevada Athletic Commission's website notes that for all championship bouts and special events, the commission must approve the contest, and must assign the judges and referee to work the contest. In all other contests or exhibitions, the executive director of the commission is responsible for assigning the judges and referee, approving each bout, ensuring that a contestant is not on suspension status in Nevada or another jurisdiction and determining that a contestant is not being mismatched with a superior opponent. Finally, the commission's duties also include ruling in disciplinary cases, arbitrating disputes between boxers or mixed martial artists and managers, and promulgating regulations to implement and enforce the provision of Chapter 467 of NRS governing unarmed combat. (See, Nevada Athletic Commission's website at: <http://boxing.nv.gov/about/Commission/>.) **NL**

SCOTT WASSERMAN's biography can be found on page 33.

