

BOXING, MARTIAL ARTS, AND PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.
2nd Floor – Board Room 3

Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
9960 Mayland Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23233

Mission: Our mission is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public by licensing qualified individuals and businesses enforcing standards of professional conduct for professions and occupations as designated by statute.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Emergency Evacuation Procedures
- b. Determination of Quorum

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. BMAW Advisory Board Meeting, April 9, 2026

IV. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ***FIVE MINUTE PUBLIC COMMENT, PER PERSON***

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Regulatory Update
 - i. General Review of Virginia Professional Boxing and Wrestling Events Regulations
- b. 38th Annual Association of Boxing Commissions Conference Update
- c. Transgender Update
- d. Armored MMA
- e. Monthly Financial Statement
- f. New Board Member Training Conference - October 22-23, 2026
- g. 2027 Meeting Dates

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. 2026 Event Update
- b. Licensed Population
- c. Board Member Training

VIII. COMPLETE CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM AND TRAVEL VOUCHER.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2026, at 1 PM**

- ❖ Agenda materials made available to the public do not include disciplinary case files or application files pursuant to §54.1-108 of the Code of Virginia.
- ❖ Five minute public comment, per person, with the exception of any open disciplinary or application file.
- ❖ Persons desiring to participate in the meeting and requiring special accommodations or interpretative services should contact the Department at (804) 367-2785 at least ten days prior to the meeting so that suitable arrangements can be made for an appropriate accommodation. The Department fully complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

BOXING, MARTIAL ARTS, AND
PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Boxing, Martial Arts, and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board (BMAW) met on April 8, 2026, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR), 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia.

Members present for all or part of the meeting:

Wrestling

Brandon Metheny

Citizen

Ellen Thacker

Samuel Nicholson

Martial Arts

Brian Pisani

Jerome Wilson

Boxing

Eric Irizarry

Members absent from the meeting with regrets:

Boxing

Mark D’Atillio

Staff present for all or part of the meeting were:

Laura McClintock, Director
Steve Kirschner, LRPD Director
Kate Nosbisch, Executive Director
Jermaine L. Gray, Commissioner
Eric Beidel, Communications & Digital Media Manager
Kyle Mathews, Regulatory Operations Administrator
Davon Jones, Administrative Coordinator

Josh Laws, Senior Assistant Attorney General with the Office of the Attorney General, was present at the meeting.

Tim Taylor, Board for Professional and Occupational Regulations Liaison, was present at the meeting.

Mr. Metheny, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. A quorum was present to conduct official Board business. **Call to Order**

Mr. Metheny and Ms. Nosbisch advised the Board of the emergency evacuation procedures. **Emergency Evacuation Procedures**

Mr. Pisani moved to approve the agenda with an amendment to remove the Armor Medieval Martial Arts Update. Ms. Thacker seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by: Irizarry, Metheny, Nicholson, Pisani, and Thacker.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Pisani moved to approve February 26, 2026, Advisory Board Meeting minutes. Ms. Thacker seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by: Irizarry, Metheny, Nicholson, Pisani, and Thacker.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Nosbisch welcomed and introduced Mr. Tim Taylor as the new Board for Professional and Occupational Regulations Liaison and Mr. Eric Beidel as the new Communications & Digital Media Manager for DPOR.

Welcome and Introductions

There were no public comments.

Public Comment Period

Mr. Mathews presented to the Board that the regulatory review remains in progress. He further noted that any proposed fee adjustments are currently on hold until further notice; therefore, no regulatory changes are being made at this time.

Regulatory Update

Mr. Gray provided the Board Federal Muhammad Ali Expansion Act, noting recent amendments that limit mandatory drug testing to world title fights, with other bouts subject to random testing. The legislation passed the U.S. House on March 24, 2026, and is currently under consideration in the Senate. Discussion also addressed how the act may affect the assignment of officials and the balance between promotion-selected and commission-approved officials.

Muhammad Ali Act Update

Mr. Gray informed the board that this item remains on hold due to the promoter's failure to submit a complete set of rules for review. Mr. Gray indicated ongoing communication with the promoter, and the matter is expected to return for consideration at a future meeting.

Redneck Brawls Update

Mr. Gray informed the board that the "Dirty Boxing" promotion is also on hold. While rule sets have been submitted, the promoter has not responded to requests to change the event name, as the use of "boxing" is not permitted for non-traditional boxing events in Virginia. Approval will not move forward until compliance with naming requirements is achieved.

Dirty Boxing Update

Mr. Wilson arrived at the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

**Arrival of Board
Member**
**Transgender Fighting
Update**

Ms. Nosbisch and Mr. Gray provided an update to the board regarding the ongoing research regarding transgender athlete participation. Ms. Nosbisch emphasized that no decisions have been made and that the board remains in the information-gathering phase, reviewing medical research and industry practices. Key considerations include safety risks, competitive fairness, and the absence of current regulations addressing this issue. The board acknowledged the likelihood that future policy or regulatory action may be necessary and expressed a desire to be proactive before situations arise.

Ms. Nosbisch introduced an informational initiative highlighting national and international recognition days for various combat sports and professions:

**Celebration of
Occupations**

- World Wrestling Day – May 23, 2026
- International Boxing Day – August 27, 2026
- World Taekwondo Day – September 4, 2026
- World Karate Day – October 25, 2026
- World Judo Day – October 28, 2026
- World Martial Arts Day – November 27, 2026

The effort aims to promote and recognize licensed professionals, with plans to expand outreach through the agency's website and communications. Mr. Wilson suggested to include additional disciplines, such as National Muay Thai Day – February 6, 2026, and Nai Khanom Tom Day (Boxers Day) – March 17, 2026.

Mr. Gray provided an overview of upcoming combat sports events across Virginia, noting an increase in scheduled events. Additional dates and promotions were announced, including nationally recognized bouts. The board discussed logistical challenges such as staffing and venue availability, acknowledging that increased activity reflects growth in the industry.

2026 Event Update

The licensee counts as of March 1, 2026:

Temporary Boxing	00
Boxers	36
Boxing/Wrestling Promoters	24
Trainers, Seconds, Cutmen	44
Boxing/Wrestling Managers	03
Boxing/Wrestling Matchmakers	22
Boxing Events	07
Martial Artists	07
Temporary Wrestler	00
Wrestlers	350
Wrestling Events	11

Licensed Population

Ms. Nosbisch conducted a comprehensive training session for board members, covering roles and responsibilities, the Administrative Process Act, Freedom of Information Act requirements, conflict of interest disclosures, and proper procedures for meetings and decision-making. Emphasis was placed on transparency, due process, quorum requirements, and the advisory nature of the board, with final authority resting with the Director.

**Board Member
Training**

Conflict of Interest forms and Travel Vouchers were completed by all Board members present.

**Conflict of Interest
Forms / Travel
Vouchers**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Adjourn

Brandon Metheny, Chair

Laura V. McClintock, Secretary

Board For Boxing & Wrestling

Monthly Cash Activity

Starting cash on hand

\$ 131,036.18

Starting date

Jul 2026

Cash minimum balance alert

\$ 26,207.24

	Jul 2026	Aug 2026	Sep 2026	Oct 2026	Nov 2026	Dec 2026	Jan 2027	Feb 2027	Mar 2027	Apr 2027	May 2027	Jun 2027	Total
Cash on hand (beginning of month)	\$ 131,036.18	\$ 109,155.11	\$ 109,155.11	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

Cash receipts

Cash sales	\$ 10,749.55	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,749.55
Returns and allowances	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total cash receipts	\$ 10,749.55	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,749.55
Total cash available	\$ 141,785.73	\$ 109,155.11	\$ 109,155.11	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

Cash paid out

Overhead	\$ 3,427.40	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,427.40
Enforcement	\$ 1,980.05	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,980.05
Board Administration	\$ 1,920.39	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,920.39
Exams	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Direct Board	\$ 25,302.78	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,302.78
Cash Transfers	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total cash paid out	\$ 32,630.62	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,630.62
Cash on hand (end of month)	\$ 109,155.11	\$ 109,155.11	\$ 109,155.11	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	



We're getting closer, and we're excited to bring everyone together for our upcoming Board Member Training Conference! This year's conference is packed with informative sessions, practical insights, and opportunities to connect with fellow board members.

We've got a great lineup planned, with guest speakers, topics designed to help you navigate your role, strengthen your knowledge, and stay up to date on what's happening across the agency.

Here's a sneak peek at some of the sessions you can look forward to:

- Understanding the Informal Fact-Finding Conference
- The Complaint Process In Practice
- Legislation and Public Protection
- Lessons from Veteran Board Members
- Innovations in Technology
- Exam Development
- General Assembly and the Legislative Process

From the latest updates and important issues facing our boards to practical tips and a behind-the-scenes look at the work we do, there will be something for everyone. We're looking forward to seeing you, sharing ideas, learning together, and making this year's conference a great one!

Stay tuned for more details as we get closer.

We look forward to seeing you in October!

**BOXING, MARTIAL ARTS AND WRESTLING (BMAW)
ADVISORY BOARD**

2027 Meeting Dates

Tues, January 19, 2027	1:00 PM	Board Room 4
Wed, April 7, 2027	1:00 PM	Board Room 3
Tues, July 27, 2027	1:00 PM	Board Room 3
Tues, October 12, 2027	1:00 PM	Board Room 4

DRAFT AGENDA

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Materials contained in this agenda are proposed topics for discussion
And are not to be construed as regulation or official board position.

Upcoming Events Listing

DPOR licenses promoters and participants involved in professional wrestling, boxing, and martial arts events. The list of upcoming events includes only approved, licensed, and professional events.

If an event is not listed, it has not been licensed by DPOR to take place. Events may not be advertised until approved and licensed by DPOR.

Mixed Martial Arts:

December 4, 2026, Cage Fury Fighting Championships, Hardrock Casino, Bristol, VA

Boxing:

September 19, 2026, River City Promotions, Virginia State University (Multipurpose Center) Ettrick, VA

September 26, 2026, Street Underdog Warriors, Monticello High School, Charlottesville, VA

October 17, 2026, Cujo's Toe to Toe Boxing, Crosswhite Athletic Club, Lynchburg, VA

October 23, 2026, Slugger Forrest Boxing Promotions, Richmond Squirrels/CarMax Park, Richmond, VA

November 8, 2026, River City Promotions, Cultural Center of India, Chester, VA

March 6, 2027, River City Promotions, Benedictine Preparatory School, Richmond, VA

Wrestling:

September 18, 2026, Mid-Atlantic Territory Wrestling, Isle of Wight County Fair, Windsor, VA

September 19, 2026, All Star Entertainment Wrestling, Rural Retreat Lake Park, Rural Retreat, VA

September 25, 2026, Pure Pro Wrestling, Skatetown, Danville, VA

September 26, 2026, VCW Pro Wrestling, Bethpage Camp Report, Urbanna, VA

September 26, 2026, Bruiser Wrestling Federation, Five County Fairgrounds, Farmville, VA

October 2, 2026, Strong Style Wrestling, Halifax County Fair, Halifax, VA

October 3, 2026, Mid-Atlantic Territory Wrestling, Pozez Jewish Community Center, Fairfax, VA

October 3, 2026, Southern Appalachian Wrestling, Pennington Middle School, Pennington Gap, VA

October 3, 2026, Tri-State Championship Wrestling, St. Charles Elementary School, School, VA

October 3, 2026, Virginia Championship Wrestling, Norfolk Masonic Temple, Norfolk, VA

October 3, 2026, Tri-State Championship Wrestling, St. Charles Elementary School, St. Charles, VA

October 10, 2026, Tri-State Championship Wrestling, Stickleyville Community Center, Duffield, VA

October 08, 2026, Midget Wrestling, Eagles Nest Country Bar, Chesapeake, VA

October 08, 2026, Bruiser Wrestling Federation, South Central Fair, Chase City, VA

October 10, 2026, Pure Pro Wrestling, Montvale Rec Club, Montvale, VA

October 10, 2026, Mid-Atlantic Territory Wrestling, Body by D Center, Yorktown, VA

October 10, 2026, Mid-Atlantic Territory Wrestling, Dinwiddie County Fairgrounds, Petersburg, VA

October 10, 2026, RVA Pro Wrestling, Hardywood Park Croft Brewery, Richmond, VA

October 13, 2026, Midget Wrestling, Shipgarten, McLean, VA

October 17, 2026, Bruiser Wrestling Federation, Pamplin Fire Department, Pamplin, VA

November 22, 2026, Midget Wrestling, Salisbury Event Center, Manassas, VA

November 23, 2026, Midget Wrestling, Chef Light Brewing, Newport News, VA

November 24, 2026, Midget Wrestling, Shipgarten, McLean, VA

December 16, 2026, Midget Wrestling, Shipgarten, McLean, VA

December 21, 2026, Midget Wrestling, Rai's Rendevoez, Ashburn, VA

Amateur martial arts/MMA must be conducted under an approved Amateur Sanctioning Organization.
(Amateur boxing and amateur wrestling are not regulated.)

Schedule as of 9/23/2026

TOTAL CURRENT POPULATION AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

*Regulant population numbers are effective for the dates shown only.

Profession	1/1/2026	2/1/2026	3/1/2026	4/1/2026	5/1/2026	6/1/2026	7/1/2026	8/1/2026	9/1/2026
Temporary Boxers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boxers	3	14	36	49	61	74	85	93	101
Boxing/Wrestling Promoters	9	17	24	27	30	34	34	36	36
Box/Wrest Trainers, Seconds, Cutmen	5	27	44	64	85	128	157	167	187
Boxing/Wrestling Managers	1	2	3	4	4	7	8	8	9
Boxing/Wrestling Matchmakers	6	16	22	25	28	32	33	34	34
Boxing Events	6	7	7	6	10	11	12	12	9
Martial Artists	6	7	7	13	26	28	34	34	45
Temporary Wrestler	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
Wrestlers	93	201	350	481	595	635	665	799	819
Wrestling Events	2	6	11	19	22	21	18	26	19