

Testimony of GREG SIRB – Executive Director of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission – Past President of the Association of Boxing and Combative Sports

November 9, 2017

My name is Greg Sirb I have served as Executive Director for the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission for the past 27 years - I have seen and heard it all. I have testified before the US Congress on multiple occasions concerning the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 and its amendment the Ali Act of 2000. I am always very proud to say that I was one of the architects along with Senator John McCain that helped to get both off these Federal laws passed.

First some general background information - in 2016 there was a total of just over 1,000 Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) events staged in the United States. The top states in MMA activity are California, Texas, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida. Currently there are about 52 state and tribal commissions that regulate these events. Regulations in MMA can vary from state to state especially when it pertains to the regulation of amateur MMA.

One of the driving issues in passing the Professional Boxing Safety Act was to get some type of uniformity into the sport of boxing and in that regard (5) major issue were developed: let's look at these and compare them to the current state of MMA:

1. No boxing event can occur in any state or tribal land unless it is supervised by that's state or tribal Commission or supervised by a commission in another state or by the Association of Boxing Commissions (The ABC) -which is defined in the federal law - This is NOT the case for MMA.
2. Safety Procedures – each Boxer must have a physical exam before the event – a physician and ambulance must be present at the events and health insurance must be provided for the boxers if injured during the event – although not mandated by Federal law the vast majority of the Athletic Commissions have implement these same safety procedures for all pro MMA fighters-this is not the case for all amateur fighters.
3. Registration – the Federal Boxing Act requires all boxer to apply for a Federal ID card through their home state commission which has the Boxer's name-Date of Birth and Social Security number along with a photo of the boxer. With this Federal ID card the boxers are also assigned a unique 6-digit number that can then track this boxer's activity (wins and losses) throughout the world.

In MMA the ABC has developed a similar situation for all MMA fighters. The ABC developed a National Registry of all MMA fighters which is accessible to all state/tribal athletic commissions - again although not mandated by Federal law this National ID system for MMA fighters is implement by the vast majority of athletic commissions.

4. Suspension – The current Federal Box law mandates that no commission may allow a boxer to compete if under suspension from another state/tribal commission due to a KO loss or a series of consecutive losses, an injury or physician's denial, a failed drug test, the use of false aliases or attempting to falsify identification documents or unsportsmanlike conduct. Again although not mandated by Federal law with the help of the ABC – these suspensions in MMA are recognized and upheld by the vast majority of athletic commissions.

5. Reporting – The Federal law requires that all athletic commissions are to report their results of all boxing matches and any suspensions to a National boxing registry (as designated by the ABC) within (48) hours after the event. The ABC has developed two national registries one for Boxing and one for MMA where all results and suspensions are filed.

So as you can see for the most part through the efforts of the ABC and cooperation from many of the state/tribal athletic commissions most of the current the fed law pertaining to boxing are already in effect for MMA.

Generally What is NOT in effect for MMA and its fighters are those parts of the current Federal Boxing Act the deal with promoters and managers, the section dealing with coercive contracts, the section dealing with how MMA fighters are rated in a ranking system, the promoters and ranking organizations financial disclosures to the fighters and the section dealing with conflicts of interest between a fighter manager and promoter.

Generally a BOXER –through the Federal boxing act may request from the Promoter of the event:

The amount of compensation that the promoter received/earned from the event

All fees and expenses that are or will be passed onto the boxer

And any reduction in a boxers purse that may be contrary to any previous contract agreement between that boxer and the promoter

Boxers are also entitled to ensure that there is a so-called fire wall between his manager and the promoter of the event basically stating that the manger cannot also receive funds as the promoter and the promoter cannot receive any funds for managerial duties – basically no double dipping.

Boxers are protect under the Federal act from the so-called coercive contracts- which generally means that no boxer can be forced to sign a contract or an extension of an existing contract in order to get a particular fight or to fight in a particular event or possibly to get a better world ranking.

The Federal act also requires the boxing promoter to disclose to the state/tribal athletic commission where the event is held:

A copy of all agreements in writing that this promoter has with the Boxer

A statement made under penalty of perjury that there are no other agreements with this boxer

All fees and expenses that the promoter will charge the boxer including any fees that the promo will directly receive from this boxer

All payments the promoter is providing to any sanctioning or ranking organization affiliated with the event, and

Any reduction in the boxer’s purse that may be contrary to a previous agreement

Let me be very clear that as one of the longest serving state regulators in the country I firmly believe that all pro fighters just like their pro counter parts in other sports deserve to be treated, particularly financially, on a level playing field and deserve the right to request certain financial information that can enable them to make a more informed decision about their fighting careers.

Full financial disclosure is a good thing.

If the fighter does not know how big the financial pie is then how is he to know how big of a piece of that pie he should bargain for? I have also seen this work in a sort of reverse manner in that once a fighter sees all the expenses that a promoter has in putting on an event he becomes to realize why he was paid a certain amount.

It should be noted that since the inception of the Federal boxing act there has be NO legal cases that have been brought forward and tried in a court of law – the enforcement part of the Federal act has been very weak.

MY SUGGESTIONS:

**1. Combat Sport Competition**

The term ‘combat sport competition’ in context to this Act means a competition that allows fighters to use striking or grappling. The term ‘combat sport competition’ does include mixed martial arts competitions that allow fighters to use both striking and grappling, standing and on the ground, and any variation of these techniques including mixed martial arts. Such term does not include a combat sport competition that is regulated by an amateur sports organization. This last sentence should be amended to:

Such term does not include a combat sport competition that is regulated by an amateur sports organization that is approved by the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC).

**2. Bond or other Surety:**

A boxing commission may not approve either a pro boxing match or a Combat Sport competition unless the promoter of that event has posted a surety bond, cashier’s check, letter of credit or other security with the boxing commission in an amount acceptable to that boxing commission.

**3. Firewall between Promoters and Managers**

Exceptions should read - only applies to fighters scheduled for (16) not 11 minutes or more. The exceptions in this section were developed for only the “elite” fighters not just for the everyday fighters.

**4. Simply create a United State Combat Sports Commission**

This US Commission would enforce all aspects of the current Federal law. This Commission would ensure, with the help of al the state/tribal commissions, uniformity on how these laws are applied to all fighters, promoters, managers and ranking organizations. It would also make it much easier for any fighter, who feels the current laws have been violated, to pursue a legal judgment.

**Attachments include:**

- 1. Boxers Federal ID Application and Health and Safety Disclosure**
- 2. Pro Boxers Bill of Rights**
- 3. Disclosure for a Sanctioning/Ranking organization to an Athletic Commission**
- 4. Disclosures by a Promoter to a Boxer**
- 5. Disclosures by a promoter to an Athletic Commission**
- 6. Sample copy of a Boxer's Federal ID Card**
- 7. Sample copy of an MMA fighter's ID Card**



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### Federal I.D. Card

Enclosed is your Federal I.D. Card. As per federal law you must present this card at all times when you are scheduled to box anywhere in the United States.

→ This card is for Identification purposes only and is not a license to box. ←

\*\*Your Federal I.D. Card will expire on \_\_\_\_\_.

**DO NOT LOSE THIS CARD.**

“Health and Safety Disclosure.”

As per the Muhammad Ali Act each Commission must now present to every professional boxer, upon the issuance of their Federal ID Card, the following medical disclosure:

As a professional boxer you should be aware that this sport includes many health and safety risks. In particular the risk of brain injury. As such it is strongly recommended that you as a professional boxer take the necessary medical exams that detect brain injury. If you need further information about these exams please ask your doctor or your local boxing commission representative.

If you have any questions concerning this information feel free to contact the Pennsylvania Athletic Commission at (717) 787-5720.

**Pennsylvania “Pound for Pound” the Best Boxing in the Country**



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**The Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission in association with The Association of  
Boxing Commissions and  
the National Association of Attorneys General "Boxing Task Force"**

*PRESENT*

**The Professional Boxers " Bill of Rights"**

1. You have the right to be treated in a professional manner and to be fully informed about all aspects of your sport.
2. You have the right to have all terms of any contract with a promoter or manager in writing.
3. You have the right to have all contracts read and explained to you, either by the local commission representative or anyone of your choosing (including an attorney).
4. Before any bout you have a right to know your opponents name, their record, the weight class of the bout, the number of rounds of the bout, and the amount of your purse, including any travel or training expenses. To check on any boxers record, including your own, contact (Fight Fax) at 856-782-8868.
5. You have a right to review, obtain and keep copies of any of your contracts.
6. You have a right to directly receive any and all payments from a bout as set forth in your bout agreement.
7. You have the right to receive a written, post bout accounting from either the promoter or your manager or both, which shows how the total amount of your purse was distributed. If you have any deductions taken from your purse you have the right to ask for a written accounting of what these deductions were, and why they were deducted from your purse.
8. You have a right to have a doctor at ringside at all times as well as emergency medical personnel and / or an ambulance present at the location at all times.

9. You have a right to have medical insurance to cover any injuries resulting from a bout and to know the name of the insurance company and the amount of coverage that is being provided.

10. You have the right to hire individuals of your choice to serve as your managers, trainers or seconds. You are not required to hire any individual in order to obtain a bout.

11. You have a right to know why your ranking with any sanctioning body has changed and the reasons for this change. This may be done by writing to the organization and requesting why your ranking has been changed. The organization must respond to you, in writing, within (7) days.

12. You have a right to appeal any and all suspensions and to be informed on exactly why you were suspended and the length of your suspension. To check if you are on the National Suspension List just go onto the Internet at [www.sportsnetwork.com](http://www.sportsnetwork.com) and click onto Boxing then onto the National Suspension List.

13. You have a right to contact you local commission or the Association of Boxing Commissions to report any violations, ask any questions or seek any advice.

\*\* You as a Boxer should get a copy of and *read* the two federal boxing bills that detail many of your rights and responsibilities as a professional boxer. These two bills are:

The Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 and the Muhammad Ali Act of 2000





**Required Disclosures by a Promoter to a Boxer**

(as required by Section 13 of the Muhammad Ali Reform Act)

This is disclosed only to the boxers with whom the promoter has a promotional contract. This does not have to be disclosed to the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission, but may be required to be disclosed to the Office of Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Also you, as the promoter, would only disclose dollar amounts to those boxers "primarily" responsible for generating the income. Gate receipts would be disclosed to all boxers. For site fees, if your contract states that the site fee is only for the two main events (four boxers), then this revenue would be disclosed only to these four boxers.

**Name of Boxer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of the Event:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location of the Event:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* Boxers Purse: \_\_\_\_\_ Any Deductions to this Purse: \_\_\_\_\_

If any Deductions please list and explain each Deduction:

As the promoter of the above named event I have received the following compensations or considerations resulting from your match.

| <u>ITEM</u>      | <u>\$ AMOUNT RECEIVED</u> | <u>Received from</u> |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Site Fee         |                           |                      |
| TV Revenue       |                           |                      |
| Pay-per-View     |                           |                      |
| Ticket Sales     |                           |                      |
| Advertising      |                           |                      |
| Other (describe) |                           |                      |

\* Because you as the promoter may not have exact figures, (for example PPV buys) you should use your best estimates at the time of disclosure and then follow up with actual figures to your Boxer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Boxer's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Promoter's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Required Disclosures by a Promoter to a Boxing Commission**  
(as required by Section 13 of the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act)

Name of Promoter: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Event: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of the Event: \_\_\_\_\_

As the Promoter of the event, I hereby affirm that the following has been provided to the local boxing commission in charge of regulating the above event:

A copy of any and all agreements\* in writing that I, as the promoter, have with any boxer participating in the match, and that there are no other agreements written or oral, between myself and the boxer with respect to the above named event. This shall include any reduction in a Boxer's purse that is contrary to any previous agreement between the boxer and myself. (\*Agreements shall be the bout agreements, and any other agreements that the boxer and promoter are parties to that will generate revenue for this particular match. Also this would include providing a list to the Commission by (Name-Title and Date) of any active and binding agreements with the boxer other than those listed for this particular bout.)

As the promoter of the above event, I also hereby affirm that the following represents all charges, fees and expenses that I will assess, including any training expenses, on the following boxers and any portion of the boxers' purse that I will receive:  
(List only those boxers that you are assessing costs to and/or where you will be taking a share of the boxer's purse.)

| <u>Name of Boxer</u> | <u>All costs that will be assessed<br/>on this Boxer</u> | <u>Promoter's share<br/>of this Purse</u> |
|----------------------|--|---|
| 1.                   |  |   |
| 2.                   |  |   |
| 3.                   |  |   |

I also hereby affirm that the following monies represent all payments, gifts, or benefits that I, as the promoter, am providing to any Sanctioning Organization affiliated with the above named event, including any travel, rooms, meals, etc that will be provided to the organization

| <u>Name of Sanctioning Organization</u> | <u>\$\$ Amount of payment and/or type of gift<br/>or benefit that was provided</u> |
|---|--|
| 1.                                      |  |
| 2.                                      |  |
| 3.                                      |  |
| 4.                                      |  |

The undersigned hereby affirms that the statements made herein are true and correct to the best of my information, knowledge and belief, and are made subject to the penalties prescribed for perjury set forth in 18 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Section 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Promoter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Boxer's  
Fed ID  
CARD

Full Name: JOSEPH ADORNO  
Identification #: PA.082821  
Date of Birth:  
Social Security #:  
Current Address:  
PHILA, PA  
Expiration Date: 11-14-2020  
Height: 5'8" Weight: 135  
Hair Color: Black Eye Color: Hazel  
Signature: On File





*MMA  
Fighter's  
ID  
CARD*

**Last Name:** Bader

**First Name:** Ryan

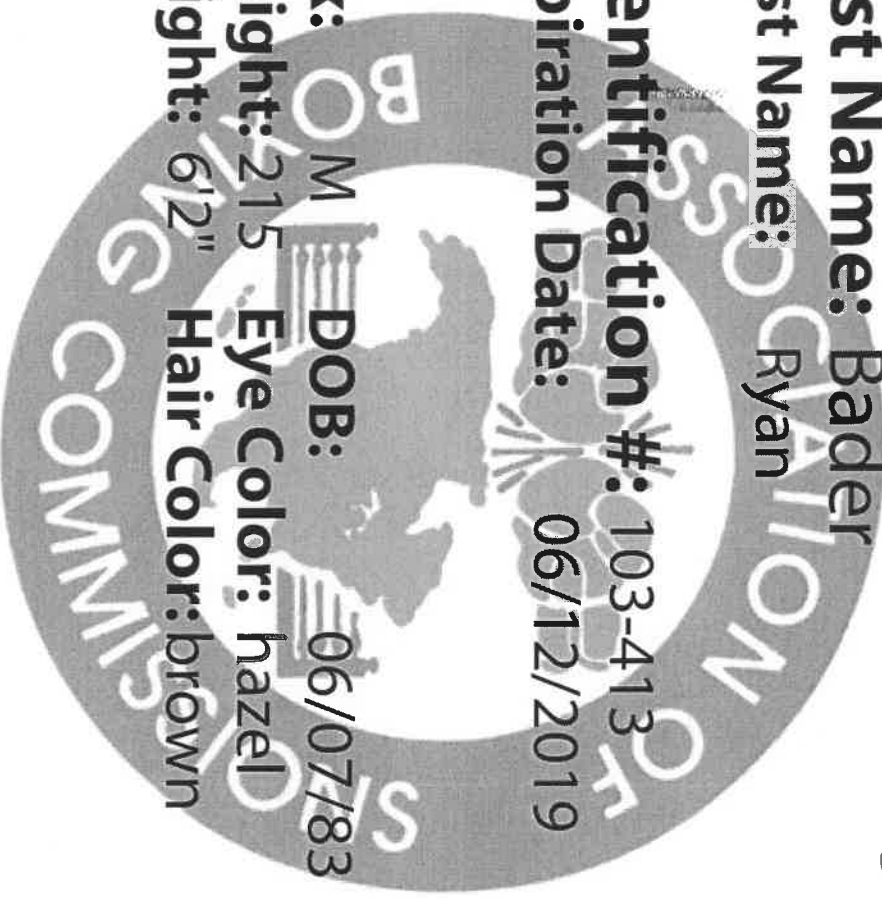
**Identification #:** 103-413

**Expiration Date:** 06/12/2019

**Sex:** M **DOB:** 06/07/83

**Weight:** 215 **Eye Color:** hazel

**Height:** 6'2" **Hair Color:** brown



**SIGNATURE ON FILE**

**NATIONAL MMA ID**

