In 1941, the Nevada Athletic Commission was established by an act of the Nevada legislature. Since that time, the Commission has regulated professional unarmed combat (e.g., boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts/ MMA) in Nevada. The conduct and regulation of unarmed combat in Nevada are governed by NRS Chapter 467, and are further clarified by the Regulations of the Commission (Chapter 467 of the Nevada Administrative Code). 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.

The commission is made up of five part-time members, each of whom is appointed by the Governor for a three-year term. The Chairman is appointed by the Governor for a two-year term.

The Commission regulates all contests and exhibitions of unarmed combat, including licensure and supervision of promoters, boxers, mixed martial artists, kick boxers, seconds, ring officials, managers, ring announcers and matchmakers. The Commission is the final authority on licensing matters, having the ability to approve, deny, revoke, or suspend all licenses for unarmed combat.

The Commission appoints an executive director to conduct the day-to-day operations of the Commission. The executive director does not have a vote on actions taken by the Commission. In addition to the executive director, the Commission has a staff of four full-time employees. The Office of the Attorney General serves as legal counsel to the Commission.

Along with collecting fees from the sale of tickets the Commission works with the venues that host events throughout the state. The responsibilities of the Commission also include ruling in disciplinary cases, and arbitrating disputes between boxers and managers brought pursuant to NAC 467.102(4). Additionally, the Commission is charged with the responsibility of promulgating regulations to implement and enforce the State laws governing unarmed combat.

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 contest or exhibitions, the executive director is responsible for assigning the judges, and referees, 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. Historically, one or two contestants or bouts are rejected for each boxing card.