

Greenbook

LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget

Ohio Athletic Commission

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Ohio Athletic Commission

Quick look...

- The Ohio Athletic Commission (ATH) regulates boxing, mixed martial arts, professional wrestling, kickboxing, karate, and tough person contests, overseeing 1,200 competitors, promoters, officials, other event personnel, and athlete agents in these sports.
- A five-member board governs the Commission. Day-to-day operations are managed by two full-time employees and one part-time employee.
- The Commission is fully supported by fees and receives no GRF funding.
- Appropriations are just over \$550,000 for the biennium.

FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Appropriation	FY 2023 Appropriation
4K90 ALI 175609, Operating Expenses					
\$297,222	\$275,469	\$278,715	\$245,178	\$280,501	\$275,423
% change	-7.3%	1.2%	-12.0%	14.4%	-1.8%

Agency overview

The Ohio Athletic Commission (ATH) regulates boxing, mixed martial arts, professional wrestling, kickboxing, karate, and tough person contests in an effort to protect the safety of the participants and the interests of the public. ATH carries out its mission by setting standards for licensure of individuals, granting permits, and conducting sanctioned events. Ohio has been particularly active in regulating amateur mixed martial arts (MMA) events. Overall, ATH regulated about 1,200 competitors, promoters, officials, other event personnel, and athlete agents in FY 2020.

ATH's governing authority consists of five voting members appointed by the Governor. One member must be a doctor of medicine or osteopathy and two members must be knowledgeable in boxing and mixed martial arts. Members receive a per diem in an amount fixed pursuant to state law as well as reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred as part of their duties. Day-to-day operations are managed by an executive director, a full-time administrative assistant, and a part-time administrative assistant. The Commission receives no GRF funding; instead, its operations are entirely supported by fee revenue deposited into the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90).

Analysis of FY 2022-FY 2023 budget

The budget provides funding of \$280,501 in FY 2022, 14.4% greater than FY 2021 spending of \$245,178 under Fund 4K90 line item 175609, Operating Expenses. Funding for FY 2023 is \$275,423, or 1.8% lower than the FY 2022 appropriation. This funding, supported by fees collected from athletes, sporting officials, promoters, agents, and others in the field of boxing, wrestling, and mixed martial arts, supports all of the Commission's operating expenses. As is the case with many boards and commissions, the bulk of the funding will go toward payroll for the Executive Director and two administrative assistants, one of whom is a part-time employee. The remainder will go to supplies and maintenance, while a small amount will be used to cover purchased personal services.

Fee structure

The Commission issues several different types of licenses, permits, and identification cards. The table below shows the current fee amounts charged. All of the Commission's licenses renew annually, except for the athlete agent license, which renews biennially. The Commission collects two national registrations – the Federal Boxing ID Card and the National Mixed Martial Arts ID Card. The former is valid for four years and the latter is valid for five years. All of these fees are deposited in the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90).

License, Permit, and Identification Card Fees	
Name of License or Permit	Fee Amount
Athlete Agent Registration (Two Years)	\$500
Professional Wrestling Promoter License	\$200
Professional Wrestling Permit	\$100
Boxing, Mixed Martial Arts, Tough Person Promoter License	\$150
Boxing, Mixed Martial Arts, Tough Person Event Permit	\$100
Competitor (Boxer, Mixed Martial Arts) License	\$40
Competitor (Tough Person) Application	\$30
Nonofficials (Manager, Matchmaker, Second, Trainer) License	\$40
Officials (Judge, Referee, Timekeeper) License	\$40
Federal Identification Card for Boxers (Four Years)	\$20
National Identification Card for Mixed Martial Arts Fighters (Five Years)	\$20
Replacement Card	\$10