

# 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 approximately 1,700 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.
- The budget provides small increases for board operations over the biennium, appropriating \$354,000 in FY 2024 and \$345,000 in FY 2025.

FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Appropriation	FY 2025 Appropriation
<b>4K90 ALI 175609, Operating Expenses</b>					
\$278,715	\$245,178	\$325,328	\$317,476	\$354,000	\$345,000
% change	-12.0%	32.7%	-2.4%	11.5%	-2.5%

### 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 sets 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 almost 1,700 active licenses in FY 2022.

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 amount fixed by law as well as reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred as part of their duties. There are also two nonvoting members appointed by the General Assembly. 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 2024-FY 2025 budget

The budget provides funding of \$354,000 in FY 2024 and \$345,000 in FY 2025 for Ohio Athletic Commission operations under Fund 4K90 line item 175609, Operating Expenses. This funding is supported by fees collected from athletes, sporting officials, promoters, agents, and others in the field of boxing, wrestling, and mixed martial arts (MMA). 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. 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
Boxing, Mixed Martial Arts, Tough Person Promoter License	\$150
Boxing, Mixed Martial Arts, Tough Person Event Permit	\$100
Nonofficials (Manager, Matchmaker, Second, Trainer) License	\$40
Competitor (Boxer, Mixed Marital Arts) License	\$40
Competitor (Tough Person) Application	\$30
Federal Identification Card for Boxers (Four Years)	\$20
National Identification Card for Mixed Martial Arts Fighters (Five Years)	\$20
Officials (Judge, Referee, Timekeeper) License	\$40
Professional Wrestling Match or Exhibition Permit	\$100
Replacement Cards	\$10
Professional Wrestling Promoter License	\$200