

Florida House of Representatives

Representative Dr. Anna V. Eskamani

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RE: Request for revocation of licensure and denial of further permits, Duel Arena and affiliated licensees

Dear Chair Pike and Director Shipman:

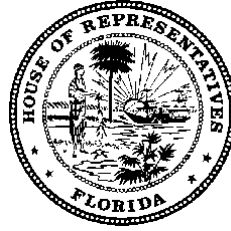
I am writing to request that the Florida Athletic Commission revoke the license of the promoter of record, Duel Arena, for the professional combat sports program held at Orlando's Kia Center on August 29, 2026; suspend and revoke the licenses of the affiliated persons and entities whose conduct that night violated chapter 548, Florida Statutes; and decline to issue any further permit in this state to that promotion, its principals, or a successor entity.

Section 548.011 gives it exclusive jurisdiction to issue, withhold, suspend, or revoke any license or permit under the chapter. Section 548.071 sets out the grounds, two of which are squarely presented here: that the licensee is guilty of violating the chapter or the rules of the Commission, and that the licensee is guilty of unprofessional or unethical conduct. Section 548.008(2) provides that no professional match may be held in this state unless it meets the requirements of chapter 548 and the Commission's rules.

I know that much of the public attention on this event has focused on what was displayed and said inside the arena: a Nazi flag unfurled in the seating bowl, Hitler salutes given by a competitor and audience members, and antisemitic remarks delivered on a live broadcast. I vehemently oppose these images and this rhetoric; this letter focuses on examples of violations of Florida law that merit clear license suspension and revocation. I am sure that with further inspection by you and your staff, more violations will be identified:

A full-contact contest was held outside the permitted card. A costumed performer, promoted as the character "FreakBob," exchanged strikes with an opponent identified as Daniel Cao, who was reported to be overwhelmed from the opening seconds and unprotected. Section 548.032 requires a permit for each program of matches. Section 548.008(2) prohibits any professional match not meeting the chapter's requirements, and section 548.008(3)(b) makes holding, promoting, or sponsoring such a match a felony of the third degree.

That contest was refereed by a non-sanctioned person. The individual in the referee's position has been identified as an online streamer for whom reporting found no record of Florida licensure. Four licensed referees — David Baggett, Isiah Cabal, Josh Rutgers, and Massimo Montanini — were assigned to this program and were in the building. Section 548.057(3) requires the Commission to ensure that all referees, judges, and other officials are Florida-licensed and expressly forbids a promoter or sanctioning body from influencing the appointment of officials. The power to assign officials belongs to the Commission and to no one else.



The state's official record of the night does not contain that contest. The Commission's results sheet reportedly lists ten bouts. Eleven contests took place. For the eleventh, there is no approval, no result, no scheduled rounds, and no officials of record.

New segments and sanctioned contests shared a single permit and a single ring. The promotion's own recap instructed readers to treat the segment as show content and not a sanctioned bout. That statement is not a defense; it is an admission by a licensee. Either the exchange was a contest, in which case it was held without sanction and without a licensed official, or it was presented to a paying audience as a contest when it was not, which implicates section 548.058. A promoter cannot claim regulatory exemption for a fight it staged in a permitted ring on a permitted card and expect the permit to survive the claim.

The announced participants may not have been the actual participants. An exhibition was announced between Ossi Ketola, the promotion's founder, and an opponent identified as Patrick Holden. Reporting indicates neither man appeared on the weigh-in results and that the promotion's own accounts publicly disputed whether the person who walked to the ring was in fact Mr. Ketola. Section 548.042 governs participation under a fictitious name and section 548.058 prohibits contests represented as something they are not. If the Commission cannot say with certainty who fought on a card it permitted, that alone is disqualifying.

The weight differential. That same bout was billed at 202 pounds against 90 pounds, a differential of more than 110 pounds, with both participants listed as making their boxing debuts. Section 548.043 caps the differential in boxing matches at twelve pounds, excepting cruiserweight, heavyweight, and exhibitions. If the exhibition designation is available to authorize a 112-pound mismatch between two debutants, then the exception has swallowed the rule and the weight limits in Florida mean nothing. I would ask the Commission to state who approved that designation and what medical review preceded it.

A single failure on a fight card is a reason for a citation. What happened in Orlando was not a single failure. It was an unpermitted fight, an unlicensed official installed in place of four licensed ones the state had assigned, a missing entry in the state's own record, an unverified identity, a mismatch no weight rule contemplates, and a promotion that answered all of it by saying the fight in question was entertainment and therefore none of the Commission's business.

Revocation is the only response that matches this conduct, and it is the only one that protects the fighters who will otherwise be matched by these same people in this same state and the public and venue employees who could be placed in harm's way based on this public display of lawlessness.

I am requesting the following:

- Revoke the promoter's license held by the promoter of record for the August 29, 2026 program, reported to be Ryan Toole Inc., doing business as Duel Arena, pursuant to section 548.071.
- Suspend or revoke the licenses of affiliated persons and entities, including the promotion's principals, the matchmaker of record, and any licensed official or participant who knowingly took part in a contest held outside the permit.
- Determine whether any licensee complied with section 548.058(2), which requires a licensee with knowledge of a prohibited contest to report it to the Commission in writing, and discipline those who did not.
- Issue an emergency suspension order under section 548.07 as to the promoter pending the outcome of those proceedings.
- Withhold any further permit under section 548.011 to this promotion, its principals, or any successor or affiliated entity, in the State of Florida.
- Refer to the appropriate prosecuting authority any conduct that may violate section 548.008(3) or section 548.058(3).



- Refer to the Florida Gaming Control Commission the questions raised by this promotion's financing and branding by an offshore gaming operator.
- Place this matter on the agenda of the Commission's next public meeting, accompanied by a written staff report, so that it is resolved on the record rather than in correspondence.

I am also making the following public records request: Pursuant to chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and Article I, section 24 of the Florida Constitution, I request copies of the following: (a) the permit application and approved permit for this program, with all attachments; (b) the pre-event approved bout sheet and the official results sheet; (c) the assignment of all referees, judges, timekeepers, physicians, and inspectors; (d) the licensure record of every official and participant who entered the ring, including any license issued to the individual known as "Clavicular"; (e) the weigh-in sheet and any medical clearance for the announced exhibition; (f) the competitiveness certification for the co-feature and the identity of the matchmaker who executed it; (g) all bout contracts and amendments for the main event; and (h) all inspector and incident reports and all correspondence between the Commission and the promoter or the venue operator concerning this program. Where a record is withheld under section 548.062 or any other exemption, please identify it and cite the exemption. If a record does not exist, please say so directly.

In April of this year, the Commission's executive director submitted written testimony to the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, citing Florida as the national model for regulating this sport. If that is truly the case, then you will act immediately upon receipt of this letter.

I request a written response no later than Monday, September 14, 2026, and I am glad to meet with you or with staff before the Commission's next meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anna V. Eskamani".

Representative Anna V. Eskamani, PhD
Florida House of Representatives, District 42

cc: The Honorable Melanie S. Griffin, Secretary, Department of Business and Professional Regulation + Staff

The Honorable Monique Worrell, State Attorney, Circuit 9
Members, Florida Athletic Commission
The Honorable Buddy Dyer, Mayor, City of Orlando + Staff