



# CALIFORNIA

STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

## **Professional Combative Sports: What CSAC has done and future plans for COVID-19 safety**

### **BACKGROUND**

On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency as part of the state's response to address the global COVID-19 outbreak. Based on guidance issued by the Governor and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to protect Californians against the possible spread of COVID-19, the California State Athletic Commission (CSAC) canceled all combative sporting events.

On April 28, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a "Resiliency Roadmap" (Roadmap) that includes four phases for California's measured reopening process. Phase III of the Roadmap allowed sporting events to begin without live audiences. In July 2020, CSAC, with the assistance of the Department of Consumer Affairs, promulgated emergency regulations to allow professional combat sporting events during Phase III of the Roadmap, and beyond.

### **CSAC'S EFFORTS DURING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY**

CSAC's emergency regulations include physical distancing protocols, the use of personal protective equipment, infectious disease advance screening and testing, cleaning and disinfecting of hotel accommodation(s) and sporting venues, along with general event operations, etc., as determined necessary by the CDC, CDPH and/or the applicable county health officer in the jurisdiction(s) where the Event is being held and/or the Personnel are housed, in consultation with the Commission's own Advisory Committee on Medical and Safety Standards.

Since July 24, 2020, CSAC has regulated twenty-five (25) events under the emergency regulations. The emergency regulations require that all personnel attending the event be tested for COVID-19 and quarantined at the host hotel, also known as the “bubble”. In the twenty-five (25) events that the CSAC has regulated, 2,638 tests have been conducted in the “bubble” with thirteen (13) positives (a rate of .004%). When a person tests positive in the bubble, they are removed following all CDC safety protocol and contact tracing is completed by CSAC.

The following chart reflects COVID-19 statistics since our first event on July 24, 2020:

Number of Events	COVID-19 Pre-Tests	COVID-19 Event Tests	COVID-19 Questionnaires	COVID-19 Positives	Total Tests
25	468	2,638	5,744	13	3,106

## CSAC'S EFFORTS MOVING FORWARD

CSAC is currently working on filing a Certificate of Compliance with the Office of Administrative Law to make the emergency regulations permanent. CSAC will continue the use of the “bubble” system for all personnel and athletes. CSAC is also adding to the regulations a section that will outline safety protocols at such time as the public can attend any event held under the regulations. At which time the Executive Officer will continue to work with the CDPH and county and local agencies to adhere to all health and safety guidelines.