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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
June 2, 2016

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California State Athletic Commission Speaks Out Against Professional Boxing in 2016 Summer Olympics

SACRAMENTO, CA – California State Athletic Commission (CSAC) chairman, John Carvelli, expressed disappointment over the decision to allow professional boxers to compete against amateurs in the 2016 Summer Olympic Games.

“This decision is troubling and appears to ignore our collective responsibility to protect and promote the health and safety of fighters, particularly amateur boxers,” he said.

Carvelli said the California State Athletic Commission (CSAC) is encouraged by the decision of U.S.A. Boxing to not send professional boxers to join the U.S. team. The Commission empathizes with the U.S. A. team and wishes to express their strong support for the amateur boxers. These amateurs have worked extremely hard to compete against other amateurs on a world stage, but now they face an unequal and dangerous playing field.

Carvelli said the removal of Article 13 (J) of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) statute will “allow professional fighters to assault less experienced amateur boxers in this summer’s Olympics.”

Carvelli said, “This was a bad deal made in spite of and in opposition to the input of the boxing community including fighters, trainers, regulatory and sanctioning bodies and the National Association of Ringside Physicians. This decision was made by individuals seemingly influenced by financial gain and is not in the best interest of the tradition and fine art of boxing. This move puts all amateur fighters at grave risk.”

Andy Foster, executive officer of CSAC, second’s Carvelli’s sentiment.

Foster said, “What AIBA has done is just wrong and I hope they reconsider this policy change.”

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ABOUT CSAC: The California State Athletic Commission (CSAC) regulates professional and amateur boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts throughout California by licensing all participants and supervising the events. CSAC constantly seeks methods to make combat sports safer by focusing on techniques to lessen traumatic brain injuries, educating athletes about the adverse effects of the practice of dehydration and weight cutting, regular training of inspectors and officials, and careful and thoughtful approval of professional and amateur matches. Learn more at www.dca.ca.gov/csac/index.shtml.

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