



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATION REVEALS DEFICIENT AND OUT-OF-DATE BOXING GLOVE INSPECTION RULES *Investigation Results in Enhanced and Clearer Safety Policies*

As a result of an investigation by the New York State Inspector General's Office, the New York State Athletic Commission has revised its rules to avoid confusion over boxing glove approval and inspection rules. The investigation commenced after a boxer filed a complaint in May 2012 regarding the gloving of his opponent and related issues. A report of that investigation issued today documents that although the Inspector General's office determined that the specific complaint was unsubstantiated, rules governing pre-match inspections and the approval of boxing gloves require updating and publication to avoid confusion and potential inconsistencies.

"Professional boxing and wrestling contests and matches are regulated closely, to ensure the integrity of the process and minimize injury to the sport's participants," said Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott. "The rules are confusing, ambiguous, and insufficiently publicized. I am pleased to announce that as a result of my office's investigation and recommendations, the New York State Athletic Commission has agreed to clarify and publicize these standards and take significant steps to ensure they are applied with consistency."

After losing a May 2012 match to Josh Williams, professional boxer Bryant Pappas alleged, among other complaints, that Williams was improperly allowed to use non-promoter supplied boxing gloves, purportedly in violation of Athletic Commission regulations. Pappas further alleged that he lost the bout in a decision due to Athletic Commission bias. The Inspector General's office commenced a thorough investigation, which included interviews and reviewing evidence, and subsequently determined that both complaints were unfounded.

Although the Inspector General determined that Williams' use of the non-promoter gloves was authorized, the investigation also found that the Athletic Commission rules and procedures regarding the inspection and approval of types of boxing gloves were unclear. Furthermore, the Inspector General's office found that the Athletic Commission did not maintain documentation of gloves used during these events.

Based upon the investigation and findings, Inspector General Scott has recommended that:

- The Athletic Commission revise certain rules that govern pre-match inspections and the approval of boxing gloves;
- Pre-match inspections and the approval of boxing gloves practices are standardized, and that individual practices of Athletic Commission members and inspectors be eliminated;

- The Athletic Commission maintain documentation that relates to approved types of boxing gloves;
- The Athletic Commission post these rules and the list of Commission-approved gloves on its web site; and
- Inspectors for the Athletic Commission be provided with training on these amended rules and practices.

The Athletic Commission has accepted all of the Inspector General's recommendations and has issued or will issue and implement new instructional documents and procedures to implement the recommendations and address the concerns identified by the Inspector General's investigation.

Click [here](#) for a copy of the Inspector General's report.

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