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For Immediate Release
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Statement on MMA Fighter Death

A law was enacted on July 1, 2009, by the S.C. Legislature giving the S.C. Athletic Commission responsibility for regulating Mixed Martial Arts in this state.

The law requires that promoters and their fighters meet specific criteria in order to fight in South Carolina. Those requirements include fighters having pre-fight physicals, eye exams and blood tests to screen for hepatitis B and C and HIV. There is a promoter's checklist that must be submitted to the Athletic Commission prior to an event.

On Saturday, June 26, 2010, MMA Fighter Michael Kirkham was injured during a fight and died two days later. The event was sanctioned by the International Sport Karate Association (ISKA), a recognized sanctioning and regulatory body for combat sports and competitive martial arts. Representatives from ISKA and the Athletic Commission were onsite during the event.
(www.iska.com)

The death is currently under investigation by the Aiken County Coroner's Office. The Athletic Commission is conducting an internal review of that fight. Because it is under investigation, the S.C. Athletic Commission cannot release any further information at this time.

To learn more about the MMA laws and requirements in South Carolina and to view applications and forms required by promoters and fighters, visit the S.C. Athletic Commission's website at:
www.llronline.com/POL/Athletic/