



CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 4, 2011

9:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Van Nuys State Building | Hearing Room

6150 Van Nuys Blvd.

Van Nuys, CA, 91401

Commissioners Present:

John Frierson, Chairman

Dr. Van Lemons

Eugene Hernandez

Dr. Christopher Giza, Vice Chairman

Steve Alexander

Staff Present:

George Dodd, Executive Officer

Anita Scuri, Legal Counsel

Nichole Bowles

Dale Chessey, Assistant Executive Officer

Elizabeth Parkman

The minutes reflect the order in which the agenda items were heard.

Agenda Item 1. Call to order/Roll call/Pledge of allegiance

- a. George Dodd swore in Dr. Van Buren Lemons

Agenda Item 2. Approval of Minutes

December 2, 2010 Commission Meeting Minutes -

Motion, Seconded, Carried (M/S/C) to approve minutes as corrected.

Agenda Item 3. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

John Frierson was nominated for Chairman and was reelected to continue as chairman of the Athletic Commission.

Dr. Christopher Giza was nominated recommended for Vice Chairman and was reelected to continue as vice chairman of the Athletic Commission.

Agenda Item 4. Executive Officer Report- George Dodd/Dale Chessey

- a. Cashier Audit 2008 – An update was given on the progress being made on adopting the recommendations from recent and past audits on CSAC. Staff has implemented the recommendations and now has created a cashiering desk manual formalizing the new procedures for the office.
- c. Strategic Plan Update: The commission continues to implement the objectives specifically outlined its strategic plan.
- d. Sunset Review Hearing - Update: Executive Officer Dodd asked that a commissioner be available to attend the upcoming sunset review scheduled to take place in March.

- e. Budget Update: The commission has conservatively spent 20% in certain categories of the 7th month of their fiscal year, showing healthy reserves from exercising cautious spending practices. Travel savings have also been dramatically realized showing 40.5 % has been spent this budget year. Office furniture and printers to be purchased are to not exceed \$5,000 on each category. Chairman Frierson suggested purchasing some commission meeting communication equipment (microphones, small public address system) to enable participants and commissioners to be better heard during meetings. Regarding the supplemental budget report, if there are any other inputs or comments, then please let Executive Officer Dodd know. The supplemental budget report response is to be filed by March 1, 2011 to the DCA Budget Office.
- f. Training Schedule: Staff has developed the yearly training schedule for officials and inspectors, which is now available online at www.dca.ca.gov/csac.
- g. Report of Stakeholders' Meeting: Number of officials, scorecards, rounds, licensure, and etc. were discussed at the Stakeholders' Meeting, providing open forums for discussing issues and improvements. Roy Englebret (promoter): Believes that the commission is making a positive step with these meetings. He requests that discussion regarding CCT (critical care transport) specializing in head trauma should be put on the next agenda. He believes it should be a promoter's decision to have a CCT or ambulance at an event.
- h. Office Report – Criteria for Rehabilitation: To be placed on the next agenda. “What is required for rehabilitation?” Anita Scuri has drafted language for the criteria which will be presented at the next commission meeting.

Non-agenda Item: Commissioner Alexander wants it made clear and on the record that he does not take any direct emails or correspondence from people concerning the commission. Correspondence must follow protocol in going through the commission office. He does not read the emails sent from the outside that do not follow this procedure.

Agenda Item 5. DCA Director's Report - Brian Stiger, DCA Director

Department's Chief Deputy Director Bill Young has retired and now acting in the role is Kim Kirchmeyer. Governor Brown's focus is on the budget crisis and working with the departments to support measures to control costs. At this time, the hiring freeze is still in effect until Governor Brown makes a decision – which he foresees having some clarification in the next couple of weeks. Governor Brown wants to save two hundred million dollars this fiscal year. At this time, the commission has received an ongoing overtime exemption to allow the Athletic Inspectors to be covered when working weekend events.

Director Stiger reported that the Breeze database licensing project is moving forward and on target, to be launched December 2012.

He also reminded the commission to take public comment before voting for officers, therefore asked the commissioners to re-open the item, open for any comment, then confirm the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the commission. The commission agreed on the importance of having everything open and available for any comment. Therefore, John Frierson was nominated as Chairman, Motion made and Seconded, then opened for comment, then Carried. And then again with Vice Chairman Christopher Giza to reaffirm with public comment. There was no public comment during this process.

Agenda Item 6. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

Commissioner Alexander: Recommended there be a timeframe on public comment. He suggested having a policy on what can be commented on and have language drafted so that there is something in writing that addresses this issue. Commissioner Alexander suggested a limit on public comment for each speaker to 4 minutes to better manage the time and maximize opportunity for comment.

Public Comments:

- Marty Denkin: Comments on ring officials training – commends Executive Officer Dodd on setting up training for officials and supports him.

- David Denkin, sport official: commented that Marty Denkin and he took on the cost of the training and looks forward to working with the commission in the future.
- Jason Delao: commented that he is impressed with the surplus 8.8%, and asked whether this would be passed on to the stakeholders.

Commissioner Hernandez: Inquired further about the Breeze database project and the commissions' licensure database online system. Asst. Executive Officer (AEO) explained the commission office is working closely with DCA to refine the database being created and get it operational as soon as possible. At this time the database is not fully functional because it does not have the capability to create reports, there are flaws in the search functions, and there are archiving issues. The AEO explained that the commission has these issues, however is expecting to get this database fully operational in the next month. Also, even though the system is not operational, we are entering data into a spreadsheet system that will be exported over so we can quickly resume database operations with current data.

- Marty Denkin: commented many are concerned with licensing athletes who should not be licensed and mismatches. The commission must look at the total record of an applicant to prevent mismatches.
- Charles Burrell: Identified himself as a trainer and agreed with Mr. Denkin's comment on mismatches.

Agenda Item 7. Applicants for Referee and Judge to Appear before the Commission (section 18662 of the Business and Professions Code) – Original Application

Ed Collantes, MMA Judge/Referee - George Dodd recommends that Mr. Collantes be granted a license as an MMA referee/judge.

- Johnny Davis (AK Promotions): Voiced his concern with Mr. Collantes knowing the difference between kickboxing and MMA.
- JT Steele (CAMO): Recommended Mr. Collantes be granted licensure as a judge due to his work with CAMO.

Commissioner Hernandez questioned whether Mr. Collantes was at the Muy Thai Training. Mr. Collantes responds with yes, recapping on the flash knock down that was taught in Muy Thai Training class.

After public comment and commission inquiries, it was M/S/C to grant Ed Collantes licensure as an MMA referee/judge.

William Douglas, MMA and Boxing Judge - George Dodd recommends Mr. Douglas be granted licensure as an MMA and Boxing judge.

There were no public comments given on Mr. Douglas' licensure, M/S/C to grant licensure as an MMA and Boxing Judge.

Agenda Item 8. New Promoter Applications for Licensure

8a. Bamma USA (Brett Roberts) - On January 27, 2010 Bamma USA was granted a temporary permit that had expired May 2010, which there were no issues with his shows according to event supervisors. Promoter provided an up-to-date bond that fulfills that aspect of the financial security component when being licensed.

M/S/C to grant Promoter licensure to Bamma USA

8b. World Series of Boxing Promotions LLC (Andrew Madigan) - the Executive Officer recommends that World Series of Boxing (WSB) be granted a license as a Promoter because all paperwork was properly submitted.

M/S/C to grant licensure upon correction of application to reflect that the applicant is an LLC and a financial statement signed by an accountant.

8c. Pongsan – Vivo Promotions (Joseph Vivo) - May 26, 2010 Vivo Promotions was granted a temporary permit that had expired September 2010. According to lead athletic inspectors the shows went well. The Executive Officer recommends that the license be granted. Vivo Promotions is not a partnership but instead an LLC. There is a \$50,000 bond in place.

M/S/C to grant licensure and to go on record the application to reflect that the applicant is in fact an LLC.

8d. Oxnard Peace Officers Association (Marc Amon) - M/S/C to table to the afternoon to give the association opportunity to verify if a corporation or LLC status.

M/S/C to grant licensure contingent upon correction of the application to reflect that the applicant is in fact a corporation.

Agenda Item 9. License Application

Jamiah Williamson, Professional Fighter: Mr. Williamson tested positive for marijuana in 2007. Since then he has paid all fines and participated in a rehabilitation program with his church.

M/S/C to issue a license on the conditions that he: (1) passes a skill evaluation; (2) makes himself available for random drug testing at his expense; (3) enrolls in a treatment program approved in advance by the commission's executive officer; and (4) agrees to an automatic suspension should he have a confirmed positive test.

Agenda Item 10. License Denial

Dorian Anthony, Professional Fighter: Mr. Anthony's license was originally denied based on rule 281(c). Mr. Anthony had brain surgery in 2008 for a craniotomy and he also had bleeding in the brain.

M/S/C to deny licensure

Agenda Item 11. Bout Appeal – Eddie Mendez vs. Kenny McCorkle – MMA

M/S/C to change the bout result to "no decision" due to inconsistency in the score cards.

Agenda Item 12. Advisory Committee on Medical and Safety Standards

A wide range of physicians were interested in being on the committee. At the next upcoming April 18th commission meeting, Executive Officer George Dodd would like to see if we can have a decision made on the medical committee members. Commissioner Dr. Lemons and Vice Chairman Dr. Giza volunteered to be on the subcommittee that will make recommendations to the commission on appointments to the committee.

Agenda Item 13. Medical Presentation Brain Trauma/Study Recommendation: Presented by neurosurgeons Dr. Ben Newman/Dr. Van Lemons

Dr. Newman presented on research and data on head trauma injuries from 1950's to the 2007. He discussed mortality rates regarding weight classes (usually happening in rounds 8 and 9 in a fight). NFL has provided funds for further research and to support the program at University of San Diego. He recommended that a hospital neurosurgeon should be on standby before an event is held. Dr. Newman also recommended mandatory central nervous system imaging after a KO or TKO.

Dr. Lemons spoke on similar data results and elaborated on ring deaths and dementia pugilistic, conditions that take the quality of life away from a fighter. In 2002 CSAC's increased safety standards have made significant improvements in safety in the ring, however are we watching for deaths or should we be studying the decrease of participants' health in long term effects. Weight correlations, losing massive amounts of weight, dehydration, and then increasing weight significantly after their weigh-in could be causing the complications and problems. The commission should evaluate the weigh-in procedure how we evaluate whether they meet certain weight classes, then massive weight gain amounts thereafter. Cutting weight prior to weigh-in, then rapid gain does not effectively restore the body to a healthy state. Should we be measuring dehydration levels to see if fighters are safe to compete?

Agenda Item 14. Amateur Mui Thai/Kickboxing Tournament Request – Johnny Davis - AK Promotions

IKF is a sanctioning body not a regulatory body. It is based in California. Johnny Davis wants to bring the tournament to California with the athletes participating in 9 rounds in 3 days during the tournament. All of the fighters will wear headgear, shin guards with end steps, and double mouth guards. Tournaments are currently being held in Kansas, Iowa and Florida.

M/S/C 4 -1 to approve the request to have the tournament in California (No: Dr. Lemons)

Agenda Item 15. California Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Organization – Proposed Rule Change

- a. Modification of rules for under 18 years of age

CAMO would like the commission to consider not using headgear for amateurs because of the handle on the head and athletes getting stuck in a submission. CAMO contends that head strikes are not allowed under the age of 18 so there is no need for the head gear.

M/S/C to refer this issue to the Advisory Committee on Medical and Safety Standards

- b. Petition to return to amateur status after fighting professional

M/S/C to make no change to the commission's position.

Agenda Item 16. USA Boxing

Local Boxing Club Northern and Local Boxing Club Los Angeles area – Joe Zanders reported

North: there are 58 clubs established. No grievances have been filed with Northern LBC. 53 approved sanctioned bouts were held last year. There were no insurance filed injuries reported.

South: a silver glove tournament allows kids as young as 10 to win a national championship. There were some grievances filed in 2009, however none in 2010. No injuries were reported last year.

Executive Officer George Dodd recommends allowing USA boxing to continue regulating amateur boxing. USA Boxing provided all the information needed to continue approval of delegation of amateur boxing to USA Boxing.

M/S/C to allow USA Boxing to continue to regulate amateur boxing and table the incident report to the next meeting.

Agenda Item 17. Action on Proposed Rule Making

- a. Overview of the Rule Making Process – Ms. Scuri presented a brief overview of the rulemaking process.
- b. Proposed Regulatory Changes: Sections 221, 222, 226, 230, 253, 262, 288, 300, and 340.

M/S/C to adopt all proposed changes to Regulations

- c. Proposed Regulatory Changes: Sections 208, 323, 399, and new 511.

Roy Englebrecht, Promoter, commented we should combine Boxing and MMA.

M/S/C to adopt changes to rules 208, 323,399 and to adopt 511

Agenda Item 18. Request to hold Regulatory Hearing

- a. Amend Section 371, 379, 543, 547

M/S/C to set for a Regulatory Hearing

- b. Amend Section 303, and adopting 303.1

M/S/C to set for a Regulatory Hearing

- c. Amend Section 403

M/S/C to set for a regulatory hearing

Agenda Item 19. Agenda Items and Meeting Dates for Future Meeting

- Next Commission meeting scheduled for April 18, 2011
- Medical Advisory Committee
- USA boxing
- Written rules for public comment
- Closed Session Minutes
- Gene Labell's performance as a Judge
- Explore options when it comes to measuring dehydration in athletes

Adjournment: 3: 55 p.m.
