



CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 20, 2011

9:30 A.M. – 1:40 P.M.

Van Nuys State Building

6150 Van Nuys Blvd.

Van Nuys, CA 91401

Commissioners Present:

Chairman John Frierson

Commissioner Dr. Van Buren Lemons

Vice Chairman Dr. Christopher Giza

Staff Present:

George Dodd, Executive Officer

Anita Scuri, DCA Legal

Dale Chessey, Assistant Executive Officer

Brian Stiger, DCA Acting Director

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

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item 2. Chairman's Reports

Chairman Frierson announced that public comment on any item should be held to three (3) minutes or at the Chairman's discretion. Additionally, he reminded all present that safety of the fighter is the primary mission of the Commission.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes

- a. April 18, 2011 Commission meeting minutes.
Motioned, Seconded, Carried (M/S/C) to approve minutes as corrected.

Agenda Item 4. Executive Officer Report - George Dodd

- a. Strategic Plan Update (*continued on page 3*)
The Denkins gave a presentation on referee training modules; Pension Fund needs to be re-evaluated – lower vesting requirements.
- b. Budget Update
Mr. Dodd reported that the Commission will be reverting funds.
- c. Training Schedule
Mr. Dodd reported that Athletic Inspector training will be held on June 26th.
- d. Update on Status of Regulations
Mr. Dodd reported that he had removed the regulation to increase gym fees due to oversight agency concerns and also the regulation regarding drinks in paper cups.

Condolences were offered to Genaro Hernandez's family. Mr. Hernandez was a former Super Feather Weight Champion who passed away on June 7, 2011.

Agenda Item 5. DCA Director's Report – Brian Stiger

Mr. Stiger announced that the new DCA Agency Secretary is Anna Caballero and the Under Secretary is Willie Armstrong. He reviewed Governor Brown's Executive Orders: cutbacks to state vehicles; cell phone reduction; hiring freeze with exemption; and travel restrictions. There is hope that once the budget has passed the hiring freeze/exemptions will be lifted.

Mr. Stiger reported that the BREEZE contract is expected to be in place by August 2011.

Mr. Stiger indicated that the Executive Office has received several requests for salary increases for executive officers (EO) throughout DCA and that DCA has contracted with an outside vendor to study the salary levels of executive officers. Once the study is complete, a report will be offered on the issue. Additionally, Mr. Stiger has received several complaints from board members that there is no successful and reasonable way to evaluate an executive officer. However, a team of individuals in DCA developed a new EO evaluation process that is currently operating as a pilot project, but is expected to be in full production at the end of June. Mr. Stiger encouraged Commission members to complete an executive officer evaluation on a yearly basis.

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

Dr. Paul Wallace brought up an incident that occurred on June 4 at the Fox Theater. He stated that Dr. Beard, the event ringside physician, was undermined in that Dr. Beard's decision was not supported by the lead athletic inspector. A request was made to put this topic on the agenda for discussion at the next Commission meeting.

Additionally, Dr. Wallace believes that "cherry-picking" of ringside physicians is being done by promoters; based on whether or not the physician is liked.

Finally, Dr. Wallace believes that if there is a disagreement between two physicians, the option that provides the greatest safety to the fighter must prevail. He indicates this practice has been eroding for the last six to seven years. Approval of the fighter by the primary ringside physician should not be challenged by staff.

Chairman Frierson and Dr. Lemons agreed that the June 4 Fox Theater incident needs to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting so that it can be discussed. Staff was instructed to invite all witnesses and affected persons.

Tony Rivera, a cutman specialist, stated that cuts are being limited to what medications can be used and that cut medications should be worked out without interference by inspectors. He asked about the use of coco butter prior to Vaseline. Additionally, he reported that regarding hand wraps, Joe Chavez wants gauze under the tape to prevent the ripping off hair when removing tape.

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

a. Supachai Prasertphong – Muay Thai Judge

Marty Denkin stated that the Athletic Commission should form one board with stakeholder members to make decisions regarding officials. This practice should not be left up to the Commission staff or word of international organizations.

M/S/C to issue license as a Muay Thai judge and to permit staff, after successful evaluation of the applicant, to issue a license as a referee.

b. Ron McCarthy – MMA Judge

JT Steele (CAMO) indicated support of licensure.

David Denkin (CAMO) indicated support of licensure.

M/S/C to issue license as MMA judge.

- c. Nelson Hamilton – Boxing Judge
Mr. Hamilton successfully completed the requirement that he be mentored for eligibility for licensure as a boxing judge.

M/S/C to issue license as a boxing judge.

Agenda Item 8. New Promoter Applications for Licensure – Executive Officer, George Dodd

- a. Caged in Promotions (Scott Hemming) - MMA
M/S/C to grant second temporary permit for a period not to exceed 120 days, contingent upon submission of financial statements on CPA letterhead.
- b. Fight for Wrestling (Craig Tobin) – Professional MMA Promoter
M/S/C to grant promoter licensure.
- c. Western States Police and Firefighter Games – (Mike Graham)
M/S/C to grant an amateur promoter license.

Agenda Item 4. Executive Officer Report *(continued)*

- a. Strategic Plan Update
Commissioner Frierson expressed concern that during the Executive Officer’s Report on the Strategic Plan an update on diversity was not given. Mr. Dodd explained that the commission will begin promoting diversity through the gym inspection program that was recently approved through the Spring Finance letter. The program will include a component specific to officials.

Agenda Item 9. Possible Action against Judge’s License

- a. Gene Lebell – MMA Judge
Mr. Dodd presented the matter.

Marty Denkin stated that there should be a back-up plan in place when the red and blue corner changes as this causes things to break down. Mr. Denkin recommends the referee tell the judges who is who.

Commissioner Frierson suggested that red/blue tape be placed on the gloves for each corner.

M/S/C not to suspend Mr. Lebell’s license.

Agenda Item 10. Appeal of Decision

- a. Russ Miura vs. Isaac DeJesus
Request to change “decision win (DeJesus)” to “no decision” pursuant to rule 368(a)(4).

M/S/C to change to “no decision” pursuant to Rule 303.

Agenda Item 11. Process for Scheduling Officials

Commissioner Lemons requested that additional information be provided regarding the number of assignments an official has refused.

Marty Denkin believes some officials receive better assignments than others and he plans on providing statistics supporting the statement at the next meeting.

Raul Caiz Jr. questioned the qualifications and training of new officials coming on. He thought that Mr. Dodd indicated previously that no new officials would be added; however, some have been. He believes instituting the A/B/C category for the officials is a good idea.

Pat Russell believes more experienced officials should be mentoring the new officials.

Jack Reiss believes the Commission needs a system in place to help the newer officials grow. Also, he wants the official's statistics placed online, prior to the meetings so that corrections can be identified and corrected prior to the information being presented in the meeting packets.

Discussion ensued and it was suggested that legislation be proposed to limit the number of officials the Commission can/will license. It was also suggested that information on the number of assignments of officials and the amounts they make should be made public.

Anita Scuri indicated that draft language had previously been presented to the Commission. She will forward that language to Mr. Dodd for transmittal to Mr. Reiss.

David Denkin stated that he was part of the 1998 class of officials hired. He has never received a "championship fight" despite the fact that he does a great job.

Marty Denkin agrees that a ranking system for officials is needed.

Brian Stiger reported he has received complaints regarding this issue and believes a sub-committee should be formed to research and address this issue.

Commissioner Frierson is concerned about the lack of diversity (no African-Americans) and supports the A/B/C categorization.

Agenda Item 12. Set for Regulatory Hearing – Criteria for Rehabilitation

Rule 399.1 – Evidence of Rehabilitation language was proposed.

M/S/C to set for regulatory hearing.

Agenda Item 13. Medical Advisory Committee - Update

a. Recommendation to Commission for appointment of physicians to the Medical Advisory Committee

No nominees at this time. One member withdrew. The Commission is working to fill this vacancy. August 14, 2011, is the first scheduled meeting for the committee.

Agenda Item 14. Policy for Handling Allegation of Illegal Activity

This item was tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 15. Policy for Handling Illegal Events

Assistant Chief Athletic Inspector, Che Guevara, explained the current policy and noted that the safety of the inspector is a concern. Badges/credentials are needed. Changing the policy to a procedure should be considered.

Sid Segovia asked for more authority, requested badges and mentioned the possibility of carrying a gun.

Agenda Item 16. Policy for Accepting Medical Documents from Outside the United States – Rule 280(b)

This item was tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 17. Agenda Items and Meeting Dates for Future Meetings

- June 4, Fox Theater incident
- New Officials – mentorship (for officials committee)
- Assignments categories
- California Police Athletic Federation – request for authority to regulate their events
- Ringside Physician Association report
- Executive Officer Evaluation
- August 14, Medical Advisory Committee
- August 15, Commission Meeting, Location in LA (Junipero Serra or Ronald Reagan Bldg.)

Adjournment
