



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL SAFETY STANDARDS MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, August 14, 2011

1:40 – 5:00 P.M.

LOCATION

Junipero Serra State Building
Carmel Room
320 West 4th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Committee Members Present:

Vice Chairman Dr. Christopher Giza
Commissioner Dr. Van Buren Lemons
Dr. Paul Wallace
Dr. Ruby Skinner

Dr. Joyce Liao
Dr. Richard Zoraster
Dr. Richard Gluckman

Athletic Commission Staff Present:

George Dodd, Executive Officer
Anita Scuri, DCA Legal Office

Kathi Burns, Assistant Executive Officer
Elizabeth Parkman, Program Analyst

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. Welcome

Dr. VanBuren Lemons and Dr. Christopher Giza welcomed the Advisory Committee members. Anita Scuri, DCA Legal counsel, explained that the mission of the Committee is to study and recommend medical and safety standards for boxing and mixed martial arts contests. This would include but is not limited to, the proposed exemption for therapeutic use of drugs. Ms. Scuri clarified the law requires compliance with the Open Meetings Act. This law requires that, apart from a few specific exceptions, all business be done in an open meeting. This is intended for Commission and government transparency and the opportunity for public comment. No item of business may be discussed or voted upon unless it is on the agenda that has been noticed and disseminated at least 10 days before the date of the meeting.

Agenda Item 3. Brief Introduction to Physician Roles with CSAC and Prior History of Committee

Dr. Christopher Giza (CG) – Adult and Pediatric Neurologist, Neuroscientist (UCLA)
Dr. VanBuren Lemons (VL) – Neurosurgeon, former ringside physician (UC Davis)
Dr. Paul Wallace (PW) – Dermatologist, current ringside physician (private practice, Beverly Hills)
Dr. Richard Gluckman (RG) – General Neurologist, former ringside physician (private practice, San Pedro)
Dr. Joyce Liao (JL) – Neuro-Ophthalmologist (Stanford)
Dr. Richard Zoraster (RZ) – Emergency Medicine Physician (Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services)
Dr. Ruby Skinner (RS) – Trauma Surgeon (Kern Medical Center, Bakersfield)

Dr. Giza said the committee has been inactive for approximately five (5) to six (6) years. However, there are safety standards that all athletes have to complete; periodic review, updates and changes may be needed. Such changes may be made through legislation or regulation. The committee will need to determine the priority of the safety standards being addressed and determine volunteer participation.

Agenda Item 4. Listing of Goals/Objectives for the Committee and Prioritization of these Goals (all members)

The goal is to determine the medical issues facing the committee and divide them into high/medium/low priority meeting items.

HIGH PRIORITY MEDICAL ISSUES:

- Acute Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Chronic TBI, including the review of neurocognitive testing
- State-wide database for injuries to athletes
 - DCA is currently contracting for a new licensing database (BreEZe). While it does not currently contain an area to track medical records for athletes, this option should be explored further.
- Eye injuries (update forms; track injuries)
- Therapeutic use exemption
 - Regulation change is slated for public comment in October 2011
- Standardized suspensions/clearance guidelines
 - When an athlete has been sent to the hospital or a doctor at the conclusion of a bout and upon recommendation of the ringside physician, there is no follow up with the athlete. At minimum, we should be able to see the discharge summary and input this information into a medical database.
- Dehydration/Rehydration
 - CAMMO has proposed a hydration study to include the athlete's weight during post bout physical.

MEDIUM PRIORITY MEDICAL ISSUES:

Utilization of neurological funds
Current status of annual testing for licensure
Pre/Post fight physical assessment
Pregnancy testing
Review and assess annual neurological testing (15 months) MRI
Facial laceration/injuries
Consent for medical release of information
Transportation of non-emergent injuries
Adoption of a concussion classification rating system

LOW PRIORITY MEDICAL ISSUES:

Hand fractures
Foster research of combative sports
Assignment of/contracts for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) per venue-standardize emergency personnel available at events

Agenda Item 5. Assignment of Topics to Subcommittees

The following subcommittee members (advisory committee members defined by initials) have been assigned to the topics below. Both categories A and B were defined by Dr. Lemons and Dr. Giza and are of the same significance (they were established to ensure compliance with the open meetings act). The assignments are:

High Priority

TBI – acute **(A)** JL, VL **(B)** CG, RS

TBI – chronic **(A)** VL, JL **(B)** RG, McCoy Moretz (**alt:** CG)

State-wide data base for injuries **(A)** CG, RS, CSAC staff **(B)** JL, RZ

Eye injury **(A)** JL, Steve Steinschriber **(B)** JS, AS

Therapeutic use exemption (VL)

Standardize suspension clearance guidelines (PW)

Dehydration/Rehydration **(A)** VL, CG (**alt:** RZ)

Medium Priority

Utilization of Neurological Fund **(A)** RG, VL, **(B)** CG, JL, CSAC staff

Current status of annual testing for licensure **(A)** PW

Pre/post fight assessment **(A)** PW, VL

Pregnancy testing **(A)** PW

Review and assess annual neurological testing **(A)** JL, RG **(B)** VL, CG

Facial lacerations/injuries **(A)** PW, RZ (**alt:** RS)

Consent for medical release of information **(A)** RS, RZ

Transportation of non-emergent injuries **(A)** RS, RZ

Adopt a concussion classification rating system **(A)** CG, VL **(B)** RG, JL

Low Priority

Hand fractures **(A)** RS

Research of combative sports **(A)** JL, CG (**alt:** PW)

Assign/Contract of EMT **(A)** RZ

Agenda Item 6. Research Presentation Example – MRI data

Dr. VanBuren Lemons presented information on brain MRI evaluations of active athletes in combative sports. The Committee discussed the incorporation of Susceptibility Weight Imaging (SWI) and Gradient Recall Echo (GRE) as part of the MRI requirement during initial licensure.

Moved/Seconded/Carried (MSC) to recommend to the Commission that, beginning January 1, 2012, each MRI report submitted to the Commission for licensure must include the Gradient Recall Echo (GRE) sequence.

Agenda Item 7. Research Presentation Example – Dehydration

Dr. Christopher Giza presented information on the dehydration of an athlete and how it relates to intracranial complications and the performance of an athlete. A careful analysis of pre-fight weight change may allow for improved combatant sport safety policies.

Agenda Item 8. Consideration of Whether to Review Neurocognitive Testing

Dr. Gluckman spoke to the history of neuropsychiatric testing. He discussed the results from a previous study done on retired boxers in CA and recommended beginning a new study and the development of a system to capture the results.

Agenda Item 9. Future Agenda Items

- Next meeting, November 6, 2011
- Pilot study for computerized neuropsychiatric testing
- Vendor presentation(s) for computerized system
- Review Rule 294 – Required Emergency Equipment
- MRI data updated
- Request to change blood testing requirement
- Proposal for BreEZe changes or secondary medical database
- Therapeutic use exemption
- Standard protocol for pre-fight physical
- Neurological Fund
- Future agenda items and next meeting date