



CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 6, 2012

9:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Junipero Serra State Building

Carmel Room

320 West 4th Street

Los Angeles, CA 90013

Commissioners Present:

Chairman John Frierson

Commissioner Dr. Van Buren Lemons

Commissioner Dr. Christopher Giza

Vice Chairman Eugene Hernandez

Commissioner Mike Munoz

Commissioner Linda Forster

Staff Present:

George Dodd, Executive Officer

Anita Scuri, DCA Legal Office

Elizabeth Parkman, Program Analyst

Dorothea Johnson, Deputy Director, Office of Legal Affairs

Karen Chappelle, Supervising Deputy Attorney General

Kathi Burns, Assistant Executive Officer

Che Guevara, Chief Athletic Inspector

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

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

A quorum was present. Commissioner Edwards was absent.

Agenda Item 2. Election of Officers

Commissioner Forster nominated Commissioner John Frierson for Chairman and Commissioner Eugene Hernandez for Vice-Chairman. Both nominations were accepted.

It was Moved/Seconded/Carried (M/S/C) to elect Mr. Frierson as Chairman and Mr. Hernandez as Vice-Chairman.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes

December 13, 2011

It was M/S/C to approve the minutes.

Agenda Item 4. Executive Officer Report

a. Budget Update

Mr. Dodd provided a report of the CSAC's fund condition as of December 31, 2011 and offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Dodd reported on the hiring of two new staff members: Shilo Wilson and Teryn Fleming; and announced Che Guevara's promotion to Chief Athletic Inspector.

b. Update of Status of Regulations

Ms. Burns provided a chart showing the status of regulations that are currently before the commission. The 45-day notice for the *Therapeutic Use Exemption* was posted and the commission is currently receiving public comment on this regulation package. The public hearing will be held during the April 9, 2012 meeting.

c. Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Dodd explained to the commission that it was time to prepare a new/updated strategic plan. He recommended that parameters and deadlines be set. Dates for plan development will be selected at the April 9, 2012 meeting.

d. Officials Yearly Event Totals

Mr. Dodd provided a report of the total number of events each official worked during 2011.

e. Inspector Recognition – Mo Noor and Sid Sigovia

Lead Inspector's Mohammed Noor and Sidney Sigovia were recognized for their years of superior service to the commission and leadership at events.

Agenda Item 5. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

Official Jack Reiss spoke on behalf of the California Boxing Officials Association, a newly established association established to represent all licensed California officials. The next meeting of the association is February 19, 2012. The following members of the association were in attendance: Raul Caiz Jr.; Max De Luca; Pat Connolly; Gwen Adair; Marty Denkin; Jerry Cantu; Dr. Lou Moret; Sergio Caiz; Carla Caiz; Danny Sandoval

Agenda Item 6. Consideration of Amateur Boxing Rules

a. USA Boxing Input

b. Costs

Mr. Anthony Bartowski, USA Boxing Executive Director, addressed the proposed rule changes to amateur boxing. He discussed each rule separately and noted where similarities and contradictions to the USA boxing rules existed. After discussion, a CSAC task force was created to provide input on the issue, including what costs such rules may impose upon amateur athletes. The task force shall consist of a representative from USA boxing and commission members, Dr. Giza and Mr. Munoz.

It was M/S/C to continue development of amateur boxing rules after input from the newly formed CSAC task force.

Additionally, Mr. Dodd was asked to create a document to send to promoters of celebrity boxing events that would outline 1) the limitations of such events 2) activities that would require the event to be regulated by the commission, and 3) an acknowledgment as to the activities in which the celebrities will be engaged.

Agenda Item 7. USA Boxing Annual Report

Mr. Bartkowski submitted the final annual report for each of the four divisions of USA Boxings' Local Boxing Committees; California Border, Central, Northern and Southern California. He reported that membership had increased; no insurance claims were filed, nor were major injuries reported in the past year. He indicated that these clubs have prepared and ultimately have had several athletes selected for competition in the 2012 Olympics.

Agenda Item 9. New Promoter Applications for Licensure

a. Branden Ware – West Coast Fight Championship

Mr. Dodd stated that while there were some challenges at Mr. Ware's event there were no issues surrounding the health and safety of the fighter. Ms. Chappelle reviewed and questioned the accounting report the promoter submitted as it was missing relevant information. She suggested he submit a follow-up report with the missing information for further review and approval.

It was M/S/C to grant Mr. Ware a promoter's license contingent upon receipt of a revised CPA report.

Agenda Item 11. Proposed Modification to the Officials' Pay Scale

The Officials' subcommittee met and agreed that an increase in the pay scale for MMA Officials to match that of the pay scale for boxing officials was warranted as was an increase in the time-keeper pay, which also should include a pay structure for Pay-Per-View/Main events. A draft pay scale reflecting such changes was provided to the commission for review and is incorporated by reference.

It was M (Munoz)/S/C to adopt the new pay-scale.

Agenda Item 13. Discussion on Changing Mechanics Prior to Ending a Round

Commissioner Frierson stated that he believed it may be beneficial to fighter safety if the end of round warning was changed from 10 seconds to 5 seconds. The commission participated in discussion with present members of the public on the topic.

It was M/S/C to refer this topic to the Officials' subcommittee.

Agenda Item 8. CAMO Annual Report – Jeremy Lappen, Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Lappen reported on the continued growth of CAMO's organization, their annual seminar and detailed their participation in the hydration study. Also, he introduced two initiatives and explained the reasoning and goals behind CAMO's request for commission approval of the initiatives. They are as follows:

a. Combat Grappling (No striking while standing)

CAMO requested to establish a new division known as combat grappling where there will be no striking while standing allowed, and each round will be three minutes in length.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tony Altovilla (CAMO Promoter) supports the three minute round for combat grappling.

It was M/S/C to permit CAMO to establish a combat grappling division.

b. Amateur MMA Rules (Changing number of fights to 4 to allow 3 minute rounds)

CAMO believes that many amateur athletes should be allowed to begin competing in three minutes rounds after their fourth fight as it is fairly common that an athlete will not compete ten times before turning professional.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John McCarthy (Referee) explained that when fighters go pro they do 3-3 minute rounds and he believes that making this change would be helpful for the amateurs that are making their pro-debut.

Roy Engelbrecht (Promoter) believes the fighters should be able to choose either 2 or 3 minute rounds.

Tony Altovilla (CAMO Promoter) supports 4 fights instead of 10.

It was M/S/C to permit CAMO to reduce the number of fights from ten to four with each round being three minutes for all amateur MMA divisions except combat grappling unless the athletes agree to 2 minute rounds.

Agenda Item 10. Promoter’s Promotional Contract Update

Mr. Dodd reported that he, several promoters, and Ms. Chappell met and discussed provisions of promotional contracts and found that changes to the contract may be necessary.

Eric Gomez, Golden Boy Promotions; Roy Englebrecht; and Dan Goosen, Goosen Tutor Promotions, commented on the logistical difficulties that exist since the contract must be signed in the presence of commission staff and also that having the contract filed with the commission exposes, to the inquiring public, items in the contract that should remain confidential between the parties.

It was M/S/C to direct the DCA Legal Office to prepare a proposal and then discuss options at an interested parties meeting.

Agenda Item 12. Neurological Fund

- a. Request to Set Regulatory Hearing Assessment and Reimbursement**
- b. Recommendations for Legislative Change**
- c. Adjustment to Current Amount of Assessment**

Ms. Burns presented the commissioners with the results of staff's analysis of the neurological examination account as requested at the December 2011 Commission meeting. She explained that the related law requires the payment of *all medical examinations*, not just neurological examinations, as was previously believed. A review of the budget of the account and the expenditures associated with funding *all medical exams* revealed that a significant increase in the assessment would be required to offset an increase in the commission's appropriation in order to fund all required exams. It was also determined that the possibility of only paying for neurological exams, rather than all exams would still require an increase to the assessment fee and the account's appropriation. With the account's current fee structure and appropriation level, the commission would only be able to fund neurological exams for approximately half the licensing population.

Dr. Giza presented the options developed at the Medical Advisory Committee meeting based upon staff's analysis of the account. The committee proposed the commission pursue legislation to remove the collection of medical exam assessment fees to pay for actual medical exams; and to authorize using the existing fund balance and assessment authority to pursue a pilot project to create a medical data base with future funding to be used to operate, maintain and analyze data from a new data base. Additionally, since the commission is not currently funding the neurological exams of fighters, to consider lowering the assessment fee from .60 cents per ticket to .01 cent per ticket since promoters have paid into to the account for years without benefit.

The pilot project will use existing appropriation to fund computerized neurological exams of approximately 200 volunteer licensed fighters over a two-year period, to study the type and usefulness of the data collected and to compare it to the neurological exam currently used. Information gained from that study, using existing appropriation, would then be used to create a useful medical data base designed to protect the health and safety of fighters by 1) tracking injuries; 2) assisting in determining when a fighter is safe to return to active participation after sustaining an injury; 3) identifying medical trends; and 4) assisting prevention of injury by identifying individuals who may be at a greater risk.

Currently, it appears there are sufficient funds in the account to conduct the study and create the medical data base. Eventually, the assessment fee will be recalculated to cover costs associated with the administration of the account, as well as the maintenance and operation of the data base and its information.

It was M/S/C to pursue legislation to remove the collection of medical exam assessment fees to pay for the actual medical exam; and instead, use the existing fund balance and assessment authority to create a medical data base with future funding to be used to operate, maintain and analyze data from a new data base; and in the meantime to lower the assessment fee from .60 cents per ticket to .01 cent per ticket.

It should be noted that all fighters must continue to meet all medical exam requirements, including the neurological exam requirement, in order to compete in California.

Agenda Item 14. Review of the No Gift Policy

Deputy Director of the DCA Legal Affairs Division, Dorothea Johnson, reminded the commissioners that "gifts" are subject to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) guidelines and addressed the requirement that if the Commissioners are not attending an event in a work capacity, entrance to the event is considered a gift.

Vice Chairman Hernandez explained that when any Commissioner attends an event, it is for audit purposes and they are in an official working capacity.

Official Lou Moret commented that the credentials issued to commissioners for attending events in their official capacity carry no value and therefore are not reportable as gifts. Mr. Moret believes that the no gift policy does not apply to commissioners with regard to ringside seats specifically in their official capacity.

It was M/S/C to modify the current "no gift" policy to be consistent with gift limitations under the guidelines of the FPPC.

Agenda Item 15. Agenda Items and Meeting Dates for Future Meetings

- Strategic Plan meeting dates
- Amateur Boxing Rules
- Review policy for *Promotional Contracts*
- Review the updated "No Gift" policy
- Commission Meeting – April 9, 2012 – Department of Consumer Affairs, Sacramento

Adjourned