



CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

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Members of the Commission

James Araby
Luis Ayala
John Carvelli, Chair
Mary Lehman, Vice Chair
Martha Shen-Urquidez
Van Gordon Sauter
Vernon Williams, M.D.

Agenda items may be taken out of order the
agenda except public comment.
Action may be taken on any item listed on

CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 15, 2019

10:00 a.m. - Conclusion of Business

Location:

*Millennium Biltmore Hotel
506 South Grand Avenue, Bernard Room
Los Angeles, CA 90071*

Commissioners Present

Chair John Carvelli
Vice Chair Mary Lehman
Commissioner Martha Shen-Urquidez
Commissioner Vernon Williams, MD
Commissioner Luis Ayala

Staff Present

Andy Foster, Executive Officer
Sophia Cornejo, Assistant EO
Patrishia Blackstock, Staff
Kenneth Swenson, Legal Counsel

OPEN SESSION

**Agenda Item 1 – Call the meeting to Order / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance/
Establishment of Quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair John Carvelli. Executive Officer (EO) Andy Foster called roll and a quorum was established; Commissioner Van Gordon Sauter and Commissioner James Araby were not present.

Agenda Item 2 – Welcome –Chairman’s opening remarks

Chair John Carvelli stated that EO Foster keeps the Commission apprised on many issues both nationally and internationally. Chair Carvelli informed the Commission that the sport of boxing has experienced some deaths and boxer Patrick Day was still in a coma from his recent fight. Chair Carvelli asked for a moment of silence for the athletes no longer with us.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of the May 14, 2019, Commission Meeting Minutes

EO Foster presented the May 14, 2019, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez motioned to approve the minutes.

Vice Chair Lehman seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 4- Appeal of the Han Zhong Lou, Dragon House Promotions, Administrative Suspension for violation of California Code of Regulations, section 390 issued on September 20, 2019.

Mr. Lou was present along with his attorney, Tracy Green.

EO Foster informed the Commission that Mr. Lou was charged with a violation of section 390. Mr. Lou submitted altered blood work to the Commission for his upcoming July event. The falsified blood work was caught by staff and an investigation was ordered. During the investigation Mr. Lou denied he altered the blood work. When the investigation was completed, Mr. Lou was formally suspended.

On October 4, 2019 the Commission received an email from Mr. Lou's legal counsel stating Mr. Lou's son had altered the blood work. EO Foster stated this email confession changed the case as the Commission no longer had to prove the blood work was altered. EO Foster recommended Mr. Lou be suspended until November 20, 2019, pay a fine of \$1,000, and place his promoter's license on probation for one year. In addition, all medicals documents for any of Mr. Lou's events must be submitted a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours before the weigh-in. EO Foster also suggested Mr. Lou enroll in a Business Ethics course. EO Foster stated he believes Mr. Lou understands the ramifications of his actions. Chair Carvelli opened the agenda item up for questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked Mr. Lou how many times before this incident his son helped with his events. Mr. Lou stated his son helped at almost every event since he was 16 or 17 years old. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked Mr. Lou how often his son handled the medical documents for his events. Mr. Lou responded the July 2019 event was the first time. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked if Mr. Lou's son had ever spoken to any CAMO or CSAC staff on behalf of Mr. Lou before this event, Mr. Lou answered he had not. She further asked Mr. Lou if his son had ever handled the medical documents or lab work for CAMO events. Mr. Lou answered "no." Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked if he instructed his son to falsify the lab work submitted to the Commission. Mr. Lou responded "no." She further asked Mr. Lou if he spoke with his staff to see if they ever altered documents in the past. Mr. Lou responded he asked his staff, who advised this was the first time this happened.

Commissioner Dr. Williams stated after reading Mr. Lou's explanation of him asking his son to look into the issue with the medicals because he was busy with other things, it seems rather convenient that Mr. Lou now has someone to blame this on. Commissioner Dr. Williams asked Mr. Lou if his son had never handled the medicals before, how did he know where to get them. Mr. Lou responded his son knew the medicals were kept in his briefcase. Mr. Lou further stated he cannot read or write and that his son helps him with the paperwork. Commissioner Dr. Williams stated the handling of the medicals seems like something Mr. Lou should have handled as it was out of the ordinary and he should have asked his son to do the other routine stuff. Mr. Lou stated that he just informed his son to look into the issue as he was informed that the fight was cancelled, and it wasn't any interest to him if the fight was cancelled. Commissioner Dr. Williams asked Mr. Lou what was of no interest to him. Mr. Lou responded the fight was of no interest. Attorney Tracy Green stated if the medicals for the fight weren't completed then they weren't completed. Commissioner Dr. Williams stated Mr. Lou is saying two different things, one that it was no big deal and two that it was stressful. Ms. Green clarified Mr. Lou was referring to it being no big deal if the fight was cancelled. Ms. Green also stated Mr. Lou is taking responsibility for this, he is not blaming someone else and admits what happened was wrong.

Vice Chair Lehman congratulated Mr. Lou for all he has achieved with his limited ability to read and write English but stated she was concerned with Mr. Lou's ability to follow the Commission's rules since he was not able to read and write. Vice Chair Lehman asked Mr. Lou if he had someone that helps him, he stated his girlfriend helps him. Vice Chair Lehman stated she was concerned going forward that Mr. Lou was in a vulnerable situation as the buck stops with him. Mr. Lou responded he was studying English every day. Vice Chair Lehman stressed to Mr. Lou he needs to get someone with him all day so he would be able to do his job both professionally and legally.

Commissioner Ayala asked Mr. Lou how long he has been in this business. Mr. Lou responded ten (10) years. Commissioner Ayala asked EO Foster if this was the first time the Commission has had an issue with Mr. Lou. EO Foster responded it was.

Chair Carvelli stated he understood a fight was cancelled on his event however his story has a lot of holes. He added Mr. Lou needs to get his story straight. Chair Carvelli stated he wasn't comfortable with Mr. Lou's story or EO Foster's recommendation. Chair Carvelli called for any motions or amendments by the Commissioners. Legal Counsel Kenneth Swenson informed the Commission that Mr. Lou was currently under temporary suspension and the Commission has the option to extend the suspension.

Chair Carvelli stated the Commission wants more transparency from Mr. Lou regarding who handles the medicals for his events. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated she finds it hard to believe his son, who normally would not handle the medical records or documents, was able to alter the medicals without direction from someone. She further stated this agenda item should be delayed and heard at the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated by delaying this it will give Mr. Lou time to show the

Commission he is attempting to take steps to improve. She recommended Mr. Lou take a class before the next meeting and bring proof of completion to the next meeting. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez told Mr. Lou to reach out to the Commission staff if he needed help but getting medicals submitted on time is incredibly important. She added EO Foster has said Mr. Lou is cooperative but he does have a history of crunching time when it comes to submitting the required documents.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez motioned to extend Mr. Lou's suspension until the next Commission meeting and directed Mr. Lou to take a course in business ethics.

EO Foster stated he was not aware Mr. Lou could not read or write in English. Chair Carvelli added he felt Mr. Lou was not being honest.

Commissioner Dr. Williams seconded the motion.

Attorney Tracy Green stated Mr. Lou can read English, but he does not write very well. Mr. Lou stated that English is his second language and he is not good at it.

Public Comments:

Gene Fields informed the Commission he has had dealings with Mr. Lou for many years and has always seen him take care of the medical paperwork.

Dave Hirschbein stated he has worked with Mr. Lou for the past eight (8) years and he always sends the medicals list on the front end.

No further Commission or Public Comments

The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote

Agenda Item 5-Review and Possible Action on Petition to Change Decision for Aspen Ladd vs. Germain De' Randamie on July 13, 2019 in Sacramento, CA

EO Foster presented the Commission with background on the petition to change the decision and the materials were included in their packet. The bout was stopped at 16 seconds in round 1 by Referee Herb Dean and ruled a TKO. EO Foster stated Dave Hirschbein, on behalf of Aspen Ladd, approached him after the bout and stated they would be appealing the decision. EO Foster brought the petition before the Commission as he felt it warranted the Commission's attention.

EO Foster detailed the stoppage by Referee Herb Dean. EO Foster stated during the bout, Ms. Ladd lined up to throw a hook, while she was lining up for the hook De' Randamie threw and landed a hook that knocked Ms. Ladd down. Ms. Ladd appeared stunned but looked as if she was attempting to do a jiu-jitsu technical stand-up. EO Foster stated he assigned Herb Dean as the referee, he is one of the best in the world and he has no

issues with Herb's credibility as a referee. EO Foster added this petition is about Herb Dean's stoppage.

Referee Herb Dean explained the hook De' Randamie landed on Ladd spun Ladd and he saw her collapse off her feet, reaching out to steady herself. Referee Dean stated his job was to see if Ladd had been concussed, Ladd was down on her hands and knees and De' Randamie was lining up to throw another punch. Referee Dean stated he did not believe Ladd was aware of where her opponent was or what she was doing. He added Ladd wasn't trying to find De' Randamie and when someone is unconscious, they don't know what they are doing.

Dave Hirschbein and Ms. Ladd thanked the Commission for hearing the petition. Mr. Hirschbein stated he and Ms. Ladd feel Referee Herb Dean got the stoppage wrong. Mr. Hirschbein stated he has been training Ms. Ladd since she was fifteen (15) years of age. He further stated the first thing Ms. Ladd said after the fight was, "do you think would this have been stopped if it was the males?" He added most fighters are devastated when they lose but they felt this bout would not have been stopped if it was the men and female bouts are stopped early in general. Ms. Ladd demonstrated to the Commission a technical stand up that she was performing during the bout before it was stopped. Mr. Hirschbein informed the Commission this fight was to determine who will go to the title fight on pay-per view. When Referee Dean stopped the fight, it gave De' Randamie the title shot and the potential to earn millions of dollars.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked Ms. Ladd if she felt she could have taken one more punch, Ms. Ladd responded yes. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated Ms. Ladd had taken some hard punches in round 1 of a CAMO fight, survived, and was able to come back and get the win. Ms. Ladd stated she survives many 1st round knockdowns and can come back and win. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked if someone has ever told her because she was a female, she could only take one punch. Ms. Ladd responded her chin has always been questioned and it is very common to hear females function as a lesser degree than males. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked Ms. Ladd if she has ever been told that because she is a female, she shouldn't be involved in techniques such as ground-n-pound. Ms. Ladd responded she has heard the very common saying, don't get hit in the face, you're too pretty or you should go to school or have kids.

Commissioner Dr. Williams asked if they felt the Commission should be addressing the culture of MMA as it pertains to males and females or are, they are asking the Commission to change the decision. Mr. Hirschbein responded they understand it is two issues, the fight being stopped early and the culture. Mr. Hirschbein further stated they are asking for the Commission to declare the bout a "no contest" giving Ms. Ladd a record of 8-0-1. Mr. Hirschbein stated they understand Ms. Ladd will not get a chance at the title if the Commission changes the decision, she will have to work her way back up.

Commissioner Ayala stated the petition seems simple, the Commission's role is to protect the fighter. He added this fight could have gone either way but based on the referee's statements that he had the health and safety of the fighter in mind, the stakes were irrelevant. Commissioner Ayala stated he felt De 'Randamie was "swinging for the fences" and could have hurt Ms. Ladd if the fight continued. Commissioner Ayala added he felt the stoppage was correct based on watching the video.

Vice Chair Lehman stated as a former professional fighter she is aware of the unequal treatment in combative sports between males and females. Fights are bloody and everyone gets beat up, but this doesn't seem on par with how the females are treated. Chair Carvelli asked Ms. Ladd if Herb Dean has ever refereed one of her fights. She responded no. Chari Carvelli asked Ms. Ladd if she has ever experienced something like this. She responded once as an amateur, but this is the first time as a professional.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated referee Dean has been officiating for years. This fight was the main event and UFC felt these fighters deserved the main event match. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez added the Commission approved this main event fight based on the experience of the fighters, at the time of the fight De' Randamie was 8-3 and Ms. Ladd was 8-0. Ms. Ladd's record was the same as Rousey's when she fought McMann. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez quoted the anti-discrimination law. She stated this was an early stoppage, you don't stop fights after just one punch. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez presented the Commission with slides from previous male bouts that Referee Dean officiated and let go longer than this female fight. Referee Dean stated he did not gender discriminate.

Chair Carvelli asked referee Dean if he stopped this fight because she was a woman, he answered no. Referee Dean stated he was not questioning her chin, the stoppage was based on his evaluation of the fighter during the fight. The stoppage was based on whether there was intelligent defense and if they are recovering. Referee Dean stated the threat in this fight was different than the examples presented by Commissioner Shen-Urquidez. Referee Dean stated he had to balance what he saw during the bout, Ms. Ladd was turned the other way and didn't know what was happening. Chair Carvelli thanked Referee Dean and stated he made his point clear. Chair Carvelli further stated the Commission has a request to overturn the decision to a "no contest" and will take motions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Ayala motioned to let the decision stand.

Commissioner Dr. Williams seconded the motion.

Public Comments

Promoter Roy Englebrecht stated as a promoter and official in this industry for thirty (30) years, he has seen many appeals come before the Commission. He added this appeal is looking at the stoppage and he would like to see officials admit when they miss a call.

Referee Dean stated the only other time he has appeared before the Commission was to state he missed a call, he appeared today because Ms. Ladd deserved transparency.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Ayala wanted to clear the record, stated his decision was not influenced by the referee but by what he saw in the video. He added to set a precedent by overturning a decision based on anything other than the safety of the fighter, is not good. Commissioner Ayala stated it is not a good look for the Commission to talk bad about our officials. Chair Carvelli stated he agreed with Commissioner Ayala's statement. Counsel Swenson advised the Commission they should apply the standard use of §368 when voting on the motion.

The motion passed 3-2 by roll call vote. Vice Chair Lehman and Commissioner Shen-Urquidez voted against the motion.

Agenda Item 6 – Review and Possible Action on the skills suspension of boxer Amir Ranjdar

EO Foster presented the Commission the background on the skills suspension of boxer Amir Ranjdar, Mr. Ranjdar was suspended by EO Foster on August 29, 2018, indefinitely for lack of skills. EO Foster evaluated Mr. Ranjdar on May 13, 2019, at a boxing gym in Los Angeles. EO Foster believes Mr. Ranjdar has skills and the knowledge to box, but not at a professional level. EO Foster added Mr. Ranjdar has a series of knockouts on his record and he tends to get hit a lot. Athletic Inspector Sean Wells evaluated Mr. Ranjdar on August 8, 2019 and determined he had not improved since his May evaluation.

EO Foster informed the Commission Mr. Ranjdar is appealing his indefinite suspension, which is why this matter is before the Commission today. He informed the Commission the Mr. Ranjdar's Muay Thai skills are better than his boxing skills, and his boxing record is officially 0-24 with a Boxing Severity Index score of +7. EO Foster added Mr. Ranjdar is not ready to go against California level fighters. EO Foster's recommendation is the lack of skills suspension stand.

Mr. Ranjdar called in and requested the Commission to lift his suspension as he is training and improving daily.

Vice Chair Lehman asked if the Commission upholds the suspension and Mr. Ranjdar improves can he reapply next year. EO Foster responded yes.

Vice Chair Lehman motioned to uphold the suspension.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez seconded the motion.

No further Commission or Public Comments.

The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 7- Review and Possible Action on the USADA suspension for mixed martial artist Francisco Rivera from August 2016

EO Foster presented the Commission with background information on Mr. Rivera's suspension and felt this issue merited the Commission's review rather than staff. This is the first appeal the Commission received from a fighter suspended by USADA. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated the Commission has had disagreements with USADA in the past, Walt Harris being one of them. The Commission suspended Mr. Harris for four (4) months as he ingested a tainted supplement. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez added inconsistency seems to be the issue, doping actions aren't scientific. USADA has a drug testing rule and to issue punishments on behalf of the promoter. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez added USADA is trying to clean up the sport but the Commission's role is to protect the public, the role is different and broader when the Commission is involved.

Commissioner Dr. Williams asked if USADA can levy administrative suspensions to a fighter if they have lied or falsified documents. EO Foster responded if a fighter is honest and cooperative during an investigation, it is taken into consideration.

Mr. Rivera informed the Commission he teaches kids in this industry to not make the same mistakes as he did. Mr. Rivera stated he takes full responsibility for his actions but feels the four (4) year suspension issued by USADA is extreme. He further added he wants to fight again and support his family. Vice Chair Lehman asked Mr. Rivera to expand on what he has been doing since he was suspended. Mr. Rivera stated he has been teaching and training MMA, coaching soccer, supporting his family and trying to keep athletes from making the same mistakes that he did. He added he works with the Boys and Girls Club, helps with his kid's soccer teams and gives back to the community by teaching kids that can't afford training.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated she first met Mr. Rivera while he was helping Mike Rush at a youth charity event and Mr. Rivera has been helping with the youth charity event for years. At no time did Mr. Rivera speak of his suspension or even introduce himself to Commissioner Shen-Urquidez, he only helped the at-risk youth.

Chair Carvelli asked EO Foster if he saw any repercussions to the Commission if they lifted the suspension. EO Foster stated he didn't want this to look like the Commission supports doping, but the media shouldn't be the focus of this. EO Foster recommended that the Commission give Mr. Rivera a license, and order staff to conduct several drug tests over the next twelve (12) months.

Vice Chair Lehman motioned to approve Mr. Rivera for a license and for the next twelve (12) months he be tested before and after each fight.

Commission Comments

Commissioner Ayala stated if the Commission grants Mr. Rivera a license he would only be able to fight in California. If the goal of this is to fight for the UFC or support your family, you would have to wait another ten (10) months. Commissioner Ayala added he supports this effort but isn't sure if it is practical. He asked Mr. Rivera what his goal was and how he sees this helping. Mr. Rivera stated he felt if he takes more time off it could affect his career as ring rust would play a part. He added in the next ten (10) months he could possibly have two or three fights in California, then after that possibly get signed. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated Bellator will look at the Commission's suspensions not USADA's. Commissioner Dr. Williams stated Mr. Rivera has a right to earn a living.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez seconded the motion.

Chair Carvelli stated Mr. Rivera admitted what he did but he waited a year before doing so. He asked Mr. Rivera if he could, what would he do different. Mr. Rivera responded he was in a wrong place in his life, not in the right mindset and made a mistake. Chair Carvelli pointed out to Mr. Rivera he waited a while to admit it. Mr. Rivera stated he was trying to make peace with the situation and his family, it was his mistake for doing what he did.

Public Comments

Michael Mazzulli, director of the Mohegan Sun Commission, he would allow Mr. Rivera to fight if he got drug tested and that four years suspension is a daunting amount of time.

Mike Rush stated he has been with Mr. Rivera with since day one and he has grown a lot in four years. He has had offers to fight in California, we would like to get him back in the ring. Mr. Rush added Mr. Rivera is remorseful and learned his lesson.

Counsel Swenson advised the Commission rule 399 is the guide for this appeal. Chair Carvelli asked if licensing Mr. Rivera is within reason. Counsel Swenson stated case law demonstrates the elements for this, the rules relate to a different circumstance, but the Commission can apply case law to this.

Chair Carvelli asked if the Commission wanted anymore than twelve (12) months of testing before and after each fight. EO Foster wanted to clarify that the testing doesn't have to be right after the fight it; can be later in out of competition. EO Foster recommended a minimum of six (6) drug tests, 3 being full WADA panel tests.

Vice Chair Lehman amended the motion for the Commission to give Mr. Rivera a license and for the next twelve (12) months he be tested before and after each fight, a minimum of six (6) tests, 3 being full WADA panel tests.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez seconded the motion.

No further Commission or Public Comments

The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 8- Discussion and possible action regarding the adoption of the revised Unified Rules of Mixed Martial Arts as adopted by the Association of Boxing Commissions at their annual meeting in Scottsdale, AZ in August 2019

EO Foster presented the Commission with the changes made to the unified rules of mixed martial arts. The ABC voted and passed one minor change, the definition of a grounded opponent. EO Foster informed the Commission for a fighter to be grounded they had to have one hand down or another body part down. EO Foster added if the Commission adopts this rule change it will help ensure that the country is unified on the rules with Nevada, Texas, New York and Mohegan all using the same rule set.

Vice Chair Lehman asked if the MMA rules committee looked into expanding the definition of eye gouging. EO Foster responded they looked at it but decided to not make changes at this time. Vice Chair Lehman asked why. EO Foster responded he wasn't sure; however, he would investigate it and get back to the Commission.

Commissioner Ayala motioned to adopt the new unified rules of MMA

Vice Chair Lehman seconded the motion

No Commission or Public Comments

The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 9- Review and Possible Action Approving Proposed Changes to Section 229, Article 6, of Division 2, of Title 4 of The California Code of Regulations- Dehydration and Rehydration-to set a maximum weight gain from day of weigh-in to day of competition.

EO Foster informed the Commission the Medical Advisory Committee met on August 3, 2019 and voted to approve a maximum weight gain of 15% from the day of weigh-in to the day of the fight, and if the fighter exceeds 15%, the fight is cancelled. EO Foster presented the Commission with graphs showing that mixed martial artists have by far the greater issue when it comes to gaining weight. He added boxing doesn't seem to have as much of an issue, it is debatable that this is the case because of the more weight classes in boxing. EO Foster stated this rule won't take effect right away and the public will have a chance to be heard on the subject during the rulemaking process. He further stated cutting weight takes a toll on a fighter's body and the goal of this is to have matchmakers and promoters match the fights closer to where the fighter's normal weight is. EO Foster stated fighters are passing out, being transported to the hospital and not even making it to the weigh-ins because of dehydration. The staff continuously monitor the weights of the

fighters and conduct video weight checks. EO Foster stressed the issue of weight cutting is about the health and safety of fighters.

Vice Chair Lehman asked if what EO Foster is proposing is a 15% cap weight gain per weight class. Commissioner Dr. Williams stated at the MAC meeting it was voted at 15% of the fighter's body weight at the time of weigh-in, not the weight class. EO Foster stated Commissioner Dr. Williams was correct, the weight class chart provided to the Commission was just an example of what a fighter could gain if they were exactly at that weight.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated the individual's body weight isn't a clear body weight, it is just what the athlete comes in at. She added if the Commission is already looking at a bad starting weight and then adding 15% on top of it, it is just bad. Commissioner Dr. Williams stated using the amount of weight gained for a surrogate as to how much they dehydrated themselves for the bout. He added there is also some reasonable discussion when it comes to fairness of the bout for the fighters that are cutting and gaining so far above their contracted weight class. He added there are multiple issues and we have tried to use this concept of what percentage of their bodyweight they have re-gained to try and come up with a fair assessment. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated this seems to be compounding the problem by saying a fighter can gain 15% instead of addressing the issue.

EO Foster stated the issue is not an easy one to deal with and it is the culture we have inherited. The athletes and promoters aren't going to like this, but they aren't going to like the risk of having a bout cancelled either. EO Foster added he believes the promotion companies will move the fighters up, so they don't risk losing the bout all together. He added unless the bout is a title bout, in MMA the titles are promotional titles, this issue is a fixable one. Promoters can't really tell a fighter where they are going to fight at, they are independent contractors, but the Commission can decide what weight a fighter is safe to fight at. He added that promoters shouldn't be offering contracts to fighters that can't make the weight safely.

Commissioner Ayala stated the Commission should include the definition of day of weigh-in if it is not in the statute, so we have clarity of the issue. He asked currently if a fighter comes in over 15% is the fighter moved at that event or the next event. EO Foster responded it is at the next event. Chair Carvelli stated this is a good next step for the Commission to take in order to get where they need to be. He added currently we are seeing two different weights and this step needs to be taken, it is long overdue.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated on paragraph (c) the rule needs to say a contestant may be required to weigh-in on the day of the competition. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked if when it says, "no more than three (3) hours before their competition" are we saying the individual bout or the actual event. EO Foster responded it is the event. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated the language needs clarity that so the fighter can't

drag out the re-weigh to right before their bout and when you have a card with 20 bouts this could be difficult. EO Foster stated they wanted the flexibility as sometimes the fighters arrive in waves. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated if you make it before the event you can make it flexible.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked who makes the decision on the 10-14% gain. EO Foster responded it is the Commission. She asked if we should specify that is at the discretion of the Commission. EO Foster stated he consults with the doctors before moving fighters up.

After further discussion, the proposed language that was presented at the meeting was modified to read the following:

- (c) Contestants may be required to re-weigh in on the day of the competition, no more than 3 hours before the event. Any athlete gaining 10-14.9% of their body weight back from official weigh-in, per section 297, the Commission may require the contestant to move up a weight class for future bouts. Any athlete gaining 15% or more of their body weight back from the official weigh-in, per section 297, shall have their bout cancelled.
- (d) Promoters, Managers, Professional Trainers and Matchmakers are responsible for ensuring the contracted contestants comply with this section.

Commissioner Ayala made the motion to approve the amendments to proposed language to Section 229, Article 6, of Division 2, of Title 4 of The California Code of Regulations relating to dehydration and rehydration to set maximum weight gain by percentage body weight form the day of weigh-in to the day of competition and to authorize the EO to make non-substantive changes to the proposed language as necessary or to make non-substantive changes as defined by California Code of Regulations Title 1 section 40.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez seconded the motion

Public Comments

Promoter Roy Englebrecht stated as a club promoter he is always shocked when he sees a bout cancelled because of this and as a club show promoter it is a big deal. He added this could affect people that have sold tickets and hurt those promoters. Mr. Englebrecht added the fighters should be able to fight but then suspended for six (6) months after the fight.

Commission Comments

Commissioner Ayala asked if the question is fighter safety and the Commission allows the fight to go on when one fighter gains over 15%, doesn't that raise the risk of the fighter getting injured. EO Foster responded in this situation we know about the weight gain and if

something bad happens during the bout it will not look good. Vice Chair Lehman asked if there was something the promoters could do to protect themselves through a contract or a bond if a fight is cancelled, maybe there are some business work arounds the market can achieve. She added for the health and safety this is something that needs to be done. Commissioner Ayala suggested fining the fighter 20% of their purse like the Commission does on official weigh-ins, if they exceed the 15%. EO Foster agreed with the suggestion. EO Foster added there should be a penalty for the athlete, but the Commission allows promotions to adjust contracts to keep this from happening. Chair Carvelli asked whether they can also be suspended and fined. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked about the situation where a fighter who isn't making much money, fighting for ticket sales and isn't experienced at weight cutting?

Steve Fossum with IKF stated they suspend fighters for six (6) months and fine the fighter when they come in over a certain percentage on the day of weigh-in. Chair Carvelli stated it seems as the fighter is being punished even though they are guided by other people, the Commission's job isn't the health and safety of the promoter.

Commissioner Ayala stated the language in (d) states promoters, managers, professional trainers and matchmakers are responsible for ensuring the contracted contestants comply with this section, so technically the matchmaker and promoter can also be held accountable. He added they should have acted early if they knew the fighter was going to possibly surpass a 15% weight gain.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked how much blow back will be on the athlete if they take a fight at a weight class they usually don't fight at or the fighter isn't good at weight cutting. EO Foster responded it is exactly the point he is trying to make; this Commission doesn't regulate the competition of weight cutting. He added right now the Commission has two fights, the fight on the scale and fight in the ring or cage, it is sanctioned cheating. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated she agrees with EO Foster on one point, but one of the issues is with weight classes. She added in boxing there are seventeen weight classes but in mixed martial arts there are seven weight classes. Chair Carvelli asked Counsel Swenson if the Commission could direct the EO to look into liquated damages and adding weight classes in mixed martial arts.

No further Commission or Public Comments

The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote

Vice Chair Lehman made an additional motion for EO Foster to present the Commission with ideas about adding language regarding enforcement provisions, liquated damages and weight classes.

Commissioner Ayala seconded the motion

No further Commission or Public Comments

The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote

Agenda Item 10 Subcommittees Updates

a. Pension Fund Subcommittee (Commissioners Lehman and Araby)

Vice Chair Lehman thanked staff for getting the information out about the Boxer Pension Plan. The graph provided in the packets shows numbers increased from this time last year, and it's only October. Vice Chair Lehman stated the subcommittee removed the lapse in service term, and staff is working on the language. EO Foster stated they are working on potential expansion of the pension to mixed martial arts and should have that report by December. Vice Chair Lehman asked if that would be the first of its kind? EO responded it would be.

b. Gender Equity Task Force with report of pay disparity of male to female athletes in combat sports (Commissioners Lehman and Shen-Urquidez)

EO Foster stated at 5pm today the Commission will be hosting a Stakeholder Public meeting to discuss gender equity in sports, pay issues drug testing thresholds. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated the topic of gender equity is important for the Commission to discuss.

Agenda Item 11-Executive Officer's Report

a. Budget Update for the Support Fund, the Neurological Fund, and Pension Program

The EO presented to the Commission the updated revenue numbers as of October 3, 2019. The Commission deposited into the support fund \$813,961, the neurological fund \$3,039.39 and \$27,750.00 into the Boxer Pension Fund. EO Foster stated the Commission is still not receiving regular monthly budget reports due to the delays from the Fi\$Cal system.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked if the Commission discussed ways to spend the neurological fund, EO Foster answered no. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated that with more fights, more fighters and with the generations moving faster, the Commission isn't able to keep an eye on sparring anymore. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez added the world of combative sports suffered some recent fatalities and serious injuries. Some of the fighters may be arriving at the events with slow brain bleeds we don't know about or they may have suffered trauma during training we aren't aware of.

Commissioner Dr. Williams informed the Commission Brain Scope developed a device which has been approved to detect brain bleeds. The Brain Scope device is an EEG type test and takes five (5) minutes. This test can detect surface and/or deep brain bleeds. Commissioner Dr. Williams stated this test can be done onsite and the

data collected can be compared to other data we have. We can also use this data to see if dehydration plays a factor in overall brain health.

b. Report on pending and proposed regulations

EO Foster gave the Commission the status of the proposed regulations; the Examination of Boxer Applicant's package was sent to legal on March 6, 2019, for review. EO Foster reached out to Legal Affairs but hasn't heard back. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked if there was something Legal Affairs didn't like with this regulations package. Counsel Swenson stated he didn't think the issue was related to the package but because of the backlog of regulations packages. He added the Regulations Unit is now in place and staffed at DCA.

c. Report of Legislation affecting the Commission

EO Foster informed the Commission that AB 1523, the Sunset Bill, was signed into law and extends the Commission to 2024. With that bill the Commission gained two (2) positions by statute; Chief and Assistant Chief Athletic Inspector.

d. Status update of Delegated Entities

California Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Organizations (CAMO)

JT Steele, President of CAMO, presented the Commission with his report, which is contained in the meeting materials. Mr. Steele informed the Commission they are still moving along with their drug testing and are almost to where the drug testing program is stable. Most of the positive tests have been for THC. Mr. Steele informed the Commission he is hoping to have the suspension forms CAMO will use soon.

Mr. Steele stated twelve (12) of the athletes on the Bellator card at the Forum came from the CAMO program as well as most of the officials. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated she would like to see something worked out in terms of the officials who graduate from CAMO going back to help train the new CAMO officials. EO Foster stated he hadn't thought of doing that, he knew John McCarthy used to go back CAMO, but he will see about getting Herb Dean or Mike Beltran going to help at CAMO. Mr. Steele stated that would be great, it would be a great way for all the other officials to stay sharp. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez added CAMO has been training grounds for the CSAC officials.

Vice Chair Lehman asked if the injuries reports on 9/21/19 were more of than usual or was it the standard? Mr. Steele stated those injuries reported were probably on par and typical. EO Foster added what the Commission is seeing are a lot of TKO's where referee stops the bout, but the KO's are what he looks at. EO Foster added that the injuries reported are consistent with what you see in mixed martial arts.

USA Boxing

Mr. Mike McAtee presented the Commission with his written report, which is contained in the meeting materials. USA placed 4th overall in Russia at the World Championship and three-quarters of the athletes that participated were from California. He informed the Commission they just finished the Eastern Qualifier in Ohio with over 1000 boxers registered. Mr. McAtee stated USA Boxing is working to not only increase the number of female athletes but also the number of female officials and coaches. He added that over half of the international officials are women. He stated that regarding two- or three-minute rounds for women, the women box for three minutes just like the men. Mr. McAtee added that the women and men are paid the same as well. Mr. McAtee informed the Commission from November 3rd-9th in Oxnard, California the last chance qualifier will be held. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked if there was a 125-pound weight class for women, he confirmed there was.

Mr. McAtee stated that the quarterly report provide to the Commission still shows some of the results as pending because of the sanction holders aren't getting their paperwork in on time. He added in November he will begin reaching out to the LBC leaders to help clear up any confusion they have on their paperwork. Mr. McAtee informed the Commission that at the end of the year all the LBC's will be voting on new leadership and USA Boxing will be conducting a training for all the LBC's in March of 2020 on Reno, Nevada.

Chair Carvelli asked what is going on in Riverside as they are listing more injuries than the other events. Mr. McAtee stated that Riverside in the Southern Region, that region is the busiest of all the LBC's but in the future the injuries will be reported by bouts not rounds to make it more accurate. Vice Chair Lehman asked why the Boarder LBC is not having events, he stated because they are going to Mexico to compete. EO Foster asked why the Southern Region is losing money, Mr. McAtee stated their philosophy is they want to spend the membership money, so they keep the fees low. He added when they get sponsorship money, they don't count it as revenue money, so it is not reported. Mr. McAtee stated they aren't counting all the dollars that are coming in, they don't charge an admission fee so we think they might just need to be educated.

EO Foster stated the Commission has promoters that want to do pro-amateur events with USA Boxing, and he would like to work on getting this done so it would be worth it to all parties involved. Mr. McAtee stated the sanctions for next year are decided in November because California has so many. Vice Chair Lehman stated she would like to see the books reported showing more of a profit. EO Foster asked if they have a sanction rule where they can only have one show per day. Mr. McAtee stated that is true as they must make sure they have enough officials for all the events. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated the financials have been provided but what is provided can't all be squared and accounted for. She asked they work with EO Foster to help make sense of financials. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated that her

administrative log-in for USA Boxing is no longer working and she needs admission access to be able to see where the events will be held, the suspensions, etc. Mr. McAtee stated he would her log-in fixed.

United States Fight League (USFL)

Jon Frank submitted his report to the Commission, which is contained in the meeting materials. Mr. Frank informed the Commission the event in Riverside was added and six (6) of the bouts were female bouts. He added that females have been very dominate in the competition.

International Kickboxing Federation (IKF)

Steve Fossum submitted his report to the Commission, which is contained in the meeting materials. He stated everything is going well and their staff is doing well too. Mr. Fossum stated that IKF has really began knuckling down of weight cutting and drug testing. He added IKF requires a lot a medicals for their competitors, Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked if the medicals were the same as CSAC. He stated all but one was. Vice Chair Lehman asked about the injuries reported and if those were lower or higher than normal? He stated they are normal, and the report submitted to the Commission is two reports in one because he wasn't at the last meeting.

e. Update on C3 Logix Sports Concussion Management Program

EO Foster informed the Commission they have tested and uploaded 1,513 tests. At the August MAC meeting, they reviewed some of the C3 logic data and the staff will be conducting follow up tests. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated she has found an organization that offers grants to help mine data, but she isn't sure if the Commission can accept a grant. Counsel Swenson stated he would look into this. Vice Chair Lehman stated she was impressed with the MAC and wanted the MAC meeting minutes included in the Commissions meeting packet after the MAC's next meeting. She added the minutes helps the Commission to truly appreciate what all they do. EO Foster thanked Chair Carvelli for setting up how the MAC works and for making Commissioner Dr. Williams the liaison. Chair Carvelli also thanked Commissioner Dr. Williams Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked Commissioner Dr. Williams if they were any closer to being able to customize the return to play? Commissioner Dr. Williams stated they have the data, but it needs to be mined.

f. Staffing Update

EO Foster informed the Commission he has an upcoming meeting with CalHR to discuss the restored classifications of the Chief and Assistant Chief Athletic Inspector positions.

g. Upcoming Event Schedule

EO Foster mentioned an event on the upcoming schedule that the Commission might want attend; Logan Paul vs. KSI, two YouTubers on November 9th at Staples Center.

Agenda Item 12 – Business and Professions Code section 18640.5 requires the Commission to invite stakeholder testimony at Commission meetings in order to identify actions that may lead to greater opportunities for licensees to participate in major professional boxing contests

No stakeholder comments received.

Agenda Item 13 – Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

CLOSED SESSION

Agenda Item 14 – The Commission will meet in closed session as authorized by Government Code §11126, subdivision (c)(3) to deliberate on disciplinary matters and petitions; and subdivision (e)(1) to confer with legal counsel regarding pending litigation.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda Item 15– ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned.