

# **MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2017**

On Wednesday, March 29, 2017, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Arnold “Arnie” Dansicker at 2:05 p.m.. Present were the following: Chairman Dansicker; Commissioner Ben Alperstein; Commissioner David Norman; Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; Eric London, Counsel; Dreama Anderson, Administrative Specialist; and Kenneth “Kenny” Chevalier, Commission Referee. Absent: Commissioner Sean Malone and Commissioner Lenny Moore.

### **BALTIMORE CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING, LLC** **PROMOTER LICENSE**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. Baltimore Championship Wrestling, LLC recently applied for its promoter license with the Commission as a promoter of professional wrestling events in the State of Maryland. Baltimore Championship Wrestling, LLC has expressed its intention to hold professional wrestling events at venues located in the greater Baltimore area. Chairman Dansicker and Mr. Pannella interviewed Patrick E. Parents, Jr., the representative for Baltimore Championship Wrestling, LLC, as a condition of licensure. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Baltimore Championship Wrestling, LLC, and were satisfied that this applicant complies with the Commission’s licensing requirements.

Upon a motion by Chairman Dansicker, and seconded by Commissioner Norman, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the original license of Baltimore Championship Wrestling, LLC as a promoter.

### **BANNER PROMOTIONS, INC.** **PROMOTER LICENSE**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. Banner Promotions, Inc. recently applied for its promoter license with the Commission as a promoter of professional boxing events in the State of Maryland.

Banner Promotions, Inc. holds major televised boxing events at venues located in jurisdictions throughout the country. Chairman Dansicker and Mr. Pannella interviewed Arthur “Artie” Pelullo, the representative for Banner Promotions, Inc., as a condition of licensure. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Banner Promotions, Inc., and were satisfied that this applicant complies with the Commission’s licensing requirements.

Upon a motion by Chairman Dansicker, and seconded by Commissioner Alperstein, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the original license of Banner Promotions, Inc. as a promoter.

### **APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella led a Commission discussion in regard to the professional boxing events currently scheduled to be held in the State of Maryland.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Commissioner Alperstein, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following professional boxing event:

Professional Boxing Event

Televised Live on the Showtime Network’s “ShoBox: The Next Generation” Series

Friday, April 14, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. Starting Time

MGM National Harbor

101 MGM National Avenue - Oxon Hill, Maryland

Promoter: Banner Promotions, Inc., advertising as  
Banner Promotions.

Featured Boxing Contests:

Dmitry Bivol versus Samuel Clarkson in a scheduled twelve-round boxing contest for the World Boxing Association (WBA) Interim Light Heavyweight title;

Malik Hawkins versus Carlos Soto in a scheduled eight-round boxing contest; and

Glenn Dezurn versus Leroy Davila in a scheduled eight-round boxing contest.

## **APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENTS**

Executive Director Pannella led a Commission discussion in regard to the professional wrestling events currently scheduled to be held in the State of Maryland.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Chairman Dansicker, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following professional wrestling events being promoted by James E. "Jimmy" Morris, III:

Professional Wrestling Event  
Friday, April 28, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
South Hagerstown High School  
1101 South Potomac Street - Denton, Maryland  
Promoter: James E. "Jimmy" Morris, III,  
advertising as Adrenaline Championship Wrestling  
(ACW);

Professional Wrestling Event  
Friday, May 19, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Denton Fire Hall  
1101 South Potomac Street - Denton, Maryland  
Promoter: James E. "Jimmy" Morris, III,  
advertising as Adrenaline Championship Wrestling  
(ACW); and

Professional Wrestling Event  
Friday, June 16, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Denton Fire Hall  
1101 South Potomac Street - Denton, Maryland  
Promoter: James E. "Jimmy" Morris, III,  
advertising as Adrenaline Championship Wrestling  
(ACW).

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Chairman Dansicker, the

Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted by James “Jim” Hardwick:

Professional Wrestling Event  
Saturday, April 8, 2017 - 6:00 p.m. Starting Time  
“2017 Baltimore Tadoo Convention” - Baltimore Convention Center  
1 West Pratt Street - Baltimore, Maryland  
Promoter: James “Jim” Hardwick,  
advertising as “Half Pint Brawlers”.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **PASSING OF BOXING TRAINER AND MANAGER LOU DUVA**

The Commission held a moment of silence in honor of boxing trainer and manager Lou Duva, who passed away on March 8, 2017.

Executive Director Pannella noted that Mr. Duva, an inductee of the International Boxing Hall of Fame, trained many world champions and also worked the corners of several boxers who competed in boxing contests held in the State of Maryland over the years. Mr. Pannella opined that Mr. Duva was a legendary and cherished figure in professional boxing who was well-respected for his knowledge of, and passion for, the sport.

The Commission extended its deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Duva.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **PASSING BALTIMORE AMATEUR BOXERS**

### **MONTELL “TELLY” PRIDGETT AND VICTORIOUS SWIFT**

The Commission held a moment of silence in honor of Montell “Telly” Pridgett and Victorious Swift, two promising amateur boxers from Baltimore, Maryland who trained under the tutelage of Marvin McDowell of the UMAR boxing gym and who were both tragically murdered in separate incidents during the past month.

The Commission extended its deepest condolences to the families of Mr. Pridgett and Mr. Swift as well as to Mr. McDowell and the entire UMAR boxing gym

family.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Dansicker provided the Commission with the following report. The Commission welcomes the upcoming HBO and Showtime boxing events scheduled to be held at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland. Such major boxing events which will bring both national and international attention to the State of Maryland. The Commission also recognizes the “club level” promoters of boxing events and MMA events for their ongoing contributions to enhancing the reputation of combative sports in Maryland.

## **COUNSEL'S REPORT**

The Commission's Counsel had no report.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director stated that he shares Chairman Dansicker's enthusiasm for the upcoming HBO and Showtime boxing events scheduled to be held at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland. Mr. Pannella noted that the Commission's focus with regard to regulating these major boxing events will be to work to ensure that Commission operations run smoothly while maintaining the Commission's high standards of fighter safety.

## **FINAL ACTION:**

### **AMENDMENT TO COMAR 09.14.01.02 - MEETINGS AND MEETING NOTICES**

The Commission held a discussion in regard to amendments to COMAR 09.14.01.02, which the Commission approved in the normal process at its October 27, 2016 Commission meeting; specifically, eliminating the requirement that the Commission meet once a month and changing the requirement for publishing notice of a Commission meeting to allow the notice to be published on the Commission's website instead of in the Maryland Register.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Alperstein, and seconded by Chairman Dansicker, the Commission voted 3-0 to take final action on amending COMAR 09.14.01.02 accordingly.

**FINAL ACTION:**

**AMENDMENT TO COMAR 09.14.04.04 AND COMAR.09.14.08.04 -  
PHYSICIAN DETERMINING A CONTESTANT'S FITNESS**

The Commission held a discussion in regard to amendments to COMAR 09.14.01.02, which the Commission approved in the normal process at its October 27, 2016 Commission meeting; specifically, clarifying that a physician may determine whether a contestant may engage in a contest by considering a number of physical conditions, including determining whether the contestant's blood pressure is within acceptable limits. In particular, the purpose of these actions is to allow the physician performing a final physical examination of both a contestant and a wrestler before a contest to determine whether a contestant's or a wrestler's systolic pressure and diastolic pressure is within acceptable limits.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Alperstein, and seconded by Chairman Dansicker, the Commission voted 3-0 to take final action on amending COMAR 09.14.04.04 and COMAR 09.14.08.04 accordingly.

**FINAL ACTION:**

**AMENDMENT TO COMAR 09.14.04.10 -  
EXPANDING MEDICAL REASONS FOR IMPOSING  
INDEFINITE MEDICAL SUSPENSIONS**

The Commission held a discussion in regard to amendments to COMAR 09.14.04.10, which the Commission approved in the normal process at its October 27, 2016 Commission meeting; specifically, expanding the medical reasons for the imposition of an indefinite medical suspension by the physician examining a contestant after a contest. The Commission maintains that, after considering all relevant medical factors relating to the contestant, the physician evaluating a contestant's blood pressure is best suited to determine whether a contestant should engage in a contest. The Commission maintains that the physician examining a contestant after a contest should be allowed to impose an indefinite medical

suspension for any medical reason that the physician deems appropriate.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Alperstein, and seconded by Chairman Dansicker, the Commission voted 3-0 to take final action on amending COMAR 09.14.04.10 accordingly.

**FINAL ACTION:**  
**AMENDMENT TO COMAR 09.14.06.10 -**  
**LOW-BLOW FOUL - NO CONTEST RULING**

The Commission held a discussion in regard to amendments to COMAR 09.14.06.10, which the Commission approved in the normal process at its October 27, 2016 Commission meeting; specifically, changing the ruling for the implementation of the low-blow foul in a boxing contest when a contestant is unable to continue from being ruled a draw to being ruled a no contest. The senior physician for the Commission has determined that it is not possible to medically diagnose an injury sustained by a contestant who received a low-blow. Because a draw ruling or a technical knockout loss ruling for the contestant sustaining a low-blow foul could be beneficial to one contestant while being opposed by the other contestant, the Commission has concluded that the appropriate ruling is a no contest.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Alperstein, and seconded by Chairman Dansicker, the Commission voted 3-0 to take final action on amending COMAR 09.14.06.10 accordingly.

**“REF CAM” PRESENTATION BY**  
**HBO PRODUCER JON CRYSTAL**

Jon Crystal, the producer with the HBO network who has been assigned to produce the televised boxing contests featured as part of the Commission-sanctioned professional boxing event scheduled to be held on April 8, 2017 at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland, made a presentation to the Commission regarding the following. HBO is requesting that the Commission allow its Commission-appointed referees for two of the televised boxing contests to be fitted with, and wear, “Ref Cam” vests while officiating. This video technology was created by the

“First Vision” company based in Barcelona, Spain and has been permitted by the California State Athletic Commission when referee Jack Reiss used the “Ref Cam” vest. HBO is desirous of placing the vest on the following referees in the following two boxing contests: (1) Commission Referee Kenneth “Kenny” Chevalier for the boxing contest between Vasyl Lomchenko and Jason Sosa; and (2) Commission Referee William “Bill” Clancy for the boxing contest between Oleksandr Usyk and Michael Hunter.

Executive Director Pannella opined that he was not opposed to Mr. Chevalier and Mr. Clancy wearing the “Ref Cam” vest while officiating their respective boxing contests provided that each referee was comfortable wearing the vest both from a physical standpoint and from an emotional, or concentration, standpoint.

Mr. Chevalier attended this presentation and tried on the “Ref Cam” vest. Mr. Chevalier indicated that he was not opposed to wearing the vest, noting that he will be “totally focused” on the boxing contest in which he will be officiating and will not give any consideration to the vest while officiating.

After discussing the matter, the Commission determined that it will allow Mr. Chevalier and Mr. Clancy to be fitted with, and wear, the “Ref Cam” vest for the two referenced boxing contests to be televised on HBO as part of the April 8, 2017 professional boxing event provided that: (1) Each respective referee has the opportunity to try on the vest following the conclusion of the Commission weigh-in activity scheduled for this boxing event; and (2) Each respective referee confirms at that point in time that he is comfortable with both the concept of, and wearing, the vest.

## **SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETINGS**

The Commission held a discussion regarding the dates and times of upcoming Commission meetings. The Commission agreed to hold the following three meetings on the following dates and times in the Third Floor Conference Room, 500 North Calvert Street, in Baltimore, Maryland:

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.;  
Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.; and



Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 2:00 p.m..

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Chairman Dansicker, and seconded by Commissioner Alperstein, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to adjourn the meeting at 3:02 p.m..

**Patrick Pannella**  
**Executive Director**