

MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020

On Wednesday, February 19, 2020, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman David Norman at 3:04 p.m.. Present were the following: Chairman Norman; Commissioner Brian Boles; Commissioner Charles “Chuck” Gast (telephonically); Commissioner Lenny Moore; Commissioner David Shull; Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; and Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel.

JAMES E. MORRIS, III - RENEWAL OF PROMOTER LICENSE

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III recently applied to the Commission to renew his promoter license as a promoter of professional wrestling events in the State of Maryland. Commissioner Gast and Mr. Pannella interviewed Mr. Morris as a condition of license renewal. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Mr. Morris, and were satisfied that the promoter’s application complies with the Commission’s licensing requirements.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, and seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the ratification of the renewal of the license of James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III as a promoter.

APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT

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

Executive Director Pannella reported that licensed promoter TGB Promotions, LLC has expressed its intention to return to MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland to hold another televised boxing event.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, seconded by Commissioner Boles, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following boxing event being

promoted by TGB Promotions, LLC:

Saturday, March 14, 2020 - 4:05 p.m. Starting Time
Televised Live on the Fox Sports 1 Network at 8:00 p.m.
MGM National Harbor
Oxon Hill, Maryland
Promoter: TGB Promotions, LLC
advertising as “TGB Promotions”.

APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENTS

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

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling events being promoted by James E. Morris, III, advertising as “Adrenaline Championship Wrestling”:

Saturday, March 7, 2020 - 4:00 p.m. Starting Time
Free/No Tickets Being Charged; Being Held Outdoors Under Tent
Power Plant Live!
34 Market Place - Baltimore, Maryland
Promoter: James E. Morris, III, advertising as
“Adrenaline Championship Wrestling” / “ACW”; and

Saturday, March 14, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. Starting Time
Seven Ten Bowling Center
19330 Leitersburg Pike - Hagerstown, Maryland
Promoter: James E. Morris, III, advertising as
“Adrenaline Championship Wrestling” / “ACW”.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, seconded by Commissioner Boles, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted by Michael Valentyne:

Saturday, March 21, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. Starting Time
Silver Spring Black Box Theater
8641 Colesville Road - Silver Spring, Maryland
Promoter: Michael Valentyne, advertising as
“Flying V Fights Pro Wrestling”.

UPDATE ON FEBRUARY 28, 2020
PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional boxing event being promoted by Jeter Promotions, LLC, advertising as “Jeter Promotions”, and scheduled to be held on February 28 2020 at The Hall at Maryland Live! Casino and Hotel in Hanover, Maryland.

The boxing event includes the following three featured boxing contests:

- (1) Nick Kisner (21-5-1, 6 ko’s) will be competing against Sam Crossed (8-0-0, 5 ko’s) in a ten-round boxing contest at a 190-pound weight limit for the “Maryland State Cruiserweight Title”; if the boxers cannot make the referenced 190-pound weight limit, the boxing contest will be for the “Maryland State Heavyweight Title”;
- (2) Demond Nicholson (22-3-1, 20 ko’s) will be competing against Mike Guy (12-4-1, 5 ko’s) in a ten-round boxing contest at a 169-pound weight limit; and
- (3) Jordan White (9-1-0, 7 ko’s) will be competing against Rolando Solis (4-0-1, 3 ko’s) in an eight-round boxing contest at a 130-pound weight limit for the “World Boxing Council Youth Intercontinental Junior Lightweight Title”.

MARYLAND UNIFORM ATHLETE AGENTS ACT

Chairman Norman and Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report pertaining to the Maryland Uniform Athlete Agents Act.

The Commission received an anonymous complaint alleging that certain athlete agents, not currently licensed in the State of Maryland, actively recruited student-

athletes to enter into an agency contract while these student-athletes were eligible to participate in an intercollegiate sport. The complaint referenced these student-athletes signing with a respective athlete agent within days of declaring for the draft in the professional sport in which the respective student-athlete is involved.

With respect to this complaint, the Commission finds no prima facie evidence of a violation of the Maryland Uniform Athlete Agents Act and the statutes contained within.

The Commission instructed Executive Director Pannella and Counsel London to prepare written correspondence for Commission approval to be sent to athletic program compliance officers representing all colleges and universities in the State of Maryland regardless of a college's or university's athletic division status. The Commission written correspondence is to: (1) advise of the Maryland Uniform Athlete Agents Act and, specifically, the requirements for athlete agents; and (2) welcome any athletic program compliance officer to contact the Commission should this individual or the athletic program he or she represents have any questions concerning the provisions of the Maryland Uniform Athlete Agents Act or the requirements for athlete agents under this statute.

The Commission further stipulated that this Commission written correspondence be posted on the Commission's website.

ONLY WATER PERMITTED IN DRESSING ROOMS AND IN RING OR CAGE CORNERS FOR COMBATIVE SPORTS EVENTS

The Commission held a discussion reiterating the Commission's regulatory policy permitting water as the only substance to be used in dressing rooms and in ring or cage corners during boxing events and MMA events. The Commission noted that all water being used in these locations and in such instances must: (1) be inspected by, and approved by, the Commission; and (2) be contained in original, sealed bottles which cannot be supplemented or adulterated in any way.

COMMISSION PROTOCOLS INSIDE RING AND CAGE FOR TELEVISION BROADCASTERS OR TELEVISION INTERVIEWERS INTERVIEWING COMBATIVE SPORTS CONTESTANTS

The Commission held a discussion in regard to developing Commission protocols in the instances immediately following the conclusion of a boxing contest or MMA contest wherein a television broadcaster or interviewer is seeking to: (1) interview a contestant; or (2) gain information concerning a contestant's injury or medical status.

The Commission determined that, for the purposes of both fighter safety and medical continuity of care, a television broadcaster or television interviewer will not be permitted to, and will not be approved by the Commission to, approach the general area of a ring corner or cage corner following the conclusion of a boxing contest or MMA contest until: (1) the Commission physician has concluded medically examining or treating the contestant; and (2) the Commission inspector permits such entry by a television broadcaster or television interviewer.

The Commission determined that, following the conclusion of a boxing contest or MMA contest, a television broadcaster or television interviewer cannot seek to interview a Commission physician who is medically examining or treating a contestant in a ring corner or cage corner. The Commission Executive Director serves as the Commission spokesperson in such instances.

Executive Director Pannella noted that, immediately following the conclusion of a boxing contest or MMA contest, Commission inspectors will be reminded to position themselves while in the ring or cage in an angle which allows them to see the actions of those individuals located in the ring corner or cage corner as well as anyone approaching this general corner area. Mr. Pannella added that the Commission works closely with security representatives working for either the venue where the event is being held or the event's promoter to assure that both corner areas are fully secured for the reasons and purposes expressed above.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commission minutes for the Commission meeting held on March 27, 2019, which were previously distributed to Commission members for review, were discussed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Boles, and seconded by Commissioner Shull, the

Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the March 27, 2019 minutes of the Commission.

Commission minutes for the Commission meeting held on January 22, 2020, which were previously distributed to Commission members for review, were discussed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Boles, and seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the January 22, 2020 minutes of the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, and seconded by Commissioner Boles, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 3:57 p.m..

Patrick Pannella
Executive Director