**MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION**

**MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, February 21, 2024**

On Wednesday, February 21, 2024, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman David Norman at 3:05 p.m. Present were the following: Chairman David Norman, Commissioner Carl Wilson, Commissioner Dr. Kristi Hall, Commissioner Brian Boles, Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel; Matthew McKinney, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Olga Escobar, Administrative Officer, Jason Curtis, Administrative Assistant, and Executive Director Nino Ovial. Commissioner James “Binky” Jones was absent. This was a hybrid meeting with Commission members, Commission staff, and the public calling into Google Meets, as well as joining in person.

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Minutes from the January 17, 2024 meeting were discussed. Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Boles. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Chairman Dave Norman advised that he was pleased to report to the Commission that an agreement was made with Jeter Promotions over the request for special permission to have over 40 rounds of regulated boxing at their upcoming event on February 24, 2024. Chairman Norman then read the letter sent by the Commission to Jeter Promotions in its entirety to the Commission regarding the conditions that needed to be met during the event in conjunction with request for over 40 rounds of regulated boxing. Chairman Norman advised that Jeter promotions attorney, Eddie Pounds, agreed to the conditions. Chairman Norman indicated that on January 18, 2024, a phone poll was taken by Executive Director Nino Ovial to grant special permission to Jeter Promotions to have 56 rounds of boxing at their event on February 24, 2024. Chairman Norman requested that the phone poll be ratified of January 18, 2024. Commissioner Wilson made a motion to ratify the phone poll, which was seconded by Commissioner Hall. The phone poll was unanimously ratified by the Commission. Chairman Dave Norman ended his report by stating that special requests for additional rounds have a one-time limit per promotion.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director Nino Ovial advised the Commission that a new drug testing lab, FastestLabs, of Columbia, Maryland is the Commission’s new vendor for boxing and MMA events. Chairman Dave Norman reminded the Commission of the policy change that for a THC positive the level will need to be 150 nanograms per milliliter.

**REVIEW OF COMMISSION SANCTIONED EVENTS**

Executive Director Nino Ovial advised the Commission about the wrestling events in the previous month. Those events included the following:

Flying V Wrestling, January 27, 2024, Silver Spring

Flying V Wrestling, January 28, 2024, Silver Spring (Cancelled)

ACW Wrestling, February 2, 2024, Hagerstown

EWA Wrestling, February 3, 2024, Bel Air

MCW Wrestling, February 3, 2024, Hollywood

Micro Wrestling All-Stars, February 4, 2024, Leonardtown

MCW Wrestling, February 4, 2024, Joppa

CZW Wrestling, February 4, 2024, Havre de Grace

ACW Wrestling, February 9, 2024, Curtis Bay

Pay your Dues Wrestling, February 9, 2024, Halethorpe

AWA Wrestling, February 10, 2024, Waldorf (Cancelled)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Executive Director Nino Ovial led in a discussion of upcoming events, which included the following:

Jeter Promotions Boxing, February 24, 2024, Baltimore

F1ght Club Wrestling, February 25, 2024, Cheverly

MCW Wrestling, March 2, 2024, Galena

CZW Wrestling, March 3, 2024, Havre de Grace

CZW Wrestling, March 9, 2024, Power Plant Live!

MCW Wrestling March 9, 2024, Joppa

Pay your Dues Wrestling, March 15, 2024. Halethorpe

ACW Wrestling, March 17, 2024, Glen Burnie

The Jeter Promotions Boxing event was approved in the previous meeting in January.

A motion to approve the upcoming F1ght Club event on February 25th was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Boles. The event was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming MCW events on March 2nd and March 9th was made my Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Hall. The events were unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming CZW events on March 3rd and March 9th was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Hall. The events were unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming Pay your Dues event on March 15th was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Hall. The event was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming ACW event on March 17th was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Boles. The event was unanimously approved by the Commission.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Executive Director Nino Ovial gave a brief discussion about the new language of the final adaptations of regulations .01, .02, .06-1, .06-2 under COMAR 09.14.02 Applications and Licensing and regulations .03 and .05 under 09.14.07 Ring Officials. Chairman Norman requested a motion to approve the regulations for final adoption. A motion to approve COMAR 09.14.02 for final adoption was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Boles. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission. A motion to approve COMAR 09.14.07 for final adoption was made by Commissioner Boles and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Mr. Ovial addressed the Commission about a wrestling promotor’s license renewal for Jack Hillegas of Micro Wrestling All-Stars. A motion to approve the renewal of Mr. Hillegas was made by Commissioner Boles and seconded by Commissioner Hall. The renewal was unanimously approved by the Commission.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jamaal Willaims asked the Commission that in accordance with the new regulations for ring officials if there would be a consideration for a requirement for officials to show their experience at the amateur levels. Executive Director Nino Ovial stated that he scouts most officials via communications with other Commissions. Chairman Dave Norman indicated that most officials come from the amateur ranks.

Ratioender Melo asked the Commission if there was going to be any updates made to the MMA regulations that were drafted in 2009.

Matthew Van Valkenburgh asked the Commission for an update as to when the regulatory for Muay Thai would be available and when those regulations might be released. Chairman Dave Norman explained to Mr. Van Valkenburgh that once the regulations are published in the Maryland Register that there is a comment period.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman David Norman called for adjournment at roughly 3:41pm that was approved by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Hall, the Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Approved by David Norman

Chairman

/s/ David Norman

March 20, 2024