**MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION**

**MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, November 20, 2024**

On Wednesday, November 20, 2024, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman David Norman at 3:00 p.m. Present were the following: Chairman David Norman, Commissioner Carl Wilson, Commissioner James “Binky” Jones, Commissioner Dr. Kristi Hall, Commissioner Brian Boles, Sarah McDermott, Assistant Commissioner for O&P, Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel; Matthew McKinney, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Olga Escobar, Administrative Officer, Jason Curtis, Administrative Assistant, and Executive Director Johnston Brown. This was a virtual meeting with Commission members, Commission staff, and the public calling into Google Meets platform.

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Minutes from the October 16, 2024 meeting were discussed. Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Jones. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Chairman Dave Norman asked the Commission to consider a change to the process of how professional boxing bouts are approved. Chairman Norman suggested that to give the Commission as much information as possible regarding a proposed fighter, a promoter or matchmaker attach a written summary as to why the suggested bout should be approved. Chairman Norman indicated that he would ask for a vote to change the policy at the next meeting.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director Johnston Brown had no report.

**REVIEW OF COMMISSION SANCTIONED EVENTS**

Executive Director Johnston Brown advised the Commission about the Boxing and Wrestling events of the previous month. Those events included the following:

AWA Wrestling, October 26th, Waldorf

F1ght Club Wrestling, November 3rd, Cheverly

FWA Wrestling, November 3rd, Havre de Grace

Jeter Promotions Boxing, November 9th, Maryland Live! Casino

MCW Wrestling, November 9th, Hollywood

MCW Wrestling, November 10th, Joppa

MCW Wrestling, November 16th, Frederick

Voltage Wrestling, November 15th, Boonsboro

MWA Micro Wrestling, November 16th, Baltimore

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Executive Director Johnston Brown led the Commission in a discussion of upcoming events, which included the following:

FWA Wrestling, December 1st, Harve de Grace

MCW Wrestling, December 7th, Joppa

AWA Wrestling, December 14th, Waldorf

Ponytail Promotions Boxing, December 14th

A motion to approve the upcoming FWA wrestling event on December 1st was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Jones. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming MCW wrestling event on December 7th was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Jones. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming AWA wrestling event on December 14th was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Jones. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming Ponytail Promotions Boxing event on December 14th was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business discussed at this meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Boxing coach Troy Fox stated that having fighters show up to events early for mandatory drug testing and then not be allowed to eat for up to 6 hours impacts fighter safety. He stated that the Commission should better the system around drug testing to avoid this issue.

Professional Boxer Mykal Fox asked the Commission about the approval process for his bout on November 9th, 2024, in which two approved fights fell out.

Boxing coach Trot Fox stated to the Commission that it should be up to the Commission to communicate with their ringside physician, Executive Director, referee, and promoter to uphold the safety of the fighters during events.

Muay Thai Promoter Matthew Van Valkenburgh advised the Commission on the success of his amateur event held on November 2nd. He stated his plans to have two more amateur events in May and November 2025, with the potential to have his first professional event in 2025 pending Commission approval.

Boxing Manager Ron Pisano stated to the Commission his concerns regarding the inconsistency regarding the bout approval process within the Commission. Mr. Pisano also stressed to the Commission the importance of having the approval process be quicker.

Boxing Promoter Christen Jeter stated to the Commission that receiving confirmation of an approved bout by the Executive Director to then have the Commission later deny the bout cost her promotion $900 in travel expenses. Mrs. Jeter stated her belief that if two fighters agreed to fight each other verbally, and those same fighters had been medically cleared to fight, then the bout should be approved and asked the Commission to consider that when they approve bouts. Mrs. Jeter also asked the Commission when future boxing regulations, including extending the duration of bloodwork, would take place.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Dave Norman called for a motion for adjournment at roughly 3:50pm that was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the motion.

/s/

Dave Norman

Chairman

Date: 12/20/24