**MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION**

**MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, September 18, 2024**

On Wednesday, September 18, 2024, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman David Norman at 3:01 p.m. Present were the following: Chairman David Norman, Commissioner Carl Wilson, Commissioner James “Binky” Jones, Commissioner Dr. Kristi Hall, Commissioner Brian Boles, John Dove, Commission for O&P, 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 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 August 21, 2024 meeting were discussed. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Chairman Dave Norman expressed his satisfaction that a vote would be taken on Muay Thai regulations, a sport that the Commission intends to regulate in 2025.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director Johnston Brown advised the Commission of his intent to submit regulatory amendments to the Commission’s drug testing regulations at the next meeting, specifically relating to the vendor.

**REVIEW OF COMMISSION SANCTIONED EVENTS**

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

Micro-Wrestling Federation, September 12th, Baltimore

Micro-Wrestling Federation, September, 13th, Perryville

MCW Wrestling, September 14th, Joppa

EWA Wrestling, September 15th, Baltimore

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

Dwarfanators Micro Wrestling, September 20th, La Plata

MCW Wrestling, September 21st, Frederick

AWA Wrestling, September 21st, Waldorf

ACW Wrestling, September 21st, Annapolis

Micro-Wrestling Federation, September, 25th, Easton

Micro-Wrestling Federation, September, 26th, Glen Burnie

Voltage Wrestling, September 28th, Hagerstown

EWA Wrestling, September 28th, Bel Air

Ponytail Promotions Boxing, September 28th, Baltimore

Shogun Fights Mixed Martial Arts, October 5th, Maryland Live!

Sharpshooter Promotions Boxing, October 12th, Bowie

No Xcuse Promotions Boxing, October 19th, Fort Washington

A motion to approve the upcoming Dwarfanators event on September 20th 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 September 21st was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming AWA wrestling event on September 21st was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming ACW wrestling event on September 21st was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming Micro-Wrestling Federation events on September 25th and September 26th was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming Voltage wrestling event on September 28th was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming EWA wrestling event on September 28th was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming Ponytail Promotions Boxing event on September 28th was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming Shogun Fights Mixed Martial Arts event on October 5th was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming Sharpshooter Promotions Boxing event on October 12th was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the No Xcuse Promotions Boxing event on October 19th was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Commission discussed proposed Professional Muay Thai regulations. After a discussion, a motion to approve to approve the Muay Thai regulation as COMAR 09.14.18 was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Jones. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A conditional approval of Jared Noe’s professional wrestling promoter’s license and approval of his event on October 4th and 28th was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission. The conditional approval is subject to the Commission timely receiving bonds, which is required for licensure.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Matchmaker Brian Dillion asked the Commission if there were benchmarks that were used as to how bouts are approved in the state. Chairman Norman advised that how bouts are approved is on the Commission’s website.

Boxing promoter Christen Jeter stated to the Commission that she would like to know when regulatory changes concerning the number of rounds for a boxing promotion would take place.

Matthew Van Valkenburgh, of WBC Muay Thai, thanked the Commission for the work they did in getting the Muay Thai regulations drafted. Mr. Van Valkenburgh also stated to the Commission that he has an amateur Muay Thai event scheduled for November 2nd.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Dave Norman called for a motion for adjournment at roughly 3:28pm that was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the motion.

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