**MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION**

**MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, January 17, 2024**

On Wednesday, January17, 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 Dr. Kristi Hall, Commissioner James “Binky” Jones, Commissioner Brian Boles, John Dove, Commission 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 Nino Ovial. This was a hybrid meeting with Commission members, Commission staff, and the public calling into Google Meets, as well as joining in person at 1100 N. Eutaw, 5th floor.

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

The minutes were discussed from the meeting of December 20, 2024. Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Jones. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

In conjunction with the Executive Director’s Report, Chairman David Norman discussed approving Muay Thai as an authorized form of kickboxing. A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Jones to allow Muay Thai to be authorized as kickboxing. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director Nino Ovial opened his report with a discussion with the Commission to regulate professional Muay Thai under the Commission’s kickboxing regulations.

Mr. Ovial gave an update to the Commission about Jeter Promotions upcoming show on February 24, 2024, that was led by John Dove, Commissioner for O&P. Commissioner Dove advised that the 56 round special exception requested by Jeter Promotions had not yet been agreed upon, thus the event is currently sanctioned for only 40 rounds of boxing as voted on by the Commission at the last meeting. Mr. Dove indicated that he was still in contact with representatives of Jeter Promotions and that the special exception might be revisited.

Mr. Ovial opened a discussion with the Commission about adopting a policy that would raise the level for a positive THC test to 150 nanograms. He advised the Commission that neighboring jurisdictions had taken this approach. After discussion, Chairman David Norman asked for a motion for a positive THC test in a combative sports participant’s urine to be raised to 150 nanograms. A motion to move was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Jones. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Executive Director Nino Ovial ended his report by stating that he was proud to report to the Commission that Maryland has six new professional wrestling promoters, which was evidence that the policy of not allowing promoters to share their license was working.

**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:

WWE Wrestling, December 26, 2023, Baltimore

MCW Wrestling, December 30, 2023, Joppa

CZW Wrestling, January 7, 2024, Havre De Grace

Pay Your Dues Wrestling, January 12, 2024, Halethorpe

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Executive Director Ovial led in a discussion of upcoming events that were previously approved in the last meeting, which included the following:

Flying V Wrestling, January 27, 2024, Silver Springs

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ACW Wrestling, February 2, 2024, Hagerstown

EWA Wrestling, February 3, 2024, Bel-Air

MCW Wrestling, February 3, 2024, Hollywood

MCW Wrestling February 4, 2024, Joppa

ACW Wrestling, February 9, 2024, Glen Burnie

AWA Wrestling, February 10, 2024, Waldorf

Jeter Promotions Boxing, February 24, 2024 Maryland Live (40 rounds)

The Commission had previously unanimously approved these events during its meeting of December 20, 2023.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business discussed during this meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Matthew Van Valkenburgh opened a discussion by asking the Commission what bureaucratic processes are in the way of Muay Thai being recognized professionally in the state of Maryland as well as what processes are in place for amateur Muay Thai tournaments in Maryland. Chairman David Norman explained to Mr. Van Valkenburgh that due do a government Moratorium, that professional Muay Thai regulations would not be able to be submitted until later in the year. Chairman Norman indicated that the Commission would be working on Muay Thai regulations once the moratorium was over.

Ratioender Melo asked the Commission about what processes were in place for amateur Muay Thai and amateur mixed martial arts in Maryland. Chairman David Norman stated to Mr. Melo that it was staffing and costs related to regulating an event that make it difficult for amateur mixed martial arts to take place in Maryland.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman David Norman called for adjournment at roughly 3:38pm that was approved by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

/s/David J. Norman

Chairman

Date: February 21, 2023