

# **MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018**

On Wednesday, September 12, 2018, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Arnold “Arnie” Dansicker at 2:06 p.m.. Present were the following: Chairman Dansicker; Commissioner Charles “Chuck” Gast; Commissioner Lenny Moore; Commissioner David Norman; Commissioner David Shull; Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; and Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel.

### **APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

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

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the following professional boxing event being promoted by Shabazz Brotherz, LLC:

Saturday, December 8, 2018 - 7:00 p.m. Starting Time  
Bowie State University - The A.C. Jordan Arena  
1400 Jericho Road  
Bowie, Maryland  
Promoter: Shabazz Brotherz, LLC,  
advertising as “Shabazz Brotherz”.

### **FALL SCHEDULE OF BOXING AND MMA EVENTS**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the Fall, 2018 schedule of Commission-sanctioned professional boxing events and professional MMA events.

### **APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENTS**

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

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the following wrestling events being promoted by EWA Promotions, LLC:

Saturday, September 29, 2018 - 10:15 p.m. Starting Time  
The Gentlemen's Club  
5801 Pulaski Highway - Baltimore, Maryland  
Promoter: EWA Promotions. LLC,  
advertising as "Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA)"

Saturday, January 19, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Tall Cedars Hall  
2501 Putty Hall Avenue - Parkville, Maryland  
Promoter: EWA Promotions. LLC,  
advertising as "Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA)"

Friday, March 22, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Tall Cedars Hall  
2501 Putty Hall Avenue - Parkville, Maryland  
Promoter: EWA Promotions. LLC,  
advertising as Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA);

Saturday, May 18, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Tall Cedars Hall  
2501 Putty Hall Avenue - Parkville, Maryland  
Promoter: EWA Promotions. LLC,  
advertising as "Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA)"

Friday, June 21, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Tall Cedars Hall  
2501 Putty Hall Avenue - Parkville, Maryland  
Promoter: EWA Promotions. LLC,

advertising as “Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA)”

Friday, September 13, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time

Tall Cedars Hall

2501 Putty Hall Avenue - Parkville, Maryland

Promoter: EWA Promotions. LLC,

advertising as “Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA)” and

Friday, October 25, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time

Tall Cedars Hall

2501 Putty Hall Avenue - Parkville, Maryland

Promoter: EWA Promotions. LLC,

advertising as “Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA)”.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the following professional wrestling events being promoted by James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III, advertising as “Adrenaline Championship Wrestling (ACW)”:

Friday, October 5, 2018 - 7:00 p.m. Starting Time

South Hagerstown High School

1100 South Potomac Street - Hagerstown, Maryland

Promoter: James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III,

advertising as “Adrenaline Championship Wrestling (ACW)”;

Friday, December 28, 2018 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time

Michael’s Eighth Avenue

7220 Grayburn Drive - Glen Burnie, Maryland

Promoter: James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III,

advertising as “Adrenaline Championship Wrestling (ACW)”.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, seconded by Commissioner Norman, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted by Michael Valentyne, advertising as “Fury Pro

Wrestling (FPW)”:

Sunday, October 7, 2018 - 2:00 p.m. Starting Time  
Montgomery Community Media  
7548 Standish Place - Rockville, Maryland  
Promoter: Michael Valentyne,  
advertising as “Fury Pro Wrestling (FPW)”.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted by Ring of Honor Wrestling Entertainment, LLC, advertising as “Ring of Honor (ROH)”:

Friday, October 12, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) Events Center  
1000 Hilltop Circle - Catonsville, Maryland  
Promoter: Ring of Honor Wrestling Entertainment, LLC,  
advertising as “Ring of Honor (ROH)”.

## **FALL SCHEDULE OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENTS**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the Fall, 2018 schedule of Commission-sanctioned professional wrestling events.

### **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Chairman Dansicker had nothing additional to report.

### **COUNSEL’S REPORT**

Counsel London had nothing additional to report.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director Pannella had nothing additional to report.

**UPDATE ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2018**  
**PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with an update in regard to the professional boxing event being promoted by Shabazz Brotherz, LLC, advertising as “Shabazz Brotherz”, and being held on September 22, 2018 at Bowie State University’s A.C. Jordan Arena in Bowie, Maryland.

Mr. Pannella noted that the Commission was working closely with the promoter and with Bowie State University officials to effectively address various logistical issues attendant to, and exclusive to, the holding of a combative sports event at this venue.

The Commission recognized Bowie State University and its Athletic Department for the Athletic Department’s willingness to allow a professional boxing event to be held on Bowie State University’s campus. Mr. Pannella noted that the last professional boxing event held at a college or university in the State of Maryland took place on July 20, 2013 at Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland.

**UPDATE ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2018**  
**PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with an update in regard to the professional boxing event being promoted by CyNation Sports, LLC, advertising as “CyNation Sports”, and being held on September 29, 2018 at Rosecroft Raceway in Ft. Washington, Maryland.

Mr. Pannella reported that this is the first professional boxing event being held by CyNation Sports. Mr. Pannella noted that he has engaged in numerous boxing-related and promoter-related discussions during the past year with Cory Sanders, the promoter representative for CyNation Sports, as Mr. Sanders has sought to fully acclimate himself to the world of boxing promotion.

Mr. Pannella reported that professional boxers and twin brothers Jason Bell and Justin Bell are both scheduled to compete on this boxing card.

## **REVIEW OF AUGUST 18, 2018** **PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional boxing event promoted by Jeter Promotions, LLC, advertising as “Jeter Promotions”, and held on August 18, 2018 at Maryland Live! Casino and Hotel’s Events Center in Hanover, Maryland.

The professional boxing event included eight boxing contests and 54 scheduled rounds of boxing competition. It was the first boxing event and first combative sports event held at Maryland Live! Casino and Hotel.

Two of the featured boxing contests were televised live on the CBS Sports Network’s “CBS Fight Night” series. In the first televised boxing contest, Mykal Fox won a ten-round unanimous decision over Demarcus Corley. In the second boxing contest, Demond Nicholson knocked out Isaac Rodriguez in the sixth round to win the “United States National Boxing Championship Super Middleweight (USNBC) Title”. The USNBC is affiliated with the World Boxing Council (WBC).

Commissioner Gast, Commissioner Norman and Commissioner Shull all attended the boxing event.

Commissioner Gast opined that the majority of the boxing contests held were very competitive.

Mr. Pannella opined that the two televised boxing contests were especially competitive, noting that the Nicholson-Rodriguez boxing contest was highly praised by boxing writers for its consistent back-and-forth action.

Mr. Pannella complimented Maryland Live! officials for their efforts in working closely with the Commission and the promoter to plan the logistics for staging this boxing event.

Commissioner Shull opined that, from a “fan viewing perspective”, the venue was very conducive for the holding of combative sports events.

Commissioner Gast observed that, following the conclusion of the second televised boxing contest and prior to the start of the last boxing contest on the card, there was a significant reduction in the number of security representatives staffing the area immediately surrounding the boxing ring. Mr. Pannella stated that he shared Commissioner Gast's concerns, adding that the Commission would be working with Maryland Live! officials to ensure that such a scenario does not occur at future combative sports events held at the venue.

Mr. Pannella observed that, particularly for the two televised boxing contests, there was a lack of appropriate space in the aisle which leads from the dressing room hallway door to the boxing ring. He noted that this made it very difficult for security representatives to escort boxers and their respective seconds both to, and from, the ring without having to negotiate through spectators crowding the aisle. Mr. Pannella stated that the Commission would be working with Maryland Live! officials to ensure that such a scenario does not occur at future combative sports events held at the venue.

### **“LONDON PRIZE SMALL GLOVE BOXING” WRITTEN PROPOSAL**

The Commission held a discussion regarding a written proposal entitled “London Prize Small Glove Boxing”, which was recently submitted to the Commission for its review and consideration by Franco Di Folco. Mr. Di Folco is the Founder and CEO of London Prize, LLC as well as a resident of the State of Maryland.

The Commission determined that, because it does not have the authority to regulate what is essentially a new combative sport, the Commission has to respectfully defer to the Maryland Legislature for any future consideration of creating the statutory authority to permit this sport to be held in Maryland.

The Commission instructed Executive Director Pannella to advise Mr. Di Folco of its determination in this regard.

### **SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETINGS**

The Commission held a discussion regarding future Commission meeting dates. The Commission agreed to hold the following meetings on the following dates and times in the Third Floor Conference Room, 500 North Calvert Street in Baltimore, Maryland:

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.;  
Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.; and  
Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at 2:00 p.m..

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, and seconded by Commissioner Norman, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 3:12 p.m..

**Patrick Pannella**  
**Executive Director**