

MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017

On Wednesday, January 25, 2017, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Arnold “Arnie” Dansicker at 2:05 p.m.. Present were the following: Chairman Dansicker; Commissioner Ben Alperstein; Commissioner Sean Malone; Commissioner Lenny Moore; Commissioner David Norman; Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; Eric London, Counsel; and Dreama Anderson, Administrative Specialist.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

The following Commission minutes, which were previously distributed to all Commission members for review, were discussed: September 16, 2016; October 27, 2016; November 16, 2016; and December 21, 2016.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Chairman Dansicker, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the following Commission minutes: September 16, 2016; October 27, 2016; November 16, 2016; December 21, 2016.

APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENT

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 Alperstein, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted James “Jimmy” Morris, III, advertising as Adrenaline Championship Wrestling (ACW):

Professional Wrestling Event
Friday, March 10, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Denton Fire Hall

400 South Fifth Avenue - Denton, Maryland
Promoter: James “Jimmy” Morris, III,
advertising as Adrenaline Championship Wrestling
(ACW).

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Dansicker stated that he was pleased that Murray “Jake” Smith has returned to conduct professional boxing events and pro-am boxing events in the Baltimore area as licensed promoter Baltimore Boxing and Fitness, LLC.

Chairman Dansicker opined that this Baltimore-based promotion counterbalances King’s Promotions, LLC, which has been holding professional boxing events at Rosecroft Raceway in Ft. Washington, Maryland.

COUNSEL’S REPORT

The Commission Counsel had no report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Pannella predicted that, in the Year 2017, the MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland will be an attractive venue for the holding of boxing contests for world titles and major televised boxing events.

Executive Director reported that Gervonta “Tank” Davis of Baltimore, Maryland obtained the International Boxing Federation (IBF) “World Super Featherweight” title on January 14, 2017, when he won his boxing contest versus by Jose Pedraza by technical knockout in the third round of their scheduled twelve-round boxing contest in Brooklyn, New York. Mr. Pannella noted that, prior to winning this title, Mr. Davis had competed twice in professional boxing contests held in the State of Maryland.

The Commission congratulated Mr. Davis on winning his world boxing title.

LEGISLATIVE POLICY FOR THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT

OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. Kelly M. Schulz, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), announced the State departmental policy via written correspondence sent on January 13, 2017 to all DLLR employees. Regarding testimony before the Maryland General Assembly.

KIDNEY STRIKES

Executive Director Pannella provided the following report in regard to a question posed by certain Commission members as to why strikes to the kidney are currently prohibited in professional boxing, while most strikes to the kidney are permitted in MMA competition.

The Commission previously instructed Mr. Pannella to prepare and send an e-mail to the Association of Ringside Physicians (ARP) Commission inquiring, among related medical questions, as to why the ARP is not opposing all strikes to the kidney for both boxing competition and MMA competition. Mr. Pannella prepared and sent the requested e-mail on January 19, 2017.

In response to the Commission's e-mail inquiry, the ARP provided a written essay prepared by Dr. Nicholas Rizzo, M.D., dated January 24, 2017 and entitled "Ringside Physicians' Comments on the Heel Kick Controversy, Blows to the Kidney Area, and Rules Changes".

The Commission is currently reviewing the medical opinions provided in this referenced written essay.

COMMISSION - COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

The Commission reviewed its current policy, a policy previously approved by the Maryland State Ethic Commission, with regard to the distribution and use of complimentary tickets. In addition to other regulatory requirements, the Commission policy provides for the following.

Any Commission member, other Commission representative, or individual employed in any branch of Maryland State Government as allowed by State law may bring with him or her one guest as a travelling companion to a Commission-sanctioned event. It is permissible for a Commission member, other Commission representative, or individual employed in any branch of Maryland State Government as allowed by State law to bring with him or her an additional guest or guests to: (1) facilitate the attendance of a Commission member, other Commission representative, or individual employed in any branch of Maryland State Government as allowed by State law; or (2) promote the purposes or functions of the Commission.

Citing the need to consider the matter further, the Commission elected to table until the next Commission meeting whether to allow a guest to attend Commission-sanctioned events of a national scale in the manner described in the referenced Commission policy.

REVIEW OF JANUARY 13, 2017 PRO-AM BOXING EVENT

Commissioner Norman and Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the pro-am boxing event promoted by Baltimore Boxing and Fitness, LLC and held on January 13, 2017 at Michael's Eighth Avenue in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

The pro-am boxing event included: (1) four professional boxing contests and 22 scheduled rounds of professional boxing competition; and (2) four amateur boxing contests and 12 scheduled rounds of amateur boxing competition. The main event featured Jessie Nicklow versus Chauncey Fields in an eight-round boxing contest in which Mr. Nicklow won by a unanimous decision.

COMMISSION CASE NO. MSAC-16-03 MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION VS. SHAWSTYLE PRODUCTIONS, LLC

Counsel London provided the following report in regard to Case No. MSAC-16-03 - "Maryland State Athletic Commission versus Shawstyle Productions, LLC

(Thaddeus M. Shaw, Chief Executive Official / Promoter’s Representative)”.

At a Commission hearing held on January 25, 2017, and based upon the findings of fact, the Commission made the following conclusions of law: (1) Shawstyle Productions, LLC and its chief executive official, Thaddeus M. Shaw, failed to pay the “Boxing and Wrestling Tax” as required by State law in regard to the Commission-sanctioned professional boxing event promoted by Shawstyle Productions, LLC and held on November 12, 2016 at the Clarence “Du” Burns Arena in Baltimore, Maryland; (2) Shawstyle Productions, LLC and its chief executive official, Thaddeus M. Shaw, failed to submit a check to the Commission in the amount of the “Boxing and Wrestling Tax” owed within 72 hours of the November 12, 2016 boxing event in violation of Commission regulations; and (3) Shawstyle Productions, LLC and its chief executive official, Thaddeus M. Shaw, failed to comply with a directive of the Commission in violation of Commission regulations by not satisfying, in full, within the timeframe of a deadline imposed by the Commission both the referenced tax liability and all expenses attendant to the November 12, 2016 boxing event.

After considering the findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Commission ordered that: (1) the promoter’s license issued to Shawstyle Productions, LLC be revoked; (2) Thaddeus M. Shaw, Chief Executive Official of Shawstyle Productions, LLC, pay a fine to the Commission of \$5,000.00 within thirty days of this memorandum and order; and (3) notification of the Commission’s disposition in this matter be sent to the Association of Boxing Commissions for dissemination to all of its member boxing commissions and to all certified boxing registries in the United States.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Chairman Dansicker, and seconded by Commissioner Norman, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 4:04 p.m..

Patrick Pannella
Executive Director