**MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION**

**MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, May 15, 2024**

On Wednesday, March 20, 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 Interim 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 April 17, 2024 meeting were discussed. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION-SANCTIONED EVENTS**

Chairman Dave Norman led a discussion of the approval of upcoming boxing events for Ponytail Promotions and Jeter Promotions. Chairman Norman advised the Commission that Ponytail Promotions had agreed to a term sheet for compensation to MSAC staff for 60 rounds of boxing. A motion to approve Ponytail Promotions for special permission for 60 rounds of boxing on June 22, 2024 was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The event was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Chairman Norman advised that earlier in the day a letter was sent to Jeter promotions indicating the terms by which the Commission would be willing to give special permission for more than 40 rounds of boxing and that Jeter’s counsel had not had the opportunity to review the term sheet with counsel. A motion to approve Jeter Promotions for 40 rounds of boxing on July 20, 2024 was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The event was unanimously approved by the Commission. At a later date, Chairman Norman noted that the Commission could grant special permission for additional rounds of boxing.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Chairman Dave Norman introduced Interim Executive Director Johnston Brown to the Commission and welcomed him to the public.

**INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Interim Executive Director Johnston Brown introduced himself to the Commission. Mr. Brown advised the Commission about the hiring of a new Commission Physician, Dr. Armel Simo.

**REVIEW OF COMMISSION SANCTIONED EVENTS**

Interim Executive Director Johnston Brown advised the Commission about the wrestling events in the previous month. Those events included the following:

Pay Your Dues Wrestling, April 19, Glen Burnie

ACW Wrestling, April 19, Hagerstown

MCW Wrestling, April 20, Hollywood

MCW Wrestling, April 21, Joppa

Micro Wrestling Federation, April 26, Glen Burnie

AWA Wrestling, April 27, Waldorf

MCW Wrestling, April 27, Ridgley

EWA Wrestling, April 28, Dundalk

Micro Wrestling Federation, May 2, Baltimore

Micro Wrestling Federation, May 3, Perryville

CZW Wrestling, May 5, Harve de Grace

EWA Wrestling, May 11, Bel Air

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Chairman James Dave Norman led the Commission in a discussion of upcoming events, which included the following:

CZW Wrestling, May 18th, Baltimore

Micro Wrestling All-Stars, May 18th, Baltimore

EWA Wrestling, May 25th, Hunt Valley

Flying V Wrestling, June 1st, Silver Spring

CZW Wrestling, June 2nd, Harve de Grace

MCW Wrestling, June 8th, Joppa

AWA Wrestling, June 8th, Waldorf

MCW Wrestling, June 15th, Baltimore

EWA Wrestling, June 15th, Dundalk

A motion to conditionally approve the upcoming CZW wrestling events on May 18th and June 2nd was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Jones. The events were unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming Mirco Wrestling All-Stars event on May 18th was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Jones. The event was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the upcoming EWA wrestling events on May 25th and June 15th was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Jones. The events were unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the Flying V Wrestling event on June 1st was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Jones. The event was unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the MCW wrestling events on June 8th and June 15th was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Jones. The events were unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion to approve the AWA wrestling event on June 8th was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Jones. The event was unanimously approved by the Commission.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Dave Norma advised the Commission on the passing of former professional wrestler, Brandon Holman who wrestled under the stage name, Dick Dynamo.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Attorney Eddie Pounds advised the Commission that Jeter Promotions were in possession of the proposed sanctioning requirements for their upcoming event on July 20, 2024 to grant special permission for more than 40 rounds of boxing.

Professional Boxer Victor Williams addressed the Commission on how low round restrictions limit the growth, exposure, and ring appearances for professional boxers.

Matthew Van Valkenburgh advised the Commission that he would like to have amateur Muay Thai tournaments in Maryland in efforts to keep Maryland athletes in the state.

Ozzie Akcakaya, the founder and CEO of HIT N MOVE, a performance boxing glove company, addressed the Commission on how difficult it is to have boxing gloves approved in Maryland. Mr. Akcakaya expressed his belief a more standardized approval process is fair for all companies.

Scott Howard, Advisory Board Vice-Chair for the Virginia Athletic Commission, advised the Commission that he would be willing to hold talks with the Maryland State Athletic Commission regarding professional Muay Thai being regulated in Maryland.

Boxing Matchmaker Ron Paisano advised the Commission that it is his belief that the reason there has been only one professional boxing event in Maryland is due to the imposed round restrictions, which limit the potential revenue for promoters. Mr. Paisano expressed to the Commission his desire to have guidelines written for how potential bouts are approved by the Commission.

James Hogan addressed the Commission that the gloves a boxer wears should not give either a fighter a competitive advantage.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman David Norman called for adjournment at roughly 3:53pm that was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the motion.

/s/ David Norman

Chairman