

MINUTES
South Carolina Athletic Commission
10:00 A.M., August 17, 2007
Board Meeting
Synergy Business Park
Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Conference Room 111
Columbia, South Carolina

Michael Tyler, chairman, of Cayce, called the meeting of the S.C. Athletic Commission to order at 10:00 a.m. Other commissioners present included: Paul Kennemore, vice chairman, of Greenwood; George Cox, of Myrtle Beach; Clyde Jones, of Camden; *Lynda Leventis-Wells, of Greenville; and Robert Williams, of Cayce.

Staff members participating in the meeting included: Ronnie Blackmon, Inspector; Randall Bryant, Assistant Deputy Director; Sandra Dickert, Administrative Assistant; Larry Hall, Inspector; Jimmy Knotts, Inspector; Jim Kyzer, Inspector; Krystal McFadden, Administrative Specialist; and Mark Sanders, Inspector.

Members of the public attending the meeting included: Dwight Decker, Jeff Ensminger, Jim Kelley, and Andrew Stokes.

Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Tyler announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S. C. Athletic Commission office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Introduction of Commission Members

The Commission members introduced themselves.

Invocation

Mr. Kennemore delivered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the March 29, 2007 Meeting Minutes

MOTION

Mr. Jones moved the minutes of the March 29, 2007 meeting be approved as written. Mr. Kennemore seconded the motion, which carried unanimously,

Chairman's Remarks – Michael Tyler

Mr. Tyler made no remarks at this time.

Administrator's Remarks – Randall Bryant

Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Office of General Counsel
Legislative Update, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office

There were no advisory opinions or legislative update given during the August 17, 2007 meeting.

Mr. Bryant stated Mr. Kyzer has been doing an excellent job with the illegal events occurring in the state. He asked the Commission to formulate a sanction in regard to the illegal events.

Mr. Bryant stated he has the ability to name the officials for the off the street boxing and the professional boxing events. He further stated he has not named the officials for these events in the past seven years, although staff has been providing a list of officials to the promoters they felt would be capable of handling the event and that the promoter would pick the officials. He went on to say this system of naming officials has not worked lately and he believes the Commission should return to naming the officials and the compensation those officials should receive.

Mr. Bryant stated he believes the fight cards submitted to the Commission for review should include a fight fax on each participant. He said this would alert the promoter and/or matchmaker of a suspension or pending action on each participant and of each participant's record.

Mr. Bryant asked the Commission to consider establishing a policy that all fight cards and the required additional documents be submitted for the Commission's review no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the event and that no changes to fight cards be allowed twenty-four (24) hours prior to each event unless there is an extreme emergency.

Mr. Tyler stated he would like for the Commission to make a policy that no events take place during the week of the ABC conference.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business for discussion.

*Mrs. Leventis-Wells arrived at the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

New Business

1. Mixed Martial Arts Presentation – Dwight Decker

Mr. Dwight Decker, of Terminal Force Promotions, made a presentation in regard to amateur and professional mixed martial arts. During the presentation he noted that the amateur fighters go for three 3-minute rounds and the professional fighters go for three 5-minute rounds.

Mr. Kelley made remarks in regard to the mixed martial arts.

Mr. Hall stated he has heard of problems with the mixed martial arts in other states. He further stated he has heard of professional fighters attempting to return to the amateur ranks and it is difficult to track since they are using different names. He asked how the Commission could ensure they have the correct person.

Mr. Decker stated the individuals must submit two picture identification cards at each fight. He further stated if the does not submit the two picture identification cards they do not fight.

2. *Report on ABC National Conference – Michael Tyler, George Cox, Larry Hall, Jimmy Knotts*

Mr. Tyler stated he, Mr. Cox, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hall and Mr. Knotts attended the ABC conference in July. He further stated it was his first conference and feels several good matters were brought back.

Mr. Cox stated he learned a lot from this conference. He feels this conference was better run than some of the other conferences he has attended. He was impressed by the impact of mixed martial arts and wondered if the Commission's law would allow it to work in South Carolina.

Mr. Tyler stated twenty (20) states have now approved mixed martial arts with North Carolina being the latest state to approve this venue.

Mr. Williams feels mixed martial arts would be in South Carolina in the next several months.

Mr. Cox stated Pat English conducted a one-hour presentation during the conference in regard to the Stephan Johnson fight and subsequent death. He further stated Mr. English did an excellent job on the presentation. He went on to say one of the issues discussed was the state's obligation to give full faith and credit to a foreign country's, such as Canada, suspension. He is not sure what the state's position on this issue at the time of Mr. Johnson's death.

3. *Review of Events – Larry Hall*

Mr. Hall briefed the Commission on the licenses issued and events held this year.

Public Comments

Mr. Jeff Ensminger stated he would like to see the Commission assign the referees and judges. He further stated he believes the pay scale for officials should be standardized. He briefly discussed ABC certified officials.

Mr. Jim Kelley made remarks regarding an event held in late July 2007.

Mr. Bryant stated he would have liked to have heard the presentation. He noted the question of the state's position on a foreign country's suspension was brought during a deposition in the matter of Mr. Johnson's death. He said the state's statute was rewritten and says the Commission honors the ABC registry, which includes Canada. He went on to say that other foreign countries such as Ireland, Argentina, and England are not part of the ABC organization and that ABC does not recognize those suspensions.

Executive Session

MOTION

Mr. Cox moved the Commission enter executive session. Mrs. Leventis-Wells seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Return to Public Session

MOTION

Mr. Cox made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones and unanimously carried, that the Board return to public session.

Mr. Tyler noted for the record that no motions were offered or made during executive session.

MOTION

Based on recent experience, specifically the conflicts of a function occurring in South Carolina during the time Commissioners and Commission personnel were attending the ABC conference, Mr. Cox moved, for fight promotion purposes and activity of the Athletic Commission, that the Commission establish as policy that the dates of the ABC convention be blocked out for promotions so that no conflicts will occur during that week. Mrs. Leventis-Wells seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION

Mrs. Leventis-Wells made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones and unanimously carried, that the Commission establish as policy to instruct staff that there would be no changes of the fight card twenty-four (24) hours prior to the fight, that all medical contracts and fight cards be submitted no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the event, and that a current fight fax record must accompany all fight cards.

MOTION

Mr. Cox moved the Commission establish as policy that the LLR Administrator and the Commission's designee shall assign all officials for boxing and tough man events and shall mandate the amount of compensation paid to said officials. Mr. Jones seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION

Mr. Williams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones and unanimously carried, that the Commission issue a civil penalty of not more than \$250.00 to all promoters if the individual is found promoting an event without a proper permit.

Mr. Jones asked that staff instruct the industry in regard to the policies established during this meeting.

Mr. Tyler stated a committee has been established to discuss mixed martial arts. He noted the committee is comprised of Mr. Cox, Mr. Jones and himself.

Mr. Cox asked Mr. Bryant to compile legislation from other states in regard to mixed martial arts.

Adjournment

MOTION

There being no further business to be discussed at this time, Mr. Cox moved the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Leventis-Wells seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The August 17, 2007 meeting of the SC Athletic Commission adjourned at 12:15 p.m.