

MINUTES
South Carolina Athletic Commission
10:00 a.m., Thursday, March, 11, 2010
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
Conference Room 108
110 Centerview Drive
Columbia, SC

Meeting Called to Order

Michael Tyler, chairman, of Lexington called the regular meeting of the SC Athletic Commission to order at 10:05 a.m. Other Commission members attending the meeting included: Robert Williams, vice chairman, of Cayce; George Cox, of Myrtle Beach; Clyde Jones, of Camden; Paul Kennemore, of Greenwood; and Lynda Leventis-Wells, of Greenville.

Staff members participating in the meeting included: Randy Bryant, Assistant Deputy Director; Beth Cumalander, Administrative Specialist; Sandra Dickert, Administrative Assistant; Glenn Frick, Inspector; Larry Hall, Inspector; Jimmy Knotts, Inspector; and Chuck Ross, Inspector.

A video of this meeting can be viewed at www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Athletic. On the Commission's home page, click 'Board Information' and follow the link to the video.

Public Notice

Mr. Tyler announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the SC 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

Mr. Jones delivered the invocation.

Approval of the January 27, 2010 Minutes

MOTION

Mr. Williams made a motion to Approve the January 27, 2010 meeting minutes. Mr. Jones seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Commission members, staff and members of the public attending the meeting introduced themselves.

Approval of Excused Absences

All members were present.

Mr. Tyler made remarks regarding the MMA events.

Mr. Hall briefed the Commission regarding upcoming events. He noted the April 30-May 1 events would be taking place in Greer instead of Pelzer. He said there have been several events held since the last meeting during which there have not been any major problems.

Mr. Bryant stated the regulations have not yet been written regarding MMA. He further stated staff had questions for clarification from the Commission before the regulations are written.

Mr. Bryant stated Mr. Corey Schafer was present to speak with the Commission regarding MMA.

Mr. Bryant stated as of last year the agency had to remit over \$9,000,000.00 to the General Assembly due to budget cuts. He noted it is a possibility that some services to the boards and commission may be cut. He said the Senate will finalize the budget in June at which time the agency will be informed how much monies would have to be remitted back to the General Assembly. He noted this amount would be in addition to the ten percent the agency already remits.

Advisory Opinions

No advisory opinions were given during this meeting.

Legislative Update

No legislative update was given during this meeting.

Old Business

There was no old business for discussion during this meeting.

New Business

Number of Rounds for Pro MMA

Mr. Schafer stated the industry standard is set by the ABC. He further stated the precedence is set by the other state commissions are three five-minute rounds for professional rounds and five five-minute rounds for title fights. He noted these rounds are proven industry standards and the consumer knows exactly what to expect in each respective event.

MOTION

Mr. Cox made a motion in order to advertise a professional or professional and amateur event there must be a minimum of three professionally scheduled bouts. Mr. Kennemore seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ISKA – Corey Schafer

Mr. Bryant stated Mr. Schafer was present to discuss MMA. He further stated it was fashioned after the professional kickboxing where the Commission has the opportunity to allow a sanctioning body to come in and sanction an event and provide services to the Commission in assistance with the MMA events. He said it does not remove the Commission's ability to name officials for the events, finalize fight cards or issue discipline.

Mr. Bryant stated the Commission approved ISKA as the first sanctioning body for promoters to use for MMA events. He noted the Commission has also approved ISCF as a sanctioning body to be used by promoters within the state. He further stated he has not been able to work with the ISCF and does not know how that body works.

Mr. Schafer stated ISKA has been active around the world since 1986. He addressed the company's policy regarding the safety of the fighters and protection of the consumer

Discussion ensued regarding advertising an MMA event. The Commission determined an advertisement or flyer for an event should include verbiage: card subject to change, if the event

is professional, amateur or pro/am, which should be in a font size in equal size to the largest font on the flyer. The Commission asked that the flyer be emailed to them once approved by the sanctioning body.

Assignment of One Referee by the Commission for MMA

Mr. Bryant stated the sentiment during the last meeting was to attempt to work South Carolina officials into MMA events. He further stated Mr. Entzminger is an extremely fine South Carolina judge and was present for the meeting. He noted one referee did not do a good job during an event and would not be refereeing any more events. He said there are four established referees for MMA events; however, they are not South Carolina referees. He said staff is looking for other South Carolina officials.

Age Limits for Amateur and Pro MMA Events

Mr. Bryant discussed the age limits for amateur and pro MMA events. He noted the Commission approves bouts with participants over 35 years of age.

Mr. Schafer stated minors (under 18 years old) do not participate in MMA bouts. He further stated it is not because MMA there is not a potentially safe and fair way for minors to participate, he does not believe the timing is right at this time. He believes the sport is too young. He noted the ISKA rules are adjusted state by state. He researched the most stringent state laws when Hershel Walker competed in a Florida event recently. He required the promoter to have Mr. Walker take every conceivable test since he is 46 years old and a letter from the participant's physician stating the participant is physically able to compete in the event.

This matter was tabled to executive session.

e. MMA Bout Cards Prior to Sanctioning Agency Approval

Mr. Bryant stated he has recommended the sanctioning bodies send the fight cards electronically to staff and that staff electronically forward the fight cards to the Commission's designee.

Mr. Schafer stated he approves each bout prior to the event and discussed procedures ISKA uses for promoters to secure sanctioning. He noted ISKA charges the promoters \$750.00 for a professional/amateur event, \$500.00 for an amateur event, \$750.00 for a professional event, and \$300.00 for an event representative fee. He noted these fees as well as the belt fees, official fees, expense fees, and other fees are noted on the contracts signed by the promoter and ISKA.

Discussion ensued regarding sanctioning fighters for not attending mandatory meetings.

Discussion ensued regarding the required blood work for amateur MMA fighters. The promoters attending the meeting spoke in favor and against the required blood work for amateur MMA fighters.

9. Executive Session

MOTION

Ms. Leventis-Wells made a motion to enter closed session to discuss personnel issues. Mr. Cox seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Kennemore left the meeting at this time.

10. [Return to Public Session](#)

MOTION

Mr. Cox made a motion return to public session. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Tyler noted for the record that no official actions were taken during executive session.

Mrs. Leventis-Wells left the meeting at this time.

MOTION

Mr. Cox made a motion that combatants 35 years of age and over are free to apply to the Commission and to the sanctioning organization for any particular mixed martial arts card but that the minimal requirements shall include but not necessarily be limited to a letter from a medical doctor stating his or her approval for that fight to be sanctioned or approved, a satisfactory EKG test that has been conducted within the last twelve months. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

8. [Public Comments](#)

DEA Fight Promotions asked if they should submit a written request for the January 9, 2010 fight results to be resubmitted for an amendment or revision recognized as sanctioned fights. The Commission answered affirmatively.

11. [Adjournment](#)

MOTION

Mr. Cox made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jones seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The March 11, 2010 meeting of the SC Athletic Commission adjourned at 12:31 p.m.