

Minutes

South Carolina Athletic Commission

Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building, Conference Room 105

110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Meeting Called to Order:

Pam Shealy, Chair, called the meeting of the South Carolina Athletic Commission to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Shealy announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. Athletic Commission Office, Synergy Business Park, Kingtree 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 Board Members:

Commission members present at this meeting included:

Pamela Shealy - Chair - At-Large Member

William McCullough - Vice-Chair - 1st Congressional District

Paul H. Kennemore - 4th Congressional District

Dr. James Phillips - At-Large Physician

Derek Shoemake - 5th Congressional District

James Vaught - 7th Congressional District

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Diana Williams, Athletic Commission Administrator; Rod Atkinson, Real-Estate Board Administrator; Laura Smith, Real-Estate Appraisers Board Administrator; Natalye Jackson, Administrative Assistant; Hardwick Stuart, Office of Advice Council.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Invocation was offered by Commissioner McCullough.

Approval of Agenda:

Ms. Williams requested the Commission continue forward with item 8c regarding the petition to review the decision of the Amateur Mixed Martial Arts bout of David Langston versus Trevon Jackson. She suggested the Commission use the video of the bout as the participants were unable to attend the meeting.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made a motion to proceed with item 8c using the video. Mr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. Kennemore made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Dr. Phillips seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Approval of Excused Absences:

Ms. Shealy noted that the absence of Edwin M. Estridge, 2nd Congressional District, was an excused absence due to illness. Ms. Shealy also noted the absence of James D. Vaught, 7th Congressional District, but postponed a vote regarding his absence as he confirmed his attendance with staff.

MOTION:

Mr. Shoemake made a motion to approve the absence of Edwin M. Estridge. Mr. McCullough seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2015, June 10, 2015 and July 24, 2015 meetings:

MOTION:

Mr. Shoemake made a motion to approve the minutes of all three dates as presented. Dr. Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks - Pam Shealy

Ms. Shealy welcomed everyone to the meeting. She welcomed the two new members of the Athletic Commission: Mr. Edwin 'Mack' Estridge from Chapin, representing the 2nd Congressional District and James 'Dylan' Vaught from Conway, representing the 7th Congressional District. She noted that the Commission only had one vacancy to fill from Congressional District 6.

Administrator's Remarks: Diana Williams

- a. The budget report for June 2015, the Year to Date Expenditures and Revenue were reviewed . Discussion ensued.

- b. The report from the Office of Investigations and Enforcement was distributed for review. Sharon Wolfe, Compliance Supervisor, also gave an explanation of the report.
- c. Ms. Williams gave an update of the legislative changes. She noted that the Regulatory changes, worked on by the Task Force, have passed. Mr. Atkinson noted that the Statutes had not yet been passed but the Statute changes would be voted upon at the next legislative session in January 2016. Additionally, he remarked that there were certain Regulatory changes that could be enforced until the Statutes were signed into law.
- d. Ms. Williams informed the Commission of staff changes. Introducing herself as the new Administrator for the Athletic Commission. She also discussed the Facebook posts and analytics, remarking that as of last week the page had 59 likes.
- e. Ms. Williams noted that staff is currently working on a list of approved ringside physicians as provided by statute 20-12.1. This list of approved ringside physicians will be provided to promoters once compiled and finalized. Discussion ensued.
- f. Ms. Williams asked the Commission about their preferences when it came to board meeting dates for 2016. Discussion ensued

New Business

a. Age Waiver Hearing: Jackson Williams

The Commission held a Hearing regarding whether Mr. Jackson Williams, 36 years old, should be granted an age restriction waiver to participate in Mixed Martial Arts events for the duration of the 2015 licensure period. Mr. Williams appeared before the Commission to present his case for an age restriction waiver, discussion ensued.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made the motion to grant an age restriction waiver. Mr. Shoemake seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

b. Petition to Review Late Event Start Fee: Corey Goodwin

The Commission held a petition hearing to review late fees charged to Mr. Corey Goodwin regarding an Off the Street Boxing event held July 9, 2015 in Mt. Pleasant. Ms. Williams provided the Commission with an overview of the situation and the fine orally communicated to him for delaying the event past the scheduled start time. Mr. Goodwin responded to the fine orally communicated to him at his event. Discussion ensued.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the disposition of this case and to receive legal advice. Mr. Shoemake seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made the motion to return to Open Session. Mr. Shoemake seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion not to impose a fine for a delayed start upon Mr. Goodwin. Mr. McCullough seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

c. Petition to Review Amateur MMA Bout Stoppage for David Langston versus Trevon Jackson

The Commission held a petition hearing to review the Amateur Mixed Martial Arts bout stoppage for David Langston versus Trevon Jackson in which David Langston

was declared the winner. A video of the bout was shown to the Commission. Discussion ensued.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made the motion to uphold the referee's decision in the bout of David Langston versus Trevon Jackson in which David Langston was declared the winner. Mr. Kennemore seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

(This proceeding was recorded by a court report in order to produce a verbatim transcript if requested in accordance with the law.)

d. Discussion of Sanctioning Amateur Kickboxing

1 & 2. Johnny Davis - IKF Director of Operations and Justin Brown - Referee

Johnny Davis, Director of Operations, with International Kickboxing Federation (IKF), spoke with the Commission via teleconference to propose that the IKF become the regulating body for Amateur Kickboxing in the State of California. Justin Davis, referee, also added his perception as a referee of these unsanctioned events. Discussion ensued.

e. UMMF Presentation - Ryan C. Brueggeman

Ryan Brueggerman, Director of Operations of United States Mixed Martial Arts KICK International Federation, presented to the Commission the development of amateur fighters for Olympic style competition and the co-sanctioning of events with the South Carolina Athletic Commission. Discussion ensued.

The Commission broke for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

The Commission returned from lunch at 1:45 p.m.

f. Regulation of Amateur MMA Variance

Ms. Williams presented to the Commission the issue of Amateur Kickboxing and Muay Thai not being regulated by the state. Discussion ensued regarding the sanctioning of Amateur Kickboxing, Muay Thai and Brazilian Jujitsu and what the Commission legally could do to began sanctioning these variances of Mixed Martial Arts. Commission and Community discussion ensued.

MOTION

Mr. McCullough made the motion to form a task force consisting of some Commissioners and the Community to make recommendations to the Commission regarding the regulation of combative sports falling under the umbrella of Mixed Martial Arts at the next meeting, October 6, 2015. Mr. Shoemake seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

g. Fight Fax Requirement for Over Age Boxers

Ms. Williams suggested that Staff pull Fight Fax records for over age Professional Boxers petitioning the Commission for Age Waivers to ensure the fighters did not hold an extensive losing record. She suggested that the fee for this additional step to be set at \$10.00. Discussion ensued.

MOTION:

Mr. Kennemore made the motion to pull Fight Fax records prior to Professional Boxer Age Waiver hearings to ensure that over age fighters do not have an extensive losing record. Mr. McCullough seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

h. Discussion of Unsanctioned Bouts to Qualify for Professional Mixed Martial Arts Licensure

Ms. Williams requested that the Athletic Commission clarify the word 'sanction' as it pertains to Professional Mixed Martial Arts fighters records and licensure as provided by **20-27.02 C4**. Commission and Community discussion ensued.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made the motion to enter Executive Session for legal advice. Dr. Phillips seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Dr. Phillips made the motion to enter into Open Session. Mr. Shoemake seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion that for the purposes of defining the word sanction, LLR staff should acknowledge bouts listed as sanctioned by the ABC's official record keeping website. However, a fighter that wishes for the Athletic Commission to consider bouts not fitting this description may come before the board at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. Dr. Vaught seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

i. Revising Event Promotion Guidelines

Ms. Williams presented to the Commission for discussion policies that could be put into place to enforce the Promoters responsibilities as provided in Regulations **40-81-360 section B, 40-81-420** and **40-81-440**. Commission and Community discussion ensued.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made the motion to enter Executive Session to receive legal advice. Mr. Kennemore seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made the motion to return to Open Session. Dr. Phillips and Mr. Shoemake seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made the motion to revise the Promoters Guidelines attached to the event permit application to include:**1.** Under permit application deadlines, changing the Event Permit application submission deadline from 14 calendar days to 15 calendar days to be consistent with item **40-81-440** including the addition of a late fee of \$25.00 per day, adding to the Promoters Guidelines that after 2 late submissions in the calendar year any subsequent event permit applications will be denied for the remainder of that calendar year. **2.** Under Contestant/Talent Roster/Fight Card, revise 14 calendar days to 15 calendar days to be consistent with items **40-81-440** and **40-81-421 a** and adding that fight cards are considered to be a part of the permit application and late submissions of fight cards will be treated as late applications. **3.** Under Gate Fees revise 10 calendar days to 30 calendar days and adding that failure to pay the requested gate fees will result in an additional fine of \$250.00 for every 30 calendar days that the fee is not received up to a maximum amount of \$1000.00. **4.** Under new inspections, add that the promoter must make the facility including the ring available for inspections by South Carolina Athletic Commission representatives at least 12 hours before the start time of the event, unless other arrangements have been made with the South Carolina Athletic Commission. **5.** Under new event start time, add that each event must start on time as designated on the event permit and that the promoter will be assessed a fine of \$100.00 per 30 minutes that the event is late in beginning unless the delay is beyond the legitimate control of the promoter. Mr. Kennemore seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

j. Ring Attire

Ms. Williams presented to the Commission regarding approved ring attire for Mixed Martial Arts events as per section **20-27-09**.

k. Review of Eye Section on Annual Physical

Ms. Williams asked the Commission medical doctors, Dr. Phillips and Dr. Vaught, regarding the eye examination section on the physical. In particular regarding Wrestlers and certain physicians unwillingness to complete the eye portion, referring the wrestler to an Ophthalmologist or Optometrist for an dilated eye exam. However wrestlers are not required to complete a dilated eye exam. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kennemore left the Athletic Commission meeting at 4:10 p.m. but quorum was maintained.

MOTION:

Mr. Shoemake made a motion to remove the eye portion from the physical examination form, but keeping the visual fiends portion. Mr. McCullough seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

None.

Public Comments

Sam King, a licensed Matchmaker, commented on the time and expenses involved in obtaining medical examinations required for licensure, from the prospective of the participants and promoters. He also expressed his concerns with Athletic Commission staff and their administrative processes.

Andy Hall from Warefare MMA had questions and comments regarding physicals performed by Nurse Practitioners, Registered Nurses and Physicians Assistants. He also commented on his issues with Athletic Commission staff and their administrative processes.

Adjournment:

MOTION:

Dr. Phillips made the motion to adjourn the Athletic Commission meeting. Mr. McCullough seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The next quarterly meeting of the South Carolina Athletic Commission is scheduled for October 6, 2015 in room 108.