

## **MINUTES**

### **South Carolina Athletic Commission**

**Tuesday, October 7, 2014, at 10:00 a.m.**

Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Conference Room 204

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, 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 Board Members:**

Commission members present in this meeting included:

Pamela Shealy – Chair - At-Large Member  
Anthony “Tony” Eubanks – Vice-Chair - 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District  
William McCullough – 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District (via teleconference)  
Hamp Kennemore – 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
James Phillips – At-Large Physician

Staff members participating during the meeting included Rod Atkinson, Wanda Cooke, Diana Williams and Hardwick Stuart, Advice Counsel.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited by all present.

**INVOCATION** was offered by Commissioner Eubanks.

#### **Approval of Agenda:**

**Delete item 8 (a) New Business – UFC**

#### **MOTION:**

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

#### **Approval of Commission Member Absences**

none

### **Approval of Minutes of the August 22, 2014 meeting**

#### **MOTION:**

Mr. Kennemore made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2014, meeting. Mr. Eubanks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### **Chairman's Remarks:**

Ms. Shealy welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced the newest staff member, Chris Cockrell.

#### **Administrator's Remarks:**

- a. The budget report for August 2014 was reviewed. Discussion ensued.
- b. Report from the Office of Investigations and Enforcement was distributed for review. The Investigative Review Committee for this month was cancelled so there is no report.
- c. 2015 calendar of meeting dates was presented for approval. Discussion ensued. It was determined that all dates were acceptable, with the exception of the May meeting, which will be changed to May 12<sup>th</sup>.

February 3, 2015

~~May 5, 2015~~ May 12, 2015

August 4, 2015

October 6, 2015

#### **MOTION:**

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve the 2015 meeting schedule, as amended. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Athletic Commission Fees - Ms. Shealy stated that concerns have been raised from members of the Boxing, MMA and Wrestling participants, that raising fees would negatively impact combative sports in South Carolina. It was stated that many promoters would be forced to decrease the number of events, cease promoting events, or move their events out of state as a result of the fee increases proposed. With this input and advisement from Holly Pisarik, Director, we have readjusted the fees. The intent is to phase the new lower fees upward, based on an annual analysis of the fee structure. The goal is that fees are sufficient, but not excessive, to cover operating expenses of the Athletic Commission.

**New fee schedule:**

Boxing

Off The Street Boxer	\$50
Trainer	\$50
Second	\$50

MMA

Trainer	\$50
Second	\$50
Amateur and Pro Fighters	\$50

Wrestling

Referee	\$50
Announcer	\$50
Pro Wrestler	\$50

Kick Boxing

Kick Boxer	\$50
Trainer	\$50
Second	\$50

<u>Permits</u> (wrestling)	\$65
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Ms. Shealy presented a chart prepared to compare projected revenue using the proposed adjusted fees. Package pricing will be available for those with multiple events.

Holly Pisarik, LLR Director, addressed the Commission briefly to discuss the fee schedule.

Discussion ensued.

**Boxing Age Restriction Waiver Hearing**

**Sammy Millhouse**

The Commission held a Hearing regarding whether Mr. Sammy Millhouse should be granted an age restriction waiver to participate in Boxing contests for the duration of the 2014 licensure period. Mr. Millhouse appeared before the Commission, and presented a brief video, which was viewed and discussion ensued.

**MOTION:**

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

**MOTION:**

Mr. Eubanks made a motion to return to Open Session. Mr. Kennemore seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Phillips made a motion to grant an age restriction waiver to Sammy Millhouse to extend through December 2015. Mr. McCullough 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.)*

Mr. Atkinson gave a report of discussions that have been held by the Community Task Force regarding charitable events and fee waivers. Discussion ensued.

**MOTION:**

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

**MOTION:**

Mr. Eubanks made a motion to return to Open Session. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding proposed legislative changes.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Phillips made a motion to change the current statute and regulations to increase the maximum age limit from 35 to 40. Mr. McCullough seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Kennemore made to motion to change the current statute and regulations to allow for a Commission designee to approve age waiver requests. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Phillips made a motion to change the current statute and regulations to eliminate the requirements for annual physical examinations, keeping blood tests and eye exams, for all athletes with the exception of wrestlers, while also eliminating language requiring abdominal and breast examinations for female athletes. Mr. Kennemore seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Atkinson gave a report of discussions that have been held by the Community Task Force regarding multi-event wrestling permits. Discussion ensued.

All Commission members have signed the new Excused Absence Guidelines which are now in effect.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:**

Mr. Eubanks made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kennemore seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The next quarterly meeting of the South Carolina Athletic Commission is scheduled for February 3, 2015.