

# **MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2019**

On Wednesday, August 28, 2019, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman David Norman at 3:12 p.m.. Present were the following: Chairman Norman; Commissioner Brian Boles (telephonically); Commissioner Chuck Gast; Commissioner Lenny Moore; Commissioner David Shull; Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; and Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel.

### **TOP RANK, INC. - RENEWAL OF PROMOTER LICENSE**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. David Lopez, the promoter's representative for Top Rank, Inc., recently applied to the Commission to renew the promoter license for Top Rank, Inc. as a promoter of professional boxing events in the State of Maryland. Former Commissioner Arnold "Arnie" Dansicker and Mr. Pannella interviewed Mr. Lopez as a condition of license renewal. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Mr. Lopez, and were satisfied that the promoter's application complies with the Commission's licensing requirements. Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, and seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to ratify the renewal of the license of Top Rank, Inc. as a promoter.

### **MAYWEATHER PROMOTIONS, LLC - ISSUANCE OF PROMOTER LICENSE**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. Leonard Ellerbe, the promoter's representative for Mayweather Promotions, LLC, recently applied to the Commission to obtain a promoter's license for Mayweather Promotions, LLC as a promoter of professional boxing events in the State of Maryland. Former Commissioner Arnold "Arnie" Dansicker and Mr. Pannella interviewed Mr. Ellerbe as a condition of licensure. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Mr. Ellerbe, and were satisfied that the promoter's application complies with the Commission's licensing

requirements. Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to ratify the licensure of Mayweather Promotions, LLC as a promoter.

### **TGB PROMOTIONS, LLC. - RENEWAL OF PROMOTER LICENSE**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. Tom Brown, the promoter's representative for TGB Promotions, LLC, recently applied to the Commission to renew the promoter license for TGB Promotions, LLC as a promoter of professional boxing events in the State of Maryland. Former Commissioner Arnold "Arnie" Dansicker and Mr. Pannella interviewed Mr. Brown as a condition of license renewal. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Mr. Brown, and were satisfied that the promoter's application complies with the Commission's licensing requirements. Upon a motion by Commissioner Moore, and seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to ratify the renewal of the license of TGB Promotions, LLC. as a promoter.

### **OLD SCHOOL BOXING PROMOTIONS, LLC - ISSUANCE OF PROMOTER LICENSE**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. Ian Cokley, the promoter's representative for Old School Boxing Promotions, LLC, recently applied to the Commission to obtain a promoter's license for Old School Boxing Promotions, LLC as a promoter of professional boxing events in the State of Maryland. Commissioner Moore and Mr. Pannella interviewed Mr. Cokley as a condition of licensure. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Mr. Cokley, and were satisfied that the promoter's application complies with the Commission's licensing requirements. Upon a motion by Commissioner Moore, and seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the ratify the licensure of Old School Boxing Promotions, LLC as a promoter.

### **APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENTS**

Executive Director Pannella led a Commission discussion in regard to the boxing

events currently scheduled to be held in the State of Maryland.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following boxing event being promoted by Old School Boxing Promotions, LLC:

Saturday, October 26, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Rosecroft Raceway  
6336 Rosecroft Drive  
Ft. Washington, Maryland  
Promoter: Old School Boxing Promotions, LLC,  
advertising as “Old School Boxing Promotions”.

### **APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL MMA EVENTS**

Executive Director Pannella led a Commission discussion in regard to the MMA events currently scheduled to be held in the State of Maryland.

Executive Director Pannella reported that promoter John J. Rallo, III has cancelled his “Shogun Fights” MMA event scheduled to be held on November 9, 2019 at The Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Pannella explained that Mr. Rallo has selected, and is proposing, a new date for this MMA event.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following MMA event being promoted by John J. Rallo, III:

Saturday, November 2, 2019 - 6:30 p.m. Starting Time  
The Royal Farms Arena  
201 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Promoter: John J. Rallo, III  
advertising as “Shogun Fights”.

### **APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENTS**

Executive Director Pannella led a Commission discussion in regard to the wrestling events currently scheduled to be held in the State of Maryland.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted by Event Services, Inc. A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc.:

Monday, September 2, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
The Royal Farms Arena  
201 West Baltimore Street - Baltimore, Maryland  
Promoter: Event Services, Inc. A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of  
World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc./ "WWE".

Executive Director Pannella reported that promoter Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr., has cancelled his "Maryland Championship Wrestling" event scheduled to be held on December 28, 2019 at Joppa Market Place in Joppa, Maryland. Mr. Pannella explained that Mr. Wipprecht has selected, and is proposing, a new date for this wrestling event.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling events being promoted by Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.:

Friday, September 20, 2019 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time  
Joppa Market Place  
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland  
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr., advertising as  
"Future of Honor" / "FOH"; and

Friday, December 27, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Joppa Market Place  
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland  
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr., advertising as  
"Maryland Championship Wrestling" / "MCW".

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, seconded by Commissioner Boles, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted by Ring of Honor Wrestling Entertainment, LLC, advertising as “Ring of Honor”:

Friday, December 13, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
The UMBC Events Center  
1000 Hilltop Circle - Catonsville, Maryland  
Promoter: Ring of Honor Wrestling Entertainment, LLC, advertising as “Ring of Honor” / “ROH”.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted by James E. Morris, III, advertising as “Adrenaline Championship Wrestling”:

Friday, October 11, 2019 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time  
American Legion Post # 91  
601 Radiance Drive - Cambridge, Maryland  
Promoter: James E. Morris, III, advertising as “Adrenaline Championship Wrestling” / “ACW”.

### **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Chairman Norman joined his fellow Commission members in welcoming Commissioner Brian Boles, who was recently appointed by Governor Larry Hogan to a six-year term as a Commission member.

### **COUNSEL’S REPORT**

Counsel London welcomed Commissioner Boles to the Commission.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director Pannella welcomed Commissioner Boles to the Commission. Mr. Pannella reported that he and Commission Chief Physician Dr. John W. Stiller,

M.D. recently met with Commissioner Boles, providing Commissioner Boles with an overview of Commission regulations and procedures relating to protecting the health and safety of licensed contestants competing in boxing contests and MMA contests sanctioned by the Commission.

### **CURRENT SCHEDULE OF BOXING EVENTS AND MMA EVENTS THROUGH DECEMBER, 2019**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with a complete listing of current boxing events and current MMA events sanctioned by the Commission through December, 2019.

### **CURRENT SCHEDULE OF WRESTLING EVENTS THROUGH DECEMBER, 2019**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with a complete listing of current wrestling events sanctioned by the Commission through December, 2019.

### **REVIEW OF JUNE 22, 2019 PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional boxing event promoted by Shabazz Brotherz, LLC, advertising as “Shabazz Brotherz” and held on June 22, 2019 at Rosecroft Raceway in Ft. Washington, Maryland.

The professional boxing event included six boxing contests and 28 scheduled rounds of boxing competition.

Mr. Pannella reported that Nathaniel Copeland sustained an injury to his left arm in his boxing contest versus Muhsin Cason, and was transported by ambulance to the hospital for medical treatment and evaluation.

### **REVIEW OF JUNE 29, 2019 PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional boxing event promoted by G.Q. Management / Promotions, LLC and held on June 29, 2019 at The Gardens Ice House in Laurel, Maryland.

The boxing event included six boxing contests and 32 scheduled rounds of boxing competition.

### **REVIEW OF JULY 13, 2019** **PROFESSIONAL MMA EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional MMA event promoted by John J. Rallo, III advertising as “Shogun Fights” and held on July 13, 2019 at The MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

The MMA event included ten MMA contests and 30 scheduled rounds of MMA competition.

### **PASSING OF PROFESSIONAL BOXER MAXIM DADASHEV**

Chairman Norman reported that, following his boxing contest versus Subriel Matias which was held on July 19, 2019 at The MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland, Maxim Dadashev was transported by ambulance to the hospital for neurosurgical intervention resulting from a traumatic brain injury.

Chairman Norman reported that, on July 23, 2019, Mr. Dadashev passed away.

Chairman Norman joined with his fellow Commission members and Commission staff members in extending the Commission’s deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Dadashev.

Chairman Norman reported that the Commission is conducting an investigation of the facts and circumstances related to the passing of Mr. Dadashev.

Chairman Norman reported that the Maryland Department of Labor issued a press release which stated, in part, the following: "The Maryland State Athletic Commission is very saddened to hear about the recent passing of professional boxer Maxim Dadashev. We join the entire boxing community in extending our deepest condolences to Mr. Dadashev's family. The Maryland State Athletic Commission is reviewing the case."

## **REVIEW OF JULY 19, 2019** **PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional boxing event promoted by Top Rank, Inc. advertising as "Top Rank", televised live on the ESPN television network, and held on July 19, 2019 at The MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

The boxing event included nine boxing contests and 76 scheduled rounds of boxing competition.

Maxim Dadashev and Subriel Matias competed in a scheduled 12-round boxing contest featured as the "International Boxing Federation (IBF) Junior Welterweight # 2 Eliminator" and won by Mr. Matias.

As reported by Chairman Norman, Maxim Dadashev was transported by ambulance to the hospital for neurosurgical intervention resulting from a traumatic brain injury.

Also as reported by Chairman Norman, Mr. Dadashev passed away on July 23, 2019.

Teofimo Lopez and Masayoshi Nakatani competed in a scheduled 12-round boxing contest featured as the "International Boxing Federation (IBF) Lightweight # 1 Eliminator" and won by Mr. Lopez.

Mr. Nakatani sustained an injury to his right eye and periorbital area in his boxing contest, and was transported by ambulance to the hospital for medical treatment and evaluation.



**REVIEW OF JULY 27, 2019**  
**PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional boxing event co-promoted by Mayweather Promotions, LLC and TGB Promotions, LLC, televised live on the ShowTime television network, and held on July 27, 2019 at The Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore, Maryland.

The boxing event included 11 boxing contests and 84 scheduled rounds of boxing competition.

Chairman Norman and Commissioner Shull attended the boxing event.

Gervonta “Tank” Davis and Ricardo Nunez competed in a scheduled 12-round boxing contest for the “World Boxing Association (WBA) Super Featherweight Championship”, won by Mr. Davis.

Chairman Norman remarked that this “was just a tremendous night for boxing in Baltimore” which featured world boxing champion Gervonta “Tank” Davis fighting for his world title in his hometown and before an enthusiastic, sellout crowd.

Chairman Norman noted, further, that Baltimore City was presented in a very positive light to a television viewing audience around the world.

**REVIEW OF AUGUST 2, 2019**  
**PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional boxing event promoted by Jeter Promotions, LLC and held on August 2, 2019 at the Maryland Live! Casino and Hotel in Hanover, Maryland.

The boxing event included nine boxing contests and 46 scheduled rounds of boxing competition.

Chairman Norman, Commissioner Boles and Commissioner Shull attended the boxing event.

### **MOTION OF COMMENDATION**

Chairman Norman reported that the Commission recently sanctioned and regulated six major combative sports events in a relatively short seven-week period of time.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission issued a “motion of commendation” recognizing Commission staff members and Executive Director Pannella for their outstanding dedication to the performance of their respective duties during this time period.

### **APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Commission minutes for the Commission meeting held on January 23, 2019, which were previously distributed to Commission members for review, were discussed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the January 23, 2019 minutes of the Commission.

Commission minutes for the Commission meeting held on April 24, 2019, which were previously distributed to Commission members for review, were discussed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Moore, and seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the April 24, 2019 minutes of the Commission.

Commission minutes for the Commission meeting held on June 19, 2019, which were previously distributed to Commission members for review, were discussed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the June 19, 2019 minutes of the Commission.

## **SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETINGS**

The Commission held a discussion regarding future meeting dates. The Commission agreed to hold the following meeting dates and times in the Third Floor Conference Room, 500 North Calvert Street in Baltimore, Maryland:

Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.;  
Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.;  
Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.; and  
Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 3:00 p.m..

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 3:50 p.m..

**Patrick Pannella**  
**Executive Director**