

MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

MINUTES WEDNESDAY – AUGUST 17, 2022

On Wednesday, August 17, 2022, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman David Norman at 3:02 p.m.. Present were the following: Chairman Norman; Commissioner Brian Boles; Commissioner Chuck Gast; Commissioner Lenny Moore; Commissioner David Shull; Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel; Olga Escobar, Board Specialist; and Danielle Anderson, Web Content and Outreach Coordinator, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, Maryland Department of Labor (“O&P Division”). This was a virtual meeting due to COVID-19 pandemic public restrictions, with all Commission members and Commission staff participating either virtually or telephonically.

APPROVAL OF THE RENEWAL OF PROMOTER LICENSE FOR JAMES E. MORRIS, III

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III recently applied to the Commission for the renewal of his promoter license as a promoter of professional wrestling events in the State of Maryland.

Mr. Morris has been licensed by the Commission as a promoter in the past, holding professional wrestling events in various communities throughout Maryland.

Commissioner Moore and Mr. Pannella recently interviewed Mr. Morris as a condition of licensure. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Mr. Morris, and were satisfied that the promoter’s license application for this promoter applicant 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 approve the licensure James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III as a promoter.

APPROVAL / RATIFICATION –
PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENTS

Executive Director Pannella led a Commission discussion concerning the professional wrestling events currently scheduled in the State of Maryland.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, seconded by Commissioner Boles, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to ratify the following professional wrestling event promoted by James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III:

Friday, July 24, 2022 - 5:00 p.m. Starting Time
American Legion Sykesville Memorial Post 223
7327 Slacks Road - Sykesville, Maryland
Promoter: James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III, advertising as
“Adrenaline Championship Wrestling” / “ACW”.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling events promoted by James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III:

Sunday, September 4, 2022 - 5:00 p.m. Starting Time
Beefalo Bob’s Restaurant
8015 Ft. Smallwood Road - Pasadena, Maryland
Promoter: James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III, advertising as
“Adrenaline Championship Wrestling” / ”ACW”; and

Friday, October 14, 2022 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time
Funkstown American Legion Post 211
12 North Westside Avenue - Hagerstown, Maryland
Promoter: James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III, advertising as
“Adrenaline Championship Wrestling” / ”ACW”.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, seconded by Commissioner Boles, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to ratify the following professional wrestling event promoted by James E. “Jim” Hardwick.

Saturday, August 6, 2022 - 6:30 p.m. Starting Time

The Key Brewing Company
2500 Grays Road - Dundalk, Maryland
Promoter: James E. “Jim” Hardwick, advertising as
“Eastern Wrestling Alliance” / “EWA”.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, seconded by Commissioner Boles, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling events promoted by James E. “Jim” Hardwick.

Saturday, September 9, 2022 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time
Fifth Company Brewing
325 Front Street - Perryville, Maryland
Promoter: James E. “Jim” Hardwick, advertising as
“Micro Wrestling”;

Saturday, October 29, 2022 - 6:30 p.m. Starting Time
The Key Brewing Company
2500 Grays Road - Dundalk, Maryland
Promoter: James E. “Jim” Hardwick, advertising as
“Eastern Wrestling Alliance” / “EWA”;

Saturday, January 28, 2023 - 6:30 p.m. Starting Time
The Bel Air Armory
37 North Main Street - Bel Air, Maryland
Promoter: James E. “Jim” Hardwick, advertising as
“Eastern Wrestling Alliance” / “EWA”;

Saturday, May 13, 2023 - 6:30 p.m. Starting Time
The Bel Air Armory
37 North Main Street - Bel Air, Maryland
Promoter: James E. “Jim” Hardwick, advertising as
“Eastern Wrestling Alliance” / “EWA”;

Saturday, September 9, 2023 - 6:30 p.m. Starting Time
The Bel Air Armory
37 North Main Street – Bel Air, Maryland
Promoter: James E. “Jim” Hardwick, advertising as

“Eastern Wrestling Alliance” / “EWA”; and

Saturday, October 21, 2023 - 6:30 p.m. Starting Time
The Bel Air Armory
37 North Main Street - Bel Air, Maryland
Promoter: James E. “Jim” Hardwick, advertising as
“Eastern Wrestling Alliance” / “EWA”;

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

Saturday, August 13, 2022 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
The Wicomico Youth and Civic Center
500 Glen Avenue Road - Salisbury, Maryland
Promoter: Event Services, Inc. A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of
World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc.; advertising as
“WWE Saturday Night’s Main Event”.

INCREASE IN EVENTS AND PROMOTERS IN FY 2022

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following information.

The Commission saw a large increase in the number of Commission-sanctioned professional wrestling events held in the post-pandemic period, with 65 wrestling events sanctioned in FY 22 – estimated to be the second largest total of wrestling events recorded by the Commission in the last 25 years.

Eight promoters, including six boxing promoters and two MMA promoters, are either currently licensed by the Commission or are pending licensure by the Commission.

BUILDING ACCESS POLICY – DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUILDING

1100 NORTH CALVERT STREET, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report concerning the recent air conditioning issue adversely affecting the Department of Labor Building at 1100 North Eutaw Street in Baltimore, Maryland.

The building, where the Commission office is located, is currently closed to the public due to this problem. State employees who work in the building are only permitted to gain entrance for short periods of time and in a closely monitored, and staggered, manner.

Commissioner Greg Morgan of the O&P Division has been working diligently with the Maryland Department of Labor administration to ensure that O&P Division employees are able to access the building within the stipulated timeframes, while also having the opportunity to work at an alternate worksite located in Linthicum, Maryland.

REVIEW OF AUGUST 5, 2022 **PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with an overview of the professional boxing event promoted by CyNation Sports, LLC, advertised as “CyNation Sports”, and held on August 5, 2022 at Rosecroft Raceway in Ft. Washington, Maryland.

Mr. Pannella stated that the professional boxing event included five boxing contests and 22 scheduled rounds of professional boxing competition as well as a scheduled four-round professional boxing exhibition.

Mr. Pannella noted that CyNation Sports was able to provide COVID-19 rapid testing at the August 4, 2022 weigh-in activity for this boxing event for those licensees requiring such testing in compliance with the Commission’s medical and administrative protocols for COVID-19.

REVIEW OF AUGUST 6, 2022 **PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with an overview of the professional boxing event promoted by Jeter Promotions, LLC, advertised as “Jeter Promotions”, and held on August 6, 2022 at The Hall at Live! Casino in Hanover, Maryland.

Mr. Pannella stated that the professional boxing event included eight contests and 48 scheduled rounds of professional boxing competition.

Mr. Pannella noted that Jeter Promotions was able to provide COVID-19 rapid testing at the August 5, 2022 weigh-in activity for this boxing event for those licensees requiring such testing in compliance with the Commission’s medical and administrative protocols for COVID-19.

REVIEW OF AUGUST 13, 2022 PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with an overview of the professional boxing event promoted by Lamont Roach. Sr., advertised as “NoXcuse Promotions”, and held on August 13, 2022 at Rosecroft Raceway in Ft. Washington, Maryland.

Mr. Pannella stated that the professional boxing event included five boxing contests and 24 scheduled rounds of professional boxing competition.

Mr. Pannella noted that NoXcuse Promotions was able to provide COVID-19 rapid testing at the August 12, 2022 weigh-in activity for this boxing event for those licensees requiring such testing in compliance with the Commission’s medical and administrative protocols for COVID-19.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, and seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 p.m..

**/s/ David J. Norman
Chairman**

Date: September 21, 2022