

MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017

On Wednesday, February 22, 2017, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Arnold “Arnie” Dansicker at 2:10 p.m.. Present were the following: Chairman Dansicker; Commissioner Lenny Moore; Commissioner David Norman; Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; Eric London, Counsel; and Dreama Anderson, Administrative Specialist. Absent: Commissioner Ben Alperstein and Commissioner Sean Malone.

TGB PROMOTIONS, LLC **PROMOTER LICENSE**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. TGB Promotions, LLC recently applied for its promoter license with the Commission as a promoter of professional boxing events in the State of Maryland. TGB Promotions, LLC holds major televised boxing events at venues located in jurisdictions throughout the country. Chairman Dansicker and Mr. Pannella interviewed Tom Brown, the representative for TGB Promotions, LLC, as a condition of licensure. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by TGB Promotions, LLC, and were satisfied that this applicant complies with the Commission’s licensing requirements.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, and seconded by Chairman Dansicker, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the original license of TGB Promotions, LLC as a promoter.

TOP RANK, INC. **PROMOTER LICENSE**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. Top Rank, Inc. recently applied for its promoter license with the Commission as a promoter of professional boxing events in the State of Maryland. Top Rank, Inc. holds major televised boxing events at venues located in jurisdictions throughout the country. Chairman Dansicker and Mr. Pannella interviewed Carl Moretti, the

representative for Top Rank, Inc., as a condition of licensure. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Top Rank, Inc. and were satisfied that this applicant complies with the Commission's licensing requirements.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the original license of Top Rank, Inc. as a promoter.

APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENTS

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

Chairman Dansicker reported that the MGM National Harbor is now a viable venue for professional boxing events to be held, noting that the Commission will soon be regulating nationally-televised boxing events at this location. He stated that the Commission will welcome new promoters to the State of Maryland and strive to be business friendly, while still maintaining the Commission's high regulatory standards in the name of fighter safety.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following professional boxing event:

Professional Boxing Event
Televised Live on the Showtime Network
Saturday, March 11, 2017 - TBA Starting Time
MGM National Harbor
101 MGM National Avenue - Oxon Hill, Maryland
Promoter: TGB Promotions, LLC, advertising as
TGB Promotions.
Featured Boxing Contests:
Oscar Escandon versus Gary Russell, Jr. for the
World Boxing Council (WBC) Featherweight title; and
Jermell Charlo versus Charles Hatley for the

World Boxing Council (WBC) “Super Welterweight” title.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Commissioner Dansicker, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following professional boxing event:

Professional Boxing Event
Thursday, March 30, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Michael’s Eighth Avenue
7220 Grayburn Drive - Glen Burnie, Maryland
Promoter: Baltimore Boxing and Fitness, LLC, advertising as
Baltimore Boxing and Fitness.
Featured Boxing Contest:
Jessie Nicklow versus Tahir Thomas.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Chairman Dansicker, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following professional boxing event:

Professional Boxing Event
Televised Live on the HBO Network
Saturday, April 8, 2017 - TBA Starting Time
MGM National Harbor
101 MGM National Avenue - Oxon Hill, Maryland
Promoter: Top Rank, Inc., advertising as
Top Rank.
Featured Televised Boxing Contests:
Vasyl Lomachenko versus Jason Sosa for the
World Boxing Organization (WBO) Junior Lightweight title;
and
Oleksandr Gvozdyk versus Yunieski Gonzalez for the
North American Boxing Federation (NABF)
“Light Heavyweight” title.

APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENT

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

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Chairman Dansicker, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted James “Jimmy” Morris, III, advertising as Adrenaline Championship Wrestling (ACW):

Professional Wrestling Event
Saturday, April 29, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
South Hagerstown High School
1101 South Potomac Street - Hagerstown, Maryland
Promoter: James “Jimmy” Morris, III,
advertising as Adrenaline Championship Wrestling
(ACW).

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Dansicker reported that he was very pleased the Commission will soon be sanctioning and regulating major televised boxing events, but emphasized that the Commission also looks forward to sanctioning and regulating the club level boxing events which have been prevalent in the State of Maryland for so many years.

COUNSEL’S REPORT

The Commission Counsel had no report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The Commission Executive Director had no report.

MARYLAND STATE ETHICS COMMISSION **YEAR 2016 FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT**

Executive Director Pannella reported that the Year 2016 annual financial disclosure statement for all commission members and all State employees who are required to do so must be received by the Maryland State Ethics Commission not later than April 30, 2017.

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM AND ORDER
CASE NO. MSAC-16-03
MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION
VS. SHAWSTYLE PRODUCTIONS, LLC

Counsel London reported that, on February 14, 2017, the Commission issued its memorandum and order in regard to Case No. MSAC-16-03 - “Maryland State Athletic Commission versus Shawstyle Productions, LLC (Thaddeus M. Shaw, Chief Executive Official / Promoter’s Representative)”.

KIDNEY STRIKES

The Commission provided the following report in regard to a question posed by certain Commission members as to why strikes to the kidney are currently prohibited in professional boxing, while most strikes to the kidney are permitted in MMA competition.

In an e-mail sent to the Association of Ringside Physicians (ARP) on January 19, 2017, the Commission inquired, among related medical questions, as to why the ARP is not opposing all strikes to the kidney for both boxing competition and MMA competition.

In response to the Commission’s e-mail inquiry, the ARP provided a written essay prepared by Dr. Nicholas Rizzo, M.D., dated January 24, 2017 and entitled “Ringside Physicians’ Comments on the Heel Kick Controversy, Blows to the Kidney Area, and Rules Changes”.

The Commission discussed the medical opinions provided in this referenced written essay.

The Commission recommended that, considering most athletic commissions appear

to have differing regulations for the sports of boxing and MMA relative to strikes to the kidney, the medical community conduct further research and documentation of cases concerning the nature of, and extent of, kidney injuries occurring in combative sports.

REVIEW OF FEBRUARY 11, 2017 PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional boxing event promoted by King's Promotions, LLC and held on February 11, 2017 at Rosecroft Raceway in Ft. Washington, Maryland.

The professional boxing event included seven professional boxing contests and 36 scheduled rounds of professional boxing competition. The main event featured Mykal Fox versus Tre'sean Wiggins in a very competitive eight-round boxing contest in which Mr. Fox won by a majority decision.

COMMISSION – COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

The Commission discussed its current policy, a policy previously approved by the Maryland State Ethic Commission, with regard to the distribution and use of complimentary tickets. In addition to other regulatory requirements, the Commission policy provides for the following.

Any Commission member, other Commission representative, or individual employed in any branch of Maryland State Government as allowed by State law may bring with him or her one guest as a travelling companion to a Commission-sanctioned event. It is permissible for a Commission member, other Commission representative, or individual employed in any branch of Maryland State Government as allowed by State law to bring with him or her an additional guest or guests to: (1) facilitate the attendance of a Commission member, other Commission representative, or individual employed in any branch of Maryland State Government as allowed by State law; or (2) promote the purposes or functions of the Commission.

The Commission determined that it would not allow a guest in the manner

described in the referenced Commission policy to attend Commission-sanctioned events of a national scale when it is expected that the venue will be close to reaching full capacity.

SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETINGS

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

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.;
Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.;
Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.; and
Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 2:00 p.m..

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Moore, and seconded by Commissioner Norman, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m..

Patrick Pannella
Executive Director