

MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

MINUTES WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 17, 2021

On Wednesday, November 17, 2021, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman David Norman at 3:00 p.m.. Present were the following: Chairman Norman; Commissioner Brian Boles; Commissioner Lenny Moore (who joined the meeting at 3:05 p.m.); Commissioner David Shull; Greg Morgan, Commissioner, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (“O&P Division”), Maryland Department of Labor (“Department of Labor”); Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel; and Olga Escobar, Board Specialist. Absent: Commissioner Chuck Gast.

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 COMMISSION MINUTES

Commission minutes for the Commission meeting held on October 27, 2021, previously distributed to Commission members for review, were discussed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, and seconded by Commissioner Boles, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the October 27, 2021 minutes of the Commission.

APPROVAL / RATIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENTS

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

Licensed promoter Donnell “Don” Dorsey advised the Commission that, due to scheduling conflicts with other activities being held at the venue, he has changed three dates in his series of wrestling events being held at the Unique Sports Academy in Waldorf, Maryland. Concurrently, Mr. Dorsey is cancelling wrestling events previously sanctioned by the Commission and scheduled to be held on the

following dates: (1) December 11, 2021; (2) January 7, 2022; and (3) February 26, 2022.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, seconded by Commissioner Boles, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to ratify for approval the following professional wrestling event promoted by James E. “Jimmy” Morris advertising as “Adrenaline Championship Wrestling” / “ACW”:

Sunday, November 14, 2021 - 6:00 p.m. Starting Time
Beefalo Bob’s
8015 Ft. Smallwood Road - Curtis Bay, Maryland
Promoter: James E. “Jimmy” Morris,
advertising as “Adrenaline Championship Wrestling” /
“ACW”.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, seconded by Commissioner Boles, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event promoted by James E. “Jimmy” Morris advertising as “Adrenaline Championship Wrestling” / “ACW”:

Sunday, December 26, 2021 - 6:00 p.m. Starting Time
Authentic Community Center
1000 Florida Avenue - Hagerstown, Maryland
Promoter: James E. “Jimmy” Morris,
advertising as “Adrenaline Championship Wrestling” /
“ACW”.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Boles, seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event promoted by Donnell “Don” Dorsey advertising as “Assault Wrestling Alliance” / “AWA”:

Saturday, December 18, 2021 - 5:00 p.m. Start
Unique Sport Academy
109 Post Office Road - Waldorf, Maryland
Promoter: Donnell “Don” Dorsey,
advertising as “Assault Wrestling Alliance” / “AWA”.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, seconded by Commissioner Boles, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event promoted by Event Services, Inc. A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc., advertising as “WWE”:

Wednesday, December 29, 2021 - 7:30 p.m. Start
The Royal Farms Arena
201 West Baltimore Street - Baltimore, Maryland
Promoter: Event Services, Inc. A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of
World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc.,
advertising as “WWE Live Holiday Tour”.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Boles, seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event promoted by James “Jim” Hardwick advertising as “Eastern Wrestling Alliance” / “EWA”:

Saturday, May 21, 2022 - 7:30 p.m. Start
The Bel Air Armory
37 North Main Street - Bel Air, Maryland
Promoter: James “Jim” Hardwick,
advertising as “Eastern Wrestling Alliance” / “EWA”.

RESTRUCTURING OF RING OF HONOR ANNOUNCED

Executive Director reported that licensed promoter Ring of Honor Wrestling Entertainment, Inc., which has utilized the State of Maryland as a home base for its “Ring of Honor” professional wrestling events for many years, recently announced that it would be restructuring as a company and considering a new mission and strategy.

Mr. Pannella noted that it is unclear exactly how this announcement will impact the holding of Ring of Honor wrestling events in 2022 and beyond. He added that he has been in contact with Ring of Honor representatives to offer to be of assistance in locating potential venues in Maryland for future Ring of Honor wrestling events to be held were the company desirous of doing so.

REVIEW OF NOVEMBER 6, 2021 PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with an overview of the professional boxing event promoted by Shabazz Brotherz, LLC advertising as “Shabazz Brothers” and held at The Patapsco Arena in Baltimore, Maryland.

The professional boxing event included four boxing contests and 26 scheduled rounds of boxing competition.

Mr. Pannella noted that The Patapsco Arena, at one time known as “The Patapsco Sports Arena”, has recently undergone major “impressive” renovations which now allow for the holding of combative sports events and professional wrestling events in the main room of the venue as opposed to a smaller adjacent room where Commission-sanctioned events were held in the past.

“LEAGUE OF DREAMS” EVENT AT UMBC

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following overview of his being invited by Commissioner Greg Morgan to represent both the Maryland Department of Labor and the Commission at a “League of Dreams” program event held on November 11, 2021 at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). The event featured UMBC athletes interacting in baseball and soccer practice sessions with physically and developmentally disabled children and adults.

In his opening remarks which kicked off the event, League of Dreams, Inc. Chairman of the Board and Baltimore Orioles legend Mike Bordick noted that such a fun athletic activity also functions as a valuable opportunity for socialization, understanding and camaraderie.

Mr. Pannella stated how “truly inspired” he was by observing the interactions between individuals with special needs and collegiate athletes.

Commissioner Morgan commended Frank Kolarek, President and Founder of League of Dreams, Inc., for his outstanding leadership efforts in consistently “giving back to the community” through the worthy endeavors of the organization

he started.

CURRENT SCHEDULE OF COMMISSION-SANCTIONED EVENTS

The Commission held a discussion regarding the current schedule of Commission-sanctioned events in the State of Maryland.

Executive Director Pannella noted that the Commission is ending the calendar year with a significantly large number of professional wrestling events on the schedule.

SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Commission held a discussion regarding future meeting dates. The Commission agreed to hold the following meeting dates and times:

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 3:00 pm;
Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 3:00 pm;
Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 3:00 pm;
Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 3:00 pm;
Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 3:00 pm;
Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 3:00 pm;
Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 3:00 pm;
Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 3:00 pm;
Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 3:00 pm;
Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 3:00 pm;
Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 3:00 pm; and
Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 3:00 pm.

The Commission noted that the Commission meetings and dates will be held virtually as well as initially in the O&P conference room located on the third floor at 500 North Calvert Street in Baltimore, Maryland and, at a later date to be determined, in the O&P conference room located on the fifth floor at 1100 North Eutaw Street in Baltimore, Maryland.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, and seconded by Commissioner Boles, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to adjourn the meeting at 3:22 p.m..

/s/ David J. Norman
Chairman

Date: December 15, 2021