

MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

On Wednesday, December 16, 2020, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman David Norman at 3:01 p.m.. Present were the following: Chairman Norman; Commissioner Brian Boles; Commissioner Chuck Gast; Commissioner Lenny Moore; Commissioner David Shull; Greg Morgan, Commissioner, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, Maryland Department of Labor; Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel; and Olga Escobar, Board Specialist. This was a virtual meeting due to COVID-19 pandemic public restrictions, with all Commission members and Commission staff calling in telephonically.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Norman provided the Commission with the following report.

In an effort to further protect the safety of wrestling participants and reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Commission continues to refine its “COVID-19 Medical Protocols and Administrative Protocols for Professional Wrestling Events Without Spectators in Attendance” in the period of time between each Commission-sanctioned professional wrestling event held during the pandemic.

The Commission has allowed for the expansion of the isolation “bubble” it imposed on wrestlers and referees participating in wrestling events held during the pandemic to include the wrestling gym where such wrestling participants are practicing in a ring and engaging in taped interviews for television purposes.

In an instance when there is a “suspicious” COVID-19 test result for an individual, wherein the individual initially tests positive and then tests negative in a follow-up test, the individual is retested again in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) recommendations.

COUNSEL’S REPORT

Counsel London commended Commission members for “fully complying” with meeting the State’s mandatory requirements related to Commission members attending two thirds of all scheduled meeting on a rolling basis.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report.

The Commission is working closely with licensed promoter Ring of Honor Wrestling Entertainment, LLC (“ROH”) in preparation for the two-day series of taped professional wrestling matches held without spectators being promoted by ROH, being sanctioned by the Commission, and being held on December 11 - 12, 2020 at The University of Maryland Baltimore County (“UMBC”) Events Center in Catonsville, Maryland.

The two days of taped wrestling matches will be preceded on December 10, 2020 by ROH wrestlers and referees utilizing a designated wrestling “dojo” gym to practice in a ring and to engage in taped interviews for television purposes.

The Commission will continue to enforce its “COVID-19 Medical Protocols and Administrative Protocols for Professional Wrestling Events Without Spectators in Attendance”, including ensuring that all wrestling participants and others working at the wrestling event adhere to strict social distancing requirements by maintaining a regulatory presence at the hotel, gym and venue.

EVENT SERVICES, INC. A WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC. – RENEWAL OF PROMOTER LICENSE

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report.

Event Services Inc. A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. (“WWE”) recently applied to the Commission to renew its promoter license as a promoter of professional wrestling events in the State of Maryland.

Commissioner Moore and Mr. Pannella interviewed Richard Hering, the promoter representative for WWE, as a condition of license renewal. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by the promoter. Mr. Pannella advised that he and Commissioner Moore were satisfied that the promoter's application complies with the Commission's licensing requirements.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, and seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the ratification of the renewal of the license of Event Services Inc. A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. as a promoter.

SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETINGS

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

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 3:00 p.m
Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.; and
Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 3:00 p.m..

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, and seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m..

Patrick Pannella
Executive Director