

# **MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019**

On Wednesday, April 24, 2019, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman David Norman at 3:06 p.m.. Present were the following: Chairman Norman; Commissioner Arnie Dansicker; Commissioner Chuck Gast; Commissioner Lenny Moore; Commissioner David Shull; Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; and Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel.

### **MATCHROOM BOXING, USA, LLC** **- ISSUANCE OF PROMOTER LICENSE**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. Joshua Roy, the promoter's representative for Matchroom Boxing, USA, LLC, recently applied to the Commission to obtain a promoter's license for Matchroom Boxing, USA, LLC as a promoter of professional boxing events in the State of Maryland. Chairman Norman and Mr. Pannella interviewed Mr. Roy as a condition of licensure. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Mr. Roy, and 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 licensure of Matchroom Boxing, USA, LLC as a promoter.

### **JETER PROMOTIONS, LLC** **- RENEWAL OF PROMOTER LICENSE**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. Tony Jeter, the promoter's representative for Jeter Promotions, LLC, recently applied to the Commission to renew the promoter's license for Jeter Promotions, LLC as a promoter of professional boxing events in the State of Maryland. Chairman Norman and Mr. Pannella interviewed Mr. Jeter as a condition of licensure. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Mr. Jeter, 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, and contingent on Chairman Norman engaging in a telephone conversation with Mr. Jeter to discuss the Commission's process for approving boxing contests proposed by a matchmaker working for the promoter of a Commission-sanctioned event and relative to the respective roles of Mr. Pannella and Chief Commission Physician and Neurologist Dr. John W. Stiller, M.D. in the Commission's process, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the licensure of Jeter 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 Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following boxing event being promoted by G.Q. Management/Promotions, LLC:

Saturday, May 4, 2019 - 7:00 p.m. Starting Time  
The Waldorf Culture Center  
109 Post Office Road - Waldorf, Maryland  
Promoter: CyNation Sports, LLC,  
advertising as "CyNation Sports".

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

Saturday, May 25, 2019 - 5:15 p.m. Starting Time  
(Televised Live in DAZN Sports Network)  
MGM National Harbor  
101 MGM National Avenue - Oxon Hill, Maryland  
Promoter: Matchroom Boxing, USA, LLC,  
advertising as "Matchroom Boxing".

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, seconded by Commissioner Moore, the

Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following boxing event being promoted by Shabazz Brotherz, LLC:

Saturday, June 22, 2019 - 5:15 p.m. Starting Time  
Rosecroft Raceway  
6336 Rosecroft Drive - Ft. Washington, Maryland  
Promoter: Shabazz Brotherz, LLC,  
advertising as "Shabazz Brotherz".

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, seconded by Commissioner Dansicker, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following boxing event being promoted by Jeter Promotions, LLC pending the securement of a contract between the promoter and the venue where the boxing event is being held:

Friday, August 2, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Maryland Live! Casino and Hotel Events Center  
7002 Arundel Mills Circle  
Hanover, Maryland  
Promoter: Jeter Promotions, LLC,  
advertising as "Jeter Promotions".

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 Shabazz Brotherz, LLC:

Saturday, November 16, 2019 - TBD Starting Time  
Martin's West  
6817 Dogwood Road - Woodlawn, Maryland  
Promoter: Shabazz Brotherz, LLC,  
advertising as "Shabazz Brotherz".

### **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.

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

Saturday, July 13, 2019 - 7:00 p.m. Starting Time  
MGM National Harbor  
101 MGM National Avenue - Oxon Hill, Maryland  
Promoter: John J. Rallo, III,  
advertising as “Shogun Fights”;

Saturday, November 9, 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”; and

Thursday, November 14, 2019 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time  
Martin’s Valley Mansion  
594 Cranbrook Road - Hunt Valley, Maryland  
Promoter: John J. Rallo, III,  
advertising as “Charity MMA Event to Benefit  
The Jonathan Ogden Foundation”

### **APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENT**

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 Norman, seconded by Commissioner Dansicker, 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.:

Saturday, May 18, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
APG Federal Credit Union  
401 Thomas Run Road - Bel Air, Maryland

Promoter: Event Services, Inc. A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of  
World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc.,  
advertising as “WWE”.

**FAILURE TO RESPOND - COMAR 09.14.02.08**  
**EFFECTIVE APRIL 22, 2019**

Counsel London provided the Commission with the following report. Notice of the Commission taking final action at its March 27, 2019 meeting to approve COMAR 09.14.02.08 was published in *The Maryland Register* on April 12, 2019. The new regulation became effective on April 22, 2019, and corresponds with similar regulations currently either in place or being set forth by other boards and commissions within the Maryland Department of Licensing and Regulation’s Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing.

This regulation expressly mandates that: (1) a specified period of time that a license applicant or licensee is permitted to respond to a written communication by the Commission which requests a response; (2) that the Commission will send such written communication by first class mail to the last address furnished to the Commission by a license applicant or licensee; (3) that it is the responsibility of the license applicant or licensee to notify the Commission in writing if there has been a change in the license applicant’s or licensee’s address; and (4) that failure of the license applicant or licensee to respond as required by this regulation may be considered a violation of Business Regulation Article, §4-310(a)(1)(iii) or (iv), Annotated Code of Maryland.

**“EYEBOX”**

The Commission held a discussion in regard to “EyeBox”, a test for diagnosing concussions which Maryland resident Dr. Ron Elfenbein, M.D. brought to the attention of the Commission. The Commission considered the potential benefits of this medical technology for combative sports contestants.

The Commission determined that it would request Chief Commission Physician and Neurologist Dr. John W. Stiller, M.D. to review “Eyebox” for the purpose of making a future medical recommendation to the Commission concerning this new

technology and product.

**REVIEW OF APRIL 6, 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 April 6, 2019 at The Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore, Maryland.

The professional MMA event included 11 MMA contests and 33 scheduled rounds of MMA competition.

Mr. Pannella opined that, in terms of the matching of opponents and the competitiveness of the MMA contests, the MMA event may have been the best MMA card held in the entire series of “Shogun Fights” events.

**REVIEW OF APRIL 20, 2019**  
**PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional boxing event promoted by KBW Promotions, LLC advertising as “KBW Promotions” and held on April 20, 2019 at Rosecroft Raceway in Ft. Washington, Maryland.

The professional boxing event included seven boxing contests and 38 scheduled rounds of boxing competition.

Chairman Norman and Commissioner Shull both attended the boxing event.

Chairman Norman complimented Ken Weckstein, the promoter’s representative for KBW Promotions, on his organizational skills in preparing for, and running, his promotional company’s inaugural boxing event.

Mr. Pannella noted that he enjoyed working with Mr. Weckstein, who had spent several months learning about the boxing promotion business prior to moving

forward and holding a boxing event.

### **SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETINGS**

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

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.; and  
Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 2:00 p.m..

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 p.m..

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