

MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2019

On Wednesday, December 18, 2019, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman David Norman at 3:10 p.m.. Present were the following: Chairman Norman; Commissioner Brian Boles (telephonically); Commissioner Chuck Gast; Commissioner Lenny Moore; Commissioner David Shull; Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; and Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel.

RENEWAL OF PROMOTER LICENSE FOR RING OF HONOR WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, LLC

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. Joseph Koff, the promoter's representative for Ring of Honor Wrestling Entertainment, LLC, recently applied to the Commission to renew the promoter license for Ring of Honor Wrestling Entertainment, LLC as a promoter of professional wrestling events in the State of Maryland. Commissioner Gast and Mr. Pannella interviewed Mr. Koff as a condition of license renewal. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Mr. Koff, 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 Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0, with Commissioner Gast abstaining) to ratify the renewal of the license of Ring of Honor Wrestling Entertainment, LLC as a promoter.

RENEWAL OF PROMOTER LICENSE FOR EWA PROMOTIONS, LLC

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. James "Jim" Hardwick, the promoter's representative for EWA Promotions, LLC, recently applied to the Commission to renew the promoter license for EWA Promotions, LLC as a promoter of professional wrestling events in the State of Maryland. Commissioner Lenny Moore and Mr. Pannella interviewed Mr.

Hardwick as a condition of license renewal. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Mr. Hardwick, 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 Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to ratify the renewal of the license of EWA Promotions, LLC as a promoter.

APPROVAL/CANCELLATION OF PROFESSIONAL MMA EVENT

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

Mr. Pannella reported that licensed promoter John J. Rallo, III is cancelling his professional MMA event scheduled to be held on April 18, 2020 at The Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Pannella noted that Mr. Rallo has decided to change the date of his MMA event to April 11, 2020.

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

Saturday, April 11, 2020 - 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".

APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENTS

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 Shull, seconded by Commissioner Boles, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling events being promoted by Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.:

Saturday, December 14, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Joppa Marketplace
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, advertising as
“Future of Honor” / “FOH”;

Friday, December 27, 2019 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time
Perry Hall High School
4601 Ebenezer Road - Nottingham, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, advertising as
“Maryland Championship Wrestling” / “MCW”;

Friday, January 17, 2020 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time
Joppa Marketplace
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, advertising as
“Maryland Championship Wrestling” / “MCW”;

Friday, February 8, 2020 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Joppa Marketplace
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, advertising as
“Future of Honor” / “FOH”;

Sunday, March 15, 2020 - 5:30 p.m. Starting Time
Joppa Marketplace
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, advertising as
“Maryland Championship Wrestling” / “MCW”;

Friday, April 17, 2020 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time
Kenwood High School
501 Stemmers Run Road - Essex, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, advertising as
“Maryland Championship Wrestling” / “MCW”; and

Saturday, April 18, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. Starting Time
Francis Scott Key High School
3825 Bark Hill Road – Union Bridge, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, advertising as
“Maryland Championship Wrestling” / “MCW”.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, seconded by Commissioner Moore, 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.:

Sunday, March 1, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. Starting Time
The Wicomico Youth and Civic Center
500 Glenn Avenue - Salisbury, Maryland
Promoter: Event Services, Inc. A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary
World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc.,
advertising as “WWE”.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR **LEGISLATIVE POLICY**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. Tiffany Robinson, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, announced the departmental policy, via written correspondence dated November 13, 2019, relative to department employees and board, commission and advisory council members testifying before the Maryland General Assembly.

Chairman Norman opined that, if a Commissioner is asked to testify or wishes to testify before the Maryland General Assembly, the best and appropriate recourse is to confer in advance with a representative of the department.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Norman reported that the Commission remains engaged in conducting an investigation of the facts and circumstances related to the passing of professional boxer Maxim Dadashev, who passed away four days after his

boxing contest versus Subriel Matias which was held on July 19, 2019 at The MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with an overview with regard to the boxing events, MMA events and professional wrestling events regulated by the Commission in calendar year 2019.

Mr. Pannella noted that he was honored to work closely with Commission members and with Commission staff representatives during the past year to support the Commission's ongoing mission of supporting fighter safety.

SCHEDULE OF BOXING EVENTS AND MMA EVENTS

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the current schedule of boxing events and MMA events being regulated by the Commission.

SCHEDULE OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENTS

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the current schedule of professional wrestling events being regulated by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commission minutes for the Commission meeting held on August 28, 2019, which were previously distributed to Commission members for review, were discussed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, and seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the August 28, 2019 minutes of the Commission.

Commission minutes for the Commission meeting held on November 20, 2019, which were previously distributed to Commission members for review, were discussed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, and seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the November 20, 2019 minutes of the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, and seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 3:26 p.m..

Patrick Pannella
Executive Director