

MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

MINUTES WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 15, 2021

On Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 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 (“O&P Division”), Maryland Department of Labor (“Department of Labor”); Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel; Olga Escobar, Board Specialist; and Richard K. Thompson, Promoter. 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 November 17, 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 (4-0) to approve the November 17, 2021 minutes of the Commission.

COMMISSION INVESTIGATION - UNSANCTIONED PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENT - DECEMBER 12, 2021

Executive Director Pannella reported that the Commission received information concerning an illegal, unsanctioned professional wrestling event scheduled to occur on the afternoon of December 12, 2021 in Forestville, Maryland. After conducting an investigation into the matter, and determining that Maryland statutes and Commission regulations were going to be violated, Mr. Pannella travelled to the location of the event accompanied by two Maryland State troopers. They arrived in the hour prior to the start of the wrestling event, with Mr. Pannella interviewing the

promoter and directing him not to hold the illegal activity. Commission sanctions against this individual are pending.

The Commission, at the recommendation of Mr. Pannella, recognized both Maryland State Police Forestville Barrack L and Maryland State Police Leonardtown Barrack T for their outstanding cooperation and assistance involving this Commission investigation.

APPROVAL OF THE RENEWAL OF PROMOTER LICENSE FOR RICHARD K. THOMPSON

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. Richard K. Thompson recently applied to the Commission for the renewal of his promoter license as a promoter of professional wrestling events in the State of Maryland.

Mr. Thompson has been licensed by the Commission as a promoter in the past, holding a series of wrestling events in Prince George's County, Maryland. He advertises his wrestling events as "C3W Wrestling", and is now seeking to expand the brand by also promoting wrestling events in Harford County, Maryland. Commissioner Moore and Mr. Pannella recently interviewed Mr. Thompson as a condition of licensure. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Mr. Thompson, and were satisfied that the promoter's license application for this promoter applicant complies with the Commission's licensing requirements.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Moore, and seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the licensure of Richard K. Thompson as a promoter.

APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENTS

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

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to ratify for approval the following

professional wrestling events promoted by Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr., advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling” / “MCW”:

Thursday, December 30, 2021 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
MCW Arena at The Joppatowne Flea Market
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.,
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling” /
“MCW”;

Friday, January 21, 2022 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time
Amped Up! Family Amphitheatre
11600 Crossroads Circle - Middle River, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.,
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling” /
“MCW”;

Friday, February 5, 2022 - 7:00 p.m. Starting Time
Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department
24801 Three Notch Road - Hollywood, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.,
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling” /
“MCW”; and

Saturday, December 6, 2022 - 6:00 p.m. Starting Time
La Fontaine Bleue
7514 Ritchie Highway - Glen Burnie, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.,
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling” /
“MCW”.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Boles, seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling events promoted by Richard K. Thompson advertising as “C3W Wrestling” / “C3W”:

Sunday, January 2, 2022 - 6:00 p.m. Start

State Theatre of Havre de Grace
325 St. Johns Street - Havre de Grace, Maryland
Promoter: Richard K. Thompson,
advertising as “C3W Wrestling” / “C3W”;

Sunday, January 9, 2022 - 3:30 p.m. Start
Just Us Nation Gym
8925 Darcy Road - Forestville, Maryland
Promoter: Richard K. Thompson,
advertising as “C3W Wrestling” / “C3W”;

Sunday, February 6, 2022 - 6:00 p.m. Start
State Theatre of Havre de Grace
325 St. Johns Street - Havre de Grace, Maryland
Promoter: Richard K. Thompson,
advertising as “C3W Wrestling” / “C3W”;

Sunday, February 13, 2022 - 3:30 p.m. Start
Just Us Nation Gym
8925 Darcy Road - Forestville, Maryland
Promoter: Richard K. Thompson,
advertising as “C3W Wrestling” / “C3W”; and

Sunday, March 6, 2022 - 6:00 p.m. Start
State Theatre of Havre de Grace
325 St. Johns Street - Havre de Grace, Maryland
Promoter: Richard K. Thompson,
advertising as “C3W Wrestling” / “C3W”.

COMMISSION REVIEW OF 2021

The Commission held a discussion concerning its regulatory efforts in 2021 and the unique challenges which the Commission and its staff successfully overcame.

Chairman Norman stated that he was very pleased with the Commission’s efforts in proactively addressing the pandemic by offering promoters the opportunity to hold sanctioned events in the State of Maryland through the establishment of evolving

medical and administrative protocols for the COVID-19 virus.

Chairman Norman noted that, in the process, the Commission made a successful transition from initially sanctioning and regulating professional wrestling events without spectators in attendance to permitting boxing, MMA and wrestling events to be held with a crowd.

Executive Director Pannella noted that the latter portion of 2021 saw a gradual increase in Commission-sanctioned events being held as well as a number of promoters either renewing their respective license or obtaining a license for the first time.

COMMISSION REVIEW OF
“RING OF HONOR FINAL BATTLE 2021”
PAY-PER-VIEW PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENT -
DECEMBER 11, 2021 AT THE UMBC EVENT CENTER

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with a review of the pay-per-view professional wrestling event advertised as “Ring of Honor Final Battle 2021”, promoted by Ring of Honor Wrestling Entertainment, LLC (“Ring of Honor”), and held at The University of Maryland Baltimore County (“UMBC”) Event Center in Catonsville, Maryland.

This was the last in a longstanding series of wrestling events held by Ring of Honor in the State of Maryland prior to the company restructuring and considering a new mission and strategy in 2022.

Mr. Pannella applauded Ring of Honor representatives for their cooperative efforts in working with the Commission over the years. On behalf of the Commission, he is currently researching potential venues should Ring of Honor elect to hold wrestling events in Maryland after its scheduled restructuring.

NEW BUSINESS

The Commission acknowledged that Richard K. Thompson, a licensed promoter of professional wrestling events in the State of Maryland, was attending the

Commission meeting telephonically.

Mr. Thompson addressed the Commission, noting that he enjoyed listening to the Commission discuss the various topics presented at this meeting and would be attending Commission meetings in the future.

Mr. Thompson noted that he was looking forward to expanding his “C3W Wrestling” brand by promoting wrestling events in Havre de Grace, Maryland along with the wrestling events that he will continue to hold in Prince George’s County, Maryland.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 3:32 p.m..

**/s/ David J. Norman
Chairman**

Date: February 16, 2022