

MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

On Wednesday, March 27, 2019, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman David Norman at 3:07 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.

LEGISLATIVE POLICY FOR THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION

Executive Director provided the Commission with the following report. Kelly M. Schulz, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), announced the State departmental policy via written correspondence sent recently to all DLLR employees regarding testimony before the Maryland General Assembly.

MARYLAND STATE ETHICS COMMISSION YEAR 2018 FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT

Executive Director Pannella reported that the Year 2018 Annual Financial Disclosure Statement for all commission members and all State employees who are required to do so must be received by the Maryland State Ethics Commission no later than April 30, 2019.

RENEWAL OF PROMOTER LICENSE FOR JAMES E. "JIMMY" MORRIS, III

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. James E. "Jimmy" Morris, III recently applied to the Commission to renew his promoter license as a promoter of professional wrestling events in the State of Maryland. Commissioner Dansicker and Mr. Pannella interviewed Mr. Morris as a

condition of license renewal. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by the promoter applicant, and were satisfied that the promoter's application complies with the Commission's licensing requirements.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Dansicker, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to ratify the renewal of the license of James E. "Jimmy" Morris, III as a promoter.

RENEWAL OF PROMOTER LICENSE FOR KBW PROMOTIONS, LLC

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

RENEWAL OF PROMOTER LICENSE FOR MICHAEL VALENTYNE

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. Michael Valentyne recently applied to the Commission to renew his promoter license as a promoter of professional wrestling events in the State of Maryland. Commissioner Dansicker, Commissioner Moore and Mr. Pannella interviewed Mr. Valentyne as a condition of license renewal. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by the promoter applicant, and were satisfied that the promoter's application complies with the Commission's licensing requirements.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Moore, and seconded by Commissioner Dansicker, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to ratify the renewal of the license of Michael Valentyne as a promoter.

FINAL REGULATION - 09.14.02.08 - FAILURE TO RESPOND

Counsel London provided the Commission with the following report.

Mr. London advised that, to correspond 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, the Commission had waited the appropriate amount of time to take final action on a regulation to expressly mandate: (1) the 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 will be considered a violation of corresponding Maryland law.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Dansicker, seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to take final action on, and approve, COMAR 09.14.02.08 which: (1) designates that a license applicant or licensee shall respond to a written communication by the Commission requesting a response within 30 days of the date of the mailing; (2) requires that the Commission send such written communication by first class mail to the last address furnished to the Commission by a license applicant or licensee; (3) makes a license applicant or licensee responsible for notifying the Commission in writing if there has been a change in the license applicant's or licensee's address; and (4) mandates that the failure of a license applicant or licensee to respond as required by this regulation is considered a violation of Business Regulation Article, §4-310(a)(1)(iii) or (iv), Annotated Code of Maryland.

APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT

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 Shull, seconded by Commissioner Dansicker, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional boxing event being promoted by KBW Promotions:

Saturday, April 20, 2019 - 7:00 p.m. Starting Time
Rosecroft Raceway
6336 Rosecroft Drive - Ft. Washington, Maryland
Promoter: KBW Promotions, LLC, advertising as
“KBW Promotions”.

APPROVAL 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.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, 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, July 13, 2019 - 6:30 p.m. Starting Time
MGM National Harbor
101 MGM National Avenue - Oxon Hill, Maryland
Promoter: John J. Rallo, III, advertising as
“Shogun Fights”.

APPROVAL/CANCELLATION/RATIFICATION 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.

Mr. Pannella noted that licensed promoter Michael Valentyne recently cancelled his

wrestling event which was sanctioned by the Commission and scheduled to be held on March 29, 2019 at South Hagerstown High School in Hagerstown, Maryland.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Dansicker, seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event promoted by Michael Valentyne:

Saturday, July 13, 2019 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time
Silver Spring Black Box Theater
8641 Colesville Road - Silver Spring, Maryland
Promoter: Michael Valentyne, advertising as
“Fury Pro Wrestling”.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Dansicker, seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to ratify the approval of the following professional wrestling events promoted by James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III:

Saturday, March 16, 2019 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time
American Legion Post 109
1610 Sulphur Spring Road - Halethorpe, Maryland
Promoter: James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III,
advertising as “Adrenaline Championship Wrestling” /
“ACW”;

Friday, March 29, 2019 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time
Hager Hall
901 Duvall Highway - Hagerstown, Maryland
Promoter: James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III,
advertising as “Adrenaline Championship Wrestling” /
“ACW”; and

Friday, May 31, 2019 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time
American Legion Post 109
1610 Sulphur Spring Road - Halethorpe, Maryland
Promoter: James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III,
advertising as “Adrenaline Championship Wrestling” /

“ACW”.

Mr. Pannella noted that, after receiving information that a wrestling event was scheduled to be held at The Charles County Fairgrounds in La Plata, Maryland on March 1, 2019, he: (1) made contact with the representative for The Charles County Fairgrounds, advising this individual of pertinent Commission regulations which require a wrestling event to be held by a licensed promoter and to be sanctioned by the Commission; (2) made contact with the representative for the out-of-state wrestling group which was desirous of holding the wrestling activity, advising the representative of pertinent Commission regulations which require a wrestling event to be held by a licensed promoter and to be sanctioned by the Commission; and (3) advised this representative of the names and contact information for promoters currently licensed by the Commission who have expressed an interest in working with out-of-state wrestling groups in such a promoter capacity.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Dansicker, seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to ratify the following professional wrestling event promoted by EWA Promotions, LLC:

Friday, March 1, 2019 - 9:00 p.m. Starting Time
The Charles County Fairgrounds
8440 Fairground Road - La Plata, Maryland
Promoter: EWA Promotions, LLC, advertising as
“Extreme Midget Wrestling”.

Mr. Pannella noted that licensed promoter Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr. recently cancelled his wrestling event which was sanctioned by the Commission and scheduled to be held on March 23, 2019 at Joppa Marketplace in Joppa, Maryland.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Dansicker, seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted by Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.:

Sunday, March 31, 2019 - 2:30 p.m. Starting Time
Joppa Marketplace

1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.,
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling” /
“MCW”.

**CONSENT ORDER - CASE NO. MSAC-19-01 - “MARYLAND
STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION VS. HAWRAZ SYAN”**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to Commission Case No. MSAC-19-01, “Maryland State Athletic Commission vs. Hawraz Syan”.

On June 23, 2018 at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland, and following the conclusion of the professional MMA contest between Tony Dabbondanza and Hawraz Syan, Mr. Syan failed to respond to a Commission directive and engaged in unruly behavior in two separate instances while interacting with two Commission physicians during the performance of the physicians’ duties.

Following a Commission investigation into this matter, Mr. Syan expressed remorse to the Commission for his unruly behavior.

As a means of settling this case, Mr. Syan and the Commission entered into a consent order agreement, wherein: (1) the Commission ordered Mr. Syan to be examined by a psychiatrist or a sports psychologist and to be cleared by a psychiatrist or a sports psychologist to compete in MMA competition; (2) the Commission suspended Mr. Syan for a period of seven months from June 24, 2018 through January 23, 2019; and (3) Mr. Syan agreed to pay to the Commission a fine in the amount of \$200.00 as a result of his actions following his MMA contest against Mr. Dabbondanza.

**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL OF
“DUKES” BRAND “DESTINY” BOXING GLOVES**

Executive Director Pannella reported that Calvin Dukes, president and owner of Kdukesboxing, Inc., recently asked the Commission to consider approving “Dukes” brand “Destiny” boxing gloves for use in Commission-sanctioned boxing contests.

The Commission examined a sample “Dukes” brand “Destiny” boxing glove, and determined that the glove satisfied pertinent Commission regulatory specifications.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve “Dukes” brand “Destiny” boxing gloves as an approved glove for use in Commission-sanctioned boxing contests.

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL OF “WINNING” BRAND “FIGHTING SPORTS WORLD” BOXING GLOVES

Executive Director Pannella reported that licensed second Lorin Chvotkin recently asked the Commission to consider approving “Winning” brand “Fighting Sports World” boxing gloves for use in Commission-sanctioned boxing contests.

The Commission examined a sample “Winning” brand “Fighting Sports World” boxing glove, and determined that the glove satisfied pertinent Commission regulatory specifications.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve “Winning” brand “Fighting Sports World” boxing gloves as an approved glove for use in Commission-sanctioned boxing contests.

REVIEW OF MARCH 8, 2019 PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional boxing event promoted by Jeter Promotions, LLC advertising as “Jeter Promotions” and held on March 8, 2019 at the Maryland Live! Casino and Hotel Events Center in Hanover, Maryland.

The professional boxing event included eight boxing contests and 50 scheduled rounds of boxing competition.

Chairman Norman and Commissioner Shull both attended the boxing event.

Chairman Norman opined that a large crowd saw witness to a “wonderful evening” of professional boxing in Maryland.

The professional boxing event included 13 boxing contests and 84 scheduled rounds of boxing competition.

In the main boxing contest, Demond Nicholson competed against Jessie Nicklow in a scheduled 10-round boxing contest for the “Maryland State Super Middleweight Championship”, with Mr. Nicholson winning the Maryland State title by technical knockout in the first round.

REVIEW OF MARCH 24, 2019 **PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional boxing event promoted by TGB Promotions, LLC, advertising as “TGB Promotions”, televised live on the Fox Sports television network, and held on March 24, 2019 at The MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

Commissioner Gast attended the boxing event.

Mr. Pannella thanked Commissioner Gast for his efforts in assisting Mr. Pannella with the scorekeeping duties for this boxing event.

The professional boxing event included 13 boxing contests and 84 scheduled rounds of boxing competition.

In the main televised boxing contest, Sergey Lipinets competed against Lamont Peterson in a scheduled 12-round boxing contest, with Mr. Lipinets winning by technical knockout in the tenth round. Mr. Peterson announced to the crowd after his boxing contest had concluded that he was retiring from the sport of boxing, thanking all of his fans for strongly supporting him over the years.

Commissioner Gast opined that several of the boxing contests held were very

competitive and cited, in particular, the boxing contest between Mr. Lipinets and Mr. Peterson as an example.

UPDATE ON APRIL 6, 2019 PROFESSIONAL MMA EVENT - DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BOUTS

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with a review of the MMA contests being proposed for Commission approval with regard to the professional MMA event being promoted by John J. Rallo, III, advertising as “Shogun Fights” and being held on April 6, 2019 at The Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Pannella reported that 11 scheduled professional MMA contests have been approved by the Commission for this MMA event.

UPDATE ON APRIL 20, 2019 PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT - DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BOUTS

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with a review of the boxing contests being proposed for Commission approval with regard to the professional boxing event being promoted by KBW Promotions, LLC, advertising as “KBW Promotions” and being held on April 20, 2019 at Rosecroft Raceway in Ft. Washington, Maryland.

Mr. Pannella reported that Dusty Hernandez-Harrison is scheduled to compete in the featured boxing contest for this boxing event, Mr. Hernandez-Harrison’s first boxing contest to be held in the State of Maryland.

SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETINGS

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

Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.;
Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.; and
Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 3:00 p.m..

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Dansicker, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 4:22 p.m..

Patrick Pannella
Executive Director