

MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2018

On Wednesday, November 28, 2018, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman David Norman at 2:22 p.m.. Present were the following: Commissioner Chuck Gast; Commissioner Lenny Moore; Acting Chairman Norman; Commissioner David Shull; Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; and Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel. Absent: Chairman Arnold “Arnie” Dansicker.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commission minutes for the months of June, 2018, August, 2018, September, 2018 and October, 2018, which were previously distributed to all Commission members for review, were discussed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gast, and seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the June 13, 2018 minutes of the Commission.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, and seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the August 15, 2018 minutes of the Commission.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Moore, and seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the September 12, 2018 minutes of the Commission.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the October 10, 2018 minutes of the Commission.

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 Shull, seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) 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:

Saturday, March 9, 2019 - TBA 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 Moore, seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following boxing event being promoted by TGB Promotions, LLC pending the securement of a contract between the promoter and the venue where the boxing event is being held:

Sunday, March 24, 2019 - TBA Starting Time
Televised Live on the Fox 1 Sports Network
MGM National Harbor
101 MGM National Avenue
Oxon Hill, Maryland
Promoter: TGB Promotions, LLC,
advertising as “TGB Promotions”.

**APPROVAL / CANCELLATION OF
PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENTS**

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

Executive Director Pannella announced that licensed promoter James E. “Jimmy” Morris, III notified the Commission in writing via e-mail that he was cancelling the

following professional wrestling event:

Saturday, December 29, 2018 - 7:00 p.m. Starting Time
Perry Hall High School
4601 Ebenezer Road - Nottingham, Maryland
Promoter: James E. "Jimmy" Morris, III.
advertising as "Adrenaline Championship Wrestling
(ACW)".

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted by EWA Promotions, LLC, advertising as "Midgets With Attitude":

Wednesday, December 12, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
La Fontaine Bleue
7514 Ritchie Highway - Glen Burnie, Maryland
Promoter: EWA Promotions, LLC,
advertising as "Midgets With Attitude".

Upon a motion by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted by Event Services, Inc. A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc.:

Friday, December 28, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
The Royal Farms Arena
201 West Baltimore Street - Baltimore, Maryland
Promoter: Event Services, Inc. A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of
World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc., advertising as
"WWE Live Holiday Tour".

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted by Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr., advertising as "Maryland Championship Wrestling (MCW)":

Saturday, December 29, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Perry Hall High School
4601 Ebenezer Road - Nottingham, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling
(MCW)”;

Friday, January 18, 2019 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time
Joppa Market Place
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling
(MCW)”;

Saturday, January 19, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Hollywood Volunteer Fire Hall
24801 Three Notch Road - Hollywood, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling
(MCW)”;

Saturday, January 26, 2019 - 7:00 p.m. Starting Time
Manchester Valley High School
3300 Maple Grove Road - Manchester, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling
(MCW)”;

Saturday, February 23, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Joppa Market Place
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling
(MCW)”;

Saturday, March 9, 2019 - 7:00 p.m. Starting Time
Hollywood Volunteer Fire Hall
24801 Three Notch Road - Hollywood, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling
(MCW)”;

Saturday, March 23, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Joppa Market Place
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling
(MCW)”;

Saturday, April 13, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Former North Carroll High School
1400 Panther Drive - Hampstead, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling
(MCW)”;

Saturday, April 27, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Joppa Market Place
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling
(MCW)”;

Saturday, June 8, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Joppa Market Place
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling
(MCW)”;

Saturday, July 20, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time

Joppa Market Place
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling
(MCW)”;

Saturday, October 5, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Joppa Market Place
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling
(MCW)”;

Friday, November 8, 2019 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time
Joppa Market Place
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling
(MCW)”;

Saturday, November 9, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Hollywood Volunteer Fire Hall
24801 Three Notch Road - Hollywood, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.
advertising as “Maryland Championship Wrestling
(MCW)”.

PROPOSED REGULATION 09.14.02.08 - FAILURE TO RESPOND

Counsel London provided the Commission with the following report.

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 is considering promulgating 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 Shull, seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to propose a Commission regulation 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.

CHANGE IN STARTING TIME OF MONTHLY COMMISSION MEETINGS

At the recommendation of Acting Chairman Norman, the Commission elected to move the starting times of its monthly meetings from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m..

COUNSEL'S REPORT

Counsel London announced that, with the recent retirement of Susan Cherry, the Commission's new liaison for litigation matters in the Maryland Office of The Attorney General is Kris King.

Mr. London described Mr. King as a "very experienced and very talented" litigator.

The Commission responded that it is looking forward to working with Mr. King.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report.

Governor Larry Hogan visited the DLLR North Calvert Street building in Baltimore on the morning of November 1, 2018 and stopped by the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing as a part of his visit. Entering Executive Director Pannella's office, Governor Hogan remarked as to how much he enjoyed attending the professional boxing event which was held on April 8, 2017 at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland and which was televised on the HBO television network. On behalf of the Commission, Mr. Pannella thanked Governor Hogan for his administration's strong support of the Commission's ongoing regulatory efforts.

The Commission received a complaint regarding a group of individuals advertising as the "FCWF" and "FOW" wrestling federations which was planning to engage in an illegal, unsanctioned professional wrestling event on October 27, 2018 at the Somerset County Department of Recreation and Parks facility located in Westover, Maryland. The Commission conducted an investigation into the matter, notifying both the Somerset County Department of Recreation and Parks and the promoter representative for this wrestling group that: (1) the referenced wrestling activity falls under the jurisdiction of the Commission as required under Maryland law; and (2) in order for the wrestling activity to occur, it would have to be sanctioned and regulated by the Commission. Mr. Pannella stated that, while the promoter representative initially denied having such knowledge, the promoter representative was fully aware of Commission regulations as this individual had requested, and had received, information several years ago from the Commission relating to how to apply for a promoter license to hold wrestling events in the State of Maryland. On behalf of the Commission, Mr. Pannella instructed this promoter representative to refrain from attempting to hold another professional wrestling event in Maryland until, and unless, the wrestling event is sanctioned and regulated by the Commission. The promoter representative responded to Mr. Pannella that he would refrain from doing so until such time that any future wrestling event in which he is involved first receives a Commission sanction. Mr. Pannella recognized Clint Sterling, Director of the Somerset County Department of Recreation and Parks, for his outstanding support of the Commission's investigatory efforts in this regard.

Mr. Pannella noted that the Commission has forged a productive working relationship with the Somerset County Department of Recreation and Parks.

The Commission held a discussion in reference to its regulatory definition of “manager”, noting that the definition of a manager includes an “advisor”. The Commission instructed Mr. Pannella and Counsel London to jointly prepare a letter for Chairman Dansicker’s signature to be sent to J.D. Brown of Camp Springs, Maryland; the Commission letter will advise Mr. Brown that if he is serving as an advisor to a boxer competing in a boxing contest in the State of Maryland, Commission regulations require that Mr. Brown be licensed in good standing by the Commission as a manager.

UPDATE ON DECEMBER 8, 2018
PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with an update in regard to the professional boxing event being promoted by Shabazz Brotherz, LLC, advertising as “Shabazz Brotherz” and being held on December 8, 2018 at Bowie State University’s A.C. Jordan Arena in Bowie, Maryland.

Mr. Pannella reported that the Commission was working closely with both the promoter and with Bowie State University representatives to effectively plan for this boxing event.

Mr. Pannella noted that, as this was the second boxing event being held at Bowie State University, the referenced combined parties are in a good position to effectively address various logistical issues attendant to, and exclusive to, the holding of a combative sports event at this venue.

REVIEW OF OCTOBER 13, 2018
PROFESSIONAL MMA EVENT

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the “King of The Cage” professional MMA event promoted by King of The Cage, Inc. and held on October 13, 2018 at Maryland Live! Casino and Hotel in Hanover, Maryland.

The professional MMA event included eight professional MMA contests and 24 scheduled rounds of professional MMA competition. Six of the eight MMA bouts went the three-round distance and were decided by the judges' scorecards. Two of the MMA bouts featured women contestants.

This was the first MMA event held at Maryland Live! Casino and Hotel.

The Commission worked closely with both the promoter and with Maryland Live! Casino and Hotel representatives to effectively plan for this MMA event.

REVIEW OF NOVEMBER 1, 2018 PROFESSIONAL MMA EVENT

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to "The Jonathan Ogden Foundation Charity MMA Event" promoted by John J. Rallo, III and held on November 1, 2018 at Martin's Valley Mansion in Hunt Valley, Maryland.

The professional MMA event included five professional MMA contests and 15 scheduled rounds of professional MMA competition.

Several of the MMA contests featured MMA contestants with different and contrasting fighting styles.

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, January 23, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.;
Wednesday, February 20, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.;
Wednesday, March 27, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.;
Wednesday, April 24, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.;

Wednesday, May 15, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.; and
Wednesday, June 19, 2018 at 3:00 p.m..

ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

The Commission held a discussion in regard to the election of Commission Chairman. The Commission decided to place the election of Commission Chairman on the agenda for its next scheduled meeting with the newly elected Commission Chairman to assume his post on January 1, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to adjourn the meeting at 3:19 p.m..

Patrick Pannella
Executive Director