



CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 18, 2011

9:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Front Street State Building
1350 Front Street, Rm B109
San Diego, CA 92101

Commissioners Present:

Chairman John Frierson

Commissioner Dr. Van Buren Lemons

Commissioner Eugene Hernandez

Vice Chairman Dr. Christopher Giza arrived at 10:05

Commissioner Anthony Thompson

Staff Present:

George Dodd, Executive Officer

Anita Scuri, DCA Legal

Elizabeth Parkman

Dale Chessey, Assistant Executive Officer

LaVonne Powell, DCA Legal

The minutes reflect the order in which the agenda items were heard.

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item 2. Chairman's Reports

Chairman Frierson - Public comment on any item should be held to three (3) minutes or at the Chair's discretion.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes

February 04, 2011, minutes approved with the correction "Andrew Madigan" presenting for World Series of Boxing, not Jeff Benz.

Moved, Seconded, Carried (M/S/C) to approve minutes with the mentioned correction.

Agenda Item 4. Executive Officer Report- George Dodd

- a. Strategic Plan: Proposed organization chart was submitted. Commissioners Hernandez and Lemons will review, as will Chairman Frierson. CSAC staff are working together to promote growth and career enhancement. Considering the following classifications for hire:
 - Permanent/full time Athletic Inspectors to complete the gym inspections
 - Two (2) Assistant Chief Athletic Inspectors (Northern and Southern Cal.) due to the increase of regulated events. No Budget Change Proposal (BCP) has been completed at this time.
 - A BCP update will be ready for the June 2011 commission meeting, requesting an increase of \$80,000 in the staffing budget.
 - Boxer Pension Fund is economically sound, able to accommodate benefits to qualified recipients.

- Cease and desist letters have been served, most recently a letter from LA Boxing after notice was received of a 17 year old being knocked out at an unsanctioned event.
 - Karen Chappelle, Attorney General's Office – unauthorized events can be quite rampant, working closely with CSAC on cease and desist orders, shutting these down.
- b. Sunset Review: SB-543 would extend the commission until 2014. CSAC is one of four Boards/Commissions being reviewed for sunset. Commissioners Lemons, Hernandez and Giza appeared on behalf of the Commission. Senator Price was impressed with CSAC and understands that we still have a long way to go. Recommendations were offered after the review for the Commission, and Commissioners Lemons and Hernandez, as the officials committee, agreed to do review.
- c. Budget Review: CSAC is projecting an 18.4% surplus.
- d. Training schedule: Training for Officials and Lead Inspectors will take place on April 30, 2011 in Stockton, CA; the original date was April 09, 2011. Protocol on how assignments are made will be discussed as will evaluations of officials, with a recommendation that a subcommittee be put into place for the evaluations. Championship bouts are reviewed by Chairman Frierson with the addition of Commissioner Thompson.
- e. Office Report – Criteria for Rehabilitation: Development for criteria of rehabilitation was brought to commission for review and make changes, at which the next meeting will be open for public comment. Counsel Anita Scuri explained the commission is required to have but does not have criteria for rehabilitation. Ms. Scuri related language from other boards and included information pertinent to the commission and added examples to clarify what could be appropriate rehabilitation criteria.
- f. Update of Status of Regulations – Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) Dale Chessey reported there are three (3) phases of regulation changes: Non-substantive language changes that have been sent through and approved, regulation packet 2 (221, 222, 226, 230, 253, 262, 288, 300 and 340) and packet 3 (208, 323, 399, adopt 511) being completed with the Final Statement of Reasons to be submitted over to the Office Administrative Law. Rule 253 regarding Drinks containers at an event has been removed from original filing to be re-written to include metal cans not being permitted. A 4th packet is under development encompassing 253, 371, 379, 543, 547, 303, and adopting 303.1 and amending 403, which are in the initial stages of the regulatory process.

Public Comment:

Tim McKenzie – the commission needs a rule to address fake tapping. If a fake tap happens, the fake tap should be a foul.

Agenda Item 6. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

Roy Englebrecht – fight promoter. Commented that rules and regulations that are being changed are not only the request of Roy Engelbrecht but that of the boxing community as he is considered the unofficial spokesperson. While Mr. Englebrecht appreciates setting priority in regulations, when establishing priority, remember regulations do affect the bottom line of the promoters/business's in CA. Moving quickly on regulations changes enables businesses to be profitable.

Agenda Item 7. Applicants for Referee and Judge to Appear before the Commission (section 18662 of the Business and Professions Code) – Original Application

- a. Jeff Collins – MMA Judge

George Dodd explained Mr. Collins expects to complete MMA training by April 30, 2011.

M/S/C to grant Jeff Collins licensure as a judge upon completion of training.

Agenda Item 8. New Promoter Applications for Licensure – Executive Officer, George Dodd

- a. Bellator Fighting Championship (Bjorn Rebney) - MMA - George Dodd explained that he was given positive response by the event supervisor from his last show. On January 26, 2011 Bellator Fighting Championship was granted a temporary permit that will expire May 2011. Dodd recommends a license be granted as a Promoter.

Dr. Lemons questioned why it took so long for Bellator Fighting Championship to come to California. Mr. Rebney explained that he couldn't work in California because their shows were on Thursdays and couldn't be accommodated. Now, they are able to hold shows on Saturday giving them the opportunity to hold events here.

M/S/C to grant licensure as a professional promoter to Bellator Fighting Championship.

- b. Thai Boxing Inc. (Khem Chatchaiyan) – Amateur – Previously held a license in 2006 & 2007. Recently, Ms. Chatchaiyan formed the non-profit Thai Boxing Inc. and was granted a temporary license. Event supervisors reported the first event was handled poorly. However, after receiving the proper instructions and being educated on what is needed and what to expect, the 2nd show was much better.

George Dodd recommends that Thai Boxing Inc. be granted an amateur promoter license.

M/S/C to grant licensure as an amateur promoter to Thai Boxing Inc.

- c. Empire Sports – Greg Coben (media has reported that Mr. Coben has resigned)

M/S/C to table the application for licensure of Empire Sports.

Agenda Item 5. DCA Director's Report- LaVonne Powell

LaVonne Powell is the Senior Advisor to the Director and spoke on behalf of the DCA Director.

- Reminder that there is still a hiring freeze in place however, it is more liberal than the freeze under former Governor Schwarzenegger allowing for promotions in place, transfers within and DCA will consider some exemptions.
- Governor to begin cutbacks to state vehicles; CSAC does not contract for vehicles.
- BREEZE is slated to be released in 2013. It is an application tracking system that will be integrated with the current CAS system used by DCA. AEO Chessey is working to ensure BREEZE and the current temporary system with CSAC will integrate together. Dr. Giza asked if this system would be user friendly and if we

can get a list of what data is being captured. He would like this information available at the next commission meeting.

Agenda Item 9. Possible Action against Judge's License

Gene Lebell – MMA Judge

M/S/C to table this agenda item until the June commission meeting as Mr. Lebell was not able to be present at the commission meeting.

Agenda Item 10. Retirement of Official

John Campbell – Boxing Official recommended for retirement

Mr. Campbell has requested to be removed off the assignment roster and has chosen to retire as an official.

Agenda Item 11. Appeal of Decision

Shawn Wate vs. Edher Arvizu– Boxing

- a. Shawn Wate was originally declared winner of this bout because Edher Arvizu was disqualified for "falling too hard on his opponent". Mr. Arvizu attended the commission meeting and presented a video as part of his appeal of the decision. After discussion and in consideration of rule 368(a)(3), it was M/S/C to change the decision to "TKO" in favor of Edher Arvizu due to a foul by Mr. Wate (violation of rule 337).

Tim McKenzie vs. Seth Baczynski

- b. Tim McKenzie is appealing the decision of TKO by Mr. Baczynski due to rule 345 and 368(a)(1). Mr. McKenzie believes that Mr. Baczynski tapped out but the referee did not see it, he believes it was a "fake" tap out. After discussion and review of the fight, it was M/S/C to deny the appeal since there were no grounds under rule 368 for the appeal.

Agenda Item 12. Medical Advisory and Safety Standards Committee

Recommendation for appointment of physicians for the advisory committee:

SELECTED PHYSICIANS

Dr. Richard Zoraster – Emergency Medicine

Dr. Richard Gluckman – General Neurology

Dr. Patrick Golden – Ringside Physician for 17 years

Dr. Joyce Liao – Director Neurology Ophthalmology at Stanford

Dr. Paul Wallace – Ringside physician for over 20 years

Dr. Ruby Skinner – General Surgeon

M/S/C to appoint the above physicians to the Advisory Committee on Medical and Safety Standards contingent on verification that each one has a current valid license with no disciplinary action by the California Medical Board.

Agenda Item 13. Muay Thai Subcommittee – Rule and Regulations

George Dodd asks the subcommittee to revisit rules and whether to create separate rules for Muay Thai. A member reminded that a committee of more than two individuals

must follow the Bagley Keene "Open Meeting Act". Mr. Dodd recommends drafting a set of rules as a start point for the Muay Thai subcommittee and present them to the Officials' subcommittee on Muay Thai for review and approval.

Public Comment:

Brian Dobler – on behalf of Thai Boxing Assoc. of USA – We are happy they will be moving forward with drafting up rules and regulations; there is a concern that there are no amateur records kept (i.e. number of events, licensing, fight records, etc.); the training of the officials is not clear; there is not a clear progression to professional status; "smokers" are still happening frequently; how can fights be managed at a "grass roots" level; the association resolves to assist CSAC in any capacity and fill in any gaps where necessary.

Brian Dobler – on behalf of Muay Thai community – there are concerns that Muay Thai fighters were informed they were not allowed to wear Pra-jied armbands or to recite the Wai khru. These rituals represent sportsmanship, respect, honor and discipline to the community.

George Dodd stated since the ritual takes approximately 10 mins for each bout, it would delay the event substantially, therefore, if it is done it would have to be done minimally. CSAC would need to look at the rules and regulations to better consider how to address the ritual.

Agenda Item 14. USA Boxing

- a. Anthony Bartowski – Executive Officer, USA Boxing – they are currently in the process of reviewing the first quarter data.
- b. Incident Report with USA Boxing - As a follow up to the incident report filed by Charles Bereal, investigation has been completed with no substantiation for the complaints.
- c. Local Boxing Club, San Diego – Venoria Lindsay
There have been no grievances filed and Vernon Lee is the coach of approximately 12-20 children, hoping to offer an adult boxing class in the future.

Commissioner Hernandez supports the philosophy, teaching children to work hard, become respectable citizens and completing a program. Local promoter, Gabriel Barron, complimented the organization for what they do for the community.

Agenda Item 15. California Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Organization (CAMO)

George Dodd requested CAMO to create a no charge apprenticeship program to become a licensed MMA judge. CAMO described the ways a person can become eligible as a CAMO judge: 1) Licensed by CSAC, 2) Pass one of two programs, 3) Participate in the apprenticeship that consists of being an inspector, specified number of bouts completed, shadowing for 50 events in one (1) year, then an evaluation – which is still being formalized. Later Boxing and Muay Thai will be addressed in training. Jeremy Lappen of CAMO further mentioned the program will formally start in July 2011 and will present the findings after one (1) year.

Agenda Item 16. Policies - Allegation of Illegal Activities and Unregulated Events

Allegation of Illegal Activities/Unregulated Events: CSAC tries to diffuse the situation by reaching out to whoever is committing a violation. George Dodd and/or Che Guveara

call and explain the participant needs to cease and desist for holding this event, formally serving a cease and desist on date of event by sending an inspector to the venue, if available. CSAC contacts the "watch commander" of local PD, though not all officers are versed in the penal code pertaining to a cease and desist. DOJ has a branch that handles this type of request; CSAC has not had to use them in the past. Currently no policy exists on either of the above, therefore, one has been created and offered to commission for review.

After discussion, Mr. Dodd indicated that he would bring a revised version back to the commission.

Agenda Item 17. Policy for Acceptance of Foreign Medical Examinations and Reports

Policy was created but need review under rule 280(b). There are issues between the commission and the staff who accepts the medical evaluations and the individuals submitting the documentation. Where does the burden lie for translation? Some fighters come months before their fight to train and get doctor approvals here in the USA. However, other fighters get medical documentation completed in their country by a local physician. How are we to know if the medical records are accurate? When accepting the medical documents, CSAC is accepting the responsibility that the person is cleared to fight. Ownership should be on the fighter to present clear documentation that has been interpreted by a licensed interpreter and notarized. Remembering the Commission was formed for the health and safety of the fighter; CSAC has the option of accepting or rejecting and requiring further medical documentation.

The policy also needs a clear separation of medical clearance documents vs. suspension clearance documents.

Public Comment:

Gabriel Barron does not believe that CSAC should accept foreign medicals. He believes by doing so it burdens the promoter.

John Ibarra in his experience, he has always gotten the language interpreted as the manager before his fighters come to the United States from foreign countries. He submits the documents well before the fight in case it is rejected to allow time for corrections or if more information is needed.

After discussion, Mr. Dodd indicated that he would bring a revised version back to the commission.

Agenda Item 18. Presentation of New Safety Gear (MMA Headgear)

John Ibarra - presented a prototype headgear that he is currently trying to gain a patent on. He is presenting this headgear for consideration of use, once the patent is approved, during amateur fights. This is being presented to the Commission because he wanted to see if CSAC would consider using it for their amateur fights before he begins mass production.

Anita Scuri asked whether USA Boxing and AIB approve boxing helmets. Which organization would be equivalent to these entities where Mr. Ibarra should seek approval? The matter was referred to staff to come back with a recommendation as to what is an equivalent organization that would approve helmets.

Commissioner Frierson – CSAC will research the rules of using headgear as an amateur

Agenda Item 19. Agenda Items and Meeting Dates for Future Meetings

- Revised policies
- Muay Thai subcommittee agendas
- Official's training
- Commission Meeting is June 20th – location TBD
- Athletic Inspector training is June 26th – TBD

Adjournment
