



Members of the Commission

John Frierson, Chair
John Carvelli, Vice-Chair
Christopher Giza, MD
VanBuren Lemons, MD
Mary Lehman
Martha Shen-Urquidez

**Agenda items may be taken out of order the
agenda except public comment.
Action may be taken on any item listed on**

**CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

October 20, 2014

10:00 a.m. - conclusion of business

LOCATION:

Van Nuys State Building
6150 Van Nuys Blvd.
Van Nuys, CA 91401

Commissioners Present

John Frierson, Chair
John Carvelli, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Van Buren Lemons, MD
Commissioner Mary Lehman
Commissioner Martha Shen-Urquidez

Commissioners Absent

Christopher Giza, MD

Staff Present

Andy Foster, Executive Officer
Sophia Cornejo, Assistant Executive Officer
Spencer Walker, Senior Staff Counsel, DCA

OPEN SESSION

Agenda Item 1 – Call the meeting to Order / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and a quorum was present.

Agenda Item 2 –Chairman’s Opening Remarks

Chairman Frierson stated that it is a pleasure working with this commission. Maurio Sulaiman from WBC commented that this is the best commission. The fight was great on Saturday night.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of May 16, 2014 Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Lehman requested minor revisions regarding Agenda Item #3, Approval of May 16, 2014, Commission Meeting Minutes.

Vice-Chair Carvelli motioned to approve the minutes as revised; Commissioner Shen-Urquidez seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Agenda Item 4 – Executive Officer's Report

a. Budget Update

Executive Officer, Mr. Foster presented the Commission with the CalStars report (fiscal months 2 and 3). Charts of revenue and expenses were presented. He stated that the Commission has a little over 6 months reserve. There has been a decline in the civil service line item due to one staff member out on maternity leave. The Athletic Inspector line item needs to be watched but EO is not concerned; winter months are coming and the expense in this line item should go down. The EO commended the AEO, Sophia Cornejo, for saving the Commission money in operating expenses.

The EO commented that the external contracts line item is up because of increased drug testing and that there will be approximately \$16K more in drug testing expenses for next month. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked if we considered using another facility because UCLA is so expensive. EO stated that the Commission gets a major discount from UCLA; however, we are working on a contract with another facility (along with UCLA) for some of the out of competition drug testing for athletes in other states. The tests are the same – however, another facility is half the price. He stated we are staying with UCLA also because of the need for WADA specifics for PED testing. UCLA has protocols in place that ensure these results are accurate. UCLA does urine testing as well as blood testing.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked about the 11.5 staff the Commission once had in the office and how the DCA pro-rata is being charged based on the decrease in staffing levels. The EO stated that there was a reduction in pro-rata because the staffing levels went down by half.

b. Report of Pending Regulations

The EO presented a rulemaking flow chart listing all pending regulations and their status.

c. Report on Commission Contracts

The EO presented a chart of the Commission's current contracts and explained the need for each contract.

d. Report on Training of Officials

The EO stated that there was a training last month for the officials and a competency exam was given. Three officials failed. The Commission is working with these officials to retake the test.

Agenda Item 5 – Approval of Commission 2015 Background Information and Overview of the current regulatory program as of September 2014

The EO presented the draft Sunset Report and thanked Vice-Chair Carvelli for assisting him with the report. The EO asked that the Commissioners please focus on sections 10 and 11. These are questions that were asked by the Senate. Vice-Chair Carvelli wanted to make sure that they were being responsive to the questions. He would like the Commissioners to review and ensure everything is captured. Commissioner Lehman recommended some minor changes throughout the packet. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez commented that she is concerned regarding 1.4 million being a sufficient spending authority if CA gets more larger events. She thinks this should be closer to 1.9 million (historical levels). The commissioners agreed to replace the first sentence to answer to #8, Section 10 to read the following:

“The Commission is concerned that the current spending authority of 1.4 million will not be sufficient to protect our fighters because we are successfully bringing large events to California and fully expect to attract additional large events next fiscal year.”

Vice-Chair Carvelli suggested adding a new subsection E to Section 11 to increase the fine amount from \$2,500 to a percentage of the purse or percentage of the contractual agreement for the event.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez motioned to delegate to Vice-Chair Carvelli the authority to review, make necessary changes and approve the final sunset report response for the legislature. Commissioner Lehman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Agenda Item 6 - Review and possible action regarding revised weigh in procedures to promote safety and healthy rehydration.

The EO stated that there is a problem with weight cutting in this sport. There have been too many events where weight cutting has been a major issue and has caused fighters to seek medical attention. The EO is recommending to the Commission that action be taken regarding this matter. He stated that he and Dr. Lemons are travelling this month to visit with the Association of Ringside Physicians regarding mitigating the effects of dehydration. He further stated that the status quo on this issue is not acceptable.

Dr. Lemons stated that changes are going to happen regardless and California can either lead or follow. He recommended that the EO do the research and come back to the Commission with an action plan. He stated that the Commission can do better than what's been done and that the Industry can also do better in this area.

The EO stated that an option would be to include a question on the physical that asks the lowest healthy fighting weight based on body mass index. Another idea presented would be to weigh in the day before then weigh in again the day of the event and there be a maximum percentage of weight gain that is allowed (7%). The EO stated that he can bring recommendations back to the commission after he meets with the Association of Ringside Physicians.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Antonio Leonard, Licensed Promoter, suggested that we make the fighters make weight one week ahead of time. Fighters shouldn't be training to make weight, they should be training for the fight. He stated that if fighter's can't make weight one week before, then that fighter shouldn't be in that weight class and that a fighter in shape won't gain any more than 6 or 7 pounds in that week.

Roy Englebrecht stated that it is the incompetency of the promoter . Promoter is advertising a championship fight and selling tickets based on that fight. He stated that a human being cannot lose more than 10 pounds in 14 days. The promoter should complete a form daily on the weight of the fighter and submit this form to the commission. He stated that he doesn't agree that the fighter should be fined for being over weight because it is the incompetency of the promoter not the fighter.

Agenda Item 7 – Request from Skip Scott to overturn decision of bout (Skip Scott vs. Gerald Washington on April 3, 2014)

The EO presented this agenda item and stated that after further review of the recording of the fight, he doesn't feel it is enough to overturn this decision. He recommends denying this request and adding to Mr. Scott's fight fax record a comment that the commission reviewed this

decision and that a mistake was made by the official, however, this did not take Washington's win away from him.

Commissioner Lehman motioned that even if the request was not submitted in a timely manner, the Commission will hear the request to change the decision. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Dr. Lemons motioned to deny the request to overturn the decision and authorize the EO to add a comment to Skip Scott's official record. Chairman Frierson seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Licensed Official, Lou Moret, commented that he never saw the second knee go down.

The motion passed 5-0.

Agenda Item 8 - Request for Promoters License - Antonio Leonard Productions

The EO presented this agenda item and stated that Mr. Leonard has co-promoted events in CA and is currently licensed in TX for almost 23 years. The EO recommends approving Mr. Leonard for a permanent Promoter's License.

Vice-Chair Carvelli motioned to approve Mr. Leonard for a permanent Promoter's License. Commissioner Lehman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Agenda Item 9 - Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

Roy Englebrecht commented that he wants further clarification on whether or not an actual medical insurance "claim form" needs to be present at the fight even though the proper insurance is in place. He couldn't find it in any regulations and this almost held up his televised fight this past weekend.

John Steele commented that the very first youth pankration event was held in Sacramento this past weekend and it went well. He congratulated the commission on a successful event.

CLOSED SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Next meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2014. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez will be in Argentina, but will post her public location on the agenda and will Skype in to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT