



CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION
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Members of the Commission

John Carvelli, Chair
Mary Lehman, Vice Chair
John Frierson
Martha Shen-Urquidez
Van Gordon Sauter
Vernon Williams, M.D.
Luis Ayala

**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

Tuesday, May 16, 2017
10:00 a.m. - Conclusion of Business

Location:

*Doubletree Suites by Hilton Hotel Anaheim Resort
Tuscany (A) Meeting Room
2085 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim, CA 92802*

Commissioners Present

Chair John Carvelli
Vice Chair Mary Lehman
Commissioner Vernon Williams, MD
Commissioner Martha Shen-Urquidez
Commissioner Luis Ayala
Commissioner Van Gordon Sauter

Staff Present

Andy Foster, Executive Officer
Gary Duke, Legal Counsel
Heather Jackson, Associate Analyst

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner John Frierson

OPEN SESSION

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Agenda Item 2 –Welcome –Chairman’s opening remarks

Chairman Carvelli invited those who wish to attend, to the June 29- July 2, 2017, North American Boxing Federation’s (NABF) conference in San Diego, CA.

He spoke on the logistics of assigning events with officials and inspector personnel. He reiterated that receiving assignments is a privilege and not a right, and commended Executive Officer (EO) Andy Foster’s work of distributing the assignments in a fair and equitable manner.

He added that the Large Event Subcommittee, specifically Commissioner Martha Shen-Urquidez, has been working very hard toward making a case for the Canelo vs. GGG fight to be held at a California venue. He offered his assistance in those efforts.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of the March 13, 2017, Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez motioned to approve the March 13, 2017, Commission Meeting minutes.

Vice Chair Lehman seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote.

There was no Commission discussion or public comment.

Agenda Item 4 – Approval of the March 14, 2017, Commission Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Lehman motioned to approve the March 14, 2017, Commission Meeting minutes as amended.

Commissioner Dr. Williams seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote.

There was no Commission discussion.

Public Comment:

- Mr. Greg Patschull provided comments regarding the Executive Officer's Report and the Emergency Headgear regulation.

Agenda Item 8 – Review and approval of Commission 10 Point Plan to address severe dehydration from extreme weight cutting in mixed martial arts

EO Foster presented the Commission with a PowerPoint presentation outlining the dangers of dehydration and cutting weight as well as what steps the Commission can take with his 10 Point Plan (Plan).

He stated that he has determined this issue to be one of the Commission's primary health and safety concerns and recommended the approval of the measures to prevent athletes from using severe dehydration as a method to make the contracted bout weight at events regulated in California. He further recommended that the Commission consider immediate implementation of this plan with a six-month review period, during which time the Commission will invite stakeholder feedback and revise the plan where appropriate.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez motioned to approve the 10 Point Plan with 6-month review period.

Commissioner Dr. Williams seconded the motion.

Commission Discussion:

- **Commissioner Martha Shen-Urquidez**
 - Item #3: Commissioner Shen-Urquidez mentioned that she recalls pushback on adding the additional weight classes from a couple of the larger stakeholders and asked if those concerns are still present. EO Foster responded that those stakeholders no longer have those same concerns.

- Item #9: Bellator's concern of liability with knowing the weight of an athlete before the official weigh-in. Legal Counsel Gary Duke responded that the Commission has the authority to do so legally, but it will at this point only be a recommendation so there would not be a liability on the Commission to proceed.
- **Vice Chair Mary Lehman**
 - Item #2: After commending EO Foster for his hard work on this plan she asked him to clarify the reward for fighters who would take a fight against a larger opponent. EO Foster responded that the losing or smaller fighter would be compensated for continuing with the fight although they are at a disadvantage.
 - Item #7: She mentioned that the Commission is limited, by statute, to 30 hours between the official weigh – in and the event. She asked EO Foster if that is something that the Commission should consider changing. EO Foster responded that he would need direction from the Commission to move forward with that change.
 - She mentioned that in some ways promoters and matchmakers are more responsible for weight cutting issues if they continue to propose bouts at inappropriate weights.
 - She also mentioned that she would like to see the plan emphasize the importance of the dangers of dehydration and weight cutting, specifically its relation to the concerns with concussions and other neurological injuries.
 - EO Foster explained that although there are huge health risks with dehydration, the brain is actually one of the last things to dehydrate and deferred to Commissioner Dr. Williams to explain further.
 - Commissioner Dr. Williams agreed and stated that the brain is considered the most important, and is there for the last organ to have problems when it comes to dehydration. He further mentioned that the concern would be with neurological reaction times resulting in a lack of protection during the bout.
- **Commissioner Dr. Vernon Williams**
 - Commissioner Dr. Williams acknowledged the potential for increased risk on the higher level shows also includes the public aspect, considering that tickets are sold to watch particular fights and if/when they fall through the value of those tickets may change.
 - Mr. Duke suggested that there is also a financial incentive to cut weight with the higher level events as the purse amounts are significantly greater.
 - Dr. Williams asked EO Foster if he is aware of or foresees any unintended consequences to this Plan.
 - EO Foster stated that he doesn't want the fighters to cut weight twice, and come in under the 10% threshold. He explained that the licensing by weight class and use of Specific Gravity Strips should balance this issue.
- **Commissioner Luis Ayala**
 - Item #3: Commissioner Ayala asked how the additional weight classes compare to Professional Boxing weight classes and if the issues with the large weight-gap are

also prevalent in Boxing. He also asked EO Foster if the suggested weight classes would be in addition to or replace certain classes.

- EO Foster responded that the proposed weight classes would be inserted in between and be in addition to the current weight classes.
- He asked EO Foster why the increase of the weight classes goes from 5 pound differences to 10 pound moving into the higher classes.
- Item #6 & 7: He stated that these items are seemingly tricky to enforce and that the Plan still leaves a window of opportunity for athletes to dehydrate.
 - EO Foster explained that each item of the Plan is not stand-alone and that it is necessary to use all items in the Plan for it to work.
- Commissioner Ayala asked EO Foster how prevalent the weight cutting issue is in the sport of Boxing and wondered about the need for the measures to be taken with boxers, as well.
 - EO Foster explained that he is fully aware that everyone cuts weight; however, based on the studies that the Commission staff and field personnel have been able to put together, the issue is extreme and most prevalent in the sport of Mixed Martial Arts.
- **Commissioner Van Gordon Sauter**
 - Commissioner Sauter asked EO Foster how he intends on carrying the 10 Point Plan document to industry and to the public.
 - EO Foster explained that many stakeholders have been involved in the process of assembling the Plan, and those that have not, have been providing their comments. He further explained that two of the largest stakeholders, UFC and Bellator MMA, have publicly supported the Plan.
 - Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked EO Foster if he intends to send the Plan to the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC). EO Foster responded that he plans to present the Plan at the ABC conference in July 2017.
 - Commissioner Sauter suggested that EO Foster consider pushing the Plan through the larger newspapers as well. He asked EO Foster if he foresees or has already received resistance from any organization.
 - EO Foster responded that he does not foresee that happening and explained that his plan is to get the fighters in the correct weight classes.
 - Commissioner Sauter inquired about EO Foster's timing on the implementation.
 - EO Foster stated that he is shooting for June 15, 2017.
- **Chairman John Carvelli**
 - Item #7: Chairman Carvelli suggested that language be added which explains that the rationale for the timing is that the timing for the weigh-in is specified in statute.

- Chairman Carvelli stated that he is comfortable that the Plan has been created appropriately and collectively compiled. He mentioned that he would like to see a report on the Plan at future meetings.

Public Comment:

- Mr. Roy Englebrecht commented that the Commission suspends and penalizes for drugs and suggested that the Commission consider doing the same for missing weight.

Vice Chair Lehman further mentioned that she would like to discuss this at the next Commission meeting. EO Foster agreed and explained that the hope is that the Plan will prevent the missing weight issue.

The motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 9 – Review and possible action of Petition to Change the Decision for Josh Thomson vs. Patricky Friere at the Bellator event on February 17, 2017, in San Jose, CA

EO Foster provided the Commission with background on the appeal and stated that the video evidence clearly shows that there was an unintentional clash of the heads. However, he explained that he is not convinced that the clash is what caused Mr. Thomson to lose the bout because when Mr. Thomson fell from the headbutt he braced his fall, performed technical standing to rise to his feet quickly, raised his hands to engage in the fight, and then shot what looked to be a takedown attempt. It was during the takedown attempt that Mr. Friere countered with a quick right-hand uppercut that dropped Mr. Thomson and then he followed up with a few hammer-fists before referee John McCarthy stopped the contest. EO Foster acknowledged the possibility that the headbutt may have contributed to Mr. Thomson being dazed, but the referee did not call it and Mr. Thomson also did not notify the referee.

EO Foster stated that although he acknowledges that the clash did happen, he doesn't believe it is enough to overturn the result of the bout and take the win away from Mr. Friere.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez motioned to not overturn the decision of the bout.

Vice Chair Lehman seconded the motion.

Commission Discussion:

- Vice Chair Lehman commented that she agrees with EO Foster's comments and mentioned that a fighter must prepare in their training for what to do when they get hurt in a bout. She stated that it appears that even if Thomson was hurt by the headbutt, the consequences of not notifying the referee when injured are on the fighter and should not justify a change of decision.
- Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated that she was at the fight and did not notice any indication that he needed time to recover and the stance that he completed after the incident is not easy to do, that it requires voluntary actions from the athlete to complete that stance.

The motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 10 – Review and possible action of Petition to Change the Decision for Ivan Redkach vs. Algenis Mendez at the TGB Promotions event on May 2, 2017, in Studio City, CA

EO Foster provided background on the appeal and presented the Commission with the video footage of the bout.

Mr. Mike Goossen, counsel for Mr. Redkach, requested that the Commission reverse the decision of the bout on the basis that after review of the video evidence, it was clear to him that it was not a slip.

Referee Raul Caiz Jr. presented the Commission with his recollection of the bout and explained that he had given Mr. Redkach several warnings before the point deduction. He stated that in the rules meeting before the bout he warned both fighters of the rules, as well as during the bout it appeared that Mr. Redkach was more reckless with the headbutts and ultimately warned Mr. Redkach four separate times.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez stated that she watched the bout multiple times and could see one warning for head butts issued to Mr. Redkach.

Lead Inspector Mark Relyea stated that he was present at the fight and confirmed that there were warnings given both in the ring as well as in the corners which was not shown in the video footage.

Mr. Caiz Jr. commented that in the third round when the point was deducted, he saw Mr. Redkach throw two punches, missing both, and then tucked his head and lunged to ram his head toward his opponent. He stated for that reason, he felt it was intentional and that was the rationale for the point deduction at that time. He further explained to the Commission his recollection of the incident in round 6 which he indicated was a slip. He stated that he was in position to see Mr. Redkach throw the punch and saw an unintentional trip by Mr. Redkach's lead foot which cause Mr. Mendez to fall. He stated that the Commission's policy is that if there is a slip or a trip, caused by an accidental or unintentional foul, it should not be deemed a knockdown.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez requested that Lead Inspector Mark Relyea give his recollection of the bout with regard to the incident in round 6. Mr. Relyea stated that his impression was that it was a knockdown but that he recognizes that Mr. Mendez fell awkwardly. He explained that he spoke to two of the judges of the bout, both of which indicated to him that they believed it was a knockdown. He further stated he did not see any other significant touching of the opponent other than the punch.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez asked Mr. Caiz Jr. to explain the ring mechanics and the difference between a trip and a slip. Mr. Caiz Jr. explained that the ring mechanics would be essentially the same and demonstrated the signal for no knockdown. He did acknowledge that there is a technical difference between a trip and a slip and that this was definitely a trip.

Vice Chair Lehman asked Mr. Caiz Jr. to explain his experience in refereeing, specifically refereeing bouts between southpaw vs. orthodox fighters. Mr. Caiz Jr. explained that he is very experienced in refereeing and referees about 15-30% of his bouts are southpaw vs. orthodox fighters.

Chairman Carvelli asked Mr. Caiz Jr. to share his recollection of the straight left punch. Mr. Caiz Jr. responded that he has viewed the punch in video footage several times and acknowledged that the punch landed, however he further stated that he remains confident in his call that the punch did not have any impact on Mr. Mendez going down.

Mr. Goossen commented that the video footage clearly shows that there was significant separation between the athletes. Commissioner Ayala requested that the video be shown again to see the separation of the fighters, as this was something newly mentioned and was not the focus of the first viewing.

Commissioner Dr. Williams asked Mr. Caiz Jr. if there was anything that indicated that Mr. Mendez was hurt by the punch as he was getting up. Mr. Caiz Jr. stated that he did not see any such

indication and that he did notice that as he has falling, Mr. Mendez turned his head to see what was tripping him and he popped right back up.

Vice Chair Lehman motioned to let the decision of the bout stand as it is.

Commissioner Dr. Williams seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-2 by roll call vote. Ayala – Yes; Dr. Williams – Yes; Sauter – Yes; Shen-Urquidez – No; Lehman – Yes; Carvelli – No.

Agenda Item 6 – Executive Officer’s Report

a. Budget Update for the Support Fund, the Neurological Fund, and Pension Program

EO Foster reported that the Commission’s budget through Fiscal Month 9 (March) is \$1,204,353 in revenue and \$1,132,757 in expenditures. He further reported that the current fund balance (reserve fund) for economic uncertainties is at \$1,158,089.

b. Report on Pending and Proposed Regulations and Legislation

EO Foster provided a summary of the pending regulations.

- Payment to Contestants – No updates since the last meeting. He explained that the Rulemaking file was published by Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on 8/12/16 and a public hearing was held on 9/26/16 and the final package was submitted to Legal Counsel for review and approval on 10/31/16.
- Headgear – EO Foster explained that OAL had concerns with the Final Rulemaking File and returned the file for changes to be made and explained the changes that Assistant Executive Officer Sophia Cornejo is working on.
- Weighing Time, Time for Physical Examinations, and Dehydration and Rehydration – EO Foster reported that this Rulemaking package is pending approval at the Department of Finance.

c. Status Update of Delegated Entities

- **California Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Organization (CAMO)**

Mr. JT Steele, President, reported the status of CAMO’s operations, mentioning that CAMO is noticing a strong trend in new athletes and new promoters and explained that he anticipates 15% growth in 2017 over 2016. He reported that CAMO’s director of operations, Mrs. Megan Sonderegger will be reducing her hours and her full-time position will soon be replaced with two part-time positions. He reviewed a couple of new events that CAMO will be regulating, new venues which he anticipates being very successful.

Vice Chair Lehman requested that the event schedule be integrated into the reports submitted for each Commission meeting.

Mr. Steele reported that although CAMO is not a youth organization and therefore does not fall under AB2007, they have instituted mandatory concussion training for all officials.

- **USA Boxing**

Mr. Joe Zanders, President USA Boxing’s Southern California and representative for USA Boxing, presented the Commission with the highlights of their Junior Olympic Tournament

and the upcoming Regional Junior Olympic Tournament in Indio, CA. He reported that they are currently recruiting officials and encourage anyone interested in officiating to come to the USA Boxing Official's Clinic on June 3, 2017, in Westminster, CA.

Vice Chair Lehman requested that the event schedule be integrated into the reports submitted for each Commission meeting.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez mentioned that although she appreciates Mr. Zander's attendance on behalf of USA Boxing, she would like to see reports and attendance from the other California LBCs within USA Boxing.

- **United States Fight League (USFL)**

Mr. Jon Frank presented the Commission with the results of the events since the last Commission meeting, injury statistics since becoming a delegated entity and explained the types of injuries and ages of those hurt during bouts.

Vice Chair Lehman asked what percentage these injuries compare to the adult mixed martial arts' injuries. EO Foster responded that the numbers are low in comparison. Vice Chair Lehman inquired about the nature of the injuries and wondered if they indicate the necessity for any rule changes. Mr. Frank responded that their rule is that any illegal strike results in a foul, whether it was intentional or not.

EO Foster asked Mr. Frank to give his impression on the use of the headgear. Mr. Frank responded that there have been a couple of issues with the fitting, however he does believe that it has perhaps prevented a few injuries which is good. Mr. Frank also spoke to the need for Ringside Physicians. Commissioner Shen-Urquidez mentioned that she has made attempts to coordinate with the medical school at University of California, San Francisco to see if she could create some interest with their sports medicine residents.

- **International Kickboxing Federation (IKF)**

Mr. Steve Fossum, President of IKF, presented that they have implemented the training as required by AB2007. He reiterated Mr. Frank's concerns with the lack of Ringside Physicians on the amateur side. EO Foster spoke to how they are currently coordinating doctors with the Pro/Am shows and mentioned that Mr. Steele from CAMO has been a great help with finding doctors to fill in on last minute shows.

d. Update on C3 Logix Sports Concussion Management Program

EO Foster reported that Commission staff has been actively performing baseline examinations on many fighters throughout the state with only 7 units. The Commission has tested over 200 athletes with a goal of 500-600 by the end of the year.

He explained that the rest of the purchased devices were received during the first week of May and C3 Logix was recently on-site to configure, tag and assign the devices.

e. Upcoming Event Schedule

EO Foster presented the Commission with the updated event schedule and directed their attention to the following shows:

- 5/24/2017 Golden Boy Promotions - Lowes in Santa Monica, CA.
- 7/15/2017 Golden Boy Promotions - The Forum in Inglewood, CA.

- 7/29/2017 UFC 214 – The Honda Center in Anaheim, CA.

Agenda Item 7 – Pension Fund Subcommittee (Commissioner Lehman and Ayala)

EO Foster reported that the Pension Fund Subcommittee is continuing to work on outreach, there are 46 boxers who are eligible for a pension distribution in 2017, and that the Commission has approved \$55,730 in pension payments so far, this year.

Commissioner Shen-Urquidez requested EO Foster to produce a story that she can take to the press about the Boxer's Pension Fund.

Agenda Item 11 – Public Comment on Items Not on The Agenda

Mr. Thomas Taylor, Ring Official, commented to commend the Commission field personnel.

Agenda Item 5 – Business and Professions Code section 18640.5 requires the Commission to invite stakeholder testimony at Commission meetings in order to identify actions that may lead to greater opportunities for licensees to participate in major professional boxing contests

There were no comments for this item.

Agenda Item 12 – Next Meeting Scheduled for August 15, 2017

Proposed meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 2017, in Los Angeles, CA.

Agenda Item 13 – ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned.