MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

MINUTES - Wednesday September 20, 2023

On Wednesday, September 20th, 2023, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman David Norman at 3:10 p.m. Present were the following: Chairman Dave Norman; Commissioner Carl Wilson; Commissioner Dr. Kristi Hall, Commissioner James "Binky" Jones, Commissioner Brian Boles; John Dove, Commissioner for O&P; Sarah

McDermott, Deputy Commissioner; Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel; Matthew McKinney, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Olga Escobar, Administrative Officer, Jason Curtis, Administrative Assistant and Executive Director Nino Ovial. This was a hybrid meeting taking place in-person as well as on the Google Meets platform.

# APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Chairman Davie Norman called for a Motion to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2023 Meeting. Commissioner Wilson made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and the Motion unanimously passed.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Dave Norman explained the role of the Commission and introduced the three new members of the Commission, Commissioners Jones, Wilson and Hall. Each new Commissioner explained their backgrounds and indicated that they were looking forward to serving as Commission members.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Nino Ovial reviewed upcoming events. Further, Mr. Ovial reviewed potential regulatory changes that he wanted to bring to the attention of the Commission. The first potential change related to promoters, referees and medical exams. Commissioner Jones voiced his concerns due to the costs of the physicals and eye exams and suggested that the Commission do more due diligence to find a solution.

The second potential regulatory change related to the license periods. Executive Director Ovial suggested that referees and judges’ licenses should have effective dates from July 1st-June 30th of every year to bring the same renewal cycle as the State's Fiscal Year. The Commission was generally supportive of this potential regulatory change.

The third potential regulatory change related to the Certification for referees and judges. Currently, referees domiciled in the State of Maryland need to take a written exam and the proposed change would allow a certification by the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) or another Major Sanctioning Body to replace the written exam requirement.

The fourth potential regulatory change discussed was Drug Testing, particularly for Marijuana. The discussion was what would be the proper threshold for testing positive for Marijuana, which is now legal recreationally in the state.

The next potential regulatory change related to medical reciprocity of exams coming from other states.

Finally, there was a discussion of a prohibition of sharing a Promoter’s License. Maryland has had a long history of allowing a third party to use the license of another to promote an event. Executive Director Ovial explained that this leads to staffing and tax issues.

# NEW BUSINESS

Executive Director Nino Ovial announced that training will be conducted for all MSAC personnel on November 4th, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kenny Ellis and Calvin Ford, individuals involved in boxing, discussed the potential for fighters to test positive for Marijuana in social gatherings.

John Rallo, an MMA promoter, voiced his concerns about the half-life of marijuana and how fighters might still test positive for months after exposure. He indicated that, in his opinion, changing the result of a participant to a “no contest” would be unfair.

Delegate Nic Kipke, Matthew Van Valkenburgh and Patrick Rivera voiced their request to have Muy Thai enacted into the Commission’s regulations for sanctioning.

## ADJOURNMENT

The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at roughly 5:30 p.m.

/s/David J. Norman

Chairman

Date: November 15, 2023