

## PETE SUAZO UTAH ATHLETIC COMMISSION (PSUAC)

Tuesday, November 22, 2011

10:30 a.m.

Attending: Commissioners: Richard Montanez, Taylor Leavitt and Ty McCartney. Director: Bill Colbert and guests, Hal Coopersmith, Brian Coopersmith, Joey Montanez (Fight King), Kevin Patton (SteelFist) and Tyler Tomlinson.

Commissioner Montanez called the meeting to order.

Sign Per Diem Sheet

### Approval of Minutes

*Commissioner Leavitt made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

### Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

None

### Consideration of Request by Johannes Musa to be Allowed to Compete in Future Professional Boxing Bouts in Utah

Mr. Musa is not in attendance.

### Request to Overturn Contest Decision in Cris Rogers vs Corey Coopersmith Crown Fighting Championships (CFC) Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Bout Held on October 29, 2011 in St. George, UT

Bill has previously shared some media/video information with the commissioners. The fight ended with a TKO. Coopersmith's are requesting that fight be overturned based on allegation of illegal strikes to the back of the neck. Bill has a CFC video, web video and a photograph of the alleged injury immediately following the fight. The commission reviewed the videos and photographs. Bill talked to the referee who did admit that there were some illegal strikes.

*Commissioner McCartney made a motion to overturn the contest decision in the Cris Rogers vs Corey Coopersmith Crown Fighting to a disqualification.*

Commissioner Leavitt voiced some concerns about disqualification verses no contest. When referee, Tyler Tomlinson, arrived the video was viewed again.

*Commissioner McCartney amended his motion to overturn the contest from a disqualification to a no contest. Commissioner Leavitt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

## Final Rulemaking – Adoption of Proposed Rule Amendments

a. R359-1-301. Qualifications for Licensure. 1 - In trying to define amateur, the rule addition is that an amateur licensee cannot get a percentage of ticket sales as part of their compensation but they can get travel expenses per diem consistent with IRS guidelines. 2 - being able to use licensed contestants as referees and judges. The rule the commission put out for public comment would allow a referee or judge to be a licensed contestant or manager but they could not be affiliated with a gym or training facility which they have been involved with within the last twelve (12) months. Bill indicated that allowing this would be unique in the United States. Bill and Commissioner Montanez have received some verbal comments.

*Commissioner McCartney made a motion to adopt the amendment to rule R359-1-301. Commissioner Leavitt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

b. R359-1-501. Promoter's Responsibilities in Arranging a Contest. Bill struck out the attendance fee schedule in paragraph 12 (a). The statement that “broadcasting fees need to be paid within forty-five (45) days of the event” is a problem the commission has had before. Bill indicated the biggest change that affects contestants is under paragraph 11, “the promoter shall not delay or circumvent a timely processing of a claim submitted by a contestant injured during a contest or exhibition.” Bill has not received any public comments.

*Commissioner Leavitt made a motion to pass rule R359-1-505 - Promoter’s Responsibilities in Arranging a Contest. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

### Director’s report

The commission conducted a training course for its inspectors on Saturday, November 18. There was good attendance. The commission will be assigning lead inspectors to take some of the back room burden off the commissioner-in-charge and the director. The lead inspector or the recorder will check in the fighters, one inspector will check in the corners, immediately assign an inspector in each dressing room and one inspector, under the direction of the lead inspector, to float and help out wherever. Rich would like to work with promoters closer to make sure there are security personnel at each dressing room and have a cut-off time for second licensing and assignments the night of a fight. There will be more training offered.

It is likely there will be a formal Muay Thai event in early 2012. The commission will need to conduct training for inspectors and officials.

Promoters failing to provide adequate number/sizes of gloves for contestants remains an issue. Bill has received some complaints from contestants not wanting to wear sweaty gloves that other fighters have used. There should be gloves for every fighter sized at the weigh in. Amateur contestants need to be provided a minimum six (6) ounce gloves..

Bill reported the commission is making some adjustments to drug/alcohol testing procedures. The commission is now incorporating an integrated drug test cup. Bill also indicated there will be random drug testing after some bouts.

Bill said there are still issues with fighters showing up late. Rich requested this issue and its associated fees/fines be put on next month's agenda. Bill will find out what the standard is around the country.

#### Review Upcoming Events / Commission Assignments

Rich reported that there are two promoters the commission is really struggling with; Extreme Citizen and Josh Rios. These are new promoters that have had difficulty organizing fights, having extremely poor attendance despite advertising or late cancelation of the event. Rich is concerned these issues are hurting promoters around the state that are already established.

Cache Valley Clash (MMA) – Saturday, December 3, 2011 – Hyde Park, UT (tentative)

SteelFist (MMA) – Friday, December 9, 2011 – The Complex – Salt Lake City, UT

Total Mayhem (MMA) – Saturday, December 31, 2011 – Marriott Hotel – Ogden, UT

Fight King (MMA/Boxing) – Saturday, January 7, 2012 – The Rail Event Center – Salt Lake City, UT

Rocky Mountain Fight Championship (RMFC) (MMA) - Saturday, January 14, 2012 – Western Park Arena – Vernal, UT

WCFC (MMA) – Friday, January 20, 2012 – UCCU Center, Utah Valley University – Orem, UT

CCC Promotions (Boxing) – Saturday, January 21, 2012 – Eccles Center – Ogden, UT

SteelFist (MMA) – Friday, January 7, 2012 – The Complex – Salt Lake City, UT

Crown Fighting Championship (MMA) – Saturday, January 28, 2012 – Dixie Center – St. George, UT

SteelFist (MMA) – Friday, March 9, 2012 – The Complex – Salt Lake City, UT

#### Open Discussion – No Action to be Taken

Bill would like to discuss the compensation package for referees and referee assignments. The minimum fee for referees is \$100. There was much discussion. Bill will survey other commissions around the country to get information on official fee schedules. He also mentioned there would have to be a rule change to adjust the current fee schedule for officials.

There was some discussion about event organization and commission expectation being identified and satisfied prior to commission arrival time deadlines to avoid last minute change requests which causes promoter anxiousness.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 27, 2011

Closed meeting to discuss character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual and/ or litigation

*Commissioner McCartney made a motion to go into closed meeting. Commissioner Leavitt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*