

PETE SUAZO UTAH ATHLETIC COMMISSION (PSUAC)

Tuesday, April 26, 2011

10:30 a.m.

Attending: Commissioners: Richard Montanez, Taylor Leavitt and Ty McCartney (electronically participating.) Director: Bill Colbert and guests, John Incorvaia (contestant), Johnny Riche (WCFC), Dave Calderwood (judge) and Shane Traveler (WCFC.)

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

There was a question posed asking if there is a handbook for fighters. Commissioner Montanez replied that the statute, all rules, meeting agendas and meeting minutes are available on line.

Consideration of Approval for WCFC Elimination Tournament Rules

Time was turned over to Johnny Riche and Shane Traveler to present their proposed MMA tournament style WCFC championship fight structure. A total \$6,000 purse will be awarded to the winner of the tournament (\$1,000 per fight per winner.) This structure includes all weight classes, 16 fighters, equal number of out of state fighters as in state fighters and competitive records. The first round will include 8 fights, second round; 4 fights, third round; 2 fights and then the championship. Each round in the bracket will be a one five minute round, the winner would move on to fight later in the evening against another opponent for a five minute round. These would not be considered professional fights but exhibition fights. The fighter who would win the tournament would have fought four five minute rounds against four separate opponents. There will be a .5 (half point) judging system with four judges to eliminate the possibility of a tie. If there is a knockout, there will still be a suspension but it would not be reflected on a fighter's professional record. If a fighter wins a round but is injured, he cannot advance but his opponent will. They have also considered having two alternate contestants. The ringside physician will do post fight physicals after each round. The event is proposed for June 4, 2011 at the Rail Event Center. Bill commented that Isaiah Salazar has secured June 4 and any approvals are pending a change in his schedule. There was much discussion about the competency of judges. Bill requested a copy of the WCFC rules (unified rules) for the commission and each fighter.

Commissioner Leavitt made a motion to approve the June 4 WCFC event pending a change to Isaiah Salazar's June 4 scheduled event with a 10 point must system and special insurance and the rules/structure discussed in this meeting. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Final Rulemaking

- a. R359-1-511. Event Officials. This change takes out the event announcer as a designated event official and prohibits the event officials from consuming alcohol or illicit drugs. The announcer will be moved to a separate section.

Bill reports that all rule changes on this agenda have been out for a thirty (30) day public comment period and no public comments have been received.

Commissioner Leavitt made a motion to approve the changes to R359-1-511. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- a. R359-1-512. Announcer. This allows the promoter to select the event announcer, provides more detail on announcers and prohibits announcers from consuming alcohol or illicit drugs.

Commissioner Leavitt made a motion to approve the changes to R359-1-512. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. R359-1-515. Competing in an Unsanctioned Unarmed Combat Event. If a fighter participates in an unsanctioned event, they will be suspended for sixty (60) days in Utah and will have to resubmit all his blood work. There was much discussion and some non-commission concerns about this rule change. The ABC permits Indian nations to contract with commissions to sanction fights on tribal lands. The promoter would have to pay all the commission expenses.

Commissioner Leavitt made a motion to approve the changes to R359-1-515. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Protocol for Assignment of Event Officials

Bill outlined the following protocol as a suggestion for the commission. There were some public comments.

-The commission shall assign judges for events with an anticipated audience exceeding 500 attendees or include title bouts.

-The commission may also assign judges for other events at its discretion.

-Event officials proposed by the promoter are subject to the approval of the commission IAW R359-1-511 (1)(b).

Commissioner Montanez would also like to have two (2) pools of judges; experienced and not experienced. Bill said that could be done internally on the database. Bill also indicated that

eventually all judges should be ABC certified. The requirement for promoters to pay officials was put in place to help defray the costs of ABC judge certification. There was also much discussion of needing judges to be unbiased.

Commissioner McCartney made a motion to adopt the new Protocol for Assignment of Event Officials. Commissioner Leavitt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Protocol for Administrative Suspension of Non-Performing Contestants

Bill outlined the following protocol as a suggestion for the commission.

-Any contestant who has lost their last six (6) bouts by submission, technical knockout or knockout shall not be approved to compete in the State of Utah.

-Any contestant who has lost their last ten (10) bouts by decision, submission, technical knockout or knockout shall not be approved to compete in the State of Utah.

-Any contestant who has lost nine (9) of their last ten (10) bouts by submission, technical knockout or knockout shall not be approved to compete in the State of Utah.

-Any contestant who has lost thirteen (13) of their last fifteen (15) bouts by submission, technical decision or knockout shall not be approved to compete in the State of Utah.

There was much discussion of fighters not upholding their verbal contracts. Without a signed contract, the commission cannot suspend a fighter. If the promoter has a signed contract and the fighter backs out, the commission can suspend them for an undetermined period.

John Incorvaia spoke to the commission in defense of his losing record. John said he did not realize his losses would affect his ability to continue fighting. He indicated he has been fatigued before events from working and/or putting up a certain promoter's cage. He said he would not have agreed to fight certain opponents unless he knew he could win. John's current record is 0-15 but he is requesting the commission give him the opportunity of a fresh start.

Commissioner Leavitt made a motion to adopt the new Protocol for Administrative Suspension of Non-Performing Contestants with the change of the first bullet point from six (6) bouts to eight (8) bouts. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Penalty Schedule for Late Arrivals

Bill outlined the following protocol as a suggestion for the commission due to problems with contestant late arrivals.

-A contestant who arrives at the venue thirty (30) minutes late is subject to a \$25 fine or ten (10) percent of their purse, whichever is greater.

-Any contestant who arrives at the venue forty-five (45) minutes late is subject to a \$50 fine or twenty (20) percent of their purse, whichever is greater.

-Any contestant who arrives at the venue sixty (60) minutes late is subject to a \$75 fine or forty (40) percent of their purse, whichever is greater.

-Any contestant who arrives at the venue seventy-five (75) minutes late is subject to a \$100 fine or fifty (50) percent of their purse, whichever is greater.

-Any contestant who arrives at the venue ninety (90) minutes late is subject to a \$100 fine or fifty (50) percent of their purse, whichever is greater, and a sixty (60) day administrative suspension and cancelation of their bout.

Commissioner Montanez feels that the fight should be scratched at sixty (60) minutes late and the suspension and cancelation should be put into place at that time.

Commissioner McCartney made a motion to adopt the new protocol with Commissioner Montanez's suggested changes. Commissioner Leavitt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Closed Meeting to Discuss Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual and/or Litigation

None

Review Upcoming Events / Commission Assignments

Fight King (MMA) – Friday, April 29, 2011 – Legacy Event Center – Farmington, UT

Flash Academy (MMA/Boxing) – Saturday, May 14, 2011 – Carbon County Event Center – Price, UT

Total Mayhem (MMA) – Saturday, June 4, 2011 – The Gym – West Haven, UT. **Bill indicated this event will probably be rescheduled for Saturday, June 25, 2011.**

WCFC (MMA) – Saturday, June 4, 2011 – Rail Event Center – Salt Lake City, UT

Fight King (MMA) – Friday, June 10, 2011 – The Complex – Salt Lake City, UT

Crown Fighting Championship (MMA) – Saturday, June 18, 2011 – Dixie Center – St. George, UT

Bill indicated he has also received a deposit from Aaron Garcia for an event Saturday, June 4, 2011 in Payson, UT. His license has expired and his paperwork needs to be submitted.

Bill has received a deposit for a boxing event Friday, June 17, 2011. The promoter is negotiating final rates for the venue.

Director's Report

Bill is asking commissioners to confirm who is planning on attending the next ABC conference. The conference will be held July 30 through August 3, 2011 in Washington, D. C.

Bill reported that some promoters who have fight cards that are not finalized until the weigh-in or the day of the event who are purchasing contestant insurance through XSI do not have copies of insurance policies. There was some discussion. Bill will require promoters to have insurance policies at the weigh in.

Bill forwarded a GRAMA request to the GOED GRAMA officer for records from the Ultimate Women Challenge held September 24, 2010. The request was denied since the results are considered proprietary information at this time. The applicants have thirty (30) days to appeal the ruling.

Bill is concerned that some promoters are not disclosing their broadcast revenues IAW R359-1-501 (12)(b). There was some discussion including the possibility taking bonds to cover broadcast fees.

Official's training will be held July 30 through July 31, 2011. The conference agenda and discussions will be held August 1 through August 3, 2011.

Open Discussion – No Action to be Taken

Johnny Riche asked if there is an option to hold an event on the same day of two (2) or three (3) other events. Bill explained it is a commission issue and the commission does not have the necessary money/resources to support multiple events on the same day. The commission will do what they can to accommodate promoters.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.