

PETE SUAZO UTAH ATHLETIC COMMISSION (PSUAC)

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

10:30 a.m.

Attending: Commissioners: Richard Montanez, Taylor Leavitt, Leslie Reberg and Ty McCartney. Director: Bill Colbert and guests, Jennifer Howe (Elite Fight Night), Jeremy Horn (Elite Fight Night), Isaiah Salazar (Total Mayhem), Kirk Johnson (Total Mayhem), AJ Stidham (Ultimate Combat) and Mike Stidham (Ultimate Combat).

Commissioner Montanez called the meeting to order.

Sign Per Diem Sheet

Approval of Minutes

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

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Mike Stidham shared some concerns about R359-1-515. Competing in an Unsanctioned Unarmed Combat Event. After some discussion, Mike asked the commission to re-visit this rule so Utah fighters are not limited/punished.

Approval of Consent Agreement with Mike Stidham, Ultimate Combat Experience

Bill provided the commissioners with a settlement agreement and a commission order for review. Paragraph one requires Mr. Stidham to pay the commission \$630 pursuant to R359-1-501 (12) (b). The commission needs to indicate how many days Mr. Stidham has to make payment. Bill requested Mr. Stidham complete a license application and pay the licensing fee of \$125.

Commissioner Reberg made a motion to require payment within thirty (30) days and approve the order as written. Commissioner Leavitt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Request by Brad McRae to Compete in Future Unarmed Combat Events

Bill reported that Brad has won only one fight in the last fifteen (15) fights. He is currently not allowed to fight in Utah. Brad would like the opportunity to fight again and prove himself to the commission.

Commissioner Reberg made a motion to continue this agenda item until Brad McRae appears in person before the commission. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of ABC Unified Rules for Amateur Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Rules

Bill reported that the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) adopted unified rules for amateur mixed martial arts as written on the ABC website. Two divisions have been established; novice (first three (3) fights) - limits strikes on the ground (none to the face) and fighters need to use shin guards.

Adoption of ABC Unified Rules for Muay Thai Competition Rules

These rules would not allow Muay Thai fights in a cage. There was much discussion about the pros and cons of a ring vs. a cage.

Commissioner Reberg made a motion to continue the amateur mixed martial arts rules and Muay Thai rules (previous two agenda items) to the next commission meeting and to release them for public comment. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Protocol for Fines

Bill reported the following fine schedule for events that begin late: \$100 over (thirty) 30 minutes late, \$200 over one (1) hour late and \$300 over two (2) hours late and the fight is subject to cancellation. If the promoter fails to provide gloves for the contestants as required there is a \$100 fine, there is a \$100 fine for failure to provide cage/ring equipment and there is a \$100 fine for an event with less than five (5) bouts scheduled. There was some discussion.

Commissioner Reberg made a motion to continue the fine protocol to the next meeting giving all commissioners the ability to review it. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Amendment of Protocol for Club Events

Bill reported that because legislation increased the licensing and event fees effective July 1, 2011, there is no need for the social club event protocol.

Commissioner Reberg made a motion to eliminate the social club event protocol. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Protocol on Entering MMA Events into ABC MMA Registry

Bill reported that there is currently only one promoter that enters data into the MMA registry. Bill has been billing promoters if they are not entering their own event information into the registry. This protocol will require promoters to enter their event information at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the event weigh in. Bill will resend registry instructions to promoters.

Commissioner Reberg made a motion to adopt the protocol on promoters entering MMA events into the ABC MMA registry effective October 1, 2011. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Rulemaking – Request for Public Comments

- a. R359-1-501. Promoter's Responsibilities in Arranging a Contest. Bill took out the fee schedule and made some text changes.

Commissioner Reberg made a motion to release the proposed rulemaking for public comment. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

b. R359-1-301. Qualifications for Licensure. Bill received a public comment last month concerned that the commission was prohibiting fighters from being able to serve as a referee or judge. Bill addressed that concern and adjusted some commission concerns and made this change, "a licensed manager or contestant shall not referee or judge any event a contestant affiliated with a gym or training facility they have been involved with during the past twelve (12) months." Also, amateurs cannot sell tickets and keep a percentage of their ticket sales. There was much discussion.

Commissioner Reberg made a motion to release changes to R359-1-301 for public comment. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report

Bill gave an overview of the ABC Conference. The ABC released a comprehensive medical guide for ringside physicians. Bill will be contacting Utah ringside physicians with this information and put it on the website. There was also a ringside physician who spoke on low testosterone (Low T), which is uncommon for people in their 20's and early 30's (99 percent of the time it is due to use of steroids.) The next ABC conference is in Florida.

There was an illegal contest held in St. George last Friday using high school students. There was a request for public donations. The local police department was notified and shut the event down. A local gym's business license is in jeopardy and a citation issued.

Review Upcoming Events / Commission Assignments

Xtreme Citizen MMA (MMA) – Saturday, September 3, 2011 – Davis Conference Center – Layton, UT

Steel Fist (MMA) – Friday, September 9, 2011 – The Complex – Salt Lake City, UT

Rocky Mountain Fight Championship (RMFC) (MMA) - Saturday, September 9, 2011 – Western Park Arena – Vernal, UT

Moab Combat Sports (MMA) – Saturday, September 17, 2011 – South Town Gym – Moab, UT

Elite Fight Night (MMA) – Saturday, September 30, 2011 – XSI Sports Factory – Lehi, UT

Total Mayhem (MMA/Boxing) – Saturday, October 15, 2011 – The Gym – West Haven, UT

Crown Fighting Championship (MMA) – Saturday, October 29, 2011 – Dixie Center – St. George, UT

Open Discussion – No Action To Be Taken

Commissioner Montanez voiced the continued need for referee and judge training.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of September 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

Commissioner McCartney made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Reberg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.