

PETE SUAZO UTAH ATHLETIC COMMISSION (PSUAC)

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

10:30 a.m.

Attending: Commissioners: Richard Montanez, Taylor Leavitt and Ty McCartney. Director: Bill Colbert and guests, Jennifer Howe (Elite Fight Night), Kevin Patton (SteelFist) and Josh Rios (International Martial Arts (IMA)/Tsunami Productions).

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 Brad McRae to Compete in Future Unarmed Combat Events

Mr. McRae is not in attendance. No action taken.

Request to Consider Adoption of Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) Unified Rules for Amateur Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Competitions

Bill provided the commissioners with the ABC amateur rules along with agency comments and Utah comments; which were all negative on adopting the ABC amateur rules primarily because of shin guard requirements. The majority of the ABC committee that recommended these rules still feels safety is an issue but does allow kicking to the head. Because Utah rules do not allow kicking to the head, Bill does not feel it is necessary to require shin guards. The ABC requires six (6) ounce gloves and Utah rules only require four (4) ounce gloves. Finally, the ABC does not allow beverages and liquor to be sold in cans or bottles during an amateur event for safety of the spectators.

*Commissioner Leavitt made a motion to leave the Utah amateur rules as is with the addition of a six (6) ounce glove minimum. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

Request to Consider Adoption of ABC Unified Rules for Muay Thai Competitions

*Commissioner Leavitt made a motion to continue this agenda item to next month. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

### International Martial Arts (IMA) Promoter Application

Josh Rios is the owner of International Martial Arts (IMA) and Tsunami Productions in St. George, UT. Mr. Rios comes before the commission today and wishes to move in full compliance with the commission statute and rules and secure a promoter license under Tsunami Productions. Mr. Rios feels there is a big demand for MMA in southern Utah.

Bill reported IMA has begun the BCI process but he has not received a copy of the bond yet. Mr. Rios is also in the process of obtaining insurance and has character references in place. Bill has worked with Mr. Rios to educate him on what criteria needs to be met.

Bill asked for commission approval to continue as usual in approving this promoter and event. The commissioners concur.

### Director's Report

Bill reported there have been two reactive Hepatitis C results for potential contestants over the last two (2) weeks. Under Utah guidance the license application is rejected. One of those contestants is from Colorado. The Colorado commission does allow fighters with reactive Hepatitis C to compete. He has fought against at least one Utah contestant and has fought in Wyoming. The Colorado commission allows this contestant to fight in Colorado as long as he has a test within two (2) weeks of the event with a low viral load and is actively being treated for Hepatitis C. Bill said that ringside physicians recommend that if contestants are reactive they do not fight. Bill wants to personally review all blood work that comes through the commission.

Bill notified the commission that he will begin conducting random drug testing at the conclusion of bouts. If the contestant leaves the venue after he has been notified to provide a sample it will be considered a refusal and an automatic positive. The Colorado commission declares a no contest after a bout in the event of a positive drug test.

Bill had a discussion with the Colorado director about weigh-ins. Colorado only allows one weigh-in. Commissioner Montanez said that one weigh-in is the tradition around the country; if a contestant does not show up they do not fight. Colorado also practices an automatic 60 day suspension in the case of a knockout and a minimum 30 day suspension in the case of a TKO from strikes otherwise; it is a 10 day suspension. Commissioner Montanez would like to see the doctors making that call.

There was also much discussion on ringside physicians.

### Review Upcoming Events / Commission Assignments

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

SteelFist (MMA) – Friday, October 28, 2011 – The Complex – Salt Lake City, UT

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

Fight King (MMA/Boxing) – Friday, November 4, 2011 – Centro Civico Mexicano – Salt Lake City, UT

Xtreme Citizen MMA (MMA) – Friday, November 11, 2011 – Davis Conference Center - West Layton, UT

Showdown Fights (MMA) – Friday, November 18, 2011 – UCCU Center, Utah Valley University - Orem, UT

SteelFist (MMA) – Friday, December 9, 2011 – The Complex – 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

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

Jennifer Howe requested a discussion about the referee fee schedule. Commissioner Montanez wants referees to sign the commission ethics agreement. There is a minimum fee schedule set by the commission; however, an event official can negotiate a different fee ahead of time with the promoter.

There was some discussion about fouls and Bill recited the ABC rules on fouls.

#### Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

#### 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 a closed meeting. Commissioner Leavitt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*