

PETE SUAZO UTAH ATHLETIC COMMISSION (PSUAC)
Thursday, October 15, 2015

Attending: Commissioners: Taylor Leavitt, Leslie Reberg, Kevin Daniels and Mike Deaver (teleconferencing.) Director: Bill Colbert and guests Mike Crisman (contestant), Kaecy Raddon (contestant), Sean Powers (contestant), Angelo "AJ" Garcia (contestant), Scott Bowler (Promoter/Showdown), Jeremy Horn (Promoter/Elite Fight Night), Mike Green (Utah Attorney General's Office) and Mitchell Brooks (SRBH & R)

Commissioner Leavitt called the meeting to order.

Sign Per Diem Sheet

Recognition of Reappointment of Commissioner Kevin Daniels and Appointment of Mike Deaver

Bill Colbert wishes to recognize that Commissioner Kevin Daniels was been reappointed to the Commission and Mike Deaver was newly appointment to the Commission as a commissioner. Commissioner Leavitt recognized Commissioner Daniels' reappointment and welcomed Commissioner Deaver.

Election of Commission Chair

Commissioner Daniels nominated Taylor Leavitt to serve as the new Commission Chair. Commissioner Reberg seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made.

Commissioner Reberg made a motion to approve Taylor Leavitt as Chair by acclamation. Commissioner Daniels seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Reberg made a motion to approve the minutes of June 20, 2015. Commissioner Daniels seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Bill provided a budget report for the Commission. He stated that we are about a fourth of the way through the fiscal year and the budget is doing exceptionally well. Expenses are less than half of the allocated budget at this time.

Appeal (Rehearing) – Mike Crisman vs Christian Nava – March 21, 2015 MMA Bout Results

Bill stated that in the June 20, 2015 commission meeting, Mr. Crisman's appeal was denied but the commission gave him the opportunity to provide additional evidence. Mr. Crisman has submitted a photograph and additional video evidence. The video evidence was reviewed by the Commission in today's meeting. There was much discussion.

Commissioner Daniels made a motion based upon the evidence that is before the Commission and the administrative rules as currently codified that the Commission deny the motion of Mike Crisman to appeal his bout on March 21, 2015 to a “no contest.” Commissioner Leavitt seconded the motion. Motion was not passed.

Discussion of the motion continues among the commissioners.

Commissioner Deaver did not have the opportunity to review the video. Commissioner Reberg suggests e-mailing the video evidence to Commissioner Deaver for immediate review.

Commissioner Daniels made a motion to table the Mike Crisman vs. Christian Nava March 21, 2015 appeal until later in this meeting. Commissioner Reberg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

(Appeal revisited) – After Commissioner Deaver watched the video several times, it was difficult for him to tell if Mr. Crisman is a downed opponent or if his hand was on its way down.

Commissioner Daniels made a motion to deny the appeal of the Mike Crisman vs. Christian Nava March 21, 2015 appeal. Commissioner Leavitt seconded the motion. Commissioner Reberg opposed. Motion passed (3 – 1.)

Appeal – Kaecy Raddon Suspension Issued on August 22, 2015 for Unprofessional Conduct Post Fight

This is an appeal of a six (6) month suspension for unprofessional conduct. The commissioners reviewed video evidence of Mr. Raddon's bout August 22, 2015. Mr. Raddon thanked the Commission for the opportunity to be at this meeting. He shared his emotions as he prepares for his fights; he gets pumped up, aggressive and in a “zone.” He uses that to his advantage in his fights. Mr. Raddon admits to holding the choke on his opponent after the tapout and the referee making contact with him but has concerns about the referee's actions. He understands that it is the job of the referee to remove him from his opponent; however, he states that the video clearly shows the referee striking him in the side of the head twice; however, it is written testimony of the referee that he only “tapped” him. Mr. Raddon said he reacted by coming to his feet and turning toward the referee in a manner of inquiry of the head strikes but the referee took it as an aggressive act and pushed him down. Mr. Raddon stated he instantly stood up with his hands in the air. He is apologetic and states that he was not trying to act aggressively toward the referee. He is concerned about this incident, the referee's aggressive mannerism, the suspension and its term. Mr. Raddon is asking for a reduction of this suspension to three (3) months. There was much discussion.

Commissioner Leavitt was in attendance at Mr. Raddon's bout August 22, 2015. It is Commissioner Leavitt's perspective that not only did Mr. Raddon continue the choke of his opponent after the tapout for about a second and a half, but it appeared that he tightened his grip putting the health and safety of the fighter at risk. It is Commissioner Leavitt's conclusion that the referee was required to protect Mr. Raddon's opponent in any way he needed to and to get Mr. Raddon off of him. It is also Commissioner Leavitt's belief that Mr. Raddon then engaged the referee again in an aggressive manner.

Commissioner Daniels made a motion to deny any reduction in the August 22, 2015 suspension of Kaecy Raddon. Commissioner Reberg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Appeal – Sheena Chaney vs. Elizabeth “Betty” Anderson – August 29, 2015 Boxing Bout Results

Commissioners Leavitt and Daniels were in attendance at this fight. Bill explained that the referee stopped the bout two (2) times with a standing eight (8) count and there are no longer standing eight (8) counts in professional boxing. The standing eight (8) count rule was reviewed with the referee before the bout. Bill provided the commissioners with statements from both the manager, Stephen Dobbs and the referee, Ardian Cuka. Ms. Chaney would like the results of this bout changed to a “no contest.” Commissioner Daniels, at the very least, would like to see the referee receive and give proof of additional training before he referees another professional bout. Commissioner Leavitt agrees. Commissioner Daniels also indicated his support to use some of the Commission's budget to provide training for boxing referees. Commissioners Leavitt and Daniels agree that the eight (8) counts did not affect the outcome of the bout and, if anything, aided Ms. Chaney in her ability to continue to fight.

Commissioner Daniels made a motion to deny the appeal of the Sheena Chaney vs. Elizabeth “Betty” Anderson boxing bout results of August 29, 2015 in Wendover, Nevada. Commissioner Reberg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Appeal – Andrew Cruz – June 20, 2015 – Positive Test for Prohibited Substance

Bill reported that Mr. Cruz asked that this appeal be continued as he was unable to travel from Idaho to attend this meeting.

Commissioner Reberg made a motion to continue this appeal. Commissioner Daniels seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Appeal – Elizabeth “Betty” Anderson vs. Carissa Morton – September 19, 2015 Boxing Bout Results

Bill reported that Ms. Anderson is seeking to have her defeat to Carissa Morton on September 19, 2015 in Salt Lake City overturned. He explained that the ring announcer, who is not licensed or regulated by the Commission, erroneously read the bout results and declared Ms. Anderson the winner of the bout. Bill provided Ms. Anderson with the copies of the judges score cards and the bout sheet which were properly completed.

Commissioner Daniels made a motion based upon the official Commission score card and also a review of the individual judge score cards to deny the appeal. The official bout results should stand. Commissioner Reberg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Appeal – AJ Garcia – October 3, 2015 – Positive Test for Prohibited Substance

Commissioner Daniels would prefer that this discussion be addressed in a closed meeting because of the sensitive nature of this suspension and the nature of the substance. Mr. Garcia indicated that he did not mind having this matter reviewed and discussed outside of a closed meeting.

Bill reported that Mr. Garcia did not compete October 3, 2015. Because the bout was scheduled as a title fight, Mr. Garcia and his opponent were selected for drug testing before the fight. During the process of the drug testing, Mr. Garcia's opponent disclosed he had been taking a substance that was prohibited by the Commission. Because of the nature of the substance his opponent disclosed, the Commission immediately read his drug test confirming the positive result and conferred with the ringside physician. After the prohibited substance was visually identified in his opponent's drug test, the ringside physician would not clear him to compete. Since it was a scheduled title fight, Bill both urine samples evaluated and sent to the lab for confirmation. He received positive confirmation on both contestants. This is the second offense for Mr. Garcia and carries a one year suspension under the commission rules.

After Mr. Garcia was notified he had failed his drug test, he was surprised. Mr. Garcia testified he was not on any medications and his fight was canceled anyway. Mr. Garcia stated he has no knowledge about Suboxone. Mr. Garcia would at least like to have the suspension reduced since his fight was canceled. There was much discussion.

Commissioner Daniels made a motion to deny the appeal and any reduction in suspension based upon the positive test result of a prohibited substance and the substance level. Commissioner Leavitt seconded the motion. Commissioner Reberg opposed. Motion passed (3 – 1.)

Commissioner Daniels suggested a discussion regarding a policy of reduction in suspension for a lengthy period of time between positive drug testing results at the next Commission meeting. This suspension and others like it may be reduced if a policy can be agreed upon. Commissioner Daniels would like to have a Commission meeting in a month. Mr. Garcia asked how he should contact the Commission to see if a reduction in suspension is possible. Commissioner Daniels suggested he attend the next Commission meeting.

Review Upcoming Events / Commission Assignments

SteelFist (MMA) – Saturday, November 14, 2015 (21+ Show) – The Rail Event Center – Salt Lake City, UT

Flash Academy – FKF Boxing (Pro/Am Boxing) – Saturday, November 21, 2015 – The Complex – Salt Lake City, UT

The Clash MMA (MMA) – Saturday, December 18, 2015 – Eccles Ice Center – North Logan, UT

Elite Fight Night (MMA) – Friday, August 12, 2016 – Weber County Fairgrounds – Ogden, UT

Bill reported that the November Rocky Mountain Fight Championship was canceled this morning by Fight King. He also reported that there is a potential fight coming in November in Price promoted by South Valley Gym.

Bill has received a tentative SteelFist schedule for their 2016 events and is reviewing the request.

Director's Report

Bill reported that the Ringside Physician Conference in New Orleans did not focus on weight loss but on traumatic brain injury and trying to improve relationships between the ringside physicians and commissions. There are concerns that ringside physicians and commissions are not speaking together and are not coordinating with each other. Another concern was in doing more effective pre-fight physicals. Bill feels our pre-fight physicals are not thorough enough to detect some injuries. Ringside Physicians recommend a more thorough visual examination and putting athletes through different types of motions. There was some discussion. Next year, the Ringside Physician Conference will be held in Las Vegas in conjunction with the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) Annual Conference.

Commissioner Reberg posed the question of what happened to the physician advisory body. Bill said they lost interest. Mr. Bowler also commented that the person driving the company left and moved to Florida. Bill and Commissioner Reberg feel that we should reinvigorate that advisory body.

Bill reported Flash Newman canceled his event scheduled in Wendover on October 10, 2015 about sixteen (16) hours before the event was to begin. Bill is planning on issuing Flash a fine to cover Commission expenses due to the late cancelation. He sought feedback from the Commission. The commissioners support Bill using his discretion. Bill will be sending Flash a letter.

Bill reported that Golden Gloves is coming back a third time to Salt Lake City in May 2016 for the national championships at the Salt Palace. He mentioned that there is opportunity in the rules for the Commission to promote amateur boxing. Bill and Commissioner Deaver felt it might be appropriate to show support for our local amateur organization and be a part of the sponsorship. Bill asked that if the Commission wants to do a contribution that it be formalized for the agenda of the next meeting.

Bill reported that he will be retiring in 2016. GOED has approached Bill to digitize the PSUAC records, hence, part of the need for an assistant. He has asked the Commission to move forward with that in the next couple of months. Commissioner Daniels feels that Bill should conduct the interviews.

Bill's final item is rule making on recreational/performance enhancing drugs. He stated that the Commission rules do not differentiate THC or alcohol from steroids. There is a difference between recreational drugs and substances which endangers the athlete's health and/or potentially provides a strong competitive advantage. Bill is asking the Commission to consider an appropriate rule change to reflect the difference. Commissioner Daniels would like to see what some of the other members of the ABC are doing. Bill feels Utah is a fairly aggressive state. Commissioner Leavitt would like Mr. Green to look into whether it is permissible if the Commission were to approve a threshold that is higher than what State law provides. There was much discussion.

Public Comments – Open Discussin – No Action to be Taken

Mr. Horn has been told in the past that the only record of Commission meetings were the typed minutes. Bill informed him that the meeting recordings are not erased and that he has all of the recordings.

Adjourn

The next meeting will be held Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

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