

PETE SUAZO UTAH ATHELETIC COMMISSION (PSUAC)

Friday May 18th, 2018

**Attending Commissioners:** Taylor Leavitt (Commission Chair), Commissioner Bruce R. Baird in attendance with Commissioner Leslie Reberg via teleconference. Director Scott Bowler facilitated the call from the Bryce Canyon Conference Room #369. Also in attendance; Referee Bobby Wombacher, Judge Dan Furse and Contestant Francisco Alcantara.

Commission Chairman Leavitt called the meeting to order at 12:09pm at the Governor's Office of Economic Development in the "Bryce Canyon Conference Room."

**Sign Per Diem Sheet**

Director Bowler signed for Commissioners Leslie Reberg as she attended via teleconference.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

*Commission Chairman Taylor Leavitt made a motion to "Table" the approval of Meeting Minutes to the next meeting as a quorum of attendee's within the Commission was not available to vote.*

**Contestant Francisco Alcantara petition to be granted a License after 10 straight MMA & Boxing Losses:**

Director Bowler explained to the Commission members that in accordance with the "Non-Performing Contestant Protocol" adopted 4-26-2011 which reads;

*Protocol for Administrative Suspension of Non-Performing Contestants:*

- *Any contestant who has lost their last eight bouts by submission, technical knockout or knockout shall not be approved to compete in the State of Utah.*
- *Any contestant who has lost nine of their last ten 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 bouts by decision, submission, technical knockout or knockout shall not be approved to compete in the State of Utah.*
- *Any contestant who has lost thirteen of their last fifteen bouts by any means shall not be approved to compete in the State of Utah.*

Contestant Francisco Alcantara has lost his last 10 Mixed Martial Arts contests and 2 boxing contests dating back to 2012. Director Bowler went on to inform the Commission that many of these contest were against very talented and experienced fighters and many contests went to Judges Decisions. Francisco has been fighting a long time and has maintained a skill set that went with his level of experience.

Commission Chairman Taylor Leavitt asked to hear from Mr. Alcantara and he related that he was often times asked to "fight tough opponents at the last minute" but was able to keep the contest competitive. He asked that the Commission reinstate his license to compete on the Imperial Boxing show scheduled for 5-26-18. He also related that he has a new Boxing coach and was hoping to compete again Enrique Ojeida (0-1-0-1 Pro Boxing record). Director Bowler told the Commission that Enrique Ojeida was a reasonable opponent and he felt the contest would be "Not Easy, but a winnable fight for Mr. Alcantara".

*Commissioner Bruce Baird made a motion to reinstate of Mr. Alcantara's Contestant License on a provisional basis (including the contest with Enrique Ojeida) any change of opponent would be at the discretion of Director Bowler. Commissioner Leslie Reberg seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*

### Review of protocol change regarding head/spinal fouls:

Director Bowler opened the discussion by explaining that as directed from the 3-30-18 Commission Meeting he had completed an acknowledgement letter to be presented to each of the Referee's as they are assigned to future event that outlines the protocol change to include the following;

#### **Notice of policy to be enforced immediately by all referee's licensed by the PSUAC**

Effective immediately

In the event of a fighter receiving illegal strikes to the "Crown of the head or Spine" the referee shall call "time out" in the contest and send fighters to neutral corners.

If the strikes are severe enough to call for a time out, the referee is now instructed to take the time to assess the fighter who was fouled by asking questions.

- 1.) *Are you alright?*
- 2.) *Do you need the Doctor to check you out?*
- 3.) *Do you wish to continue?*

As per the current PSUAC Rules: If a fighter is fouled by blow that the referee deems illegal, the referee should stop the action and call for time. The referee may take the injured fighter to the ringside doctor and have the ringside doctor examine the fighter as to their ability to continue on in the contest. The ringside doctor has up to 5 minutes to make their determination. If the ringside doctor determines that the fighter can continue in the contest, the referee shall as soon as practical restart the fight. Unlike the low blow foul rule, the fighter does not have up to 5 minutes of time to use, at their discretion, and must continue the fight when instructed to by the referee.

(If the referee stops the contest and employs the use of the ringside doctor, the ringside physician's examinations shall not exceed 5 minutes. If 5 minutes is exceeded, the fight cannot be re-started and the contest must end.)

Director Bowler also related that this was in addition to the Administrative Rules already adhered to by the referee and did not change or supersede that standard in any way.

Commissioner Leslie Reberg made a motion to adopt this protocol immediately to ensure fighter safety. Commissioner Bruce Baird seconded the motion the motion passed unanimously without opposition.

### Review of Upcoming Events:

#### **May 2018**

Saturday – May 12, 2018 @7:00 PM, **Fortitude Fights**, The Beach @ Sand Hollow, 3351 S Sand Hollow Rd, Hurricane, UT 84737 – Fortitude Fights– MMA Event. **CANCELLED**

Friday – May 18, 2018 @7:00 PM, **SteelFist Fight Night 58**, **The Union Event Center**, 235 N 500 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84116 – **SteelFist** – MMA Event.

#### **June 2018**

Friday- June 1st, 2018 @ 8:00 PM, **FKF Productions**, The Complex, 536 W. 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84116 – FKF Productions – Boxing Event.

Saturday – June 2, 2018 @7:00 PM, **Mountain Force MMA**, **Golden Spike Event Center**, 1000 N 1200 W, Ogden UT 84404 – Mountain Force MMA – Pro/Am MMA Event.

Friday – June 29, 2018 @7:00 PM, **SteelFist Fight Night 59**, **The Union Event Center**, 235 N 500 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84116 – **SteelFist** – MMA Event.

### **July 2018**

Saturday – July 14, 2018 @6:00 PM, **FIERCE FC**, Carbon County Event Center, 310 S. Fairgrounds Rd. , Price UT 84501 – Fierce Fighting Championships – Pro/Am MMA Event.

**July 27 – August 1 NO EVENTS TO BE SCHEDULED – ABC -Association of Boxing Commission Annual Conference.**

### **August 2018**

Friday – August 3, 2018 @7:00 PM, **SteelFist Fight Night 60**, **The Union Event Center**, 235 N 500 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84116 – **SteelFist** – MMA Event.

Friday- August 10th, 2018 @ 7:00 PM, **Jeremy Horn’s Elite Fight Night**, **Weber County Fairgrounds Golden Spike Event Center** 1200 Bill Bailey Blvd, Ogden, UT 84404 –**EliteFightNight** – Pro/Am MMA

### **October 2018**

Friday – October 12, 2018 @7:00 PM, **SteelFist Fight Night 61**, **The Union Event Center**, 235 N 500 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84116 – **SteelFist** – MMA Event.

### **November 2018**

Friday – November 16, 2018 @7:00 PM, **SteelFist Fight Night 62**, **The Union Event Center**, 235 N 500 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84116 – **SteelFist** – MMA Event.

Friday – April 13, 2018 @7:00 PM, **SteelFist Fight Night 57**, **The Rail Event Center**, 235 N 500 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84116 – **SteelFist** – MMA Event.

### **Directors Report:**

Director Bowler provided the Commission with information regarding March budgetary forecast and related that PSUAC is still in good financial shape.

Director Bowler asked the Commission permission to bring in John McCarthy or Herb Dean to conduct a training session for Judges and Referees to update our training level. Commission Chairman Leavitt asked Mr. Bowler to conduct research into cost of conducting such a training class, and get back to them with findings.

Director Bowler then explained the new “Per Diem” process as directed by the State Finance department.

### **Public Comments:**

Judge Dan Furse asked the Commission to consider a change to the Fight Night Protocol which would require promoters to provide a barrier system that separates the ringside/cageside seating from the fans in the crowd. “Often times the crowd starts the event at a safe distance but as the night goes on they slowly get closer and closer.” “The Commission staff is often time encroached upon by hyper passionate or intoxicated fans.” Dan Furse Continued, “I have had fans literally right over my shoulder cheering for fighters and even attempting to see my score cards”.

The Commission then asked Director Bowler to prepare a formal protocol change to include a barrier system to include “use of tables or some sort of hard barrier” to divide the area cageside/ringside from the fans.

**Schedule Next meeting:**

It was agreed to set a tentative schedule of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month we will have a Commission Meeting. The next meeting scheduled for May 18th, 2018 at 12noon at the PSUAC/GOED Office.

**Adjourn:**

*Commissioner Taylor Leavitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bruce Baird seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without opposition. **Meeting Adjourned. 1:12 PM***