

PETE SUAZO UTAH ATHELETIC COMMISSION (PSUAC)

Monday June 21, 2019

Attending Commissioners: Taylor Leavitt (Commission Chair), Mike Deaver, Bruce Baird, Troy Walker, and Leslie Reberg via telephone. Director, Scott Bowler, Admin. Assistant Tracy Patiillo. Guests Eddie "Flash" Newman (Promotor FKF Promotions), Contestants, Zac Cavender, Tanner Hinds, Zack Partridge, Ignacio Chairez, Gabriel Chairez and Later via telephone Mikhail Lyubarsky. GOED Finance Director Kamron Dalton also attended.

Commission Chairman Leavitt called the meeting to order at 10:19pm

Sign Per Diem sheets for each Commissioner

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Bruce Baird made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Troy Walker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously without opposition.

Continuance of Zac Cavenders request for review of the fight ending sequence from 5-10-19 event.

Chairman Taylor Leavitt opened the discussion by stating that this matter was a continuance of the matter from the May 17, 2019 meeting in which Contestant Zac Cavender asked to PSUAC to review the fight ending sequence from the May 10th, 2019 LFA bout with Kenneth Seegrist.

The fight ending sequence began with Seegrist knocking Cavender to the canvas and referee Tyler Tomlinson stepping in to stop the contest. Upon stopping the contest, Cavender showed that he was not unconscious and willing to continue the fight. As per Association of Boxing Commission (ABC) and PSUAC standard, the contest, may not be restarted. Cavender attended the June 17, 2019 meeting to request the PSUAC Board change the bout result to a "No Contest" as he felt the stoppage was unjust. The matter was tabled at that meeting due to referee Tomlinson's work conflict and was unreachable for comment. Cavender return to the meeting today as Tomlinson was able to call in to answer the Boards questions.

Chairman Leavitt asked Tomlinson to describe the events that led to the decision to stop the contest. Tomlinson stated that during the bout Seegrist landed a "spinning back fist that caused Cavender to fall to the canvass and that the way he fell to the canvass without breaking his fall he felt that Cavender was unconscious and started in to stop the contest to protect Cavender from further harm. Upon stopping the bout it appeared that Cavender was not unconscious but in fact making a move to continue the bout. Tomlinson said, "Once I stopped the contest I noticed he was protesting and obviously not unconscious". "this does not change the fact that he appeared to not be able to intelligently defend himself", thus precipitating the stoppage of the bout. Commissioner Troy walker asked Tomlinson if he felt he should have stopped the bout at that time, to which he replied, at the time it looked as though he was "Out" so he felt it was his duty to protect the fighter according to the rules.

Commissioner Troy Walker made a motion to deny the request to overturn the result to a "no contest" on the basis that referee Tomlinson acted in the interest of fighter safety. Commissioner Leslie Reberg seconded the motion. Taylor Leavitt and Mike Deaver also agreed, while Bruce Baird alone opposed the motion. The motion passed by the majority vote.

Note Commissioner Bruce Baird asked to review, later, the possibility of implementing instant replay technology (when available) to possibly avoid such situations. Director Bowler informed him that this was an agenda item to be discussed at the ABC Conference at the end of July.

Contestant Tanner Hinds request for review of suspension from 04/26/2019 Steelfist 66 event.

Director Bowler informed the Board that on 04/26/2019 at the Steelfist 66 MMA event Tanner Hinds was selected for a drug screening in accordance with R359-1-506 and U.A.C. 63C-1-309. At which time he tested positive for a banned substance thus his license was suspended for 6 months, and directed to pay a fine of \$200. Director Bowler informed the Board that he had *not* disclosed the prescription drug “Xanax” on his Pre-fight Physical questionnaire, which was incorrect. Hinds had disclosed it, but Bowler mistakenly overlooked it on the form.

Contestant Tanner Hinds and Second Zack Partridge went on to inform the Board that obviously this was a prescribed medication and was in fact no was a performance enhancing supplement. Much discussion continued as to the possibility of that definition. Commissioner Bruce Baird did some research and had knowledge of this prescribed drug and related that such a drug was inherently dangerous to stop “cold turkey”. The medical community warns against stopping taking the drug without the “monitored supervision of the prescribing physician”.

Although this is a prescribed medication, it is ultimately the Contestants responsibility to understand what constitutes banned substances, and testing positive may result in sanctions.

Commissioner Bruce Baird made a motion to grant the appeal, based on this medication cannot be stopped the night of weigh-ins without medical supervision. Commissioner Leslie Reberg Seconded. Commissioner Troy Walker asked for a sub motion that the fine be dismissed, the suspension be reduced to 60 days but the result of the contest would still be a “No Contest” due to the presence of the banned substance. Chairman Taylor Leavitt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously without opposition.

Contestants Ignacio Chairez, Gabriel Chairez and Mykhail Lyubarsky request a review of suspension from the 06/07/2019 FKF Productions event.

Director Bowler informed the Board member that were not in attendance that on the night of 06/07/2019 at the FKF Production event at the 801 Event Center in Salt Lake City, The main event bout was scheduled between Contestant Ignacio Chairez and Myhail Lyubarsky. In the opening moments of the contest Lyubarsky clinched with Chairez and would not let go, even when instructed by referee Bobby Wombacher. Wombacher attempted to physically break them apart at which time punches were thrown by both boxers result in Wombacher being struck in the face, and sent to the canvass. The boxers separated and began to fight outside the scope of the Unified Boxing rules. Lyubarsky had Chairez in a headlock when Wombacher got back to his feet. Wombacher again attempted to break them up as they all hit the ground. Chairez was striking Lyubarsky on the ground when several members of the crowd stormed into the ring and began fighting. During the melee, the ring became unstable and collapsed in several spots Due to all of the additional weight. Inspectors and Wombacher restored some sense of order but the bout was stopped and ruled a “No Contest” as both boxers were disqualified.

One of the crowd members that entered the ring was Contestant Gabriel Chairez (Brother to Ignacio) who competed earlier in the night. Gabriel Chairez was observed by Director Bowler and the crowd, to enter the ring and strike Lyubarsky. This unprofessional conduct cannot be tolerated in boxing.

Director Bowler played a few videos of the incident to demonstrate the situation. Consequently, all three Contestants were suspended pending PSUAC review and their purses were held pending the outcome.

Contestant Ignacio Chairez stated that he was sorry for the incident and felt as though it was not in his character but acted out in the heat of the moment. Gabriel Chairez expressed the same sentiment and was willing to pay this price for his actions.

Promoter Eddie "Flash" Newman expressed great concern for the incident feeling that their actions have damaged his and his promotions reputation as well as hurt their ability to sell tickets in the future. He asked that the Board take action against the Contestants as to detour any future incidents.

Commissioner Troy Walker made a motion to suspend the fighters indefinitely; all three contestants would surrender their purse from the contest back to the promotion. All three contestants are to be held financially responsible for the cost of the repairs to the ring equally. Director Bowler is to follow up with Mr. Newman to determine the cost of the repair and help facilitate the collection of those funds to the promoter. If payments are made to the promoter and the ring is repaired, the suspensions would be reduced to no less than 90 days from the 06/07/2019 event date. Commissioner Bruce Baird seconded the motion. All other members agreed and the motion passed unanimously without opposition.

Review of Upcoming Events:

June 2019

Friday – June 28, 2019 @7:00 PM, **SteelFist Fight Night 68**, Union Event Center, 235 N 500 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84116 – SteelFist – MMA Event.

July 2019

ANNUAL ABC CONFERENCE Scottsdale, Arizona July 26 – 31st. NO EVENTS TO BE SCHEDULED

August 2019

Saturday – August 3, 2019 @7:00 PM, **Fierce Fighting Championships**, Legion Field, 411 Spruce St. Helper UT 84526– Fierce Fighting Championships– MMA Event.

Friday – August 9, 2019 @7:00 PM, **SteelFist Fight Night 69**, Union Event Center, 235 N 500 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84116 – SteelFist – MMA Event.

September 2019

Friday – September 13, 2019 @5:00 PM, **Legacy Fighting Alliance**, Maverik Center, 3200 Decker Lake Dr, West Valley City, UT 84119 – LFA – MMA Event.

October 2019

Saturday – October 19, 2019 @7:00 PM, **SteelFist Fight Night 70**, Union Event Center, 235 N 500 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84116 – SteelFist – MMA Event.

November 2019

Friday – November 22, 2019 @7:00 PM, **SteelFist Fight Night 71**, Union Event Center, 235 N 500 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84116 – SteelFist – MMA Event.

Director’s Report/ Financial Update

Director Bowler explained that the financial report issue to each of the Board members reflects the status year to date. We are well within our projected annual budget. Director Bowler also added that the Legacy Fighting Alliance had just booked a second date for September 13, 2019 but they may have a conflict with College Football for satellite trucks so the event may be moved to the September 6th at the Mavrick Center in West Valley City.

Public Comments – Open Discussion – No Action to be taken

No members of the public remained

Adjourn

Next meeting to be scheduled Friday July 19 2019 at 12pm at the GOED/PSUAC office 60 E, South Temple Third Floor Bryce Canyon Conference Room 369 Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Commissioner Troy Walker made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Taylor Leavitt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously at 2:05pm