

**Massachusetts State Athletic Commission
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

1000 Washington Street, Boston

PUBLIC MINUTES

Date: July 18, 2019

Location: Rm. 1D

Time: 11:00 AM

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

First Deputy Commissioner Ron Cogliano

Clinton Dick, Deputy General Counsel of
Enforcement

Commissioner Bryan Lambert

Matthew Keigan, Director of Licensing

Commissioner David Riccio

Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III

Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III

Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Commissioner Rod Walkey

Commissioner Paul Karger

GUESTS PRESENT:

Joe Leonard, Western Mass MMA

Alan Lau, SEAK and MMA Referee and Judge

Bryan Miner, SEAK and MMA Referee and Judge

Sam Silverman, Rondell Clark Foundation

A motion was made by Commissioner Riccio for Commissioner Lambert to act as Chair as Commissioner Walkey was not present, seconded by Commissioner Cogliano. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting called to order by Acting Chair Karger at 11:07 AM.

1. Roll call

Acting Chair, Commissioner Bryan Lambert

First Deputy Commissioner Ron Cogliano

Commissioner David Riccio

Clinton Dick, Deputy General Counsel of Enforcement

Matthew Keigan, Director of Licensing

Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator

Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer

Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer

Sam Silverman, Rondell Clark Foundation

Alan Lau, SEAK and MMA Referee and Judge

Bryan Miner, SEAK and MMA Referee and Judge

Joe Leonard, Western Mass MMA

2. Approval of Minutes from June 24, 2019

A motion was made by Commissioner Cogliano to approve the minutes from June 24, 2019, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

3. Approval of Medical Advisory Board Minutes from May 15, 2019

A motion was made by Commissioner Cogliano to approve the MAB minutes from May 15, 2019, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

4. Application for SEAK Judge and Referee – Joel Bekker

Via telephone, applicant Joel Bekker addressed the board seeking licensure as a SEAK Judge and Referee. Mr. Bekker detailed his experience and life-long passion for mixed martial arts and Muay Thai dating back to high school and college starting with wrestling. Mr. Bekker is currently licensed with New York and California and desires to extend his career to officiating in Massachusetts. Mr. Bekker has officiated over 200 bouts and hopes to become a member of the Massachusetts stable of officials. Mr. Bekker keeps himself educated with any rules changes and fighter safety issues as a supporter of the ABC.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cogliano to approve the SEAK Judge application, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cogliano to approve the SEAK Referee application, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

5. Application for Boxing Referee and SEAK Judge – Marcel Varela

Via telephone, applicant Marcel Varela addressed the board seeking licensure as a Boxing Referee and SEAK Judge. Mr. Varela detailed his experience in both disciplines and stated he has worked for various promotions in New York, Thailand and for GLORY Kickboxing. Mr. Varela is currently licensed in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York in Mixed Martial Arts and Boxing. Mr. Varela has officiated over 400 amateur bouts in boxing as well as the Olympic trials for USA Boxing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cogliano to approve the Boxing Referee application, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cogliano to approve the SEAK Judge application, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

6. Application for Mixed Martial Arts Promoter – Joseph Cavallaro

Applicant Joseph Cavallaro applied for licensure as a Mixed Martial Arts Promoter. Mr. Cavallaro ran a promotion some years ago and was previously licensed as a promoter in Massachusetts. Mr. Cavallaro stated that the UFC trained his staff in operations and feels his company is ready to begin promoting again naming recently licensed matchmaker Krystine Curtis as a key member of his team. Mr. Cavallaro was a former unarmed combatant and trained with many well-known and experienced members in the industry.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cogliano to approve the promoter application, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

7. Southeast Asian Kickboxing – Regulation Review

523 CMR 23.00: Southeast Asian Kickboxing was presented before the board to discuss adding rules for the four person contender tournament that promoters are currently adding to their shows through the variance process. SEAK and MMA Officials Bryan Miner and Alan Lau were present to provide their insight as they were involved in the drafting of the regulation. After discussion of the current rules, the board agreed that the rules need to be reviewed for accuracy as well as the addition of up-to-date practices within the industry. The rules will be discussed at the next regulation review sub-committee meeting.

7. Matters not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting

Sam Silverman of the Rondell Clark Foundation addressed the board inquiring on the time line for changes made to regulation concerning weight cutting within 523 CMR.

Clinton Dick, Deputy General Counsel of Enforcement detailed the process to Mr. Silverman stating that the sub-committee is presently reviewing the regulations. Once the review is complete, a red-line is drafted and presented for public hearing. At which time the public may comment publically or in writing their comments. After approval of the red-line, the final draft will be presented for approval. This process is timely but MSAC staff will keep the foundation informed of the process.

Commissioner Riccio made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Cogliano. Motion was passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:54PM.

Board Exhibits:

Draft Minutes for June 24, 2019

Draft MAB Minutes May 15, 2019

Application – Joel Bekker

Application – Marcel Varela

Application – Joseph Cavallaro

523 CMR 23.00 - SEAK