

**Massachusetts State Athletic Commission
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Medical Advisory Board**

1000 Washington Street, Boston

PUBLIC MINUTES

Date: March 27, 2019

Location: Rm. 1C

Time: 10:00 AM

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Dr. Peter Warinner, M.D.

Board Member Dr. Lou Durkin, M.D.

Board Member Dr. Edgar Ballenas, M.D.

Matthew Keigan, Executive Director of Licensing

Kevin Scanlon, Chief Legal Counsel

Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III

Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III

Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

Clinton Dick, Legal Counsel

GUESTS PRESENT:

Sam Silverman, President of the Rondell Clark Foundation

Steve Schuster, Co-Director of the Rondell Clark Foundation

Michael Polvere, licensed MMA Matchmaker

Via telephone, Tom Sconzo – Bare Knuckle Fighting

Via telephone, Bare Knuckle Fighting

Meeting called to order by Chair Dr. Warinner at 10:03 AM.

1. Roll call

Chair Dr. Peter Warinner, M.D.

Dr. Edgar Ballenas, M.D.

Dr. Lou Durkin, M.D.

Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III

Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III

Matthew Keigan, Executive Director of Licensing

Kevin Scanlon, Chief Legal Counsel

Clinton Dick, Legal Counsel

2. Approval of Minutes from February 20, 2019

Chair Dr. Warinner made a motion to approve the minutes from February 20, 2019, seconded Dr. Ballenas. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

3. 523 CMR Regulation Review

- Section 13.04
- Section 14.04

Matthew Keigan, Executive Director of Licensing asked the board to review sections 13.04 and 14.04 as the MSAC Sub-Committee is currently reviewing 523 CMR in its entirety. The Sub-Committee has requested the MAB's review on the following sections:

13.04: Pre-fight Weigh-in and Physical Examination

- (1) The Commission must personally weigh-in all unarmed combatants within 36 hours of a scheduled contest. The promoter shall schedule the site, date, and time for the weigh-in and physical examinations which shall be subject to the approval of the Commission. The unarmed combatant must have all weights stripped from their body before they are weighed in, but may wear shorts (and top for females).
- (2) An unarmed combatant who fails to make weight shall be given up to one hour after the weigh-in to lose a maximum of two pounds.
- (3) The Commission may permit a one pound allowance in the contract weight except in the case of a title fight.
- (4) The physician shall examine each unarmed combatant thoroughly before the contest, giving particular attention to the heart, lungs, pulse, blood pressure, eyes, and any indication of hernia. A special in-depth examination shall be made of any symptoms of ill health or physical impairment. The physician shall ask each unarmed combatant about any previous injuries or physical problems and shall note the information obtained on the record. The physician shall certify whether the unarmed combatant's physical condition is sufficient for them to engage in the scheduled match. If the unarmed combatant shows any signs of mental, optical, organic, or other deterioration, the physician shall advise the unarmed combatant of his or her findings and report the same to the Commission. Once so advised by the Commission physician, the unarmed combatant shall not participate in any exhibition until the Commission approves their resumption of unarmed combat.
- (5) If an unarmed combatant fails to appear for the required weigh-in and physical examination, the Commission may deem it sufficient cause for suspending the unarmed combatant's license. Further, if an unarmed combatant does not appear on time for a scheduled weigh in, he or she may be disciplined.
- (6) The Commission may require unarmed combatants to be weighed more than once for any cause deemed sufficient by the Commission.
- (7) A referee assigned to officiate at an event shall undergo a prefight physical examination by a ringside physician assigned to the event prior to the commencement of the first match. The physician shall examine the referee giving particular attention to the heart, lungs, pulse, blood pressure, and eyes. After the examination, the referee will only be allowed to officiate if cleared by the physician.

14.04: Time Required to Elapse Before Unarmed Combatant Competes in Successive Contest or Exhibition

(1) With respect to contests or exhibitions of unarmed combat, except for mixed martial arts, without the special permission of the Commission, an unarmed combatant may not compete unless:

- (a) Four days have elapsed since their last contest or exhibition if the contest or exhibition lasted not more than four rounds.
- (b) Seven days have elapsed since their last contest or exhibition if the contest or exhibition lasted five or six rounds.
- (c) 14 days have elapsed since their last contest or exhibition if the contest or exhibition lasted seven or eight rounds.
- (d) 21 days have elapsed since their last contest or exhibition if the contest or exhibition lasted nine or ten rounds.
- (e) 30 days have elapsed since their last contest or exhibition if the contest or exhibition lasted 11 or 12 rounds.

(2) With respect to mixed martial arts contests or exhibitions, without the special permission of the Commission, an unarmed combatant may not compete unless four days have elapsed for each round completed in their last competition.

Dr. Durkin stated within 13.04 (4) *any indication of hernia* need not be a part of this paragraph. Dr. Durkin commented that examining for a hernia is not a part of the pre-fight medical evaluation. The board agreed.

Dr. Ballenas suggested a standardized medical form be created and utilized for licensure. This item was previously tabled and will return to a future agenda.

4. Bare Knuckle Fighting

Via telephone, President of Bare Knuckle Fighting David Feldman and Tom Sconzo proposed the sport of Bare Knuckle Fighting to the board in hopes of bringing an event to Massachusetts in 2019. This item was presented to the State Athletic Commission board on March 18, 2019 and was requested to have MAB review.

Mr. Feldman presented statistics on injury and lacerations and expressed that the numbers were significantly lower than traditional boxing. Mr. Sconzo discussed hand wrapping as gloves are not worn, the rules, and the draw of fans to this exciting action packed sport. After discussion, Chair Dr. Warinner made a motion to recommend Bare Knuckle Fighting as a potential addition to the unarmed combat permitted in Massachusetts, seconded by Dr. Durkin. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

5. DRAFT Pre and Post Fight Medical Evaluation Form

The draft of the Pre and Post Fight Medical Evaluation Form and the board requested the following revisions be made and become effective immediately:

- 1. ADD: Weight cut Counseling
- 2. Spelling correction: Abdomen
- 3. ADD: Fighter Signature and Attestation
- 4. ADD: fighter's Name and Date to backside of form

Chair Dr. Warinner made a motion to accept the stated changes, seconded by Dr. Ballenas. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

The board requested that *Weight Cut Counseling* be added to the next agenda.

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

N/A

Chair Dr. Warinner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Durkin. Motion was passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:27 AM.

Board Exhibits:

-Board packet contents

Draft minutes – February 20, 2019

523 CMR Regulations, Sections 13.04 and 14.04

Informational Packet for Bare Knuckle Fighting

Draft – PRE POST Fight Medical Form