

**Massachusetts State Athletic Commission
1000 Washington Street, Boston**

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

PUBLIC MINUTES

Date: August 19, 2019

Location: Rm. 1D

Time: 11:00 AM

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Rod Walkey

First Deputy Commissioner Ron Cogliano

Commissioner Paul Karger

Clinton Dick, Deputy General Counsel of Enforcement

Commissioner David Riccio

Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Commissioner Bryan Lambert

GUESTS PRESENT:

Joe Leonard, Western Mass MMA

Fred Belletin, SEAK Promoter

Eric Grossman, Licensed Trainer

Michael Polvere, Licensed Matchmaker

Joe Giannetti

Keenan Alfred Raymond

Meeting called to order by Chair Walkey at 11:06 AM.

1. Roll call

Commissioner Paul Karger

Chair Rod Walkey

Commissioner David Riccio

Clinton Dick, Deputy General Counsel of Enforcement

Interim Executive Director Ron Cogliano

Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator

Joe Leonard, Western Mass MMA

Eric Grossman, Licensed Trainer

2. Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2019

A motion was made by Commissioner Karger to approve the minutes from July 18, 2019, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

3. Application for Boxing Time Keeper – Alexius Phoenix

Applicant Alexius Phoenix addressed the board via telephone detailing his vast experience in officiating Mixed Martial Arts, boxing, and SEAK bouts. Mr. Phoenix stated that he is currently licensed in Massachusetts in numerous capacities in all three disciplines regulated by the Commission. In addition, Mr. Phoenix is licensed in New York.

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

4. Variance Request from 523 CMR to hold Tournament Style Matches to Event – Fred Belletin for October 12, 2019

Fred Belletin requested a variance from 523 CMR to hold tournament style matches during his event on October 12, 2019 to be held in Melrose at the Memorial Hall. Mr. Belletin has been approved for this same variance on February 21, 2019. The variance would allow for two participants to compete more than one time in one evening. Mr. Belletin stated that four unarmed combatants would compete at the start of the night and the winners of each bout would compete against each other at the end of the night; approximately 2-3 hours later which would allow for re-hydration and rest. The Ringside Physicians would examine each participant before and after each bout they have competed in.

A motion was made by Commissioner Karger to grant the variance as requested with the understanding that the Ringside Physicians would perform the PRE and POST Medical Evaluations twice on the participants before and after each bout, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

5. Variance Request from 523 CMR to hold a SEAK and MMA Event – Michael Polvere for August 24, 2019 and September 7, 2019

Michael Polvere requested a variance from 523 CMR to have both MMA and SEAK as a combined show on August 24, 2019 and September 7, 2019 in Plymouth at the Memorial Hall. Mr. Polvere has recently been granted this variance on June 24, 2019.

23.02: Requirements for Ring

Mr. Polvere asked the board to allow the SEAK bouts to take place inside a cage rather than inside a ring.

A motion was made by Commissioner Karger to grant the variance, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

10.05: Minimum Number of Rounds for Program

Mr. Polvere asked the board to permit the 20 round minimum for this combined event as a whole rather than have the 28 round minimum for SEAK bouts in addition to a 20 round minimum for MMA bouts.

A motion was made by Commissioner Karger to grant the variance, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

23:08: *Protective Equipment*

Mr. Polvere asked the board to waive elbow pads for amateur unarmed combatants. Mr. Polvere stated that currently amateur MMA participants are not required to wear them and all kicking techniques that are performed are the same in both MMA and SEAK bouts.

A motion was made by Commissioner Karger to grant the variance, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

6. Request for Licensure – Alfred Keenan Raymond

Applicant Alfred Keenan Raymond addressed the board seeking the ability to license as a professional unarmed combatant. Mr. Raymond was given a hearing on December 11, 2018 for which he did not attend. His license was suspended for three months and he was assessed a fine. Mr. Raymond apologized for his actions. Matchmaker Michael Polvere was present to speak on Mr. Raymond's behalf. After further discussion regarding the events that led to the complaint, Commissioner Karger stated the importance of acting professional, coming prepared to participate, and being held accountable as it ensures fighter safety.

A motion was made by Commissioner Karger to grant the ability to license as a professional unarmed combatant, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

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

Joe Leonard of Western Mass MMA and also a Deputy Commissioner for the State Athletic Commission addressed the board with concerns regarding the lack of professionalism and poor behavior of an unarmed combatant at an event that Mr. Leonard served at on July 20, 2019. In addition Mr. Leonard stated that in his opinion, the events are under staffed and lack the number of Deputy Commissioners required to run an event efficiently. The board thanked Mr. Leonard for his time and would discuss his concerns with MSAC staff.

Commissioner Karger made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Board Exhibits:

Draft Minutes for July 18, 2019

Application – Alexius Phoenix

Written Request for Variance – Fred Belletin

- Approved Minutes from February 21, 2019 for reference

Written Request for Variance – Michael Polvere

- Approved Minutes from June 24, 2019 for reference

Written Request for Licensure – Alfred Keenan Raymond

- Hearing Decision, Docket No. C18-00035 for reference