

**Massachusetts State Athletic Commission
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

1000 Washington Street, Boston

PUBLIC MINUTES

Date: January 18, 2019

Location: Rm. 1C

Time: 11:00 AM

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Rod Walkey

Kevin Scanlon, Chief Legal Counsel

Commissioner Guy Licciardi

Matthew Keigan, Executive Director of Licensing

Commissioner Bryan Lambert

Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III

Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

GUESTS PRESENT:

Paul Hogan, Applicant

Sam Silverman, President of the Rondell Clark Foundation

Mike Scott, Co-Director of the Rondell Clark Foundation

Michael Morales, Associate Executive Director (SCA)

Dr. Edgar Ballenas, M.D., licensed Ringside Physician

Meeting called to order by Chair Rod Walkey at 11:05 AM.

1. Roll call

Commissioner Bryan Lambert

Chair Rod Walkey

Commissioner Guy Licciardi

Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

Kevin Scanlon, Chief Legal Counsel

Matthew Keigan, Executive Director of Licensing

Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III

2. Approval of Minutes from November 19, 2018

Commissioner Lambert made a motion to approve the minutes from November 19, 2018, seconded by Commissioner Licciardi. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

3. Application for Deputy Commissioner – Patrick E. Hogan

Applicant Patrick Hogan addressed the board stating that he would like to donate his time giving back to the community and by getting involved with state sanctioned activities, this would serve that desire. Mr. Hogan is a former athlete in the sport of hockey and continues to play sports. Commissioner Licciardi encouraged Mr. Hogan to apply and stated that he would be a strong addition to MSAC.

Commissioner Licciardi made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

4. Variance Request from 523 CMR, Section 14.04 – No Boundary Fights

Via telephone, licensed Matchmaker Mohamed Hadifi and licensed Promoter Fred Belletin both of No Boundary Fight League, requested a variance from 523 CMR, Section 14.04 for their January 19, 2019 event in Melrose. The variance would allow for two male unarmed combatants to compete more than one time in one evening. Mr. Hadifi detailed to the board that four unarmed combatants would compete at the start of the night and the winners would compete against one another at the end of the night. The Muay Thai tournament style would allow for plenty of rest and hydration between matches. This variance was granted previously with female participants on September 17, 2018. Mr. Hadifi also stated that the selected participants are all of the same weight class and all are actively competing. In addition Mr. Hadifi and the board agreed that the ringside physicians would evaluate the winners again competing at the end of the night pre and post-fight to ensure fighter safety.

Commissioner Lambert made a motion to grant the variance, seconded by Commissioner Licciardi. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

5. MSAC Staff

ABC Course for Officials/ Continuing Education

MSAC staff presented the board with examples of courses available to officials. The board requested MSAC staff continue to research what other Commissions require from their officials in regards to continuing education courses as well as reach out to our licensed officials to get their thoughts on continuing education.

Shadowing Requirement for New Officials

MSAC staff presented the board with emails from other commissions detailing their policies when approving officials. The board and staff discussed shadowing as a potential requirement for new applicants and how a shadowing program could work. The board asked staff to devise a shadowing program to be presented at the next meeting.

10-Point Program

MSAC staff presented an outline on the 10-point program. The board stated the issue of weight cutting is considered high priority. The 10-Point Program will be further reviewed during the regulation review process. The Board also wanted the Medical Advisory Board to review this program and make a recommendation to the Board.

6. Upcoming MSAC Event Schedule

The board reviewed the upcoming event schedule for January 2019.

7. 2019 MSAC Board Meetings

The board reviewed the upcoming scheduled board meetings; the schedule remained the same.

8. Regulation Review

Tabled.

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

Sam Silverman, President of the Rondell Clark Foundation and Mike Scott, Co-Director of the Rondell Clark Foundation were present and expressed their desire to promote the 10-Point Program to hopefully end severe weight cutting in the industry. Both guests asked that the board write the program into the regulations. Kevin Scanlon, Chief Legal Counsel explained the regulation process to the foundation members and stressed that it can take time.

At this time the board discussed creating a subcommittee to streamline the process of regulation review. Commissioner Lambert made a motion to appoint himself, and Commissioner Karger as members, and Chair Walkey as an alternate member, seconded by Commissioner Licciardi. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Board Exhibits:

- Board packet contents
- Draft minutes – November 19, 2018
- Application – Patrick E. Hogan
- Variance Request from No Boundary
- Examples of Officials Course Schedule
- 10-Point Program Information Sheet
- Upcoming MSAC events schedule
- Upcoming MSAC meeting schedule
- 523 CMR Regulations and minutes for the 2018 Listening Sessions