

# **Massachusetts State Athletic Commission**

## **MONTHLY BOARD MEETING 1000 Washington Street, Boston PUBLIC MINUTES**

Date: April 21, 2020

Location: Teleconference

Time: 11:00 AM

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rod Walkey, Chair  
Bryan Lambert, Commissioner  
Paul Karger, Commissioner  
David Riccio, Commissioner

### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Clinton Dick, General Counsel  
Wilfred St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III  
Jennifer Fraga, Program coordinator II

### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Scott Mellen, Applicant  
Alan Lau, Applicant  
Christopher Burke, Applicant  
Melissa Kelly, Applicant  
Michael Polvere, MMA and SEAK Matchmaker

**The meeting was called to order by Chair Walkey at 11:10 AM.**

### **1. Roll Call**

Rod Walkey, Chair  
Bryan Lambert, Commissioner  
Paul Karger, Commissioner  
David Riccio, Commissioner  
Scott Mellen  
Alan Lau  
Christopher Burke  
Melissa Kelly  
Michael Polvere  
Clinton Dick, General Counsel  
Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III  
Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

### **2. Approval of Minutes from January 13, 2020**

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

### **3. Approval of Minutes from January 21, 2020**

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

### **4. Application for Southeast Asian Kickboxing (SEAK) Judge – Scott Mellen**

Applicant Scott Mellen detailed his background in the unarmed combat industry as an MMA Judge over the last 10 years. Mr. Mellen is currently licensed in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New York. Mr. Mellen stated that his desire to become licensed as a SEAK Judge derives from the multiple hybrid MMA and SEAK events that have been occurring in Massachusetts this past year.

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

### **5. Application for Southeast Asian Kickboxing (SEAK) Timekeeper – Alan Lau**

### **6. Application for Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Timekeeper – Alan Lau**

*Items 5 and 6 were combined per the Chair*

Applicant Alan Lau applied for both the MMA Time Keeper license and SEAK Time Keeper license. Mr. Lau detailed his comprehensive background in Muay Thai as well as in Mixed Martial Arts as a referee, Judge, and Officials Instructor. Mr. Lau currently trains and officiates across the country and has been officiating in multiple roles in Massachusetts for the last 10 years.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lambert to approve both of the applications presented by Mr. Lau, seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

### **7. Application for Southeast Asian Kickboxing (SEAK) Judge – Christopher Burke**

Applicant Christopher Burke sought licensure as a SEAK Judge before the board expressing his passion for the unarmed combat industry. Mr. Burke stated that at one time, he served as a Deputy Commissioner for MSAC and since has studied under the ABC Officials Instructor Kevin MacDonald; becoming a licensed MMA Referee in Massachusetts. Mr. Burke came with recommendation from SEAK Officials Instructor Alan Lau to become licensed as a judge to accommodate the growing number of Muay Thai events.

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

### **8. Application for Boxing Referee – Melissa Kelly**

Applicant Melissa Kelly sought licensure as a Boxing Referee based on her vast experience at the amateur boxing level under the guidance of USA Boxing Officials Kevin Hope and Stephen Clarke. Ms. Kelly currently officiates in multiple roles in Massachusetts as a licensed Scorer, Boxing Judge, and Time keeper. Ms. Kelly presented a letter of recommendation by USA Boxing Chief of Officials Kevin Hope stating that she has officiated over 100 amateur bouts for the USA Olympic Qualifiers.

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

### **9. Variance Request – Michael Polvere**

The board addressed each variance request from 523 CMR as written by Michael Polvere. Mr. Polvere along with Promoter Michelle Polvere have requested the following variances but with consideration of the country's pandemic (COVID-19); the date of June 13, 2020 has been cancelled due to the ban on gatherings under the directive of the Governor and CDC. Mr. Polvere requests that the variances if approved, may apply to an upcoming event date within the year 2020.

These variances have been recently approved by the board within 2020.

#### **SEAK Matches in a Cage – 523 CMR, Section 23.02 Requirements for Ring**

Mr. Polvere asked to hold the SEAK bouts within the MMA cage. This variance request has been previously approved and occurred without issue.

#### **Combine Required Rounds – 523 CMR, Section 10.05 Minimum Number of Rounds for Program**

Mr. Polvere requested to schedule a minimum of 20 rounds total of combined SEAK and MMA rounds rather than schedule a minimum of 20 rounds for the MMA portion and a minimum of 28 rounds for the SEAK portion. This variance request has been previously approved and occurred without issue.

#### **Allow for 32 plus Participants - 523 CMR, Section 10.06 Maximum Number of Unarmed Combatants for Program**

Mr. Polvere requested to schedule more than 32 unarmed combatants as his past proposed fight cards contain a total of 23 fights; 46 participants. Mr. Polvere is looking to feature as many bouts as possible at his event. This variance request has been previously approved and occurred without issue.

#### **Allow for MMA Gloves – 523 CMR, Section 23.09 Gloves**

Mr. Polvere requested the use of MMA gloves for professional and amateur bouts as they can make for exciting and more competitive match ups resulting in bigger knock outs. Mr. Polvere stated that opponents would be asked in advance if they would like to use this style glove; both parties would need to agree. 523 CMR, Section 12.05 Requirements for Gloves would need to be followed no matter the glove type used in the SEAK bouts. This variance request has been previously approved but has not occurred.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lambert to approve the requested variances with the event date implied of June 13, 2020 with the understanding that Mr. Polvere will continue to be required to apply for these types of variances before each event, seconded by Commissioner Karger. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

After further discussion, the board chose to have the MSAC Sub-Committee meet to review the red-line draft of 523 CMR and to focus primarily on *Section 23.00: Southeast Asian Kickboxing*.

#### **10. 523 CMR Regulation Review**

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

#### **11. Matters not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting**

Michael Polvere asked if the red-line draft of 523 CMR would be available for viewing to the public. Clinton Dick, General Counsel stated that a public hearing will be set once the draft is complete. At that time, a draft will be available.

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

#### **Board Exhibits:**

Draft Minutes – January 13, 2020 and January 21, 2020

Scott Mellen – Application for SEAK Judge

Alan Lau – Applications for MMA/SEAK Timekeepers

Christopher Burke – Application for SEAK Judge

Melissa Kelly – Application for boxing Referee

Variance Request – Michael Polvere

Red-Line Draft 523 CMR