

**Massachusetts State Athletic Commission
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

1000 Washington Street, Boston MA 02118

PUBLIC MINUTES

Date: January 16, 2018

Location: Rm. 1D

Time: 3:30 PM

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Acting Chair Commissioner Charles Borstel	Natasha Belizaire, Executive Director of Licensing
Commissioner Patrick Bradley	Kevin Scanlon, Chief Legal Counsel
Commissioner Rod Walkey	Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III
	Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III
	Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Chair Matthew LeBretton

GUESTS PRESENT:

Michael Polvere, Mixed Martial Arts Matchmaker
Gregory Sacks, Writer from Tapology.com
David Tirelli. Applicant via telephone

Chair LeBretton was not present therefore a motion was made by Commissioner Walkey to have Commissioner Borstel act as chair, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting called to order by Acting Chair Charles Borstel at 3:44 PM

1. Roll call

Patrick Bradley, Commissioner
Rod Walkey, Commissioner
Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II
Natasha Belizaire, Executive Director of Licensing
Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III
Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III
Kevin Scanlon, Chief Legal Counsel
Acting Chair Charles Borstel, Commissioner Division of Professional Licensure

2. Application for Mixed Martial Arts Judge, David A. Tirelli

David Tirelli was present via telephone and detailed his experience in the mixed martial arts industry as a former fighter and as a trainer. He explained with great passion his love and respect for the sport as well as stated what he feels are the challenges of a mixed martial arts judge.

Mr. Tirelli currently holds numerous licenses to judge under other jurisdictions; which was confirmed by MSAC staff. A motion was made to accept and approve the judge application from David Tirelli, seconded by Commissioner Walkey. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

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

The Executive Director of Licensing Natasha Belizaire presented three issues before the board.

- Pregnancy tests performed on fight night
- Request for extension from the seven day licensure deadline from Michael Polvere
523 CMR 6.00 Licensing and Registration
- Request to increase official pay for UFC event on January 20, 2018

It was explained to the board that historically pregnancy tests (urine) were performed on fight night and reviewed by the ringside physician on staff. In making an effort to withdraw the MSAC Deputies from exposure to this practice of accompanying the female to perform this test, it was thought per the regulations to have the female fighter submit proof of a negative pregnancy test no more than one day prior to the match to MSAC staff. This procedure became a concern of Michael Polvere, licensed matchmaker explain the inconvenience for fighters traveling in to find a clinic and doctor to perform this test. The Chair of the Medical Advisory Board, Dr. Peter Warinner was consulted prior to the meeting via telephone and stated that he felt the present practice in performing this test on fight night was satisfactory to him. After further discussion, the board did not change the practice.

A request for an extension on fighter licensing was put forth by Michael Polvere asking to allow a fighter to forgo the seven day deadline in order to allow for more time to get her EKG exam completed; two to three days prior to fight night. The request was due to the significant cost of the EKG exam in her state. An EKG exam could be scheduled for her here in Massachusetts for much less. After discussion on whether or not this instance would satisfy “just cause” as stated in the regulations, it was agreed by the board that an extension would not be granted. A motion was made by Commissioner Bradley to deny the request, seconded by Commissioner Walkey. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

In addition to matters not reasonably anticipated; MSAC staff asked for an increase to official pay for the ringside doctors to allow for an additional \$500.00 each for two doctors to perform the pre-fight medical evaluations on fight day for the UFC participants. A motion was made by Commissioner Walkey to allow for this increase, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Walkey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 4:46pm