

# **Massachusetts State Athletic Commission**

## **COMMISSION MEETING 1000 Washington Street, Boston PUBLIC MINUTES**

Date: March 21, 2021

Location: Teleconference

Time: 11:00 AM

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Paul Karger, Chair  
Oded Carmi, Commissioner  
David Riccio, Commissioner  
Bryan Lambert, Commissioner  
Brian O'Connell, DPL Commissioner

### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Peter M. Kelley, Board Counsel  
Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III  
Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III  
Greer Spatz, Executive Director  
Paige Brenner, Program Coordinator I

**COMMISSION NOT PRESENT: None**

**The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Karger at 11:03 AM.**

#### **1. Roll Call**

Paul Karger, Chair  
Oded Carmi, Commissioner  
David Riccio, Commissioner  
Bryan Lambert, Commissioner  
Brian O'Connell, DPL Commissioner  
Peter M. Kelley, Board Counsel  
Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III  
Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III  
Greer Spatz, Executive Director  
Paige Brenner, Program Coordinator I

#### **2. Discussion of March 12, 2022 bout between McCracken and Lubenga Discussion of McCracken v. Lubenga.**

#### **3. Executive Session**

Commissioner Carmi Oded moved to exit open session and to enter executive session, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, ¶26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B to preserve the confidentiality of medical record information seconded by Commissioner Bryan Lambert. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote. Commissioner Lambert moved to exit executive session and to enter open session The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carmi. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Karger, Lambert, O'Connell, Riccio and Carmi all voted yay. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Continued discussion, March 12, 2022 bout: McCracken v. Lubenga**

Chairman Karger asked those in attendance if there were any comments.

Mr. Sam Silverman had previously asked to read a statement on behalf of the Rondel Clark Foundation (Exhibit A). Mr. Silverman read the statement aloud for all attendees, related to the deaths of Mr. Rondel Clark and Mr. Christian Lubenga.

Dr. Edgar Ballenas, a MSAC ringside doctor discussed adding certain blood tests and other measures to the current MSAC process for licensing. Chairman Karger, Commissioner Lambert, and staff indicated the comments would be taken under advisement

Chairman Karger asked if anyone had additional comments. Mr. Steve Schuster requested that the statement that had been read at the beginning of public comment be added to the record of the meeting. Mr. Peter Kelley, counsel for the Commission, following the Commission's unanimous consent to the entry of such record, indicated that the statement would be added as an exhibit to the minutes.

Mr. Michael Polvere from Cage Titans requested that the Commission provide as much information as possible and better communication regarding anything that the Commission might learn regarding Mr. Lubenga's death. Commissioner Karger indicated that the Commission is interested in the safety of the sport and will use whatever information it acquires to work with the fighting community. Commissioner Carmi indicated he would like to see more data and information before making any conclusions regarding best practice for safety in the sport.

Mr. Steve Rita, a referee, requested that more training be provided to referees to assist them in better determining fighter distress.

Mr. Silverman inquired who and which departments were reviewing regulation changes for MSAC regulation. Counsel Kelley indicated that the regulation review process is subject to many levels of review, which were identified. Mr. Silverman requested Mr. Kelley's email which Mr. Kelley provided.

Commissioner Lambert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Carmi seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Karger, Lambert, O'Connell, Riccio and Carmi all voted yay. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 P.M.

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Exhibits:

Ex. A: Statement from the Rondel Clark Foundation