

**Massachusetts State Athletic Commission
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

Springfield Technical Community College – 1 Armory Square, Springfield

PUBLIC MINUTES

Date: May 21, 2018

Location: Scibelli Hall (B2)

Time: 11:00 AM

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Rod Walkey

Commissioner Charles Borstel

Commissioner Bryan Lambert

Commissioner Paul Karger

Natasha Belizaire, Executive Director of Licensing

Kevin Scanlon, Chief Legal Counsel

Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III

Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III

Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Commissioner Patrick Bradley

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dr. Lou Durkin, M.D., Medical Advisory Board Member

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

Karyn Wesch, Licensed Mixed Martial Arts Promoter

Charles Murray, Applicant for Variance Request

James Perella, President of USA Boxing New England Chapter

Meeting called to order by Chair Rod Walkey at 11:08 AM.

1. Roll call

Rod Walkey, Chair

Charles Borstel, Commissioner Division of Professional Licensure

Bryan Lambert, Commissioner

Paul Karger, Commissioner

Kevin Scanlon, Chief Legal Counsel

Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III

Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III

Natasha Belizaire, Executive Director of Licensing

2. Approval of minutes from March 23, 2018

A motion was made by Commissioner Borstel to approve the minutes from March 23, 2018, seconded by Commissioner Karger. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

3. Applications for Promoter & Matchmaker – Charles Shearns

Applicant Charles Shearns addressed the board and detailed his experience in the boxing industry as a former fighter and promoter in the State of New Hampshire. Mr. Shearns expressed his passion for the sport and his concern for fighter safety. In addition, Mr. Shearns detailed his past experience in promoting events with licensed promoters Vincent Traietti and Jose Rivera. The application for promoter was incomplete as it was missing the bond. A motion was made by Commissioner Borstel to approve the application pending the bond, seconded by Commissioner Karger. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Shearns then addressed the board detailing his experience as a matchmaker in the boxing industry stating that he has matched up to 10 shows. Mr. Shearns stated that he tries to match competitive bouts and tries to avoid putting too much stock in anyone specific fighter with always keeping fighter safety at the forefront. A motion was made by Commissioner Karger to approve the application for matchmaker, seconded by Commissioner Borstel. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Per the Chair, MSAC staff should review the process of approving promoter and matchmaker applications.

4. Request from Charles Murray (State Police Boxing Team)

Charles Murray, Director of the State Police Boxing Team addressed the board in request for variance from 523 CMR to hold an amateur boxing event on June 8, 2018. Mr. Murray stated that the event was a charity event to benefit a fallen officer and that they were looking for flexibility in matchmaking specifically in the weight classes. Mr. Murray proposed that all participants would wear headgear and 16oz gloves. The event would have Advanced Life Support presence, a state trooper detail, doctors, as well as general liability insurance and licensed seconds.

Mr. Murray stated that he did not want to sanction under USA Boxing due to the cost of fees to run through them. James Perella, President of USA Boxing New England Chapter was present and stated that he would work with Mr. Murray to have this event.

After guidance from Kevin Scanlon, Chief Legal Counsel referencing G.L 146 §46 *Special Permits*, the board decided that Mr. Murray may return before the board prior to the event and detail exactly which rules he seeks a variance from as his request was vague. The next opportunity to meet would be May 25, 2018 following the previously scheduled listening session. Mr. Murray agreed to return with the information.

5. Draft policy on “Just Cause” (523 CMR 10.11) – procedure for approval

Natasha Belizaire, Executive Director of Licensing made the recommendation that when a promoter requests an extension of deadlines under “Just Cause” that their submission be in writing and then reviewed and decided upon by the Director and a Commissioner. Kevin Scanlon, Chief Legal Counsel advised the board that a policy can be put in place to address the ongoing requests and then revised at any time. A motion was made by Commissioner Borstel to approve the policy, seconded by Commissioner Karger. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

6. Deputy Commissioner Training

Natasha Belizaire, Executive Director of Licensing proposed a draft training packet to train and re-train the Deputy Commissioners. The proposed date for this training would be Saturday, July 21, 2018 at the Milford location. A motion was made by Commissioner Karger to approve the training packet and training session, seconded by Commissioner Borstel. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

7. Pre-Fight Physical/Ring-side Physicians Fees

Natasha Belizaire, Executive Director of Licensing detailed the current approved fee schedule for the ringside physicians as it pertains to working the events and weigh-ins. Due to the fee schedule of \$500.00 per event; it has been voiced by promoters that paying an additional \$500.00 for weigh-ins causes an increased financial burden. Therefore a 60/40 split of the doctors' fees has been proposed. Dr. Lou Durkin, M.D., Medical Advisory Board Member addressed the board by agreeing with the proposed split between the 2 ringside physicians that would be scheduled for each event in the spirit of fighter safety as it has been previously decided upon that the pre-fight medical evaluations be performed on the day of the weigh-in. By performing them the day before the fight, any conditions that could be of risk to the unarmed combatant could be addressed. In addition the proposed 60/40 split of doctors' fees would lessen the financial burden on the promoters. A motion was made Commissioner Karger to approve the proposed fee schedule, seconded by Commissioner Borstel. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

8. Upcoming MSAC event schedule/Listening Session

The Listening Session would begin following the close of this board meeting.

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

N/A

10. Closed Session pursuant to G.L. c. 112 §65C

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM for the closed session and reconvened at 12:50 PM. A motion was made by Commissioner Karger to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Borstel. Motion was passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.

Meeting Exhibits:

Draft minutes, March 23, 2018

Boxing Promoter and Matchmaker application from Charles Shearns

Draft policy on "Just Cause" procedure outline

Variance request and information packet (State Police Boxing Team)

Draft Deputy Commissioner Training packet