



MAURA HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIM DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

YVONNE HAO
SECRETARY, EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Occupational Licensure
Office of Public Safety and Inspections**

1000 Washington Street, Suite 710
Boston, Massachusetts 02118

LAYLA R. D'EMILIA
UNDERSECRETARY, CONSUMER
AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS
REGULATION

SARAH R. WILKINSON
COMMISSIONER, DIVISION OF
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

**Minutes
Massachusetts State Athletic Commission
Video Conference Call Meeting**

June 6, 2024, 1:30 PM

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 PM by the Executive Director before being turned over to the Chair.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners:

Bryan Lambert, Chair
Oded Carmi
Thomas Lacey
Brett Miller
John Navien

Staff:

Chris Rogers
Jamie Dalton
Andrew Bridges
Paige Brenner
Sean Pierce

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Brett Miller made a **motion** to approve the meeting minutes from February 15, 2024. Oded Carmi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brett Miller made a **motion** to approve the meeting minutes from April 24, 2024. Thomas Lacey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brett Miller made a **motion** to approve the meeting minutes from May 8, 2024. Thomas Lacey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



3. Executive Director Report

a. Boxer Fund

The balance of the Boxer's Fund as of May 31, 2024, was \$282,541.41, and there are no pending Boxer's Fund applications.

b. Medical Advisory Board

The Medical Advisory Board met in May and proposed changes to the pay structure for MSAC-sanctioned events. The recommendation by the Medical Advisory Board is to change the weigh-in fee to \$500 from \$250 and the fee for working the fight to \$750 from \$625.

c. Deputy Training

Staff are working on the logistics of holding a Deputy Training in the coming months, and the Executive Director will update the Commission next month on planning for that.

4. Board Counsel Report

Board Counsel advised the Commission that in light of repeated requests for variances for a new event format, the Commission might want to consider proposing additional revisions to its regulations, so that this and any other new formats can be addressed by design in the text of regulations, rather than requiring recurring variances to be requested.

Oded Carmi made a **motion** to request the regulations be sent back to the MSAC for review and revision. Brett Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. USA Boxing Monthly Report

Alex Sepulveda, President of USA Boxing New England Chapter, presented the USA Boxing monthly newsletter. Mr. Sepulveda informed the Commission of the USA Boxing events that occurred in the previous month. He also noted there will be a USA Boxing meeting on June 30, 2024, that the Commissioners are welcome to attend.

6. Discussion

a. Applications

i. Review of Boxing and Muay Thai Judge's Application for Steve Rita

After a discussion of Mr. Rita's application, the Commission determined that Mr. Rita will shadow one Boxing event and one Muay Thai event prior to voting on his application.

Brett Miller left the meeting at this time and did not participate further.

ii. Review of MMA Judge's Application for David Trelli

After a discussion of Mr. Trelli's application, John Navien made a **motion** to approve the MMA Judge's Application. Thomas Lacey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

iii. Review of Deputy Commissioner Application for Tyler Lee

Mr. Lee was present during the meeting. After a discussion of Mr. Lee's application, Oded Carmi made a **motion** to deputize Mr. Lee as a Deputy

Commissioner for the Massachusetts State Athletic Commission. John Navien seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- iv. Review of MMA Manager's application for Kara Meade
Ms. Meade was present during the meeting. After discussion, her application was tabled for a future meeting.
- v. Review of Ringside Physician Application for Steven Bbuye
Mr. Bbuye was present during the meeting. After a discussion of Mr. Bbuye's application, the Commission determined that Mr. Bbuye will shadow two events, for both the weigh in and contests, before voting on his application.
- vi. Review of Boxing Judge's Application for Michael Zullo
Mr. Zullo was present during the meeting. After a discussion of Mr. Zullo's application, John Navien made a **motion** to approve the Boxing Judge's Application. Thomas Lacey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Classic Entertainment and Sports ("CES") requests for variance for Team Combat League ("TCL")

Jimmy Burchfield and Pat Sullivan from CES/TCL were present during the meeting. TCL submitted variance requests similar to those recently granted to CES, for two events to be held on the same night. TCL had proposed the event date of July 17, 2024; however, as staff had already communicated prior to the public meeting, DOL was unable to accommodate July 17 date. The Commission decided to hear this variance request with the date of the events to be determined later.

The Commission discussed with TCL granting the same set of variances again, which include the following variances from 523 CMR:

- 1. 5.01 - to report medical and safety results to BoxRec, but not have the match result be part of a contestant's official record;
- 2. 10:05 - for single-round bouts;
- 3. 10.06 - for a maximum number of 40 combatants;
- 4. 14.04 - for certain contestants to fight an additional one-round bout during the same event;
- 5. 14.10 - for 3-minute rounds; and
- 6. 15.01 - for the following scoring: 10-9 for a decision; 10-8 if fighter gets knocked down twice (fight is called then); and 10-7 for a knockout/TKO/doctor stoppage.

The Commission added the conditions that these variances would be granted for 60 days from June 6, 2024, and that TCL also follow the Commission's directions for maintaining safety in connection with interactions between the contestants from the public audience.

TCL must also ensure that all other regulations, including but not limited to 523 CMR 10.11 regarding submission of the fight card, and 13.04 and 13.05 regarding pre- and post-fight physicals for each contestant for each bout, are followed.

The Commission, staff, and the CES discussed the operational challenges of holding two events on the same night at the same venue, and CES confirmed that Commission's view that fighter safety must be paramount.

Oded Carmi made a **motion** to approve the variance requests with the two added conditions, as described above. John Navien seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 in favor, 1 opposed. Thomas Lacey opposed the motion.

No vote was taken regarding logistics or the timing of the event.

c. Shadowing

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

7. Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting

Artie DePinho informed the Commission he had submitted complaints staff informed Mr. DePinho we would be in contact with him.

Thomas Lacey made a **motion** to move to closed session and to then adjourn the meeting from closed session. Oded Carmi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

8. **Quasi-Judicial Session** – CLOSED per M.G.L. c. 30A, §, 18.(d)

The meeting adjourned at 4:11 PM