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### Minutes

**MASSACHUSETTS STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION  
1 ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON, DPS CONFERENCE ROOM 1301  
October 8, 2015, 11:00PM**

#### 1. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 11:25pm by acting Chair Gary Litchfield followed by roll call:

#### Board Members Present

Gary Litchfield  
Guy Licciardi  
Quion T. Riley

#### Board Members Absent

LaTeisha Adams  
Joseph Krowski Jr.

#### Guests Present

Jen Cobis, DPS Office Support Specialist  
Deirdre Hosler, DPS Deputy General Counsel  
Chris Traietti, Professional Boxer  
Mark Vaz, Professional Boxing Matchmaker  
Steve Rita, Massachusetts Mixed Martial Arts Referee and Judge  
Kevin MacDonald, Massachusetts Mixed Martial Arts Referee  
David Ginsberg, Massachusetts Mixed Martial Arts Judge  
Richie LaMontagne, Professional Boxer

## 2. Listening Session

Chris Traietti, Professional Boxer – Chris Traietti stated the 30-day medical rule will affect the livelihood of boxing in Massachusetts. The smaller shows with limited budgets cannot afford the medical expenses for the fighters to obtain brand new medicals within 30 days of the application. He also stated the burden of these costs has fallen to the Promoters. With such expense, fewer shows will come to Massachusetts. Mr. Traietti proposed a 1-night fighter license that is also used amongst the majority of the New England States with medicals performed within 1 year.

Mark Vaz, Professional Boxing Matchmaker – Mark Vaz stated the financial burden has fallen on the Promoter whether the show is on a larger scale or not. The greater picture is that without the smaller budgeted shows, there will be no platform for the fighters to participate on a large show. The 30-day medical requirements are in direct conflict with the other New England States. Due to lack of health insurance and or funds, the number of fighters licensed will decrease in Massachusetts. Mr. Vaz also stated that the 30-day medical rule abolished boxing in the past and it will do it again.

Mr. Vaz suggested that the Commission return to licensing seconds at the weigh-in. With out-of-town fighters and camps, having the licensing be accessible to them would be more practical because corner men are sometimes a last minute involvement.

Mr. Vaz concluded with his thoughts on streamlining our present fighter applications as he feels they are redundant in questions regarding a fighter's debut status.

Steve Rita, Massachusetts Mixed Martial Arts Referee and Judge – Steve Rita stated that the mixed martial arts referees should have a specific amount of shadowed matches before given a license to referee officially. Mr. Rita suggested that the Board create a more stringent evaluation process in order to become a licensed official.

Kevin MacDonald, Massachusetts Mixed Martial Arts Referee – Kevin MacDonald stated his concern regarding our present rule set for mixed martial arts referees. Mr. MacDonald requested that the rule stating the downed opponent must be facing up in order for the standing opponent to kick down be abolished as it is in direct conflict with the other Commissions. The suggestion was made to either allow heel hooks or no twisting leg locks and or no submissions below the knee.

Mr. MacDonald requested that the Board review our evaluation process for approving mixed martial arts referees; as he felt our referees are not receiving enough shadow training before license approval and our newly licensed referees are not receiving enough ring experience.

Chair Litchfield paused the Listening Session to begin the regular meeting.

Deirdre Hosler, DPS Deputy General Counsel noted for the record that the Advisory regarding the Board's re-commitment to the 30-day medical rule for fighter licensing has not yet been prepared; that it would be suggested to hold off on posting the Advisory due to industry complaints and recommendations.

## 3. Approval of Minutes from August 12, 2015

A motion was made by Commissioner Licciardi to approve the minutes from August 12, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Riley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote. Chair Litchfield abstained.

4. Approval of Minutes from September 3, 2015

A motion was made by Commissioner Riley to approve the minutes from September 3, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Licciardi. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

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

Professional Boxer, Richie Lamontagne came before the Board to seek approval for a professional fighter's license. Due to his age and his last professional fight in the ring in 2005, he was asked to submit all the required medicals before the Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Licciardi to put forth the medicals for review before the Medical Advisory Board, pending their review; the application would be conditionally approved, seconded by Commissioner Riley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

6. Listening Session continued

Chair Litchfield re-opened the Listening Session.

David Ginsberg, Massachusetts Mixed Martial Arts Judge – David Ginsberg stated mixed martial arts judge applicants should be required to complete a judge's course/certification to include a minimum of 6 events of shadowing over the course of 1 year.

Mr. Ginsberg suggested the following regarding the rule set of mixed martial arts; specifically to the following:

Illegal move/ the referee should impose a brief time period of 60 seconds to ensure the illegal blow did not concuss the fighter. An illegal blow to the head should be recognized by the referee with an automatic time out. Mr. Ginsberg expressed great concern for the fighters who may have sustained a concussion that was missed during the match as a result of an illegal blow/move/kick to the head.

Intentional malicious move/ the referee should be encouraged to disqualify or deduct 2 points from the fighter who performed an intentional malicious move. Mr. Ginsberg suggested as to not reward a cheating a fighter; the fighters should be placed back in the position as awkward as it may be and re-start.

Grabbing the fence/ the referee should deduct a point from a fighter that grabs the fence that prevents a takedown or submission.

Lastly, Mr. Ginsberg also suggested that there be some protocol for standing fighters up. The referee should warn them not state they should advance your position. It's a strategy to advance; proper direction from the referee would be to demand more action.

Chair Litchfield closed the Listening Session.

7. Celebrity Boxing Show

A motion was made by Commissioner Licciardi to deny the event application however the board would be open to review a proposed bout card, a script that does not include former professional boxers, and boxing only; seconded by Commissioner Riley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

8. USA Boxing New England Sanction Fees

A motion was made by Commissioner Licciardi to table the review of the USA Boxing New England Sanction Fees until the next meeting as well as request the presence either physical or via telephone by a representative from USA Boxing New England; seconded by Commissioner Riley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

9. 523 CMR Review

Deirdre Hosler, DPS Deputy General Counsel explains the 562 review deadline for the MSAC regulation review. The Board will begin its review during the November meeting with the objective to vote on a final version during the December meeting. A red-line copy will be distributed in November.

10. Matters not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting continued

Steven Maguire, Professional Boxing Judge Application

A motion was made by Commissioner Licciardi to table the application until further information is provided on his experience and quantity of bouts judged for USA Boxing; seconded by Commissioner Riley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Steven Weisfeld, Professional Boxing Judge Application

A motion was made by Commissioner Licciardi to approve Steven Weisfeld's Judge Application; seconded by Commissioner Riley. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

11. Adjourn

This meeting adjourned at 1:33pm.

List of Documents/Exhibits used at this Meeting

Email correspondence from Mark Vaz for Listening Session

Draft of Minutes, August 12, 2015

Draft of Minutes, September 3, 2015

USA Boxing New England Sanction Fees page from official website

Professional Fighter Application, Richie LaMontagne

Steven Maguire, Professional Boxing Judge Application

Steven Wesifeld, Professional Boxing Judge Application

Damon Feldman, Celebrity Boxing Event Application and email correspondence