

**Massachusetts State Athletic Commission
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

1000 Washington Street, Boston

PUBLIC MINUTES

Date: November 19, 2018

Location: Rm. 1D

Time: 11:00 AM

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Rod Walkey
Commissioner Paul Karger
Commissioner Bryan Lambert

Natasha Belizaire, Deputy General Counsel
Matthew Keigan, Executive Director of Licensing
Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III
Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III
Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jim Perella, President of USA Boxing New England
Christopher Matthews, applicant
Alan Lau, licensed MMA and SEAK official
Kevin MacDonald, licensed MMA Referee and member of the ABC Rules & Regulations Committee
Jason Grenier, applicant
Sam Silverman, President of the Rondell Clark Foundation
Mike Collette, Co-Director of the Rondell Clark Foundation
Mike Scott, Co-Director of the Rondell Clark Foundation
Steve Schuster, Co-Director of the Rondell Clark Foundation
Terrell Clark, Co-Director of the Rondell Clark Foundation
Tanigh Clark, Secretary of the Rondell Clark Foundation
Arianne Clark, Treasurer of the Rondell Clark Foundation
Dr. Edgar Ballenas, M.D., licensed Ringside Physician
Michael Polvere, licensed MMA Matchmaker

Meeting called to order by Chair Rod Walkey at 11:06 AM.

1. Roll call

Commissioner Paul Karger
Commissioner Bryan Lambert
Chair Rod Walkey
Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III
Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II
Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III
Natasha Belizaire, Deputy General Counsel
Matthew Keigan, Executive Director of Licensing

2. Approval of Minutes from October 9, 2018

Commissioner Karger made a motion to approve the minutes from October 9, 2018, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

3. Application for Muay Thai Judge – Christopher M. Mathews

Applicant Christopher Mathews addressed the board expressing his life-long passion for the unarmed combat industry. Mr. Mathews stated that he was a participant in the Golden Gloves and was a Muay Thai combatant. As an official, it would allow him more opportunity to get involved in the industry as it is growing in popularity and has a wealth of up and coming talent.

Commissioner Karger made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

4. Application for Muay Thai Judge – Jason H. Grenier

Applicant Jason Grenier whom is also currently a licensed MMA judge with MSAC addressed the board expressing his absolute passion for the unarmed combat industry not only as an official but as a former fighter in Muay Thai. Mr. Grenier stated that he continuously works with other officials watching and studying matches to strengthen his skills and knowledge.

Commissioner Karger made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

5. Application for Deputy Commissioner – Scott Gierlich

The applicant withdrew his application prior to the meeting.

6. Rondell Clark Foundation

Arianne Clark, Treasurer of the Rondell Clark Foundation and mother of the MMA fighter who passed away due to complications as a direct result of extreme weight cutting in August of 2017 addressed the board detailing how the foundation was formed and why. Ms. Clark stated that the foundation holds a 501 C status and its mission is to educate the unarmed combat industry about the dangers of weight cutting in hopes to eliminate the widely used practice. Ms. Clark expressed concern on behalf of the foundation for the lack of education and regulation from Athletic Commissions across the country. Ms. Clark asked the board to consider adopting the 10-point plan written to help combat extreme weight cutting and severe hydration. She stated that the California State Athletic Commission had unanimously passed this set of regulations this year as stricter regulation is needed to prevent further deaths.

Chair Walkey stated to the foundation members and public that MSAC and staff are currently reviewing the regulations and will consider their request and offered his condolences on the loss of fighter Rondell Clark. In addition, Chair Walkey suggested that the Medical Advisory Board meet to discuss the 10-point plan and asked staff to begin scheduling their next meeting.

Dr. Edgar Ballenas, M.D., licensed Ringside Physician who was working the event that Rondell Clark participated on was present and gave a summation on extreme weight cutting and hydration.

Kevin MacDonald, licensed MMA Referee and member of the ABC Rules & Regulations Committee suggested to the board some other methods currently being used by athletic commissions such as body fat analysis and secondary weigh-ins to monitor weight loss and gain.

Chair Walkey asked the foundation to return to the board in six months to review the progress of their decision but welcomed their presence at the next Medical Advisory Board Meeting.

Item 7 Regulation Review was moved to the end of the agenda.

8. Upcoming MSAC Event Schedule

The board reviewed the upcoming event schedule through to November 2018.

9. 2019 MSAC Board Meetings

The board determined to remain with their current meeting schedule of the third or fourth Monday or Thursday of each month to meet for 2019.

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

Michael Polvere, licensed MMA Matchmaker expressed his concern for lack of re-training or refresher courses provided to MSAC officials as well as the scheduling of unqualified officials. Mr. Polvere stated that he would contact MSAC staff to provide specific details supporting his concerns.

Kevin MacDonald, licensed MMA Referee and member of the ABC Rules & Regulations Committee stressed his belief and the belief of the ABC that all officials across the country should be trained and required to follow the same rules, methods, and standards.

Alan Lau, licensed MMA and SEAK official stated on behalf of the applicants Christopher Matthews and Jason Grenier who took his course on officiating Muay Thai that he too follows the standard of the ABC.

7. Regulation Review

The board along with counsel and MSAC staff began review of 523 CMR.

523 CMR 5.00: General Provisions – pages 31 and 32

- *Section 5.01* – a definition of matchmaker and kickboxing will be determined and added.

523 CMR 6.00: Licensing and Registration – pages 34 and 35

- *Section 6.02* – the board will wait on review of this section until Dr. Warinner and the USA Boxing doctors come to an agreement on the blood requirement. The end date of the granted variance is April 2019.
- *Section 6.03* – the board will determine whether an unarmed combatant license issued will run for one year from date of issue or calendar year.

Regulation Review will continue onto the next meeting.

In closing, Chair Walkey asked staff to look into certification and refresher courses for officials provided by the ABC.

A motion was made by Commissioner Karger to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Board Exhibits:

-Board packet contents

Draft minutes – October 9, 2018

Application – Christopher M. Mathews

Application – Jason H. Grenier

Application – Scott Gierlich

Informational flyer on the Rondell Clark Foundation

523 CMR Regulations and minutes for the 2018 Listening Sessions

Upcoming MSAC events schedule