

**Massachusetts State Athletic Commission  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
Medical Advisory Board**

**1000 Washington Street, Boston**

**PUBLIC MINUTES**

**Date:** May 15, 2019

**Location:** 7<sup>th</sup> Flr. Conf RM

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chair Dr. Peter Warinner, M.D.

Dr. Lou Durkin, M.D.

Dr. Edgar Ballenas, M.D.

Matthew Keigan, Executive Director of Licensing

Clinton Dick, Deputy General Counsel of Enforcement

Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III

Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III

Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Michael Polvere, Mixed Martial Arts Matchmaker

**Meeting called to order by Chair Dr. Warinner at 10:07 AM.**

**1. Roll call**

Chair Dr. Peter Warinner, M.D.

Dr. Edgar Ballenas, M.D.

Matthew Keigan, Executive Director of Licensing

Clinton Dick, Deputy General Counsel of Enforcement

Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III

Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III

Jennifer Fraga, Program Coordinator II

Dr. Lou Durkin, M.D.

**2. Approval of Minutes from March 27, 2019**

Dr. Lou Durkin made a motion to approve the minutes from March 27, 2019, seconded Dr. Edgar Ballenas. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

**3. Ringside Physician Application – Scott Goldberg**

The board reviewed the Ringside Physician Application submitted by Dr. Scott Goldberg, M.D. The board agreed that Dr. Goldberg is qualified to serve as a Ringside Physician and agreed that he should shadow one event to learn MSAC procedures.

Chair Dr. Peter Warinner made a motion to recommend licensure for Dr. Scott Goldberg pending one shadowed event by Dr. Golberg to learn MSAC procedure, seconded by Dr. Lou Durkin. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

#### **4. 523 CMR Regulation Review**

- Section 20.11

The board reviewed Section 20.11 (as shown below) and discussed the time in which it takes to heal from a possible concussion. Dr. Peter Warinner stated that there is no evidence to support or justify the extension of thirty days at this time.

##### **20.11: Knockouts**

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 39A, an unarmed combatant who has been knocked out in a bout shall be immediately suspended for at least 30 days. The period of suspension may exceed 30 days if deemed appropriate in the interests of the safety of the licensee. Said action may be taken by the Commission without provision of a hearing in accordance with 523 CMR 21.00: *Disciplinary Proceedings*.

Dr. Lou Durkin made a motion to leave Section 20.11 as written, seconded by Dr. Edgar Ballenas. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

#### **5. Weight Cut Counseling Protocol at Pre-fight Evaluation**

The board discussed methods of weight cut counseling. The practice of counseling with the collection and study of data in combination with education for the athletes can be the first steps towards eliminating the practice of severe weight cutting. Currently the Ringside Physicians are looking at each fighter pre and post-fight evaluation to catch potential health factors that may cause injury or death from weight cutting by asking how much weight the fighter has lost and within what time frame prior to fight night. In addition, fighters will receive education on potential harmful side effects that could impair performance and overall health. The board discussed adding additional weigh-ins and the resources that would be necessary to do so.

The board asked MSAC staff to notify the other licensed Ringside Physicians of the weight cut counseling that is currently being performed on fight night to assure it is being done correctly.

#### **6. Discuss Standardized Medical Forms**

The board discussed creating standardized medical forms for Massachusetts. The forms would not be required but would be available to applicants. The board agreed to start working on their own drafts individually. The drafts would be reviewed at a later date.

Michael Polvere, Mixed Martial Arts Matchmaker expressed his concern regarding the required "clearance to fight" on each medical for fighter licensure. Mr. Polvere stated that he finds it difficult to get the examining doctor to write "OK to fight". MSAC staff asked the board for alternative language that would suit most physicians. The board agreed that "fit to compete with no contraindications" would be acceptable language and "May return to work or school" is not acceptable for clearance.

#### **7. Matters not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting**

Matthew Keigan, Executive Director of Licensing asked the board to clarify the "policy" for stitching on fight night as the role of MSAC is to license and schedule Ringside Physicians only not "Stitch Doctors". Director Keigan stated his concern as there have been some promoters whom are under the impression that "stitching" is a required practice on fight night.

Chair Dr. Peter Warinner stated that the doctors have been offering stitching for fighters to be performed after the fight, for the amount of \$250.00 which is to be paid by the promoters as an alternative to going to the hospital. This practice has been used if the fighter does not require emergency care by ambulance. The fighter however may choose to go to the hospital. This practice is voluntary.

The board discussed a physician who is not licensed with MSAC as an alternative for performing stitching if the promoter wishes to schedule one. This agenda item will be discussed at the next meeting.

Chair Dr. Peter Warinner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Lou Durkin. Motion was passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:01 PM.

**Board Exhibits:**

Draft minutes – March 27, 2019

Application – Scott Goldberg

523 CMR Regulations, Section 20.11

Examples of Standardized Medical Forms