



Members of the Commission

John Frierson, Chairperson
VanBuren Lemons, MD
Christopher Giza, MD
Dean Grafilo
Martha Shen-Urquidez
Mary Lehman

**Action may be taken on any item listed on
the agenda except public comment.
Agenda items may be taken out of order**

**CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2013
10:00a.m. - Conclusion of Business**

Location:

Ronald Reagan State Building
300 South Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Commissioners Present

Chairman John Frierson
Vice Chairman Christopher Giza, MD
VanBuren Lemons, MD
Dean Grafilo
Martha Shen-Urquidez
Mary Lehman

Commissioners Absent

Staff Present

Andy Foster, Executive Officer
Michael Santiago, Senior Staff Counsel, DCA
Shilo Wilson, Office Technician, CSAC
Karen Chappelle, Office of the Attorney General

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. and a quorum was present.

Agenda Item 2 – Chairman's Opening Remarks

- Chairman Frierson welcomed all who were present and those on the panel for their attendance.

- The Executive Officer, Andy Foster and Chairman Frierson swore in new Commissioner Shen-Urquidez and Commissioner Lehman.

Agenda Item 3 – Election of Vice Chairman For the Upcoming Year

Chairman John Frierson made a motion to nominate Commissioner Giza to serve as Vice-Chairman for the upcoming year. Commissioner Lehman seconded the motion and the commission approved the motion by a 6-0 vote.

Agenda Item 4 – Approval of February 25, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chairman Giza made a motion to approve the February 25, 2013 meeting minutes. Chairman Lemons seconded the motion and the commission approved the motion by a 6-0 vote.

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

a) Budget Update

- a. Executive Officer Foster stated the commission now has a healthy fund with a reserve balance equal to eight months.
- b. Chairman Frierson asked for information regarding the Governor’s budget for the commission and that Mr. Foster keep the Governor updated on the commission’s budget status.
- c. Commissioner Lemons asked Executive Officer Foster if there was a way to negotiate and reduce the pro-rata fees.
- d. Vice Chairman Giza requested that a DCA budget representative attend the next commission meeting.
- e. Commissioner Lemons stated that the commission is still losing money at events and something needs to be done and additional data needs to be collected.
- f. Chairman Frierson asked the opinion of the board members present if a subcommittee should be formed with respect to the long-term financial plan. Commissioner Grafilo moved to postpone the subcommittee until the next commission meeting when a DCA budget representative could be present so that the board could have a better understanding of the long-term financial plan.
- g. Executive Officer Foster stated that he would like to start charging a small administrative fee for federal identification cards. Mr. Foster plans to charge \$20 for each card as it takes a tremendous amount of time to issue them and athletes frequently request a re-issue of their cards. The revenue would go into the commission’s athletic support fund.
- h. Executive Officer Foster would like to change the regulator caps for amateur events from \$500 to \$1000, and for professionals \$1,000 to \$1,200 in order to better ensure the commission does not lose money regulating events.

b) Status of Pending Regulations

- a. Executive Officer Foster requests a change to the way athletes are evaluated when turning professional. Mr. Foster stated there should be a license for trainers with a cost of \$100 so there is an accountable source for the training and evaluation of a fighter that wants to turn professional.

- b. The purpose of the training license is not to generate money for the commission, but to better protect the health and safety of amateur fighters that want to turn professional.
 - c. Chairman Frierson asked how much does it cost the commission to have a lead athletic inspector or other staff person do an evaluation for an athlete that wants to turn professional.
 - d. Executive Officer Foster stated that it costs the commission \$150 to \$200 each time a staff person performs an evaluation for an athlete that wants to turn professional.
- c) Boxer's Pension Fund/Neurological Examination Account Update**
- a. Executive Officer Foster stated that the boxer pension fund continues to grow due to the fact that the commission cannot distribute the money to as many boxers that are eligible due to the fact that many do not apply. Eligible fighters are typically not aware that they have money due them and it is very difficult for the commission to locate them.
- d) Staffing Update**
- a. Half-day training sessions have been scheduled for all athletic inspectors and officials to ensure they receive it twice per year.
 - b. Executive Officer Foster stated he and Chief Athletic Inspector Che Guevara will provide the training because they are qualified to do so.
 - c. The commission filled one of its office technician positions with a recent hire.
 - d. Executive Officer Foster stated he would like fill the vacant Assistant Executive Officer and/or the vacant Office Technician positions as soon as possible. Mr. Foster is working with DCA budgets with respect to funding the positions.
- e) Past Audit Recommendations Progress Report**
- a. Chairman Frierson stated that the commission needs to meet every month because the infrequency of the past commission meetings has adversely impacted the commission's effectiveness in doing its business.
 - b. Executive Officer Foster stated that he would like for the commission to meet frequently.
 - c. Chairman Frierson also stated that the length of time between meetings is insufficient as fighters are looking to obtain their licenses or have suspensions removed. Additionally, boxers who are eligible want to obtain their pension. Commissioner Lehman agreed with the Chairman.
- f) **Update on Current Audits in Progress**
 - g) **Executive Officer 90 Day Report**
 - h) **Update on New Partnership for Pro/Am Events with CAMO**
 - i) **Update on Inspector Trainings**
 - j) **Update on Enforcement Efforts to Stop Unsanctioned Boxing Events**
 - k) **Update on Association of Boxing Commissions Training for Boxing and Mixed Martial Arts**
 - l) **Commission Administrative Manual**
 - m) **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Agenda Item 6 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Neurological Testing Recommendations Made by the Committee on Medical and Safety Standards

- a) Agenda Item not discussed and deferred until the next commission meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Discussion and Possible Action regarding Therapeutic Use Exemption recommendations made by the Committee on Medical and Safety Standards.

- a) Agenda Item not discussed and deferred until the next commission meeting.

Agenda Item 8 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a proposal for use of the neurological fund

- a) Agenda Item not discussed and deferred until the next commission meeting.

Agenda Item 9 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Licensure of Transgender Athletes

- a) Commissioner Lemons recommended creating two subcommittees, one to look into the transgender issue and the other to look into Therapeutic Use Exemption.

Agenda Item 10 – Discussion and possible action regarding George Parra request for early medical pension distribution

- a) Vice-Chairman Giza made a motion to approve the early medical pension distribution request for George Para. Commissioner Lemons seconded the motion and the commission approved the motion by a 6-0 vote.

Agenda Item 11 – Discussion and possible action regarding Gabriel Ruelas request for early medical pension distribution

- a) Vice-Chairman Giza made a motion to approve the early medical pension distribution request for Gabriel Ruelas. Commissioner Lemons seconded the motion and the commission approved the motion by a 6-0 vote.

Agenda Item 12 – Development and possible action regarding long term financial plan for the Athletic Commission

- a) Agenda item deferred until next meeting when a DCA budget representative will be in attendance.

Agenda Item 13 – Discussion and possible adoption of a formal policy for communication between the Executive Officer and the Commission

- a) Commissioner Lemons stated that information about the events that took place between commission meetings would be helpful.
- b) Executive Officer stated the commission tracks event profit and loss information and will provide it to the commission.
- c) Attorney Michael Santiago recommended not approving the policy until a comparison is made to the Executive Officer's job duty statement.
- d) Commissioner Shen-Urquidez agreed to work with Michael Santiago to draft a policy.

Agenda Item 14 – Creation and Discussion of an officials evaluation policy for event officials

- a) Commissioner Shen-Urquidez agreed to work with someone on drafting this policy.
- b) Executive Officer stated the commission needs to have a policy for the evaluation of event officials. The commission has regulations on the books and will start to evaluate officials again.

Agenda Item 15 – Creation and Discussion of an inspector evaluation policy for event inspectors

- a) Commissioner Shen-Urquidez agreed to work with someone on drafting this policy.
- b) Executive Officer stated the commission needs to have a policy for the evaluation of event officials. The commission has regulations on the books and will start to evaluate officials again.

Agenda Item 16 – Nomination of Steven Steinschriber, M.D. to the Commission Medical Advisory Panel

- a) Moved to the next meeting.
- b) Vice-Chairman Giza made a motion to create a subcommittee to evaluate nominations to the Medical Advisory Panel. Commissioner Lemons seconded the motion and the commission approved the motion by a 6-0 vote.

Agenda Item 17 – Applications for Licensure:

- a) **Top Players Promotions, Inc.** Chairman Shen-Urquidez made a motion to conditionally approve the license pending receipt of satisfactory financial statements within 30 days. Vice-Chairman Giza seconded the motion and the commission approved the motion by a 6-0 vote.
- b) **Flawless MMA, Inc.** Vice Chairman Giza made a motion to conditionally approve the license pending changes to the name on the application and bond to the corporation name of Flawless MMA, Inc. Commissioner Lemons seconded the motion and the commission approved the motion by a 6-0 vote.
- c) **PARS Promotions, Inc.** Executive Officer asked to put this off until the next meeting.
- d) **OPP Promotions .** Vice Chairman Giza made a motion to approve the license for OPP Promotions. Commissioner Lemons seconded the motion and the commission approved the motion by a 6-0 vote.
- e) **H&E Entertainment, Inc.** Vice Chairman Giza made a motion to conditionally approve the license pending updated financials done by a CPA. Commissioner Lemons seconded the motion and the commission approved the motion by a 6-0 vote.

Agenda Item 18 – Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

No actions taken.

Agenda Item 19 – Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates

Executive Officer Foster proposed the next meeting be held in southern California on June 10th. Chairman agreed with the Executive Officer. Location pending.