



CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

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Members of the Commission

Peter R. Villegas, Chair

Dr. Vernon Williams, Vice Chair

AnnMaria De Mars

Ronald Fiore

Christopher Gruwell

Douglas Hendrickson

Scott Wetch

COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 5, 2023

10:00 a.m. - Conclusion of Business

Location:

Zoom Teleconference

Commissioners Present

Chair Peter R. Villegas

Vice Chair Dr. Vernon Williams

Commissioner AnnMaria De Mars

Commissioner Ronald Fiore

Commissioner Christopher Gruwell

Commissioner Douglas J. Hendrickson

Commissioner Scott Wetch

Staff Present

Andy Foster, Executive Officer

Patrisha Blackstock, Assistant Executive Officer

Tara Welch, Legal Counsel

OPEN SESSION

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order / Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Peter Villegas. Executive Officer (EO) Andy Foster called roll and a quorum was established.

Agenda Item 2 – Chairman's Opening Remarks

Chair Villegas welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new Commissioners, Ron Fiore, and Scott Wetch. Tara Welch joined the meeting in place of Legal Counsel Ken Swenson.

Agenda Item 3- Review and Possible Action to Approve March 6, 2023, Meeting Minutes

EO Foster presented the March 6,2023, Commission meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner De Mars submitted some changes, those changes were added to the record.

*Commissioner Gruwell **moved** to approve the meeting minutes.*

*Commissioner D. De Mars **seconded** the motion.*

No Commission or public comments

*The motion passed 4-0 by roll call vote with 3 **abstain**.*

Agenda Item 4- Discussion and Possible Action Re: Specialty License Plate Selection for Funding of the Boxers Pension Plan and Other MMA Pension Plans

EO Foster presented the selection of specialty license plates created by the DCA design office for the Commission to review. EO Foster informed that Commission that they would need to choose a design before the Commission could move onto the next steps in the process. The Commissioners reviewed the presented designs options and the application process.

Commission Comments

Commissioner Wetch stated that he had worked on several specialty license plate applications and offered help the Commission staff as they move forward in the process.

Commissioner Hendrickson also offered to help the Commission staff with the specialty license plate application.

Chair Villegas asked if Commissioner Wetch and Hendrickson would be willing to serve on a Specialty License Plate Subcommittee, both Commissioners stated they would.

No Public Comments

No Further Commissions Comments

The Agenda Item was tabled for a future Commission meeting.

Agenda Item 5- Discussion and Possible Action Re: the Reinstating of the Delegation of Amateur Kickboxing to IKF Kickboxing Muay Thai Federation

EO Foster informed the Commission that since the March 6, 2023, Commission meeting, the Commission has been regulating all amateur Kickboxing and Muay Thai throughout the state due to International Kickboxing Federation (IKF) voluntarily withdrawing its delegation due to paperwork issues. EO Foster informed the Commission that the IKF had gotten their delegation paperwork in order and was now requesting delegation approval. IKF representative, Toni Fossum was present at the meeting.

EO Foster added if IKF's delegation was reinstated that the Commission would continue regulate Professional/Amateur Kickboxing and Muay Thai events.

Commissioner Gruwell moved to reinstate IKF Kickboxing Muay Thai Federation delegation for amateur Kickboxing and Muay Thai events for a six-month temporary period beginning June 12, 2023. At the end of the six-month period the IKF Kickboxing Muay Thai Federation California would need to come before the Commission for review to determine if their delegation would be renewed.

Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion.

No Commission or public comments

The motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 6 – Discussion and Possible Action Re: Thompson Boxing Promotions Request to Hold an Event using Team Combat League Rules

EO Foster presented the proposed Team Combat League event request submitted by Thompson Boxing and explained the rule set that Team Combat League uses. EO Foster explained that Team Combat League uses boxing rules, but the final Team Combat League score would be based on a point system which would be used to determine the teams score at the end of the night. EO Foster stated that Thompson Boxing and Team Combat League are requesting approval to hold the finals in California. EO Foster informed the Commission that he sees no issues with Team Combat League and would recommend the Commission to approve the proposed event request with the option for him to approve up to two additional Team Combat League events.

Commissioner Dr. De Mars moved to approve the Thompson Boxing Promotions request to hold an event using Team Combat League Rules and to allow the Executive Officer the option to approve Thompson Boxing Promotions to hold two additional events using Team Combat League Rules.

Promoter, Roy Engelbrecht informed the Commission that Thompson Boxing had also reached out to The Hanger in Costa Mesa as a possible venue.

*Commissioner Fiore **seconded** the motion.*

No further Commission or public comments

The motion passed by 7-0 roll call vote.

Agenda Item 7 – Introduction of the SOLID Strategic Planning Team to Discuss the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan

EO Foster introduced Elizabeth Coronel and Ann Fisher from the SOLID Strategic Planning Team. The SOLID Strategic Planning Team presented and introduced the strategic planning process to the Commissioners for the creating the new 2024-2028 Strategic Plan for the Commission

Agenda Item 8 – Review and Discussion Re: the Request for Delegation of Amateur Kickboxing to the World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO)

EO Foster stated that at the March 6, 2023, Commission meeting the Commission passed a motion requesting that the World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO) submit a written request with supporting documentation to the Commission for review and that they were to appear before the Commission at the June 5, 2023, meeting. EO Foster stated that WAKO had submitted their delegation application paperwork to legal for review and it was in order. Rob Zbilski, President of WAKO USA Kickboxing, was present at the meeting.

Chair Villegas advised that Mr. Zbilski continue to work with EO Foster regarding WAKO's request for delegation.

Agenda Item 9 – Executive Officer's Report

a. Budget update for the support fund, the neurological fund, and the pension program

EO Foster stated that the Commission had deposited \$2.3 million in the support fund, \$30K in the neuro fund, and \$97K in the pension fund. EO Foster added that the Commission will exceed revenue projections by the end of the fiscal year.

EO Foster introduced Cyril Shah with Raymond James, he provided the year end pension report which was included in the meeting materials. Mr. Shah stated that the pension investment account was healthy with a balance of \$4.613 million. Mr. Shah added that \$300 thousand has been moved from the investment account to the distribution account each year. Mr. Shah added that even with the withdrawals from the investment account the value of the investment account has stayed relatively flat, which is something the Commission should be proud of.

EO Foster introduced Matt Harrington with Benefit Resources the administrator of Boxers Pension Plan. Mr. Harrington informed the Commission that he was available to answer any questions that the Commission may have.

Commissioner De Mars asked Mr. Harrington to explain the forfeiture account. He stated that the money in the forfeiture account are the funds from a boxer's pension that weren't requested timely but that those funds could still be paid out to the boxer if he or she came forward requesting distribution.

Commissioner De Mars asked if the Commission had the Boxers Pension information available in English and Spanish, EO Foster stated the Commission has the information available in both languages.

Commissioner Wetch asked Mr. Harrington what goes into the evaluation of a distribution request made by a boxer who has funds in the forfeiture account. Mr. Harrington stated that the evaluation is completed by the Commission staff once they receive the request for distribution. The request for distribution is then sent by the Commission to Benefit Resources.

Chair Villegas asked for information regarding payments made to beneficiaries if the boxer has passed away. Mr. Harrington stated that beneficiaries can come forward to request distribution but added that the Commission would need to request documentation to prove the individual was a beneficiary of the boxer.

b. Report on the pending and proposed regulations

EO Foster stated that the Commission has a new regulatory counsel, Steven Wong. Mr. Wong stated he was new to the Department and has been working Commission staff on reviewing the two proposed regulatory packages.

c. Status update of delegated entities

• **California Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Organization (CAMO)**

JT Steele, President of CAMO, submitted his written report to the Commission, which is contained in the meeting materials. Mr. Steele informed the Commission that the CAMO summer schedule is busy. He added that CAMO held a Promoter summit in Visalia which was well received by all who attended, he stated that holding a Promoter summit will likely become a yearly meeting. Mr. Steele informed the Commission that lead Inspector and Referee, Ryan Spinks passed away tragically in a car accident while he was traveling home from a USFL event. Chair Villegas expressed the Commissions condolences to Mr. Spinks' family and friends.

• **USA Boxing**

Mr. Mike McAtee, Executive Director of USA Boxing, submitted his written report to the Commission which is contained in the meeting materials.

- **United States Fight League (USFL)**

Jon Frank of the USFL submitted his written report to the Commission, which is contained in the meeting materials. Mr. Frank echoed what Mr. Steele stated about Mr. Spinks and added that he will truly be missed by the USFL family.

d. Staffing Update

EO Foster stated that the Commission is still operating very lean with 3 vacancies. EO Foster added that the Commission is going to try and fill one of the vacancies next fiscal year.

e. Upcoming Event Schedule

EO Foster informed the Commission that the Jaime Munguia was competing on June 10th in Ontario for the vacant WBC Siler Super Middle title. EO Foster stated that 360 Promotions has a UFC Fight Pass event scheduled for July 22nd at Commerce Casino. He added that Westside Boxing Promotions is trying to bring boxing back to the Bay Area and that they had an event scheduled for June 24th at the Cow Palace.

Agenda Item 10 – Public Comments not on the Agenda

Promoter, Roy Engelbrecht stated that as the oldest licensed Promoter in California and one who attends at least 90 percent of Commission meetings, that prior to EO Foster the Commission gave very little in way of a report regarding the Boxers Pension Plan. Mr. Englebrecht added that since the appointment of EO Foster, the Commission has been giving reports about the pension plan at Commission meetings, trying to reach Boxers who are owed a Pension and has been giving out information to Boxers about the Pension plan.

Cameron Frizzell updated the Commission on his progress on training to become a professional boxing referee.

Agenda Item 11-Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.