

**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE
TENNESSEE ATHLETIC COMMISSION
500 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
DAVY CROCKETT TOWER
NASHVILLE, TN 37243**

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Call to order by Vice Chairman Joe Smith 1:14 p.m.

Roll Call - Present: Chairman Jack Sammons (1:23 p.m.), Commissioners Scott White, Joe Smith, Neal Frauwirth M.D., Teri Mast, Steve Hannah, Chuck Clark, Executive Director Jeff Mullen, Assistant Commissioner Steve Majchrzak, Assistant Attorney General Leslie Bridges, Deputy General Counsel Wayne Pugh, Assistant General Counsel Ed Scudder. Public members Melissa Bast, Ray Cansela, Shane Messner present.

Absent: Kurt Spindler M.D.

Correction of February 12, 2009 minutes re: ISCF and IKF transposed. Motion by Commissioner Hannah to adopt correction, second by Commissioner Howard. Motion passed. **Approval of February 12, 2009 minutes** via motion by Commissioner Mast, second by Commissioner Howard. Motion passed. **Approval of February 18, 2009 minutes** via Commissioner Hannah, second by Commissioner Mast. Motion passed.

Executive Director's Update by Jeff Mullen.

1. UFC fight night April 1. The promoter wants approval to use 4 people in corner on main events. There would be two in the cage but two more on the outside of the ring. After discussion, Commissioner Clark made a motion to grant the promoters request for 4 people in the corners. Commissioner Howard seconded and the motion passed.
2. UFC wants permission to use Nevada medical forms since the fighters started filling those ones out. They did use the last page of the Tennessee form it's a because it's a required release. After discussion, Commissioner Hannah made a motion to allow fighters to use Nevada forms plus the Tennessee release. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion passed.
3. Until the old law is replace by the new law, should the commission still enforce the rule regarding fingerprinting cards? The commission can specifically waive the requirement for fingerprinting prior to licensure. Commissioner Howard made a motion

to waive Rule 0145-2-.03(9) and remove the requirement from all forms. Commissioner Mast seconded and the motion passed.

4. In rules, a card should be complete 7 days before event. Is commission okay with Executive Director approving the card? Commissioner Smith moved to officially designate Jeff Mullen as administrator. Commissioner Hannah seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner _____ moved that the commission delegate authority to the administrator to approve substitutions on fight card. Commissioner Clark seconded and the motion passed.

5. Mr. Mullen would like to set a policy for how far in advance promoters need to submit medical forms so medical advisors can timely review. Dr. Frauwirth suggested 7 days prior to bout. Commissioner Clark moved same, Commissioner Howard seconded, motion passed.

6. Mr. Mullen reported that he is in the process of hiring people to staff on an as-needed, one-time basis. MMA is going to get widespread and TAC will need more inspectors, etc. TAC needs to hire own inspectors part-time paid per event. The cost per person would be \$100/\$125 for each event, with employees in each grand division of the state. Commissioner Hannah made a motion to direct Jeff Mullen to work with administration and F&A to create a pay plan, develop job description, and hire positions. Commissioner Frauwirth seconded and the motion passed.

7. Amateur MMA in State of Tennessee: Mr. Mullen reported that a lot of complaints are coming from promoters about each other as fellow practitioners. He would like to meet with the amateur MMA committee to discuss. The matter was deferred to the amateur sub-committee for discussion and recommendation as to course of action.

8. TAC has received an application for an MMA event on April 25 in Knoxville. SFC is promoter. TAC has also gotten inquiries for an April 24 event in Memphis and May 2 event in Nashville. It also received an application for an ESPN2 event from DiBella (promoter). However, it was less than 30 days from the event when DiBella found about opportunity for event. It is not known how much revenue the event will generate. DiBella is requesting relief from the 30 days prior to requirement. Wayne Pugh – cannot waive statutory requirement, it is mandatory. Commission can, however, issue permit and disciplinary action for failure to comply with 30 day requirement. Event is free, no tickets, and commission would still receive app fee, broadcasting fess, etc. Commissioner Clark moved to issue the permit for DiBella's Memphis event contingent on receiving late penalty, and all application components and fees, by EOB Wednesday March 18. Commissioner Smith seconded and after discussion the motion passed.

Staff Reports/Update

Wayne Pugh notified the commission that the emergency rules expire April 21. The rulemaking hearing rules will not be effective at that time, and he suggested readopting the emergency rules to stand. Commissioner White made a motion to do so, Commissioner Hannah seconded, and the motion passed.

Old Business

New Business

Legal report by Ed Scudder. There are 5 open matters. On one case we have received an interim investigative report. It concerns an unlicensed pro fight at an adult entertainment venue in Nashville. There have been no permits or licenses requested, and the promoter/venue has not paid 4% of the revenue or cover charge. The venue has never been reprimanded for unlicensed activity. After discussion, the Commission instructed legal staff to collect the 4% revenue. Commissioner Mast then made a motion to issue a Consent Order with a \$1,000 civil penalty per show. Commissioner Howard seconded and the motion passed.

Adjourned by Chairman Sammons at 3:46.