



ATHLETIC COMMISSION
500 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243
615-741-1831

**Meeting Minutes for June 14, 2021
Davy Crockett Tower
WebEx**

The Tennessee Athletic Commission met on June 14, 2021 via a WebEx Teleconference. The following business was transacted:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Christy Halbert, Matthew Reddish, Patrick Wrenn, and Ben Grove

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dan McGrew

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Glenn Kopchak, Pamela Spicer, Katie Long, and Angela Nelson

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Director Kopchak called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and took roll, establishing that a quorum was present.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Director Kopchak read the notice of meeting into the record as follows: "Notice of the June 14, 2021 meeting of the Athletic Commission including date, time and location has been noticed on the website since June 16, 2020; additionally, this month's agenda has been posted to the website since June 7, 2021."

STATEMENT OF NECESSITY

Director Kopchak read the statement of necessity into the record. Ms. Halbert motioned to adopt the statement of necessity, which was seconded by Mr. Reddish. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

AGENDA

Mr. Reddish motioned to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Halbert. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

MARCH MINUTES

Mr. Reddish motioned to adopt the March minutes as written, which was seconded by Ms. Halbert. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

BARE KNUCKLE BOXING

Melissa Bast, Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship (BKFC) Regulator Thomas Sconzo, and Dr. Don Muzzi from the Association of Ringside Physicians presented an overview of bare knuckle boxing to the Commission. Bare knuckle boxing is currently not permitted in Tennessee, so they requested that the Commission consider adding it to the sports they regulate which will require a rule change.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Budget Report

Director Kopchak briefed the Commission on the status of the budget for the previous three (3) months of January through March. Director Kopchak noted that there was an increase in administrative costbacks due to CORE system upgrades and this expense was shared amongst all the regulatory boards. Director Kopchak also stated that efforts would continue to be made to reduce expenses, such as the use of part-time inspectors and the continuation of remote meetings as business permits.

ISKA Sanctioning – Boxing

Director Kopchak introduced the ISKA rules for boxing and informed the Commission that ISKA is interested in becoming an approved sanctioning body for boxing in Tennessee. Director Kopchak stated that the rules provided by ISKA would need to go through a legal analysis to determine if they align with the Commission's current rules regarding "safety" and "conduct" per Rule 0145-05-.02. Once the legal analysis has been completed, it will be presented to the Commission for discussion and voting.

Meeting Dates 2022

Director Kopchak presented the scheduled meeting dates for 2022 as March 14th, June 13th, September 12th, and December 12th. Mr. Reddish motioned to adopt these meeting dates, which was seconded by Mr. Grove. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

LEGAL

Legal Report (Presented by Pam Spicer)

- Case No.: 2021012841**
First Licensed: 07/07/2016
Expiration: 07/06/2022
Type: Promoter
History: None.

The Complaint was opened against the promoter who is not in charge of the scoring. The complaint alleges that the contest at a boxing event was scored incorrectly. The complainant is asking that the score cards be reviewed and that the results of the fight be overturned.

Recommendation: Closure.

Commission Decision: Concur.

2. Case No.: 2021040611
First Licensed: 05/05/2021
Expiration: 05/04/2023
Type: Combatant
History: None.

During a weigh-in for an event there was an issue with one of the combatants who did not weigh within the weight class nor within the variance. When the inspector advised that the combatant would need to lose the necessary weight, the combatant became unprofessional and disrespectful toward the inspector.

Recommendation: Closure with letter of warning.

Commission Decision: Concur.

Rules Update

Ms. Spicer informed the Commission that there had been two (2) changes to statute that would impact them:

The first was an amendment to Tennessee Code Annotated 68-115-108(a)(1) that now allows for the scheduling of meetings to be determined by business needs, instead of a set timeframe, such as quarterly. Director Kopchak stated there would be no changes to the frequency of meetings at this time, but this would allow the Commission more flexibility should it be needed.

The second is an amendment to Tennessee Code Annotated 68-115-206(b)(1) that allows applications for licensure to include documentation for physicals, eye exams and bloodwork that is within ninety (90) days of the application date, instead of thirty (30). Ms. Spicer clarified that this change would not impact neurological exams, as they will still need be completed within thirty (30) days of application. Ms. Spicer stated that this statute change becomes effective on October 1, 2021 and would require a rule change. The rules package that is pending will need to be amended and resubmitted for review. Ms. Spicer concluded that this change would impact the scheduling of the rulemaking hearing and she could not say for sure when it would be able to take place.

NEW BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, a motion was made by Ms. Halbert to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Reddish. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.