



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

**Meeting Minutes for March 8, 2021  
Davy Crockett Tower  
WebEx**

The Tennessee Athletic Commission met on March 8, 2021 via a WebEx Teleconference. The following business was transacted:

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Christy Halbert, Dan McGrew, Patrick Wrenn, and Ben Grove

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Matthew Reddish

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

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Director Kopchak called the meeting to order at 2:06 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 March 8, 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 February 24, 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. Wrenn. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**AGENDA**

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

***Mr. McGrew entered the meeting at 2:10 p.m.***

**DECEMBER MINUTES**

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

## **RESULTS REPORTING**

Brian Dunn, President of ABC Commission, and Chris Palmquist, President of mmareg.com, addressed the Commission regarding posting MMA results to the mmareg.com website. Director Kopchak reminded the Commission that they have no authority to raise or enforce the collection of fees that are not explicitly listed in the rules or statute. As a result, the Commission has refrained from serving as a third-party collector where there is no authority, but to direct the promoters to the website host instead.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

### ***Budget Report***

Director Kopchak briefed the Commission on the status of the budget for the previous fiscal year. He noted that the primary cause for the reduction in surplus funds is due to the inability to host large scale events because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Director Kopchak continued that additional expenses related to inspections could be managed by utilizing more part-time employees. Director Kopchak then reviewed the budget for the last three months of October through December. He stated that there were increased costs that appear to be related to CORE expenses, but an accounting review is being conducted to ensure this is the case. Director Kopchak concluded that this situation would continue to be monitored and updates would be provided as needed.

### ***Election of Officers***

Ms. Halbert motioned to elect Mr. McGrew as Chair, which was seconded by Mr. Wrenn. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. The Commission opted not to elect a new Vice Chair, and therefore Mr. Wrenn will maintain that position.

## **LEGAL**

### ***Legal Report (Presented by Pam Spicer)***

- Case No.: 2021002341**  
**First Licensed: 12/30/2020**  
**Expiration: 12/29/2022**  
**Type: Corner**  
**History: None.**

During an MMA event, this Respondent refused to wear gloves in the corner and when entering the ring. An inspector warned the licensee repeatedly and was ignored. This Respondent did provide a response to the complaint, apologizing for not following protocol during this event, recognizing the error, and states it was never his intent to fail to follow the rules.

**Recommendation: Letter of warning for failure to wear gloves as required by the rules of the Commission.**

**Commission Decision: CONCUR.**

- Case No.: 2020095281**  
**First Licensed: 11/14/2018**  
**Expiration: 11/13/2022**

**Type: Promoter**

**History: None.**

In October 2020, inspectors conducted a weigh in for an MMA event. During the weigh in, the inspector noticed a large bulge in the pocket of the combatant's pants. The inspector instructed the combatant to remove the items and a cell phone and a large bag of coins were found. At that point, the weigh-in was stopped and the fight was cancelled. This Respondent was allowed to wear street clothes during the weigh in by agreement with the Commission due to the fact that the other combatant was overweight and allowing this combatant to wear street clothes would allow for the contest to continue while continuing to meet safety standards. This Respondent is the promoter.

**Recommendation: Closure**

**Commission Decision: CONCUR.**

3. **Case No.: 2020078551**  
**First Licensed: 06/23/2020**  
**Expiration: 06/22/2022**  
**Type: Combatant**  
**History: None.**

In October 2020, inspectors conducted a weigh in for an MMA event. During the weigh in, the inspector noticed a large bulge in the pocket of the combatant's pants. The inspector instructed the combatant to remove the items and a cell phone and a large bag of coins were found. At that point, the weigh-in was stopped and the fight was cancelled. This Respondent was allowed to wear street clothes during the weigh in by agreement with the Commission due to the fact that the other combatant was overweight and allowing this combatant to wear street clothes would allow for the contest to continue while continuing to meet safety standards. This Respondent is the combatant.

**Recommendation: Closure**

**Commission Decision: CONCUR.**

### ***Rules Update***

Ms. Spicer updated the Commission on the status of the rules package. She stated that the rules are currently under review at the Attorney General's office and are still pending additional review before a rule making hearing can be scheduled. Ms. Spicer could not give an exact timeframe for when this hearing could take place, but let the Commission know that she would keep them informed of any new information.

### **NEW BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, a motion was made by Ms. Halbert to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Grove. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.