



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

**Meeting Minutes for September 11, 2023
Davy Crockett Tower
Conference Room 1B**

The Tennessee Athletic Commission met on September 11, 2023, in the first-floor conference room of the Davy Crockett Tower in Nashville, Tennessee. The following business was transacted:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Matthew Reddish

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Roxana Gumucio, Jesse Gentry, and Katie Long

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Director Gumucio called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and took roll, establishing that a quorum was present.

Director Gumucio explained that a member of the public may provide comments as they relate to the agenda. This opportunity is added at the end under new business.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Director Gumucio read the notice of meeting into the record as follows: "Notice of the September 11, 2023, meeting of the Athletic Commission including date, time and location has been noticed on the website since June 14, 2022; additionally, this month's agenda has been posted to the website since September 6, 2023."

AGENDA

Ben Grove motioned to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by Christy Halbert. The motion passed unanimously.

JUNE MINUTES

Christy Halbert motioned to adopt the June minutes with one amendment, which was seconded by Ben Grove. The motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Budget Report

Director Gumucio briefed the Commission on the status of the budget as of June 2023. Director Gumucio stated that FY23 ended with a deficit of \$25,953. The final surplus balance as of the meeting date reflect a deficit of \$65,825.

LEGAL

Legal Report (presented by Jesse Gentry)

1. **2023031981**
First Licensed: N/A (Unlicensed)
Expiration: N/A
Type: Event Permit
History: None.

Summary: The Complainant alleged the Respondent was holding an unsanctioned boxing event. The Complainant included pictures for advertisements for the event, which appeared to show wrestling matches. One of the Commission's investigators found another advertisement that showed the event included a 3 round boxing match.

The investigator contacted the promoter who stated it was not a boxing match but actually two wrestlers in an entertainment match that would look like boxing. The promoter agreed to change the advertisement and called the event a "street fight" to clear up any confusion. This event was part of a wrestling entertainment event and was outside of the scope of the Commission.

Recommendation: Close.

Commission Decision: **Concur.**

2. **2023030011**
First Licensed: 08/19/2022
Expiration: 08/18/2024
Type: Combatant
History: None.

Summary: The Respondent was contracted to fight in a professional mixed martial arts bout in June 2023. The Respondent did not show up to the weigh-in. The day before the weigh-in, the Respondent contacted the Complainant and stated he did not have transportation to get to weigh-in or the bout. The Complainant provided the Respondent with three options, including having the Complainant personally pick the Respondent up and driving him to the event.

The Complainant stated the Respondent stopped contacting him and did not show up for the weigh-in or the bout.

Recommendation: Authorize formal charges with an offer to settle this matter by a Consent Order with a \$250 civil penalty for a violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-115-209(a)(4)(fails to give best efforts or compete).

Commission Decision: **Concur.**

3. **2023030261**
First Licensed: 12/29/2022
Expiration: 12/28/2024
Type: Event Promoter
History: 2023 – One complaint closed with a letter of warning for one combatant having improper hand wraps, combatants not arriving timely to weigh ins, dressing rooms being overly crowded, and two combatants who could not participate in a professional contest competed in an alleged exhibition match.

Summary: The Complainant is a professional boxer who fought in an event promoted by the Respondent. The Complainant broke his hand in the contest, which he stated was documented by the ringside doctor, and then x-rayed and put in a cast at the

hospital. The Complainant stated the Respondent has refused to provide information regarding his medical insurance for the event to the Complainant, which the Respondent responded by stating the Complainant was responsible for his expenses.

The Complainant was provided the link to make a public records request for the Respondent's file. The Complainant stated he would file a lawsuit, if necessary, as he is now having issues with outstanding medical bills.

Recommendation: Authorize formal charges with an offer to settle this matter by a Consent Order and the 6-month suspension of the Respondent's promoter's license for a violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-115-209(a)(5)&(11)(committed an act detrimental to combat sports).

Commission Decision: Allow the Respondent thirty (30) days to provide medical insurance information to the Complainant. If not provided, the Commission has authorized formal charges with an offer to settle this matter by a Consent Order with the suspension of the Respondent's license for a violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-115-209(a)(5)&(11)(committed an act detrimental to combat sports).

4. 2023036501

First Licensed: 03/06/2023

Expiration: 03/05/2025

Type: Promoter

History: None.

Summary: This complaint was filed by another promoter who stated the Respondent was obligated to pay for certain expenses, including the gate/ticket fee, as part of an event the Complainant and Respondent were both involved in as promoters. The Complainant is the promoter listed on the event permit, therefore, for our purposes, he is the party responsible for all outstanding fees and obligations to the Commission. The issues raised by the Complainant relate to an alleged breach of contract case between the parties as there is no proof the allegations rise to the level of misconduct.

The Respondent also provided documentation related to a lawsuit filed by the Complainant, which may be denied due to lack of jurisdiction.

Recommendation: Close.

Commission Decision: Concur.

Case number 3, Christy Halbert motioned to amend the recommendation, which was seconded by Patrick Wrenn. The motion passed unanimously.

Cases number 1, 2 and 4, Dan McGrew motioned to accept legal counsels' recommendation, which was seconded by Ben Grove. The motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Jesse Gentry updated the commission members on the Rules up before Gov. Operation Committee on September 20th. The Rulemaking Hearing for those rules took place June 13, 2022.

Jesse Gentry explained the proposed rules for bare knuckle fighting. Dan McGrew motioned to move forward using the ABC Rules approved at the August 2023 conference. Which was seconded by Christy Halbert. The motion passed unanimously.

Jesse Gentry reviewed other suggested rules which will be worked on and present at the December commission meeting along with the bare knuckle fighting rules. Christy Halbert motioned to move forward with the recommended items, which was seconded by Patrick Wrenn. The motion passed unanimously.

Jesse Gentry provided the Sunshine Law presentation and answered the members questions.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Gumucio asked if anyone in the public, participating in person or remotely using Teams, had comments as they relate to the agenda. There were no comments provided.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, a motion was made by Dan McGrew to adjourn, which was seconded by Ben Grove. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.