



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE  
TENNESSEE ATHLETIC COMMISSION  
500 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243  
TELEPHONE: 615-532-5129**

**Thursday, November 12, 2009**

**Call to order** at 1:14 p.m.

**Roll Call** - Present: Chairman Joe Smith, Commissioners Scott White, Neal Frauwirth, M.D., Teri Mast, Stuart Howard, Warne Fitch, M.D., Steve Hannah, Executive Director Jeff Mullen, Assistant General Counsel Ed Scudder.

Absent – Chuck Clark, Jack Sammons

Jack Sammons joined the meeting by teleconference.

**Review and approval of minutes** from September 10, 2009. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hannah, second by Commissioner Frauwirth. Motion passed unanimously.

**Executive director update** including review of past fights and upcoming schedule of events.

Numerous amateur fights are being held across the State. Executive Director Mullen also announced that Ultimate Fighting Championship is going to hold a match in Memphis, TN on December 12, 2009, PPV, at FedEx Forum.

There was a subcommittee meeting held prior to this meeting to discuss Amateur MMA. It was decided further studies were needed pertaining to Amateur MMA before reporting to the Commission.

Ultimate Fighting Championship is coming to Memphis, TN on December 12, 2009. They have a great line up for the show. Director Mullen stated they had already sold seven thousand (7000) tickets. He also stated it was a pay per view fight.

## **LEGAL REPORT-----ED SCUDDER**

- 1. L09-TAC-RBS-2009004511**
- 2. L09-TAC-RBS-2009004512**
- 3. L09-TAC-RBS-2009 004513**

The complaints against these three respondent nightclubs arose from an advertisement for a "Midtown Throwdown" event they co-sponsored. The print advertisements featured two fighters in a boxing stance and described "an epic three round battle." The complaints alleged that an unsanctioned and unlicensed combat sport event was to be conducted.

Investigation revealed that the event was in fact a drink-serving competition between the bartenders of the three bars. The bartenders competed to see who could serve the most and/or best drinks in a given period of time as judged by the patrons. There was no fighting or physical contact between the participants.

**Recommendation:** Dismiss

The recommendation was accepted and seconded by Jack Sammons the recommendation passed unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business to discuss.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The first item under New Business was to set the Commission's calendar for 2010. The determination of the Commission was to meet even other month beginning January 2010 on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

The next item was a discussion to request badges for the Tennessee Athletic Commission officials at each event. **Motion to approve the issuance of badges to the officials of the TAC to be used at each event was made by Commissioner Hannah, second by Commissioner Mast. Motion passed unanimously.**

Director Mullen led a discussion on Grip Flex Shorts. He stated this was a pair shorts where there were panels on the inter thigh that would give you an advantage over your opponent due to being able to get a better grip on their opponent.

A discussion was held on the pay scale of the ring officials. Upon the discussion the consensus of the Commission was not get involved with what the ring officials are paid. They stated they could revisit this in the future if it becomes a problem.

The next discussion was pertaining to fighters not fighting at an event or make a showing but did not return to fight. Commissioner Hannah stated currently there was not anything addressing fighters that chose not to fight at the last minute. He stated he thought they should be penalized when the Commission is holding the promoter responsible for these events.

Director Mullen stated there was an example of a fighter that showed up at the event took the promoters travel money and left. He did not return for the weigh in for the fight. Director Mullen stated he placed the fighter on an administrative suspension for six (6) months. Since then, the manager of the fighter contacted the Director and stated the fighter had a contract to fight fighter A and when they checked in the promoter stated the fighter would fight fighter B instead.

Commission member Scott White asked who keeping up with the suspension. He stated that before a license could be suspended that licensee had to have due process. Scott White also advised the Director to get with the Attorney to review the process of the suspending a license.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Director Mullen stated the financial information is good through August 2009. He stated the expenditures were \$17,821.42 and revenue received from July 1 through November 10, 2009 was \$12,785.87.

**Adjourned 2:37 p.m.**