



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

**Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2018
Conference Room 1B
Davy Crockett Tower**

The Tennessee Athletic Commission convened on March 13th, 2018, in the first floor conference room of the Davy Crockett Tower in Nashville, Tennessee. Glenn Kopchak called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and the following business was transacted:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Hannah (teleconference), Chad Chilcutt (teleconference), and Donald Wynn (teleconference)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Tracy Miller-Davis

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Glenn Kopchak, Sara Page, Elizabeth Goldstein

ROLL CALL/NOTICE OF MEETING

Director Kopchak took roll call and read the notice of the meeting into the record, followed by the Statement of Necessity. Steve Hannah motioned to approve the Statement of Necessity which was seconded by Chad Chilcutt. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

AGENDA

Motion made by Steve Hannah and seconded by Chad Chilcutt to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

MINUTES

Motion made by Steve Hannah and seconded by Chad Chilcutt to approve the minutes from the December meeting. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Kopchak provided a detailed accounting of budget revenue and expenditures, to include line item and trend analysis. In addition to reviewing total expenditures and revenues from FY 2017, Director Kopchak noted that there was a significant reduction in Field Enforcement expenses for January 2018 which could be the result of the use of Part Time Inspectors. He further noted that the Commission will need to wait till more months are reported in order to identify any trends definitively in that regard.

LEGAL REPORT



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL
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TO: Tennessee Athletic Commission
FROM: Legal Division
DATE: March 12, 2018
SUBJECT: Athletic Commission Legal Report

1. Case No.: 2017077721
1st Licensed: N/A
Expiration: N/A
Type: Event
History: N/A

Complainant provided a poster and what appears to be a draft of rules and ideas for a MMA-style tournament. Complainant stated that the event was happening at a Boy and Girls Club. An investigator attended the event at the designated time and location, but no event was occurring. It does appear efforts were made to hold an event that could have possibly violated this Commission's laws and rules, but it never came to be.

Recommendation: Close upon issuance of a letter of warning regarding requirements for events involving MMA.

Board Decision: Concur.

2. Case No.: 2017076291
1st Licensed: 11/07/2017
Expiration: 11/07/2019
Type: Mixed Martial Artist
History: N/A

Complainant alleged Respondent willingly breached a contract to compete in a bout. Respondent claims Respondent was injured in training, and submitted a doctor's note to the promoter which stated Respondent could not fight. Complainant provided a picture from Facebook of Respondent with Respondent's significant other at a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu practice. Respondent states Respondent attended the practice since it was Respondent's significant other's first class, and Respondent did not participate.

Ultimately, this is civil matter regarding breach of contract, and not an issue for the Commission to decide since it is not a basis for a violation of its laws and rules.

Recommendation: Close.

Board Decision: Concur.

3. **Case No.:** 2018000501
1st Licensed: 11/06/2017
Expiration: 12/16/2017 (EXPIRED)
Type: Event Permit
History: N/A

An inspector noted that Respondent had a vinyl covering on the ring for an amateur mixed martial arts competition. The inspector informed the ring judge to ensure the ring stayed clean. No slipping or injuries occurred. Respondent responded and stated they were unaware of the requirement, and they have taken steps to ensure proper materials are used in future competitions. This is the second competition Respondent has hosted. It appears the vinyl cover was new since no issues were noted at Respondent's first competition.

The rule relevant to materials of rings is Rule 01450-06-.02, which states in relevant part:

(2) For all other types of mixed martial arts bouts, the ring or fighting area shall meet the requirements set forth in this section as follows:

(a) The ring or fighting area shall be no smaller than twenty feet (20') by twenty feet (20') and no larger than thirty-two feet (32') by thirty-two (32'). A ring enclosed by ropes shall be square. The ring floor or floor of the fighting area enclosed by ropes shall extend at least twenty inches (20") beyond the ropes. The ring floor or floor of the fighting area shall be padded with a one inch (1") layer of Ensolite (or the equivalent) placed over a one inch (1") base of building board or other suitable material. Padding shall extend beyond the ring or fighting area and over the edge of the platform. The ring or fighting area shall have a canvas covering or similar material, tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. **Vinyl or other plastic rubberized covering shall not be permitted.** There shall not be any obstruction or object, including but not limited to a triangular border, on any part of the ring floor.

Recommendation: Close upon issuance of a letter of warning regarding requirements of ring materials.

Board Decision: Concur.

3. **Case No.:** 2018012531
1st Licensed: 07/28/2017
Expiration: 07/27/2019
Type: Professional MMA Combatant
History: N/A

Combatant was arrested in another state on allegations of second-degree rape related to sexual abuse of a 14-year-old minor. Charges are still pending. Legal is tracking the matter and legal is working with the Combatant's home state to determine whether its board will take disciplinary action.

Recommendation: Place this matter into litigation/case monitoring.

Board Decision: Concur.

Ms. Goldstein provided status updates regarding rules that have already been submitted. In regards to Rule 0145-01-.04 (3) which requires all licensing to be complete (7) business days prior to the event, the rule was edited to specifically forbid Inspectors from accepting cash payments for licensing at the event. This revision has already been approved and is awaiting an effective date.

Regarding revisions to Rules 0145-01-.04 (e) & 0145-01-.05 (7) which requires medical insurance “in an amount of not less fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00)”, the Commission voted to adopt minimum medical insurance limits of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) at the last meeting. Those rules are also awaiting an effective date.

In an effort to further deregulate amateur MMA and amateur boxing events by the state, the Commission voted to approve revisions to Rules 0145-05-.01 & 0145-05-.02. Motion made by Steve Hannah and seconded by Chad Chilcutt to approve the rules package as submitted. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. A motion was also made by Chad Chilcutt and seconded by Steve Hannah to approve the Regulatory Flexibility Addendum as submitted. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Donald Wynn and seconded by Chad Chilcutt to elect Steve Hannah to serve as Chairman of the Athletic Commission for 2018. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Steve Hannah motioned to adjourn and Chad Chilcutt seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:32 pm. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.