



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

**Meeting Minutes for March 13, 2023  
Davy Crockett Tower  
Conference Room 1B**

The Tennessee Athletic Commission met on March 13, 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, Matthew Reddish, and Patrick Wrenn

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Roxana Gumucio, Pamela Spicer, 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.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

Director Gumucio read the notice of meeting into the record as follows: "Notice of the March 13, 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 March 7, 2023."

**AGENDA**

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

**SEPTEMBER MINUTES**

Dan McGrew motioned to adopt the June minutes as written, which was seconded by Matthew Reddish. The motion passed unanimously.

## **APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMISSION**

Mr. Adam Roorbach, BKFC Regulatory Affairs, participated virtually to explain the rules for bare knuckle fighting he and his team have in place. Ms. Jenny Savage appeared in person to share her experience as a bare knuckles fighter and answer the members questions about the sport. The commission, and legal counsel, asked questions and discussed how to best proceed with changes to Tennessee law and rules to add bare knuckle fighting events to the state.

Matthew Reddish motioned to use the unified rules passed at the ABC conference in August to draft Tennessee rules for the commission to review. This was seconded by Ben Grove. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Corey Williams participated virtually to explain his personal experience with bare knuckles boxing. He too proposed rules to amend the current rules and allow for such events.

Mr. Williams also proposed rule changes to the bandages rule 0145-02-.04, and time limitations rule 0145-02-.17. The commission discussed both rule recommendations. The decision was for legal to incorporate recommendation in the draft rules packet to be presented with the bare knuckles packet.

Mr. Matt Young appeared before the board in support of bare-knuckle fights, and the rule changes proposed by Corey Williams. The law proposed to remove TKO would have to be taken to a legislator by a member of the industry or other individual interested in that change. Mr. Young discussed what other states do regarding licensing, presence of inspectors at events, blood work and bringing big events to Tennessee.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

### ***Budget Report***

Director Gumucio briefed the Commission on the status of the budget as of December 2022. Director Gumucio stated that FY21-22 ended with a deficit of \$39,874. Between then and December the program has an additional deficit of \$18,482.

### ***Self-Sufficiency Hearing***

Director Gumucio shared with the commission the results of the self-sufficiency hearing from January 30, 2023. Commission member Ben Grove attended along with Assistant Commissioner Alex Martin, and Director Gumucio. All Regulatory Board, Commission and Programs must be self sufficient or explain their plans to the legislative body to become self-sufficient. She explained that the program loses money on most small and medium size events. The members discussed several options including promoting the profession to bring larger events to Tennessee.

Mr. Matt Young suggested taxing late applications so those that do everything timely are not having to pay more. His proposal to raise fees will be considered along with other ideas the commission discussed.

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

Christy Halbert motioned to reelect Dan McGrew as Chair, which was seconded by Matthew Reddish. The motion passed unanimously. Matthew Reddish motioned to reelect Patrick Wrenn as Vice Chair, which was seconded by Christy Halbert. The motion passed unanimously.

## **LEGAL**

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

#### **1. 2022048821**

**First Licensed: 07/06/2022**

**Expiration: 07/05/2024**

**Type: Promoter**

History: None.

Complainant alleged that Respondent failed to fulfill his complete contractual obligation of payment for an event held on 10/29/2022. Respondent stated that the Complainant only completed "half a show", but said they agreed to have the money to him by 12/05/2022. Respondent sent a \$1,500 payment to the Complainant on 12/07/2022 and said that the second \$1,500 payment would be sent on 01/06/2023. Respondent confirmed on 01/09/2023 that the final payment was received by the Complainant.

**Recommendation: Letter of warning.**

**Commission Decision:** Concur

#### **2. 2023003241**

First Licensed: 01/09/2023

Expiration: 01/08/2025

Type: Combatant

History: None.

**The combatant fought at a Tennessee event the week after being suspended by the Alabama Athletic Commission due to medical TKO/KO and failed to inform the Commission and the promoter of same.**

**Recommendation: Authorize formal hearing. Authorize settlement by consent order in the amount of \$500.00.**

**Commission Decision:** Concur

#### **3. 2022049301**

**First Licensed: N/A (Unlicensed)**

Expiration: N/A  
Type: Event Permit  
History: None.

**Complainant alleges that Respondent is putting on events that are unsafe. These events are professional wrestling events not regulated by the Commission.**

**Recommendation: Closure**

**Commission Decision:** Concur

#### **4. 2021063531**

**First Licensed: 02/22/2021**

Expiration: 02/21/2023

Type: Promoter

History: None.

This complaint was opened administratively due to the program making a determination that the blood test results of certain combatants that were submitted to the Department were fraudulent in nature. The blood tests for three combatants were confirmed to be fraudulent by Request A Test. Specifically, the documentation provided by this Respondent for the three combatants related to their blood work could not be verified. After further investigation, additional test results for blood work were determined to be fraudulent which caused a second complaint to be opened against this Respondent. Based on this information the Department provided notice to the Respondent that a summary suspension informal conference will be scheduled for September 20, 2021.

Recommendation: Authorize formal hearing for revocation of the Respondent's license.

Commission Decision: CONCUR.

**New Information: The license for this Respondent is now expired. The Notice of Hearing and Charges was filed in this matter. However, as of the date of this meeting, counsel has been unable to serve the Respondent with the pleadings in this matter as required for the hearing to occur.**

**New Recommendation: Close and flag**

**New Commission Decision: Concur**

#### **5. 2021064601**

**First Licensed: 02/22/2021**

Expiration: 02/21/2023

Type: Promoter

History: None.

This is the second complaint filed administratively by the program against the Respondent for fraudulent activity. Based on the initial complaint which warranted additional investigation, the program requested verification of certain blood work result submitted by this promoter. It was determined that an additional 12 combatants have lab results that have been tampered with or have otherwise been submitted in a fraudulent nature. Based on this fraudulent activity the Department is seeking a summary suspension of the Respondent's license.

Recommendation: Authorize formal hearing for revocation of the Respondent's license.  
Commission Decision: CONCUR.

**New Information: The license for this Respondent is now expired. The Notice of Hearing and Charges was filed in this matter. However, as of the date of this meeting, counsel has been unable to serve the Respondent with the pleadings in this matter as required for the hearing to occur.**

**New Recommendation: Close and flag**

**New Commission Decision: Concur**

## **6. 2022024381**

**First Licensed: 02/22/2021**

Expiration: 02/21/2023 (Suspended)

Type: Promoter

**History: 2021 – Two complaints opened regarding the Respondent tampering with lab results. The Respondent's license was suspended, and the Commission authorized a formal hearing for revocation of the license.**

Complaint alleges a misrepresentation by Respondent by allowing a website to display for image and continue to state the Respondent was acting as a promoter while her license remains suspended.

Recommendation: License is currently suspended, proceed to formal hearing for revocation.

Commission Decision: Concur.

**New Information: The license for this Respondent is now expired. The Notice of Hearing and Charges was filed in this matter. However, as of the date of this meeting, counsel has been unable to serve the Respondent with the pleadings in this matter as required for the hearing to occur.**

**New Recommendation: Close and flag**

**New Commission Decision: Concur**

Matthew Reddish motioned to accept legal counsels' recommendation, which was seconded by Dan McGrew. The motion passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, a motion was made by Matthew Reddish to adjourn, which was seconded by Dan McGrew. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.