

MINUTES

S. C. Athletic Commission

October 9, 2000

The Kingstree Building Room 111

Columbia, South Carolina

Mr. John 'Robbie' Robertson, Chairman, of Irmo, called the regular meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Other commission members participating during the meeting included: Mr. Robert Williams, of Cayce; Mr. Luther Bradley, of Hemingway; Mr. George Cox, of Myrtle Beach; and Mr. Clyde Jones, of Camden.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Mr. Randall Bryant, Assistant Deputy Director; Ms. Sharon Dantzler, Deputy General Counsel, LLR-Office of General Counsel; Mr. Jim Knight, Director, LLR-Office of Communications & Governmental Affairs ; Mr. Jim Kyzer, LLR Investigator; and Ms. Sandra Dickert, Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Robertson announced the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act [§ 30-4-80 (e)] by notice mailed to The State newspaper, Associated Press, WIS-TV and all other requesting persons, organizations, or news media. In addition, notice was posted on the bulletin boards located at both of the main entrances of the Kingstree Building where the Board office is located.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business

Mr. Robertson asked Mr. Kyzer to speak on the complaint he received on a wrestling event.

Mr. Kyzer stated he had been requested to attend a wrestling event in Greenville on Saturday, October 7th. He went on to say Mr. Bryant had received a complaint regarding under age participants being in the event. He did not see any under age wrestlers, however, there was a seven year old female ringing the bell.

Mr. Robertson stated he believes there is an age limit on boxing only. He believes there should be a minimum age to participate in wrestling.

Mr. Robertson asked if that was the only violation. Mr. Kyzer replied that was the only violation he saw at that time. He did not think she was the timekeeper. He did write a citation for \$1,000. He noted she was outside of the buffer. Mr. Robertson stated a second citation would be needed for the girl being an unlicensed timekeeper.

Mr. Cox stated he attended his first event in Myrtle Beach. He further stated everything went well.

Mr. Robertson noted there is a problem with pay for view events in commercial establishments, which comes under the commission's regulations.

Mr. Robertson stated he has received a complaint from a legislator regarding vulgarity and

obscenities at smaller events. A brief discussion regarding this matter ensued.

A brief discussion was also held concerning the license plates.

New Business

Proposed Legislation

Mr. Cox moved the commission change the wording in 40-81-10(26) to read: 'Ringside physician' is the physician responsible for examining the contestant prior to during and after each event or exhibition and who is present at ringside for the entire event or exhibition.

Mr. Jones seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Cox asked the commission members who trains the officials for each event. Mr. Robertson noted that the commission has been attempting to conduct a training session over the past three years. He further stated that the State of North Carolina is planning a training session for all officials during January 2001. The session will be held in Charlotte, NC. He indicated North Carolina will be paying all expenses for the training session. It is his suggestion that all commission members and staff who could attend the session do so. He also suggested that a letter be mailed to all judges, referees and other officials in South Carolina regarding the training session within the next month.

Mr. Cox moved that the language in section 40-81-260(A)(5) be changed to read: 'shall submit evidence that applicant has been tested not more than thirty days prior to the scheduled event or exhibition and that is not infected with the human immunodeficiency virus and shall show proof of immunity for Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C;'. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Cox moved that the language in section 40-81-280(4) be changed to read: 'shall submit evidence that applicant has been tested not more than thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled event or exhibition and that is not infected with the human immunodeficiency virus and shall show proof of immunity for Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C; and'. Mr. Jones seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Bryant explained the process of assigning officials to each event to the new commission members.

A brief discussion regarding the number of rounds ensued.

Mr. Cox asked if an ambulance is required in all events or boxing only as referred to in section 40-81-360(c). Mr. Robertson stated it is for boxing only. Ms. Dantzler stated the section is referring to the promoters.

40-81-360 (c) promoters shall be responsible for maintaining and order and security.

(d) boxing promoters shall be required to have an ambulance with appropriate medical equipment and personnel on site during the event or exhibition.

Mr. Jones seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Jones referred the members back to section 40-81-420(B) and asked for an explanation of that section. This section refers to evidence that a surety bond or certified funds have been filed with the department. Mr. Bryant stated the promoters are required to have club contracts filed so the commission could review the amounts to be to the boxers and have to file certified funds with the commission with sums of the total amount of the purse.

Mr. Cox moved the commission make the following changes to section 40-81-420(1):
'(b) evidence of medical hospitalization and life insurance each in the sum of ten thousand dollars that covers every contestant; and

(b) (c) evidence that a surety bond or certified funds have been filed with the department in the amount equal to the total value of any purse offered;

(c)(d) information from the Association of Boxing Commissions' National Registry to include each boxer's ring history;

(d)(e) evidence that each contestant has complied with the licensing requirements in Section 40-81-260 and Section 40-81-270; and

(e)(f) copies of the contracts between boxers, managers, officials and with the promoter covering all contestants, participants, and officials in the event or exhibition for which the permit is issued.'

Mr. Cox asked if a series of knockouts is two or more under section 40-81-460. Ms. Dantzler replied that any more than one is a series.

Mr. Cox moved that section 40-81-460(C) be changed to read: 'the commission will shall honor all suspensions listed on the Association of Boxing Commissions' National Suspension List. No boxer participant shall be licensed to fight in South Carolina until the suspending jurisdiction has removed the suspension and the Association of Boxing Commissions' National Suspension List indicates that he is eligible to compete.' The motion was seconded by Mr. Bradley and carried unanimously.

Mr. Robertson stated when there is a boxing or OTSB event he wants staff to check the identification of those individuals working a corner. He also stated the commission needs to know the approved seconds and corner men. He said he wanted to have a meeting with the seconds and corner men just like the meetings being held with the boxers.

Mr. Bradley moved to approve the proposed legislation as amended. Mr. Cox seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Bryant asked the members to contact their legislators or let staff know which legislators to contact in regards to locating a sponsor for the bill once they have received a revised proposed legislation.

Mr. Bryant asked the members to review the pay-for-view document. He stated the pay-for-view could be an alternative avenue for funding for the commission

Mr. Cox asked that 'Professional Wrestling' be changed to 'Professional Wrestler' under number three. He also asked if the fees referred to in the document are fees or a tax. Mr. Bryant stated it is a tax. He asked if there would be permit fees with additional taxes. Mr. Bryant stated the commission has the opportunity to tax an event which takes place within South Carolina and broadcast worldwide. Mr. Cox asked if the tax is independent of the South Carolina Department of Revenue. Mr. Bryant answered affirmatively.

Mr. Robertson stated all of the boards and commissions have been informed that they should be self-sufficient. He noted that this commission is one of the few commissions or boards that is not self-sufficient. He indicated that the two-percent plus the permit fees, which come into the office do not come close to assisting the commission in being self-sufficient. He noted that the small events don't make money.

Following a brief discussion regarding 'Permit for a program of matches; permit fee', Mr. Bryant stated that the next to the last sentence, 'There shall be no fee for a permit issued for a closed circuit telecast.' should be struck. He indicated the commission needs to determine a percentage or a fee. He said there is currently a \$50 fee per location. He stated a percentage may be charged and noted that one percent would bring \$50,000.

Mr. Robertson stated there could be a higher level of activity if there are higher fees.

Mr. Cox asked that the word 'notarized' be added to the last sentence of number five on page four. The sentence would read 'The Commission shall require the system operator to file notarized reports containing information regarding the number of orders sold and the price charged for such orders and other information as the Commission deems appropriate.'

A discussion regarding additional percentages ensued. Mr. Jones moved to authorize Mr. Bryant to give discretion to move forward with asking for an additional \$250,000 - \$300,000. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Recess

Mr. Williams moved the commission take a ten-minute recess. Mr. Jones seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Return to Regular Session

Mr. Kyzer stated the complaint Mr. Robertson mentioned earlier was for an under age participant in the ring. He attended the event the other night and spoke with Mr. Gwynn, the promoter for the Greenville wrestling event. He produced a written statement from Mr. Gwynn indicating he had seen a group of boys wrestling in their backyard. Mr. Gwynn spoke with the boys and their parents and is now allowing the boys to use his ring. He noted he and the boys' families are the only ones there. He is charging them admission. He said that Mr. Gwynn informed him there is an agreement between him and the boys' parents and that he is charging a \$50 fee.

A discussion regarding the complaint and the facility ensued. It was determined that Mr. Gwynn is not acting out of the scope of the rules and regulations since he is not holding an event. Mr. Robertson asked that a letter be sent to Mr. Gwynn informing that the first time he steps out of the scope of the rules and regulations there will be penalties set forth. He

Mr

also asked that the letter ask for a copy of the agreement.

Mr. Jones moved the commission set the meetings for 2001 as being the second Tuesday in May and the second Tuesday in October. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Williams moved the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Cox seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The October 9, 2000 meeting of the South Carolina Athletic Commission adjourned at 11:45 a.m.