

MINUTES

South Carolina Athletic Commission

Board Meeting

10:00 A.M., October 9, 2001

Synergy Business Park

110 Centerview Drive, Conference Room 111

Columbia, South Carolina

Mr. John "Robbie" Robertson, Chairman, of Irmo, called the regular meeting of the S. C. Athletic Commission to order at 10:00 a.m., with a quorum present. Other commission members participating in the meeting included: Paul Kennemore, Vice-Chairman, of Greenwood; Luther Bradley, of Hemingway; George Cox, of Myrtle Beach and Robert Williams, of Cayce.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Randall Bryant, Assistant Deputy Director; Sharon Dantzler, Deputy General Counsel, LLR-Office of General Counsel; Larry Hall, Investigator; Jimmy Knotts, Investigator; and Sandra Dickert, Administrative Assistant.

Clyde Jones and Linda Leventis-Wells were granted excused absences.

Mr. Robertson announced the meeting was being held in accordance with Section 30-4-80 of the S. C. Freedom of Information Act 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 at the two main entrances of the Kingstree Building.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of February 17, 2001 Meeting Minutes, February 28, 2001 Conference Call, March 4, 2001 Conference Call and April 30, 2001 Conference Call Meeting Minutes
Minutes from the February 17, 2001 Meeting

Mr. Cox requested a copy of the draft pay-for-view language.

Mr. Cox moved the commission approve the minutes from the February 17, 2001 meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Minutes from the February 28, 2001 Conference Call Meeting

Mr. Cox stated he feels the commission was 'waiving' the exams instead of 'tabling' the exams. Mr. Robertson stated he believes that the commission, at that time, was tabling the decision regarding the exams. Mr. Cox stated that on last page in the next to paragraph one "and" should be deleted.

Mr. Williams moved the commission approve the minutes of the February 28, 2001 conference call meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bradley and unanimously carried.

Minutes from the March 1, 2001 Conference Call Meeting

Mr. Cox made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kennemore, the commission approve the minutes of the March 1, 2001 conference call meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes from the April 30, 2001 Conference Call Meeting

Mr. Cox moved the commission approve the minutes from the April 30, 2001 conference call meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennemore and unanimously carried.

Chairman's Remarks

Mr. Robertson stated that since the last commission meeting five of the members had attended the national convention. Mr. Kennemore, Mr. Cox and Mr. Robertson spoke briefly about the convention.

Administrator's Remarks

Mr. Bryant briefly discussed the state's budget cuts with the commission. He indicated during the discussion that no employees were being let go at this time, however, this avenue is looming. He indicated there would another budget cut of approximately four percent in November 2001 and ten percent in July 2002.

Mr. Bryant stated he is removing Mr. Hall from the commission's responsibilities and placing him over investigations. He further stated Mr. Jimmy Knotts would now be working the events for the commission.

Mr. Bryant presented the members with two documents regarding reporting and medically suspension of boxers in South Carolina. He stated the current process requires a post fight physical which allows the doctor to evaluate the fighter. He further stated the commission would ask the ring side physician to complete the form and, if a fighter is medically suspended by ABC, indicate what type of tests would have to occur prior to the fighter being released from the medical suspension list. The commission suggested adding 'other' to the list of tests to the document for the Fight Fax listing.

Mr. Bryant stated when the results of a CT scan or other medical exams are sent to staff, staff reviews the results but are uncomfortable in determining what the medical tests say. He further stated that the commission approve a formal document that would be sent to the physician and ask him to sign off on his medical opinion if the fighter is eligible to participate as of that date.

Mr. Bryant asked for the commission's approval on the concept and use of these two forms. He asked the commission for a formal document from the physician. Any doctor who has reviewed the record would be able to execute the forms.

A discussion regarding physicians and the use of these forms ensued. The commission indicated it would make a decision on these forms later in the meeting.

Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Office of General Counsel

There were no advisory opinions given during the October 9, 2001 S. C. Athletic Commission meeting.

Legislative Update, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office

There was no legislative update given during the October 9, 2001 S. C. Athletic Commission meeting.

Action Items

Old Business

There was no old business to be discussed during the October 9, 2001 meeting of the S. C. Athletic Commission.

New Business

Internet and LLR-Athletic Commission Website

Mr. Bryant briefed the commission on the commission's website.

Mr. Robertson asked Mr. Knotts regarding an update on a fighter's second. During a brief discussion, it was noted that the citation was returned as undeliverable. Mr. Robertson stated he would like for the individual to be administratively suspended for cursing a commissioner.

Mr. Bryant stated his advice would be for the commission is not to suspend the individual as a boxer if he didn't violate an issue that was not under a boxer license. He went on to say the commission could administratively suspend the individual for unlicensed activity as a second.

Mr. Robertson stated he wanted the individual to be administratively suspended (as an individual) for the remarks made to him, which had nothing to do with being unlicensed as a second.

Mr. Bryant stated the individual was functioning as a boxer's second, so the commission could list on the Fight Fax that the individual was administratively suspended in South Carolina for functioning as an unlicensed second.

Ms. Dantzler stated Mr. Robertson is discussing two counts: 1) for unlicensed practice and 2) cursing an official of the department. She advised the commission that to support that second count Mr. Robertson would need to complete an affidavit regarding the events that took place so the file would contain the information regarding what happened. She indicated the Fight Fax would list an administrative suspension for two reasons: 1) for unlicensed practice and 2) un-sportsman like conduct.

Tough Man Regulations

Mr. Robertson stated the commission follows two sets of regulations: one set for boxers and one set for OTSB. He further stated the commission had discussed relaxing the regulations. He went on to say a conference call was held regarding the OTSB regulations earlier this year, however, Mr. Bradley and Mr. Kennemore had requested the matter be tabled until after the ABC convention in July 2001. He questioned each commissioner regarding their views from the national convention regarding Tough Man regulations. Mr. Bradley stated he found different regulations from each state and feels the commission should make their own regulations regarding Tough Man events.

Mr. Bryant stated Dr. Barry Jordan had conducted a national survey and presented the ABC with results during the national convention in July 2001. He further stated staff has requested the results twice, however, staff has not received the results as of this date.

Mr. Kennemore stated he would like to remove the Hepatitis B & C, HIV and ophthalmology exams from the Tough Man requirements.

Mr. Robertson stated most states don't require the exams South Carolina requires. He further stated he would also like to remove the eye exam and HIV exam from Tough Man events. He would like for the boxers to be examined by a physician twenty-four hours prior to the event and then again by a ringside physician.

Mr. Kennemore stated he would also like to get the weight division more defined. Mr. Robertson agreed that the weight divisions should be more closely defined.

Mr. Kennemore stated the commission should also scrutinize the referees and feels the commission needs younger, competent referees in the ring. He indicated the commission needs to update the referees, scorers and judges. He feels that referees should be administered a comprehensive exam on refereeing a boxing match.

Mr. Robertson suggested the commission begin locating younger officials for the events. He went on to say the commission would conduct the weigh-ins from now on. He briefly discussed a recent event held in Charleston.

Mr. Robertson stated he is in favor of holding amateur/professional fights on the card. He further stated the amateur event could be held first followed by intermission, then the professional fights. He indicated the commission could institute this event on a trial basis. He noted he would like for the commission to be informed of amateur fights.

Recess

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

Return to Regular Session

Ms. Dantzler stated the General Assembly's web page indicates this regulation was repealed in 1996. A brief discussion on this ensued. She further stated section 20-26.1 says the commission uses same rule for amateur and professional events with thirteen exceptions.

Mr. Robertson suggested the commission revert back to its original boxing law and insert items as needed, for boxing, in policy and procedures.

A discussion regarding proposed legislation ensued. It was noted during the discussion that the Department of LLR cannot take a position in proposed legislation and that it is the commission's or board's members and the professional associations to get the proposed legislation enacted.

Mr. Bryant stated there is a bill at the State House that requires a physician to sign off on if an individual does or does not require additional medical testing.

Ms. Dantzler stated the commission has to treat the professional boxers and the off-the-street boxers the same.

Mr. Kennemore moved to table this matter until another meeting to discuss further options. Mr. Cox seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Mr. Robertson stated Section 52-7-30 allows the commission to receive funds for closed circuit television showings of boxing events. He noted that the commission is having tough time receiving the funds for these showings.

A discussion on pay-for-view and notification to all cable companies regarding notification to the commission ensued.

Mr. Bryant asked that the commission allow staff to work on language and poll the commissioners at a later date.

Mr. Kennemore asked if the commission has the authority to make a motion regarding the examination for the referees and judges.

Ms. Dantzler stated the commission has the statutory authority to make regulations for continuing education.

Mr. Kennemore stated the commission has exams in place and further stated he had obtained questions from Mark Radnor five years ago.

Mr. Cox asked the commission to review Section 20-8-0. Ms. Dantzler stated the regulations state that the renewal of license is not automatic. She further stated many of the boards she advises do not have exams other than initial examination. She went on to say some of the other boards she advises have continuing education, which the Athletic Commission does not have. She indicated some of the other boards require re-examinations if the licensee has not been practicing for a certain number of years or a deficiency against the individual within the last year. She advised the commission to have the discretion on whom to examine.

Mr. Bryant stated another option would be to assign the referees and judges for each event.

Ms. Dantzler suggested inserting a time limit on lapsed license and also suggested the commission give staff instructions regarding the examination. Mr. Cox suggested a minimum of five years with seven years being the maximum.

Mr. Robertson stated the county athletic commissioners in Charleston must now set times for weigh-ins. He discussed section 20-23-20 regarding knockouts.

Mr. Bryant stated the commission could require a boxer's license be suspended for a year if he is knocked out or technically knocked out.

Mr. Hall asked the commission what staff should do when an individual approaches them

and indicates he wants to be a judge or a referee during an event. Following a brief discussion on this matter, the commission determined it would prefer to assign judges.

Mr. Cox moved the commission approve the concept and the use of the two forms presented by Mr. Bryant earlier in the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennemore and unanimously carried.

Discussion Items

Budget and Expenditure Report

The commission members were presented with copies of the budget from the previous three months for their information.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made during the October 9, 2001 meeting of the S. C. Athletic Commission.

Executive Session

The S. C. Athletic Commission did not enter executive session during the October 9, 2001 meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the commission, Mr. Cox moved the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Kennemore seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The October 9, 2001 S. C. Athletic Commission meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

The next meeting of the S. C. Athletic Commission has not yet been set.