



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

**Meeting Minutes for December 17, 2018
Conference Room 1B
Davy Crockett Tower**

The Tennessee Athletic Commission convened on December 17, 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: Donald Wynn (teleconference), Dr. Christy Halbert, Patrick Wrenn

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Glenn Kopchak, Sara Page, Pamela Spicer, Anthony Glandorf

ROLL CALL/NOTICE OF MEETING

Director Kopchak took roll call and read the Statement of Necessity, followed by the Notice of Meeting, which was posted on December 7, 2018. Dr. Halbert motioned to approve the Statement of Necessity which was seconded by Mr. Wrenn. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

AGENDA

Director Kopchak asked for flexibility with the agenda and to move the actionable items to the beginning of the meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Halbert and was seconded by Mr. Wrenn. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

LEGAL REPORT

- Case No:** 2018073461
1st Licensed: 11/22/2017
Expiration: Expired-Grace - 06/24/2019
Type: Ring - Ring Official
History: June 2017 - closed with no action

In this professional mixed martial arts event, the combatant complained that the Respondent/ Referee instructed the combatants to restart a fight from a neutral standing position after the complainant had the other participant in a submissive position. The referee had been advised by the judges that the fight was over when the Respondent stopped the fight and advised the Complainant to "let go" of his submissive position. The issue is that the fight actually had two minutes remaining. At the point everyone realized that the fight had two minutes remaining, the referee had the opponents return to the ring from their respective corners in a standing neutral position. The Complainant lost the fight. The Respondent is the referee. The respondent filed a response claiming the fight was stopped due to the fact that the time keeper gave the 10 second warning and more than 10 seconds had elapsed. The

respondent admits to restarting the fight with the fighters in a neutral position instead of the Complainant's dominant position.

Recommendation: Closure

Board Decision: The board accepted the recommendation of legal counsel.

2. **Case No:** 2018050141
1st Licensed: 02/01/2018
Expiration: Expired – 04/08/2018
Type: E.P. - Event Permit
History: N/A

A combatant complained that Respondent did not timely pay competitors at Respondent's event. An investigation was conducted. Two boxers indicated they were not paid. When legal requested proof of payment to these boxers from Respondent's legal counsel, legal did not receive a response. TCA § 68-115-212(e)(1) states, "Unless otherwise stipulated by the promoter and professional combatant by contract, the combatant shall be paid the purse at the conclusion of the professional contest." There are no other terms in regards to the timing of payments in contracts between Respondent and the unpaid combatants.

Recommendation: Authorize a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000 (\$500 x 2 boxers) for not paying combatants in a timely manner. If Respondent submits proof the payment was made to the boxers on the day of the event, the matter shall be closed. If Respondent submits proof the boxers were paid, but paid late, the civil penalty shall be reduced to \$500.

Board Decision: The board accepted the amended recommendation of counsel to close the case.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

It is estimated that both the Amateur Deregulation rules package and the Weigh-in and Weight Classification rules package will be officially approved and adopted and will become effective this spring 2019, or early summer 2019.

RULE UPDATE

Vinyl Mat Rule 0145-03-.02 Amendment

Mr. Wrenn made a motion to adopt the amended rule as written/stated, which was seconded by Dr. Halbert. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Female Boxing Rule 0145-02-.06/.19

Mr. Wrenn made a motion to adopt the amended rule as written/stated, which was seconded by Dr. Halbert. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

PHYSICAL EXAM FORM

Director Kopchak explained to the board members that the current physical exam form states that only a licensed Physician may conduct physicals for combatants and proposed to amend the form and allow physicals to be conducted by Nurse Practitioners. Mr. Wrenn made a motion to adopt the new wording, which was seconded by Dr. Halbert. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

MINUTES

Mr. Wrenn put forth a motion to adopt the minutes as written, which was seconded by Dr. Halbert. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Wynn exited the board meeting at 2:30 p.m.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Budget

Director Kopchak provided a detailed accounting of budget revenue and expenditures, to include line item and trend analysis. Director Kopchak focused on the fiscal health stating that the use of part-time field investigators and the closure of anonymous administrative complaints have helped mitigate expenses for the TAC program. Additionally, Director Kopchak explained that the budget is closely monitored to ensure that there is not an increase of unexplained or unnecessary costbacks.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Halbert requested clarification in regards to the bloodwork rule. Director Kopchak explained to Dr. Halbert that a combatant is required to submit bloodwork that is within 30-days to their initial license and are subject to additional bloodwork within 90-days of their scheduled fight. Dr. Halbert asked if there has been any push-back from the promoters, to which Director Kopchak that there has not been.

Dr. Halbert then requested clarification in regards to the licensing of seconds 7-days prior to the event. Director Kopchak explained that the TAC rules state that all fighters, ring officials, and seconds are to be licensed 7-days prior to the event and the contest sheet complete. Dr. Halbert then asked if changes to the bout sheet are allowed within 7-days of a fight. Due to staffing requirements for the inspections team and compliance with the rules, Director Kopchak explained that changes within this timeframe would be in the event of an emergency only or where exigent circumstances prevailed.

Lastly, Dr. Halbert requested clarification in regards to the taping of hand wraps, specifically the sizing of the tape (1"). Ms. Page stated that this rule is currently undergoing an amendment process, stating that the width is not to exceed 1 ¼". Director Kopchak related that the commission tries to mirror the standards set forth by ABC for all fighters (outside of the championship rules). Dr. Halbert then asked if the commission could adopt the rules of our sanctioning bodies to attract large fights. Mr. Glandorf stated that there are provisions and rules in place that allow events to adopt other sanctioned rules with the approval of the commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.