**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL WRESTLING MEETING**

**AUGUST 21, 2018**

**BATON ROUGE, LA**

1. **ATTENDEES:**
BUDDY EMBANATO (B.E.)
JAMES (JIMBO) STEVENSON (J.S.)

JOHN GREEN, JR. (J.G.)
DR. THOMAS FERGUSON (T.F.)

HAROLD WILLIAMS (H.W.) – ABSENT - MEDICAL
BOBBY DUPRE (B.D.) – ABSENT – MEDICAL

JAMES BRENNAN (J.B.)

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER

RICKY NORRIS – DEP. COMMISSIONER

ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) - ACCTG

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Oren Hawxhurst, Wildkat

Chris Harper, Wildkat

Josh Newell

David Pitre, Jr.

Gil Guillory, Pro Wrestling Rebellion

Mike Beadle, Gulf State Wrestling

Halie Guidry, House Commerce Committee

Shana Veade, House Commerce Committee

1. **DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED RULES FOR CLASS B LICENSES:**

Gil Guillory sent J.G. requested rule input/changes. For the record, it wasn’t just his input, this was a group effort. IN GROUP: Mike Beadle, Teddy Nall, Josh Newell, David Pitre, Brian Miller, Robert Grief, Mike Boudreaux, John Saxon, and others. Josh, David, Mike B, all confirm Gil’s statement/representation of them.

They have five requested changes:

1. 511. Holds: Section A - on “deliberately throwing opponents out of the ring”. These things are orchestrated and wrestler “does this himself”. Would like the verbiage to be changed. You can fake it, but you can’t do it.

J.G: intentionally or actually could be inserted.

T.F: how do we know the difference between faking and real?

G.G: because the wrestler will report it as such. Also, you will give the 5 special licenses to experienced wrestling promoters that you can trust.

B.E: remember, these rules are for all wrestling, not just Class B.

TF: How can we ensure the safety of the wrestler?

J.G: Russell, can you tell us how you can tell if something is real or not?

R.N: you can’t, unless someone is bleeding.

Oren H: There have been times when there’s complaints but it’s always “he said, he said”. It’s hard to say what’s too rough when someone complains.

T.F: in class A, there’s a doctor to check and see if someone is injured, but there will be no physician review in Class B.

G.G: which brings us to a point we were going to make, maybe we need a paramedic at ringside.

J.G: So it will be up to wrestlers to complain only? Let’s leave it the way it is. I.E., if someone gets hurt, you automatically know the rules were broken.

J.G. moves we alter the first sentence making the actions described therein as “any deliberately”. T.F. seconds; approved, all ayes.

B.E: why don’t you, J.G., go back and add the legalese and we’ll vote on it at next meeting on wording. All agree on principle, guests & commissioners.

Move beginning of second sentence to first sentence of A (fingers in mouth).

2. 511. Holds A.6: Jumping or throwing contestants over the ropes

J.G: next, the commission’s current position is that you can’t throw someone over the ropes, period. Even simulations. B.E. has no problem going through the ropes but not over the ropes.

T.F: issue is if someone goes over the ropes and breaks his leg, that can be fixed; if someone lands on his head, and breaks his neck or gets a brain injury, that’s not mendable.

G.G: we have thousands of these moves, even WWE; it can be and is done safely.

J.G: look at 511.B - you can get a commission permission. You guys can’t compare yourselves to the WWE athletes. Section B will not apply to Class B licenses. Are we talking about someone flipping themselves over? Simulating or someone picking someone up and throwing them over the ropes?

O.H: We understand commission’s concerns. I’ve been a stunt man and injuries can happen any time.

G.G: if me and O.H. want to do a prohibited move, and we call Russell before, is that kosher?

J.G: that’s what I’m thinking: are we saying through the ropes is ok as opposed to over the ropes?

G.G: Yes.

J.G. moves to remove “through the rope” in 511.A. second sentence; T.F. seconds. Passed, all ayes.

Over the rope: B.E. thinks it needs to be discussed more. We have problem when some goes flying over the rope, we have problems with that; if it’s controlled by holding onto the rope and flips over the rope, if he has a controlled maneuver, I wouldn’t have too much objection to that if we can ensure that the contestant is experienced.

J.G.to RN: what do you think? Can you tell the difference? RN: no. What about wrestlers that run and dive through the ropes on purpose.

J.S: Reminder, this is not to mean these rules can’t be changed later.

3. G.G: on 511.A.3: hitting head or neck from jumps. J.G. likes the idea of keeping this in. T.F: what is it called when one wrestler bounces off the ropes and hits his opponent? Where is that addressed in here?

J.G: there are 5 outlawed holds and would like to keep them in. That’s my position.

Mike Beadle: the interpretation is between boxing, MMA, wrestling. Boxing, MMA is to intentionally hurt the opponent. We never intentionally decide to hurt someone, and if I’m capable of doing a move and my opponent knows and agrees, we don’t intend to hurt each other. When I throw someone over the rope, it’s a controlled maneuver by my opponent, I’m not really throwing him.

J.G.: These moves are what we decided are the most dangerous, even if you are the most experienced and I don’t want to change it.

G.G: we agree and understand that these holds will not be allowed in Class B shows as there won’t be a commission reps to ensure the experience of fighters and approve moves like in Class A shows.

J.G. moves 511.A. to remove “through the ropes” out and 511.A.6 remove “out of the ring”; J.S. seconds; passed, all ayes.

B.E: ok with controlled through the ropes but not the “torpedoing” through the ropes...what’s the difference of torpedoing through the ropes or diving over the ropes?

OH/GG: It’s a planned action where someone is there to break the speed/fall.

On 511.A. 6: J.G. let’s add “no jumping over the top rope”. Again, B.E. suggests J.G. compose suggested verbiage and bring version to next meeting.

4. G.G: 513. Leaving the Ring: A: would like to change “ring” to “barrier” in first sentence. B.E: then everyone will have barriers? Not happening now?

G.G: has explicit statement on when it’s allowed (see his notes)

R.N: do we want the barrier to be part of exercise?

J.G: so we want to let the show go on outside the ring?

R.N: as long as they don’t use the barrier as a weapon etc.

J.G. will compose as above. B.E: please let’s add something about the barricades. OH: we don’t use barricades, we use security guards. J.G: you need to get barricades.

5. G.G: on 527: Wants to add that promoters can run Class A and Class B shows. OPEN DISCUSSION ON DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TYPES OF SHOWS. Why only 5? If we have 6 or 7 promoters that would qualify for Class B?

J.S.: we have to start somewhere.

G.G: Why would you want to shut out qualified B promoters? J.S: We want to control the flood gates.

J.G: It worries me about what they can afford, not who can do the show. This all started because this was all about what the promoters can afford. Based on need. If you can afford to run Class A shows, go do it. Class B was created for the smaller promoters. The “have nots” should get these licenses. This was created to help the small promoters. Help them with costs.

B.E: I have no problem with Class A promoters acting as a coordinator or assist a Class B promoter.

J.G: wait...no collusion here. If you want to do Class A shows, get a Class A license; if you want to do class B shows, get a class B license. Can’t have both.

On 528.B.1.a. Forms required on venue size and school size confirmation. Can we change that? No, it can’t be changed. That’s because that’s by statute.

On 529.B and C. Participants: G.G. would like to ask if we can submit a video of unknown contestants to R.N. for his approval of his ability. R.N. doesn’t have a problem with that. Training videos, videos of contests, etc. J.G. would like to use videos for out of state contestants only. R.N. can be available for any new in state contestants. J.G. moves to add video tapes okay for out of state contestants. The commission may accept such videotapes. J.B. seconds...passed, passed, all ayes.

G.G. proposes he set up a google drive on the cloud where he can add all tapes on that so R.N. can look at any time.

The matches must be approved 15 days before the event, not individual guys. What about preapproved alternates?

Let’s suggest all will say 7 bouts on a bout sheet (14 persons), that way they can drop...they can scratch bouts, they just can’t get new ones. J.G. would rather let them have 4 alternates instead as he thinks it’s open to abuse. Let them list how many bouts, schedule and everyone be allowed 4 alternates to be pre-approved. J.G. moves to add 4 alternates per show; J.S. seconds, passed, all ayes.

Teddy Nall wants commission to help promoters out with doctors demanding rooms at casino shows and they’re too expensive.

These are the applicants for Class B:

Matt Lancie- Oren repping him. Talent will be coming out of Wildkat facility and Gill Guillory, Teddy Nall, and Josh Newell

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Pursuant to LRS 42:16 and 42:17.A.1, J.G. moves to retire to executive session in order to discuss Class B applicant qualifications; J.S. seconds, passed all ayes.

Meeting resumes:

J.G: as of now, we’ll approve 4 licenses. Lancie needs a corporation on his own and not just running shows for Oren. He has to be in charge of the shows, not Oren.

Gil Guillory, Mike Beadle, Teddy Nall and Josh Newell will be granted opportunity to apply for Class B licenses.

J.G. address David Pitre’s status on unresolved suit/hearing. Please speak to Mr. Shea and negotiate. Mr. Pitre will.

We’ll allow all current Class A license holders to go ahead and hold any scheduled shows they have in the tube.

We’ll have the forms for ya’ll, hope to have ER rules to get all in place for September meeting.

Next regular meeting is 9/5 at 1:30.

J.S. moves to adjourn, T.F. seconds, meeting adjourned.