**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**MARCH 6, 2019**

**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.)   
BOBBY DUPRE (B.D.) – ABSENT – MEDICAL

JAMES BRENNAN (J.B.)

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER

RICKY NORRIS – DEP. COMMISSIONER

ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) - ACCTG

**2) MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT:**

J.G. moves to accept February minutes, J.S. seconds, passed all ayes. J.G. moves to accept financial report; T.F. seconds; passed, all ayes.

**3) INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** None

**4) LICENSE RENEWALS/APPLICATIONS:**

One MMA Promoter License request from Eric Garcia with Fury Fighting Championship from TX. Ricky says he asked around and received good reviews. B.E. suggests he call Jim Erickson w/TX commission and see what he says. He's sent license and fee; will send bond later. J.G. moves to grant license pending positive response from TX commission and receipt of bond. T.F. seconds, passed, all ayes.

J.G. asks if we are going to roll over 2018 Class B license holders to 2019. B.E. says he doesn't see a problem.

**5) OLD BUSINESS:**

David Pitre: All have reviewed Mr. Shea's report on David Pitre suspension. J.G. moves that we set a hearing in April to address former violations and new ones.

On Rules: Addie reviews timeline for finalizing the Wrestling NOI. J.G. requests timeline of Wrestling ER and NOI be sent to him.

**6) NEW BUSINESS**:

On altered Blood Tests: Russell received blood test that looked altered on a Mr. Michael Foreman, a fighter at a Michael Beadle show. He submits copy to J.G. J.G. moves that we subpoena Mr. Foreman, Mr. Beadle and Labcorp to attend the April hearing to address this serious issue. Rules and statutes state that promoter is ultimately responsible to ensure accurate blood tests, especially at Class B shows where doctors are not required. Mr. Beadle will be advised he is suspended from next event; Foreman has already had a fight in Sunset last weekend. B.E. says promoters must do their due diligence and pick up the phone and verify medical records/blood tests. H.W. seconds motion for J.G. to send subpoena letters out to above to attend April hearing.

David Pitre Referee License: Application was filled out incorrectly. Question is should he retain a ref license when he is suspended as promoter? Will bring this issue up to him at the hearing in case it was an honest mistake. J.B. suggests should notify him ahead of time that this issue will be presented. All agree. Russell submits copy of his application to commission. J.G. moves Pitre's ref license will stay in place until hearing; J.B. seconds; passed, all ayes.

On Event Security: (see past shows) T.F. moves that event coordinators can directly hire up to 2 security personnel, either a state trooper or local police enforcement, paid for by the commission, in order to keep corner areas free from family members and unruly entourages. H.W. seconds, passed all ayes. Security personnel must be briefed before events what expectations are with instructions. No more than 4 corner men, with only 2 on deck at any one time (one in ring only). Corner men dislike the crowds at the corners also.

On Class B licensing at events: J.G. advises commission that he gave permission for Russell to license fighters at shows when requested by the promoters; he will license, collect fees and immediately leave before the event.

On Website: B.E. will ask Brian Avara to create fillable forms for Class B applications as so many are illegible; they can then type into the form, print, sign and mail to commission. J.G. will review.

**7)** **PAST SHOWS:**

Wrestling: No discussion.

Boxing: J.S. says Al Smith had problems at his Feb. N.O. show; inexperience a problem; matchmaker problems; tried to find him one; lighting & ring problems; need to find someone to help them out before we approve another show. Would like to see him succeed as would be great for surrounding community. Commission reserves right to approve matchmakers.

Many issues at last Prograis world champ show with too many people in the safety zone and corner. J.S. and J.G. were threatened when they asked family members/entourage to leave the area. Security did not especially know how to handle the situation. Entourage continued on to threaten another fighter. Promoters secure the least amount of security possible. If commissioners in attendance arrive and see there is/will be a possible security issue, they should be able to secure more officers at commission expense. T.F. so moves and H.W. seconds. The security personnel should be advised as to what their duties are. We should address this issue with Prograis personally before next fight.

MMA: J.B. cites similar incident at show he attended. Too many people in safety zone/corners. Security didn't know how to handle. Then the promoter "Tim" argued and screamed at ref over a ruling; not acceptable. All called and apologize the next day, but damage was done.

**8) UPCOMING SHOWS:**

Wrestling: See attached schedule from Mr. Naquin.

Boxing: 4/27 at Cajun Dome in Lafayette by Leon Margulies; bond good until 7/2019 & future Prograis show.

MMA: 3/21 at Cypress Bayou by Matt McGovern. Amber Bishop show in Shreveport on 4/26 at Hirsch Coliseum fairgrounds; will be Showtime fight; J.S. & Ricky will advise how many officials will be required. 4/5 in Gretna by Ancona (FSE); 4/6 at the Paragon by Glen Matinas.

J.G. moves to approve these shows; J.S. seconds; shows approved; all ayes.

**9) EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Per LA R.S. 42.16 & 42.17, J.G. moves to Executive Session to discuss personnel and investigative issues; H.W. seconds; passed; Executive Session commences.

**10) ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING:**

April 17 for hearing/meeting good for all. Legislature will be in session 4/8 so we won't be able to use House Room. Addie will secure a court reporter for hearing portion for 10:00 a.dm. B.E. will find room at either at Embassy Suites or Crown Plaza and advise. Hearing agenda will be forthcoming. J.S. moves to adjourn; T.F. seconds; meeting adjourned.