**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**JUNE 24, 2022**

**ZOOM MEETING**

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.)
ORAY ROGERS (O.R.)

JAMES BRENNAN (J.B.)

ELMO BOUDREAUX – DEP. COMMISSIONER (E.B.)

RICKY NORRIS – DEP. COMMISSIONER (R.N.)

ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) - ACCTG

DANIEL REDMANN – LEGAL COUNSEL

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT:**

J.S.: All have reviewed minutes and financial report; J.G. moves to approve minutes and financial report. J.B. seconds. Approved, all ayes.

E.B. says we need more wrestling licenses. J.B. moves for B.E. to order more; H.W. seconds; approved, all ayes. B.E. will order more applications.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Mr. Guerririo – Bare Knuckle applicant (Boxing) Legal counsel;

David Feldman – Founder, president of Bare Knuckle

Nathan Shook – VP Bare Knuckle

1. **LICENSE RENEWALS/APPLICATIONS:**

No promoter’s licenses to approve.

1. **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mike Beadle and Michael Boudreaux: M. Beadle wants a show with 384 attending for 8/13; move not to approve by J.G; he needs to come before commission based on videos of previous shows. Also Michael Boudreaux. O.R. seconds. Any upcoming shows with Beadle or Boudreaux? One class A show 7/16 by Beadle with promoter Eddie Cedotal; Eddie was present for illegal moves at Beadle show; Beadle cannot participate in any shows until he comes before the commission. Elmo will call Eddie about Beadle’s non-participation.

J.S. moves for J.G. to send letters to Mr. Beadle and Mr. Boudreaux requesting their presence at the July meeting in reference to investigations. J.B. seconds; passed, all ayes.

Daniel will direct meeting on Beadle; if necessary we will subpoena him. Elmo will ask him to appear voluntarily.

1. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Bare Knuckles Discussion:

J.G: to Feldman: if we grant license, we still don’t have rules in place; rules would be required before any events; 30 day notice on rules. Any event plans? Would like something mid-September 16 or so. Where: venues in Paragon Casino, preliminary; NO maybe would like to be in NO. If granted, can you guarantee us a minimum of 2 shows before 12/31? Yes.

Would have to be a commitment. Submit rules for next meeting; will grant a boxing promoter license; free to advertise and sign contracts but would have to rules for public review etc. can guarantee 2 shows.

J.S: Norris got permission to go and attend a Bare Knuckles show. He went to the show in Jackson. His 2nd one. RN: both shows were sell outs; last show 4 fighters had minor injuries; Dr. did a great job; compare level of injuries of MTE to Bare Knuckles; is it more dangerous than MTE event? no comparison when guy kicks you in face with foot to a bare fist to the face; foot harder hit; B.E. reviewed video; has issue with MTE about hitting when on ground; BK doesn’t have that at least; does ref have to stop someone from choking in MTE? Every show per RN; refs responsibility to stop beatings; in BK if you knock someone down it’s an 8 count; did RN see anything that BK presented a greater danger to fighters than MTE? No, MTE much more brutal; jaws broke; ankle broke in last 3 months; BK nowhere near that from what RN observed. One MTE fighter defecated while being choked out. Any other questions?

T.F: I would like to see the rules before we vote for approval or not; J.G. sent to all already; Rules were sent at beginning of year; J.G: problem: have had their application for 4-5 months; have documentation and haven’t acted on it; meeting between T.F. and their doctor did not take place. We cannot survive a denial at this point; district court would be against on denial. Daniel Redmann thoughts?

J.S: I read rules but I just got noticed on the agenda about BK review; (D. Redmann? no deadline to respond; we need to take our time; no clear path for them to take to court; if commission wants to alter agenda today, we can; thinks any decision relative to license being issued, it’s separate and apart from any event approval.) J.G. says we needed time and we’ve had time; some people have not looked at it. B.E: we can issue license and still have to approve event right? B.E: sorry did not get agenda out earlier; did not realize license approval was on agenda; what to do?

J.G: J.S. and B.E. are experts on boxing: If you would have had a chance to block MTE, would you have? J.S. not fan; B.E. would have blocked. Refs don’t have to jump in with boxing like MTE; People hit after the bell or when down in MTE; doesn’t happen in boxing; not a fan.

B.E: MTE brutal; so is boxing; am of the mind that BK is no worse than MTE; will do whatever ya’ll vote on. J.S: I don’t see that we have to approve it at all; their current moves do not jive with ours. Why should we change or add new rules? Why should we change our rules to accommodate them? J.G: let’s assume we deny and it goes to a district court; disagrees with DR; he doesn’t see any law or rule that we have to issue a license today just because it’s on the agenda. J.G; at some point we have to decide as it’s been under review for some time; they can demand a decision? T.F: is it fair to grant a license and then deny a show later, after they’ve gone through expense etc. to advertise and all? J.G: by granting a license, we agree that they will submit rules and agree they jive with ours. J.G .believes we have to vote; J.B. agrees; B.E. would like to see a provisional license, submitting rules but doesn’t believe that expenses are that much; thinks we need to come up with a set of rules for us to approve before any events; they need to get bond, etc., like everyone else. Rules need to be promulgated.

J.B: we need to move forward with vote see if it passes then get rules and move from there. If we don’t like rules, it’s over. H.W: what’s the difference between our present boxing rules and theirs? J.G: They have a set of rules that is mostly what we have already. Weight classes are the same; dehydration rules, etc.; majority of rules jive with ours. We should be able to submit what little differences we have easily. Just be a subset in the boxing chapter. Some weight differences; referee rules a little different; different judging circumstances and corner rules; BK built their rules from ground up and maybe more restrictive than ours in some instances; we would just add a few to jive with ours. J.S: I don’t want to change the boxing rules. J.G: we wouldn’t delete any of our rules to suit them; just add what differences that would be approved by commission. H.W: understand there are more knockouts and cuts to face in BK; is that something we want? He needs to review the rules again.

J.G. moves to take up issue and make decision now to safeguard against suit.

B.E: Let’s take a roll to take up BNB discussion now:

 H.W. – Yes

 J.S. – Yes

 T.F. – Abstained

 O.R. – Yes

 J.G. – Yes

 J.B. – Yes

JG: 1) let’s move to accept the sport of BK for a 6 mo. period and promulgate separate rules specific to BK that we’ll take up at next meeting; we grant the request to grant BK Championship Inc. a provisional license dependent on rule approvals and properly promulgated. Would like our own Drs at shows to analyze prospective injuries, etc.

B.E: if T.F. can’t make that show, he can designate someone to make that show. Actually asking for an independent Dr to come in and evaluate the fights. BK would have to pay for that. T.F asks what Dr would have that authority? J.G. wants to use football Dr from McNeese that oversees concussions, etc. Dr. Errol Wilder. Concussion specialist. Very thorough; does 2 annual medical reviews at beginning and end of year; a minimum of 2 shows BK would agree to put on for us to observe how event operates; at end of year after 2 events we can evaluate if we want to accept them as official ring sport for us to oversee in the state. T.F asks are the shows videotaped? Feldman: they are and televised. Your doc is not licensed in LA? No, he’s not. We always have our own doctors even with WWE or UFC who have their own. O.R. seconds J.G.’s motion. Provisional license approval until this commission and BK have meeting of minds on rules and they’re promulgated with the state.

Roll call to take up motion to grant provisional license as outlined above as follows:

 H.W: No

 J.S: No

 J.G. Yes

 J.B. Yes

 T.F. No

 O.R. Yes

 B.E. Yes

Motion is carried to provide BNB a provisional license with above cited stipulations.

J.S: The boxing community has worked very hard 40 yrs. to make boxing safer; AMA was all over boxing to make it illegal and we made a lot changes to ward that off; glove rules, etc. seminars were started for all involved; personally think it’s a step in the wrong direction; fledgling sport; only licensed in 13 states; think we should take a step back and see what happens; may be safer than MTE; don’t know; don’t think we should change our rules to go backwards safety wise; has potential to be more dangerous; why jump so fast.

1. **PAST SHOWS:**

MTE: 6/17 AKA in Lake Charles; 6/18 Joe Ancona in Denham Springs; 6/25 Justin Verdin in Houma; 6/26 Fury at the Alario Center on the Westbank, New Orleans.

Boxing: Bad Chad pending receipt of $$ and docs in Youngsville/Lafayette tentative date 6/24.

Wrestling: None approved.

J.G. moves to approve shows and Chad’s pending receipt of fee/documents; J.B. seconds. Shows approved, all ayes.

1. **UPCOMING SHOWS:**

MTE: 6/25 Justin Verdin in Houma; 6/26 Fury at the Alario Center on the Westbank, New Orleans. Monroe 7/30 Joe Ancona; 6/27 approved last month.

Boxing: Bad Chad pending receipt of $$ and docs in Youngsville/Lafayette tentative date 6/24. Wrestling: Verdin wants show but no docs yet; wants variety of contestants that may be over 40 and need tests; may not want to do that; B.E. doesn’t like that idea. Wants pro/am but we don’t like those; exhibition? The minute Verdin steps in, he’s a pro; can’t spar with amateur. He can’t call it something it’s not. J.S. not too keen on this also; T.F.: can we get list of guys? BE: Let’s give J.S. authority to decide what can be done or not. T.F. if any over 40, need physicals; J.S.: he wants to spar with these guys; everyone wants to make boxing matches a circus these days. If anything goes wrong. T.F. makes motion to say no; J.G. seconds. Approved, all ayes.

Shows in Shreveport 7/1, class A Danny Davis & 7/1 in Columbia 7/2; 7/9 Josh Newell Monroe; 7/9 WWE Bossier City Brookshire Civic Center; 7/16 Class A in MC by Eddie Cedotal; 7/30 NOLA, Class B Matt Lancie;

J.G. moves to approve shows and Chad’s pending receipt of fee/documents; J.B. seconds. Shows approved, all ayes.

1. **ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING:**

7/14 at the Captital looks good for all. J.S. moves to adjourn; J.B. seconds, meeting adjourned.