**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**JULY 13, 2016**

**NEW ORLEANS, LA**

1. **ATTENDEES:**
BUDDY EMBANATO (B.E.)
JOHN GREEN, JR. (J.G.)

JAMES (JIMBO) STEVENSON (J.S.)
DR. THOMAS FERGUSON (T.F.)
HAROLD WILLIAMS (H.W.)
BOBBY DUPRE (B.D.) - ABSENT – WORK OBLIGATIONS

JAMES BRENNAN (J.B.) – ABSENT – WORK OBLIGATIONS

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER

RICKY NORRIS – DEP. COMMISSIONER

ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) ACCTG

1. **MINUTES:**

J. G. moves to approve June minutes as written; H.W. seconds, passed, all ayes. J.G. moves to accept financial reports, to pay bills and payroll; H.W. seconds, passed, all ayes.

J.G. inquires on whether we must give money to the state. Addie, please get written opinion from CPA.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

None.

1. **LICENSE RENEWALS/APPLICATIONS:**

One license app: not processing until bond for Tim Woods is received for his Promoter’s license. We can approve pending receipt of bond & deposit the license fee. Ricky also has a date for Justin Verdin for July 29, in Patterson.

Reminder: don’t forget to cc: Brian Avara so he can put it on the website.

Russell has received out of state applications and he has just been sending them back since we do not know anything about them. B.E. says we only accept out of state manager’s license through the mail.

Ricky needs some new green licenses. B.E. ordered white ones, but he will order green ones.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**:

Jimbo got an email from Matt on the two guys, David Lujan and Jose Orozco, who pulled out of his show. Did they call J.S. and say they had a good reason to pull out? They had signed contracts; should we suspend for failure to show & direct them to present themselves to the commission to appeal their suspension? If they do not show, they are suspended indefinitely and fined. Show was for 6/25/16, boxing at the Belle. David Lujan and Jose Orozco. J.S. thinks we should suspend them. We owe it to our promoters to punish bad actors. 60 or 90 days? We will send notice of suspension and demand appearance. J.S. gives contracts to J.G. for his files/sending letters.

On Wrestling cutting: Russell says there’s been bleeding in wrestling shows and in cage matches, both contestants intentionally cutting for dramatic effect. J.S. asks if it’s the big show guys or the little guys; Russell says it’s the WWE wannabes. The big show guys (WWE) don’t pull those stunts. Then why should the little guys? Also, an issue with one going over the rail to take photo with a local politico. Should the promoter be fined for allowing it? Yes, and fine the contestant for doing it.

Emergency rules may be needed for the wrestlers who hide razors in the tape on their hands to cut themselves during the fight. J.G.: Not needed. We already have in our rules what are accepted items in the corner and a razor is not one of them; should we fine them? J.G. says rule 527 in wrestling chapter says that boxing rules apply to wrestling events and contestants.

There’s and upcoming show in NO, jujitsu tournament; a traditional “Gi” is worn; as long as they wear a traditional “Gi”, they are not under commission purview; if they dress as a regular MMA, Boxer or wrestler, they will be in trouble with us. Ricky will tell the gentleman to call J.G. Legitimate jujitsu tournaments have nothing to do with this commission nor do we want to interfere with those events.

Jimbo called Steve Rodrigue at the Belle about the security in light of BR protests. He said he thought all would be fine but Jimbo has concerns that things will not be settled by the September show. J.G. says we can recommend to the casino they upgrade the number of security officers. 9/16 is the next show date. 8/13 there’s an MMA show there. Jimbo is directed to call the Belle, express the commission’s concerns, and ask what they can do to alleviate these concerns. If the atmosphere gets too toxic and escalates, the commission can always cancel the shows. Should we have deputies with wands at the entrances? Let the casino come up with a conceivable safety plan. They can borrow wands that Ricky and Buddy have if needed.

Eric Walker’s fight had a whole train of people in the dressing rooms and corner; how can we police it? B.E. keeps list of allowed names at dressing room doors; if name is on list, they get a wristband; period. Jimbo said some had bands. They hung on corners before fight. Matt must have given people the white bracelets for inside the ring. Only commissioners give out the white bracelets. We give some to the promoters if they ask.

Ricky: should we send a cheat sheet out to all promoters outlining this rule? J.G. says for him to go ahead to work it up. J.G. recites rule on safety zone; commission owns all those seats and to include that in his statement.

In the event that Matt McGovern does come back for another event, he needs to get another vinyl mat that is not safe; needs to be wiped down often and gets slippery. The venue people need to check on that.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**:

Rule Changes: B.E. and Jimbo will make presentation on Boxing Rules at next meeting.

Mrs. Chouest came in and reissued new checks to replace her NSF checks from her June event.

1. **PAST SHOWS:**

No discussion.

1. **UPCOMING SHOWS:**

Wrestling Saturday in Westwego; Hawxhurst on 23rd; NXT on 8/6; Teddy Nall, Lake Charles on 9/3.

Kim Addison on 8/6: needs to send her $250.

Paperwork for Chad in? B.E. says he’s taking care of it.

Matt McGovern - no money and paperwork for Belle show on 8/18 yet; send text to him to send show reservation money.

Ricco Impastato 8/26 at Harrah’s: no clue yet; send text to remind him of show date ck.

T.F. moves to accept above shows; J.S. seconds pending receipt of fees; approved all ayes.

Please email dates to Brian Avara to post on website.

1. **NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT:**

Next meeting for August: 11th looks good for all of us. 1:30 in the Embassy Suites in Baton Rouge. J.S. moves to adjourn; T.F. seconds, passed, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.