

1 **Minutes**

2 **South Carolina Athletic Commission**

3 **Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**

4 Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building, Conference Room 105

5 110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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8 **Meeting Called to Order:**

9 Pam Shealy, Chair, called the meeting of the South Carolina Athletic Commission to order at
10 10:00 a.m. Ms. Shealy announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the
11 S.C. Athletic Commission Office, Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building, and provided to
12 all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the
13 South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

14
15 **Introduction of Board Members:**

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17 Commission members present at this meeting included:

18
19 Pamela Shealy - Chair - At-Large Member

20 William McCullough - Vice-Chair - 1st Congressional District

21 Paul H. Kennemore - 4th Congressional District

22 Dr. James Phillips - At-Large Physician

23 Derek Shoemake - 5th Congressional District

24 James Vaught - 7th Congressional District

27 Staff members participating during the meeting included: Diana Williams, Athletic Commission
28 Administrator; Rod Atkinson, Real-Estate Board Administrator; Laura Smith, Real-Estate
29 Appraisers Board Administrator; Natalye Jackson, Administrative Assistant; Hardwick Stuart,
30 Office of Advice Council.

31

32

33 **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by all present.

34

35 **Invocation** was offered by Commissioner McCullough.

36

37 **Approval of Agenda:**

38 Ms. Williams requested the Commission continue forward with item 8c regarding the petition to
39 review the decision of the Amateur Mixed Martial Arts bout of David Langston versus Trevon
40 Jackson. She suggested the Commission use the video of the bout as the participants were unable
41 to attend the meeting.

42

43 **MOTION:**

44 Mr. McCullough made a motion to proceed with item 8c using the video. Mr. Shoemake
45 seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

46

47 **MOTION:**

48 Mr. Kennemore made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Dr. Phillips seconded the
49 motion which carried unanimously.

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52 **Approval of Excused Absences:**

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54 Ms. Shealy noted that the absence of Edwin M. Estridge, 2nd Congressional District, was an
55 excused absence due to illness. Ms. Shealy also noted the absence of James D. Vaught, 7th
56 Congressional District, but postponed a vote regarding his absence as he confirmed his
57 attendance with staff.

58

59 **MOTION:**

60 Mr. Shoemake made a motion to approve the absence of Edwin M. Estridge. Mr. McCullough
61 seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

62

63

64 **Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2015, June 10, 2015 and July 24, 2015 meetings:**

65

66 **MOTION:**

67 Mr. Shoemake made a motion to approve the minutes of all three dates as presented. Dr. Phillips
68 seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

69

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71 **Chairman's Remarks - Pam Shealy**

72 Ms. Shealy welcomed everyone to the meeting. She welcomed the two new members of the
73 Athletic Commission: Mr. Edwin 'Mack' Estridge from Chapin, representing the 2nd
74 Congressional District and James 'Dylan' Vaught from Conway, representing the 7th
75 Congressional District. She noted that the Commission only had one vacancy to fill from
76 Congressional District 6.

77

78

79 **Administrator's Remarks: Diana Williams**

80

81 a. The budget report for June 2015, the Year to Date Expenditures and Revenue were
82 reviewed . Discussion ensued.

83

- 84 **b.** The report from the Office of Investigations and Enforcement was distributed for
85 review. Sharon Wolfe, Compliance Supervisor, also gave an explanation of the
86 report.
87
- 88 **c.** Ms. Williams gave an update of the legislative changes. She noted that the Regulatory
89 changes, worked on by the Task Force, have passed. Mr. Atkinson noted that the
90 Statutes had not yet been passed but the Statute changes would be voted upon at the
91 next legislative session in January 2016. Additionally, he remarked that there were
92 certain Regulatory changes that could be enforced until the Statutes were signed into
93 law.
94
- 95 **d.** Ms. Williams informed the Commission of staff changes. Introducing herself as the
96 new Administrator for the Athletic Commission. She also discussed the Facebook
97 posts and analytics, remarking that as of last week the page had 59 likes.
98
- 99 **e.** Ms. Williams noted that staff is currently working on a list of approved ringside
100 physicians as provided by statute 20-12.1. This list of approved ringside physicians
101 will be provided to promoters once compiled and finalized. Discussion ensued.
102
- 103 **f.** Ms. Williams asked the Commission about their preferences when it came to board
104 meeting dates for 2016. Discussion ensued
105
106

107 **New Business**
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109

110 **a. Age Waiver Hearing: Jackson Williams**
111

112 The Commission held a Hearing regarding whether Mr. Jackson Williams, 36
113 years old, should be granted an age restriction waiver to participate in Mixed
114 Martial Arts events for the duration of the 2015 licensure period. Mr. Williams
115 appeared before the Commission to present his case for an age restriction waiver,
116 discussion ensued.
117

118 **MOTION:**

119 Mr. McCullough made the motion to grant an age restriction waiver. Mr. Shoemake seconded
120 the motion, which carried unanimously.

121

122 **b. Petition to Review Late Event Start Fee: Corey Goodwin**

123

124 The Commission held a petition hearing to review late fees charged to Mr. Corey
125 Goodwin regarding an Off the Street Boxing event held July 9, 2015 in Mt. Pleasant.
126 Ms. Williams provided the Commission with an overview of the situation and the fine
127 orally communicated to him for delaying the event past the scheduled start time. Mr.
128 Goodwin responded to the fine orally communicated to him at his event. Discussion
129 ensued.

130

131 **MOTION:**

132 Mr. McCullough made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the disposition of this case
133 and to receive legal advice. Mr. Shoemake seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

134

135 **MOTION:**

136 Mr. McCullough made the motion to return to Open Session. Mr. Shoemake seconded the
137 motion which carried unanimously.

138

139 **MOTION:**

140 Mr. Shoemake made the motion not to impose a fine for a delayed start upon Mr. Goodwin. Mr.
141 McCullough seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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143 **c. Petition to Review Amateur MMA Bout Stoppage for David Langston**
144 **versus Trevon Jackson**

145

146 The Commission held a petition hearing to review the Amateur Mixed Martial Arts
147 bout stoppage for David Langston versus Trevon Jackson in which David Langston

148 was declared the winner. A video of the bout was shown to the Commission.
149 Discussion ensued.

150

151 **MOTION:**

152 Mr. McCullough made the motion to uphold the referee's decision in the bout of David Langston
153 versus Trevon Jackson in which David Langston was declared the winner. Mr. Kennemore
154 seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

155

156 *(This proceeding was recorded by a court report in order to produce a verbatim transcript if requested*
157 *in accordance with the law.)*

158

159 **d. Discussion of Sanctioning Amateur Kickboxing**

160 **1 & 2. Johnny Davis - IKF Director of Operations and Justin Brown -**
161 **Referee**

162

163 Johnny Davis, Director of Operations, with International Kickboxing Federation
164 (IKF), spoke with the Commission via teleconference to propose that the IKF
165 become the regulating body for Amateur Kickboxing in the State of California.
166 Justin Davis, referee, also added his perception as a referee of these unsanctioned
167 events. Discussion ensued.

168

169 **e. UMMF Presentation - Ryan C. Brueggeman**

170

171 Ryan Brueggerman, Director of Operations of United States Mixed Martial Arts
172 KICK International Federation, presented to the Commission the development of
173 amateur fighters for Olympic style competition and the co-sanctioning of events
174 with the South Carolina Athletic Commission. Discussion ensued.

175

176 The Commission broke for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

177

178 The Commission returned from lunch at 1:45 p.m.

179

180 **f. Regulation of Amateur MMA Variance**

181

182 Ms. Williams presented to the Commission the issue of Amateur Kickboxing and
183 Muay Thai not being regulated by the state. Discussion ensued regarding the
184 sanctioning of Amateur Kickboxing, Muay Thai and Brazilian Jujitsu and what
185 the Commission legally could do to began sanctioning these variances of Mixed
186 Martial Arts. Commission and Community discussion ensued.

187

188 **MOTION**

189 Mr. McCullough made the motion to form a task force consisting of some Commissioners and
190 the Community to make recommendations to the Commission regarding the regulation of
191 combative sports falling under the umbrella of Mixed Martial Arts at the next meeting, October
192 6, 2015. Mr. Shoemake seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

193

194 **g. Fight Fax Requirement for Over Age Boxers**

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196 Ms. Williams suggested that Staff pull Fight Fax records for over age Professional
197 Boxers petitioning the Commission for Age Waivers to ensure the fighters did not
198 hold an extensive losing record. She suggested that the fee for this additional step
199 to be set at \$10.00. Discussion ensued.

200

201 **MOTION:**

202 Mr. Kennemore made the motion to pull Fight Fax records prior to Professional Boxer Age
203 Waiver hearings to ensure that over age fighters do not have an extensive losing record. Mr.
204 McCullough seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

205

206 **h. Discussion of Unsanctioned Bouts to Qualify for Professional Mixed**
207 **Martial Arts Licensure**

208

209 Ms. Williams requested that the Athletic Commission clarify the word 'sanction'
210 as it pertains to Professional Mixed Martial Arts fighters records and licensure as
211 provided by **20-27.02 C4**. Commission and Community discussion ensued.

212

213 **MOTION:**

214 Mr. McCullough made the motion to enter Executive Session for legal advice. Dr. Phillips
215 seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

216

217 **MOTION:**

218 Dr. Phillips made the motion to enter into Open Session. Mr. Shoemake seconded the motion
219 which carried unanimously.

220

221 **MOTION:**

222 Mr. Shoemake made the motion that for the purposes of defining the word sanction, LLR staff
223 should acknowledge bouts listed as sanctioned by the ABC's official record keeping website.
224 However, a fighter that wishes for the Athletic Commission to consider bouts not fitting this
225 description may come before the board at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. Dr.
226 Vaught seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

227

228 **i. Revising Event Promotion Guidelines**

229

230 Ms. Williams presented to the Commission for discussion policies that could be
231 put into place to enforce the Promoters responsibilities as provided in Regulations
232 **40-81-360 section B, 40-81-420 and 40-81-440**. Commission and Community
233 discussion ensued.

234

235 **MOTION:**

236 Mr. McCullough made the motion to enter Executive Session to receive legal advice. Mr.
237 Kennemore seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

238

239 **MOTION:**

240 Mr. McCullough made the motion to return to Open Session. Dr. Phillips and Mr. Shoemake
241 seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

242

243 **MOTION:**

244 Mr. McCullough made the motion to revise the Promoters Guidelines attached to the event
245 permit application to include:**1.** Under permit application deadlines, changing the Event Permit
246 application submission deadline from 14 calendar days to 15 calendar days to be consistent with
247 item **40-81-440** including the addition of a late fee of \$25.00 per day, adding to the Promoters
248 Guidelines that after 2 late submissions in the calendar year any subsequent event permit
249 applications will be denied for the remainder of that calendar year. **2.** Under Contestant/Talent
250 Roster/Fight Card, revise 14 calendar days to 15 calendar days to be consistent with items **40-81-**
251 **440** and **40-81-421 a** and adding that fight cards are considered to be a part of the permit
252 application and late submissions of fight cards will be treated as late applications. **3.** Under Gate
253 Fees revise 10 calendar days to 30 calendar days and adding that failure to pay the requested gate
254 fees will result in an additional fine of \$250.00 for every 30 calendar days that the fee is not
255 received up to a maximum amount of \$1000.00. **4.** Under new inspections, add that the promoter
256 must make the facility including the ring available for inspections by South Carolina Athletic
257 Commission representatives at least 12 hours before the start time of the event, unless other
258 arrangements have been made with the South Carolina Athletic Commission. **5.** Under new event
259 start time, add that each event must start on time as designated on the event permit and that the
260 promoter will be assessed a fine of \$100.00 per 30 minutes that the event is late in beginning
261 unless the delay is beyond the legitimate control of the promoter. Mr. Kennemore seconded the
262 motion which carried unanimously.

263

264 **j. Ring Attire**

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266 Ms. Williams presented to the Commission regarding approved ring attire for
267 Mixed Martial Arts events as per section **20-27-09**.

268

269 **k. Review of Eye Section on Annual Physical**

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271 Ms. Williams asked the Commission medical doctors, Dr. Phillips and Dr. Vaught,
272 regarding the eye examination section on the physical. In particular regarding
273 Wrestlers and certain physicians unwillingness to complete the eye portion,
274 referring the wrestler to an Ophthalmologist or Optometrist for an dilated eye
275 exam. However wrestlers are not required to complete a dilated eye exam.
276 Discussion ensued.

277

278 Mr. Kennemore left the Athletic Commission meeting at 4:10 p.m. but quorum was maintained.

279

280 **MOTION:**

281 Mr. Shoemake made a motion to remove the eye portion from the physical examination form,
282 but keeping the visual fiends portion. Mr. McCullough seconded the motion which carried
283 unanimously.

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285

286 **Unfinished Business**

287 None.

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290 **Public Comments**

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292 Sam King, a licensed Matchmaker, commented on the time and expenses involved in obtaining
293 medical examinations required for licensure, from the prospective of the participants and
294 promoters. He also expressed his concerns with Athletic Commission staff and their
295 administrative processes.

296

297 Andy Hall from Warefare MMA had questions and comments regarding physicals performed by
298 Nurse Practitioners, Registered Nurses and Physicians Assistants. He also commented on his
299 issues with Athletic Commission staff and their administrative processes.

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301

302 **Adjournment:**

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304 **MOTION:**

305 Dr. Phillips made the motion to adjourn the Athletic Commission meeting. Mr. McCullough
306 seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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308

309 The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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311 The next quarterly meeting of the South Carolina Athletic Commission is scheduled for October
312 6, 2015 in room 108.

DRAFT