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Bernie Profato
Executive Director

State of Ohio
OHIO ATHLETIC COMMISSION

Minutes of the December 14, 2011 meeting of the Ohio Athletic Commission ("OAC") held at 10:00 A.M. at the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Garfield Heights, Ohio.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Executive Director Bernie Profato. Roll call was taken by Executive Director Profato. Present for roll call were: Commissioner John Konstantinos, Commissioner Tim Ochsenhirt and Commissioner Dr. Harry Stiggers. Commissioner John Konstantinos acted as Chairman. Commissioner Gene Weiss' term has expired and the sixty day period has run out.
- II.
 - A. The minutes of the November 9, 2011 meeting were first on the agenda. Commissioner Dr. Stiggers moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Tim Ochsenhirt seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
 - B. The Licensure list was presented for Commission approval. Commissioner Tim Ochsenhirt moved to approve the list. Commissioner Dr. Stiggers seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
- III. Under unfinished business Mr. Profato stated that since the last meeting Michigan passed House Bill 4295. Tim Lueckenhoff, President of the ABC sent a letter to Senator David Robertson, Jon Farley, Chief of Staff and Darin Ackerman, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs expressing concerns about the safety and well being of Michigan fighters and fighters from other states that fight in Michigan. The bill passed the House and is going to the Senate. All this bill did was to create an amateur advisory committee to select the promoters. There is no legislation on how to run the amateurs. There is nothing about medical requirements and nothing about the database. Mr. Profato went on to read parts of the ABC letter. "The ABC has failed, through its many communication attempts, to get the State of Michigan to amend its policies and practices. However, the ABC cannot sit idly by while Michigan's actions, or lack thereof, constitute threats to the health and safety of mixed martial artists; and the integrity and fairness of mixed martial arts contests." Since Michigan is in the process of amending House Bill 4295 we will wait until January's meeting to see where they have gone on it before we initiate actions. The State of Michigan wants Mr. Profato to come and testify at their hearings. They want to use Ohio as the model for what they will do in Michigan. At this time we are letting Michigan fighters compete but we are being cautious.
- IV. Under new business Executive Director Profato discussed instituting a fine for having less than the minimum number of fights. Eight is the number of bouts scheduled in MMA. At an event if it gets down to six or seven bouts an announcement is made informing the audience that they are entitled to a refund. The State of Pennsylvania gives the Promoters the benefit of the doubt on their first fight. After that if they do not meet the limit they are fined \$500. This makes them get the contracts from the

fighters. Mr. Profato recommended that the Commission approve a fine, up to \$500, for the Promoters when they do not have the minimum number of bouts. They can appeal it to the Commission. The Athletic Commission does not receive revenues from fines. Fine monies go into the General Fund, not the 4K9 Fund. If the Promoter has not done his due diligence then it is shame on him. If a fighter signs a contract beforehand and knows he will be suspended for not showing up then he is going to show up. Commissioner Dr. Stiggers moved to approve a fine, on an individual basis, up to \$500 for not having the minimum number of bouts. Commissioner Tim Ochsenhirt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Profato introduced State Representative Mallory who is on the Commission and thanked him for his support.

New rules passed by JCARR will be posted on the website, including the license fee increase from \$20 to \$30 for all contestants, officials and non-officials. These will go into effect on January 1, 2012. The cost of National MMA ID's and Federal Boxing ID's will remain at \$20. This is the first license fee increase since 1998. Around the country the average price is \$50 for a license. The expected increase in revenues is around \$50,000. The increased revenues will be used for more enhanced drug testing in order to protect the sport and the fighters. Drug testing costs around \$400 and comes from the Athletic Commission's budget. For the last title fight the cost was around \$1600. However, if a fighter would fail a drug test then he would be responsible for the cost.

- V. A Pro-Am MMA event in Bluffton on December 17, promoted by Joe Bridenbaugh; Commissioner Dr. Stiggers moved to approve the event. Commissioner Tim Ochsenhirt seconded it and it was unanimously approved.
- VI. The Executive Director's report was read by all of the Commissioners.
- VII. There was a public comment by John Prochaska in which he commended the Board.
- VIII. Hearing with Promoter Andrew Williams. The proceedings were transcribed by a court reporter. (See official transcripts.)
- IX. Commissioner Tim Ochsenhirt moved to adjourn. Commissioner Dr. Stiggers seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The minutes have been edited for clarity and punctuation only. Content remains unchanged and the original tape of the meeting is intact and available.

ATTESTED TO: John Konstantinos DATE: January 11, 2012
POSITION: Acting Chairman