

**Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation  
Division of Professional Regulation**

**Open Minutes: State of Illinois Athletic Board**

Date: June 27, 2017

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Chicago Office, 5<sup>th</sup> floor

**Board Members Present:**

Greg Becker, Chairman  
Dr. Nick Rizzo, Member  
Nick Kanellopoulos, Member  
Patrick Morley, Member

***The Board Members present constituted a quorum of the Board.***

**Staff Present:**

Nancy Illg, Acting Director  
Joel Campuzano, Executive Manager, Athletics Board Liaison  
Katy Straub, Associate General Counsel

Topic	Discussion	Action
I. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ BOARD MEETING OPENING	Roll call: Greg Becker – present Nick Rizzo – present Nick Kanellopoulos-present Patrick Morley – present	Chairman Becker called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
II. OLD BUSINESS	Joel Campuzano, Board Liaison, presented the January 10, 2017 Board meeting minutes for review.	Motion was made and seconded (Morley/Rizzo) to waive the reading and approve the January 10, 2017 minutes. Motion carried.
III. NEW BUSINESS (a) Update on approval of amateur sanctioning bodies.	After numerous attempts by the Board and the Department to work with UMMAF on the passage of its sanctioning body rules, they have sent written notice that, while ambiguous, would strongly indicate their withdrawal from the review and approval process.	
CLOSED SESSION		Motion was made and seconded

		(Morley/Kanellopoulos) to move into closed session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Motion carried.
	Discussion of UMMAF correspondence with the Department.	
OPEN SESSION		Motion was made and seconded (Morley/Kanellopoulos) to move into open session at 11:31 a.m. Motion carried.
III. NEW BUSINESS (b) Update on ABC Rules Changes	<p>Discussion regarding the appropriateness and efficacy of the ABC voting/adopting mma unified rules' changes as a bundle. Two rules changes (kneeing/kicking the head of a grounded opponent and direct/targeting strikes to the kidney) have continued to cause controversy around the country amongst athletic commissions. Not all commissions have adopted the rules changes and/or have actively taken a position against the rules changes.</p> <p>Dr. Rizzo shared his opinions on the issue of the targeted strikes to the kidney rule explaining the mischaracterization of the rule regarding actually striking an internal organ as opposed to excessive muscle breakdown and release of proteins into the kidneys. To date there has not been a reported case of a contestant's lacerated kidney as a result of a blow from a boxing or mma bout.</p>	
III. NEW BUSINESS (c) Current Events in Boxing Industry	Joel Campuzano presented examples of the widely varying administrative and field operations practices	

	<p>between athletic commissions. With the leadership of the ABC openly hostile to various state/tribal commissions and/or apathetic to the chasm of uniform, unarmed combat sports policy its brand of leadership has created, fighters are facing a potential or increased risk to their health and safety.</p> <p>Pat Morley shared his experience at an Iowa boxing event where the field operations practices of the Commission, its inspectors and its ringside personnel, when attending to a severely injured fighter, were essentially nonexistent. He presented examples of extremely slow and unresponsive medical personnel and directionless inspectors and Commission personnel.</p> <p>Joel Campuzano presented other inconsistencies in officiating from around the country.</p>	
<p>III. NEW BUSINESS (d) Update on Proposed Legislation</p>	<p>HB2856, HA #2 – The presented bill was an iteration of previous bills to deregulate amateur full contact martial arts, utilize unvetted amateur sanctioning organizations to oversee these unregulated events and eliminate the department’s authority to determine which organizations/sporting activities were exempted entities from the Act/Rules. The bill was successfully moved out of the House on a</p>	

	<p>98-0 vote but was standing in Assignments as of May 2017.</p> <p>Board members requested to actively participate in future, real time Departmental discussions of proposed athletic bills.</p>	
<p>IV. ADJOURNMENT</p>		<p>Motion was made and seconded (Morley/Kanellopoulos) to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.</p>