



2015 ABC ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES

Held: July 25 – 29, 2015, Wyndham San Diego Bayside* 1355 North Harbor Drive* San Diego, CA 92101

Monday, July 27th, 2015

Welcome – Andy Foster, California Department of Combative Sports

Tim Lueckenhoff (MO) – Presented Motion to accept 2014 ABC Meeting Minutes

- Seconded by Bernie Profato (OH) & Joe Mason (CO)
- **Motion** passed unanimously

Introduction of Members – Everyone present introduced themselves.

Verification of Registered Commissions: (Attachment 1 – Voter Authority Forms)

Commission

1. Alabama
2. Arizona
3. Arkansas
4. California
5. Chickasaw Nation
6. Citizen Potawatomi Nation
7. Colorado
8. Comanche Nation
9. Confederate Tribes of Siletz Indians
10. Connecticut
11. Fond du Lac
12. Florida
13. Georgia
14. Hawaii
15. Idaho
16. Illinois
17. Iowa
18. Kansas
19. Kentucky
20. Louisiana
21. Maryland
22. Mashantucket Pequot
23. Massachusetts
24. Mille Lacs
25. Minnesota
26. Missouri

Voting Representative

Jody McCormick
Matthew Valenzuela
Lydia Robertson
Andy Foster
Haskell Alexander
Diana Fletcher
Josef Mason
Lisa Dawsey
Lillie Butler
Michael Kostrzewa
Michael Himango
Frank Gentile
Matt Woodruff
Alan Taniguchi
Tom Katsilometes
Nancy Illg
Joe Walsh
Sean Wheelock
Angela Robertson
Buddy Embanato
Patrick Pannela
Kenneth Reels
Gary Litchfield
Matt Roberson
John Rajkowski
Tim Lueckenhoff

27. Mohegan Tribe
28. Muscogee Creek Nation
29. Nebraska
30. Nevada
31. New Hampshire
32. New Jersey
33. North Dakota
34. Ohio
35. Oklahoma
36. Oneida Indian Nation
37. Oregon
38. Pascua Yaqui Tribe
39. Puerto Rico
40. Red Lake
41. Rhode Island
42. Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
43. ~~South Carolina~~
44. Texas
45. Turtle Mountain Chippewa
46. Utah
47. Washington
48. Washington D.C.
49. Wichita Tribe of OK
50. Wyoming

- Mike Mazzulli
 Dan Kirby
 Brian Dunn
 Francisco Aguilar
 John English
 Rhonda Utley - Herring
 Brandon Wilson
 Bernie Profato
 Joe Miller
 Daniel Gustafson
 Brad Darcy
 Ernie Gallardo
 Herman Colberg
 Gerald "Bud" Beaulieu
 Peter Timothy
 Elliot Lazarre
- Lee Parham
 Weston Poitra
 Bill Colbert
 Susan Colard
 Timothy Thomas
 Michael Snyder
 Jeremy Acreson

Treasurer Report – Buddy Embanato (LA)

2014 Financial Report

- Revenues are built by Conference, Dues/Memberships, and Silent Auctions.
- Revenue for 2015 is close to \$40,000
- 2014 Silent Auction brought over \$6,000
- Total Revenue for 2014 \$41,926.00
- Annuity has \$97,202 [typo, but from previous Board]
- Proposed raising dues from \$175 to \$200/\$300 range due to increasing costs for the conference.
- 2014 Financial Report available upon request.

2014 Motion to accept Financial Report passes unanimously.

Proposed Full Membership

- **Red Lake Nation Athletic Commission**
 - o Bud Beaulieu & Mike O’Neill
 - o Motion presented to accept Full Membership
 - Motion passes unanimously
- **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe Athletic Commission**
 - o Sanctioned six (6) events at local casino
 - o July 18th, 2013 first event held
 - o Motion presented to accept Full Membership
 - Motion passes unanimously.
- **Fond du Lac Athletic Commission**
 - o Seven (7) Boxing Events since 2013
 - o Eight (8) MMA Events since 2013
 - o Motion presented to accept Full Membership
 - Motion passes unanimously

World Series of Boxing

Pat English (NJ)

- Fight Fax began in 1984 by Ralph Citro under the initial name “Computer Boxing Update”
 - o Annual record book to track the fights world over and was a central database of up-to-date records of boxers.
 - o Major purpose is the health and safety of boxers
- Professional Boxing Safety Act was enacted in 1996.
 - o Association of Boxing Commissions predates the Professional Boxing and Safety Act, founded in the 1980s and the mission of the ABC includes: “To promote uniformity of health and safety standards and other requirements pertaining to the conduct of combat sports events.” “To promote standard reporting of combat sports events between members, including results, injury reports, suspensions and other medical information.” “To encourage communication, cooperation and uniformity in the supervision and regulation of combat sports among the members of the ABC.”

Bryan M. Kaemmerer, Attorney

McCarthy, Leonard, Kaemmerer, L.C.

Legal Counsel to Joshua Temple, World Series of Boxing

The Beginning of World Series of Boxing

- *The concept of World Series of Boxing (WSB) was first presented to the boxing family in August 2008 by President, Dr. Ching-Kuo Wu. The proposal was met with approval and plans were put in place for this unique competition format. The world’s best boxers, competing in teams, without head guards and using the AIBA Ten Points scoring system, would partake in a global team competition. The origin of WSB marked a new era in the sport of boxing, reuniting the broader boxing world and its grassroots amateur foundation by providing a bridge between Olympic Boxing and a future professional program within the AIBA family.*

Boxers with the World Series of Boxing

- In total there have been 884 boxers compete during the first four seasons of WSB. 50 boxers competed in London 2012 with 7 of them gaining medals (four silver and three bronze). Boxers from 76 different countries made up the teams for this truly global competition. 66 WSB boxers have progressed to compete in the inaugural season of APB.

USA BOXING

- **History of the USABF**
 - o Since its founding in 1984 with a special grant from the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), the United States Amateur Boxing Foundation has been a major contributing force in amateur boxing; providing almost \$1.7 million dollars in direct support to numerous programs for young men and women boxers throughout the United States.
 - o The United States Amateur Boxing Foundation is the only organization that exists solely to raise funds to support and advance the sport. We provide funding directly to the athletes, as well as to the organizations that support them at all levels – local, state and national programs.
- **Mission & Goals**
 - o The mission of the Foundation is to advance the sport of amateur boxing and its participants, by providing financial support, resources and expertise to USA Boxing and those it serves.
 - o The Foundation's purpose is threefold:
 - To raise financial support in order to fund programs and provide resources which advance the sport of amateur boxing at all levels.
 - To plan new programs, in conjunction with USA Boxing, the national governing body of amateur, Olympic-style boxing, to benefit the amateur boxing community and provide the funding to support those programs.
 - To build the awareness and reputation of the sport of amateur boxing in the United States.

Websites:

www.aiba.org – AIBA International Boxing Association

www.worldseriesboxing.com – WSB World Series Boxing

Sponsors:

Inspira Healthcare – Heather Lindstrom & Joan Pierce

Request a Test – Carolyn Solis

Rival Boxing Gear, USA – Richard Anber

- <http://rivalboxing.us/>

MedLic – Jan Hubbard

MedLic was founded in mid-2008. MedLic manages and maintains an online electronic health records database for the combatant fighter and works side by side with all U.S. Territories, North American Tribal Commissions and Canadian Athletic Commissions to ensure that each fighter has his or her up-to-date electronic health records downloaded for quick and accurate access to expedite the licensing process in order to compete. <http://www.mymedlic.com/>

Compliance Committee Report – Tim Leuckenhoff (MO)

- 29 Boxers participated on suspension July 2014 to June 2015.
 - o Boxer John Orr fought twice while on suspension, in October in Massachusetts and December in West Virginia, needing Neuro clearance.

Fight Fax Record Keeper Report – Ani Miramontes

- Suggests checking Fight Fax suspension lists on the day of the event in addition to receiving the bout sheets.
- A fighter allowed to fight on expired Federal I.D.'s is a continuing problem.
- 42% of Federal ID Applications that Fight Fax receives are sent back due to incomplete information.
- Foreign fighters: Need copy of passports, no Federal ID will be issued without a copy of the passport.
 - o Change height/weight information from meters/kilos to feet/inches/pounds.
- State fighters: Need copy of DL/ID and SS card (if available). No Federal ID will be issued without a copy of these documents.

MMA, LLC Record Keeper Report – Kirik Jenness and Chris Palmquist

- Facebook following has increased from 300,000 members to 1.5 million members.
 - o An increase from December 2014 to present of 500%
- Kirik@mixedmartialarts.com e-mail for information
- Current Status of the MMA, LLC System
 - o 2014 Events: 1,325 ABC Official Events
 - Amateur MMA is 30% bigger than Professional MMA
 - PowerPoint Presentation will be available on ABC Website
 - National ID's Issued: 6,204 in 2014
- New Promoter Portal
 - o Introduced a Medical Management System
 - Lists all medicals needed per State for the fighter
 - Bernie Profato (OH) makes Motion to allow more information to be placed onto the website. Motion passes unanimously.

Proposed By-Law Change

- o Susan Colard (WA) wants to develop a strategic business plan for the ABC & made a motion to do so Seconded by Pat Pannella (UT).
- Lydia Robertson (AR) makes Counter-Motion to table Susan Colard's Motion until the election of the new 2016 Executive Committee.
 - o Andy Foster (CA) seconds the Counter-Motion of Lydia Robertson.
 - o **Motion** passes to table the Proposed By-Law change presented by Susan Colard.

Boxing Training Committee

- Jim Erickson (TX)
- Pat Pannella (MD)
- Joe Mason (CO)
- Tim Lueckenhoff (MO)

Legal Committee – Pat English (NJ)

- Bare Knuckle Boxing
- Wyoming approached ABC President in regards to Bare Knuckle Boxing.
 - o Regulated, but City Council banned the event, due to no Sanctioning Committee.
 - o Litigation filed against the city of Riverton, WY, ABC Organization, ABC President Tim Leuckenhoff.

Boxing Sanctioning Organization

- World Boxing Organization (WBO)
- www.wboboxing.com

Nomination for 2017 ABC Conference Site

- Boston, MA
- Nashville, TN
- Foxwoods, CT
- Orlando, FL
- New Orleans, LA

Tuesday, July 28th, 2015

General Session: Boxing

Drug Testing – Francisco Aguilar (NV)

- Steroid & Illegal Drug testing
 - o What should be the penalties?
 - o How severe should the penalties be?
 - Different penalties/severity for different Steroid/Illegal Drug use
 - World Anti-Doping Agency www.wada-ama.org

Cutting Weight - Andy Foster (CA)

□ Requiring an IV to fight in a lower weight class (due to dehydration), is a constant problem. Are fighters fighting in weight classes that are safe for them? Average weight gain for an MMA fighter is 19.8 pounds after cutting weight for weigh-in. Possibly changing weigh-in procedures, different weight classes.

BoxRec – John Sheppard

- Founded in 1999
 - o 328 Commissions around the World
 - o 45 Commissions submit results to BoxRec
 - History of BoxRec
 - BoxRec or boxrec.com is a website dedicated to providing updated records of professional boxers, both male and female.
 - Currently over 1.75 million bouts to date in database. Presently they insert an average of 2,000 "new" entries each week into the database.
 - Cites the exact venues, referees, judges, official weights, knockout times, promoters, and descriptions of bouts. (pre-Marquess of Queensberry Rules) or exhibition bouts, although such matches might be mentioned in the boxer's BoxRec Wikipedia biography.

USADA/WADA Performance Enhancing Drugs and Drug Testing

- Dr. Amy Eichner & Dr. Daniel Eichner
 - o WADA – Standard setting organization for Anti-Doping
 - Based in Montreal, Canada
 - Cooperation with different governments and laws

- USADA
 - Mandated by Congress to be the Anti-Doping agency for Olympics
 - Preserve the integrity of competition
- What defines doping?
 - Presence of a prohibited drug
 - Use or intended use of a prohibited drug
 - Evading doping control
 - Tampering
 - Possession
 - www.globaldro.com or www.ufc.globaldro.com
- Dietary Supplements

Instant Replay Committee – Joe Miller & Wally Jernigan

- Handout available on ABC Website
 - Joe Miller makes Motion to amend by Pat English
 - Motion passes unanimously

Promoters Round Table Discussion – Roy Englebrecht (CA)

- Dangerous Weight Gain/Loss
- Rule/Regulations to sanction fighter fees to cap at 1%
- Require promoters to attend Commission meetings

Malpractice Coverage – Pat English

- Handout available on ABC Website
- National Association of Sports Officials www.naso.org/memberbenefits/Insurance.aspx

Pod Index – Walter Wojtowicz & Matt Podgorski

- Online master score sheet and database and reporting , printable online PDF Reports
- Scoring reviews of controversial fights, diagnose a judge's potential perception problems, potentially vindicate a judge in the minority of judges taking public criticism.
- Judge selection consulting for high-profile fights, provide fighters most even playing field possible, possible public relations and partnership with fighter camps and promoters
- Online master score sheet database and reporting, annual fee: \$4,000 plus \$5 per fight for data entry, new client first year discount: 50%

Boxers Organizing Committee – Paul Johnson

- www.boxers.org
 - Proposal:
 - Professional boxers need a Union. Labor Unions began in professional sports to give athletes a collective voice and fair treatment during and after their careers. Unionized professional sports have only been around for decades, while boxing has been around for centuries without a Union for its athletes. Boxers deserve the rights to collective bargaining, pensions, and other benefits.
- Johnson4042@aol.com

Drug Testing Demonstration - Andy Foster (CA)

- What should commissions test for?
 - #1 thing – Testosterone
 - Illegal drugs
- Non-Medical Use
 - Several types of application methods of “testosterone doping” include:
 - Intramuscular injections
 - Transdermal gels and patches
 - Implantable pellets

- Testosterone and other anabolic steroids were designated a “controlled substance” by the United States Congress in 1990 with the Anabolic Steroid Control Act.

Selection of Gloves & Chain of Command – Mark Relyea (CA)

- Document handed out to ABC members
- Henry Cooper vs. Cassius Clay
 - o Wembley 1963 – England
 - o Corner man ripped glove to buy fighter time

2016 Officer Elections

President

Mike Mazzulli Elected (Mohegan)

Bernie Profato (IA)

Vice President (1)

Susan Colard (WA)

Frank Gentile (FL)

Josef Mason (CO) He *withdrew nomination*

Brian Dunn (NE) Elected

Vice President (2)

Skip Brown (DC)

Mike Kostrzewa (CT) Elected

Frank Gentile (FL)

Treasurer

Lydia Robertson (AR) Elected

Mike Snyder (Wichita Tribe)

Secretary Joe Walsh (IA) Elected

Day 3, July 29, Welcome by President Mike Mazzulli

This is a “we” organization and team. Announced we have an extensive agenda to get through and asked for the membership’s patience in getting through the agenda.

Training Committee

Nick Lembo (New Jersey). The Training Committee has responsibility to review training courses for judges and referees. This committee approves “ABC-certified courses.” The Committee reviewed and approved Mark Smith from Nevada for Judges Training. Moved and seconded. Passed on voice vote. The Committee reviewed another training course but did not recommend approval. It did not come up for a vote.

Rules Committee

Nick Lembo (New Jersey). The Rules Committee has responsibility to evaluate and recommend rules.

Recommendation by Rules Committee to add straw weight category. This would add a weight classification for 115-125 which would be called straw weight. Moved and seconded. Passed on voice vote.

Sean Wheelock (Kansas) asked to have consideration of Cruiserweight classification between 205 and 265. Lembo addressed Wheelock’s concern and indicated the classification had been reviewed, considered and rejected previously.

Wheelock asked to be involved in reconsideration.

ABC Medical Committee

Dr. Sheryl Wulkan, New Jersey Introduced **Steven Oxler, M.D.,** Performance Enhancing Drugs ... The Good, The Bad and the Ugly.

Presentation Summary

Definition of Doping. The practice involving prohibited substances and other methods to give an athlete an unfair advantage over other competitors. WADA statement: The Spirit of the sport is the celebration of the human spirit, the body, and the mind. Doping is contrary to the spirit of the sport, erodes public confidence and jeopardizing the health and well-being of athletes. She described the good and bad with several PEDs.

Dr. Wulkan thanked the members of the ABC Medical Committee for their work. Dr. Wulkan discussed the changes implemented by the UFC and the use of USADA to combat PED abuse in MMA. Dr. Wulkan presented on weight loss issues. Dr. Wulkan discussed the reason for weight loss in MMA. There is an entrenched culture amongst MMA fighters. Education is needed to combat a culture which is detrimental to the safety of the fighters. Physiological effects of excessive weight loss are harmful to fighters. This was discussed in detail. Dehydration is a serious problem.

Dr. James Thompson, Chief Technical Officer Evoke Neuroscience. Goals of the program was looking for useful tools for the safety of fighters. There are deficiencies in the current tests available. MRIs and CT Scans can show moderate to severe head injuries, not concussion. Neuropsych testing is inconclusive and reliant upon the athlete. The Evoke program evaluates balance, cognitive capacity, impulse control, memory mental stress, physical stress, reaction time, resilience and sustained attention. Still relies upon self-report of athlete. This provides test results for physicians to evaluate. Reviewed sample testing in detail. The feedback from the athletes has been positive with good “buy-in.”
jthompson@evokeneuroscience.com

Pat English, Attorney, introduced speaker Dr. Margaret Goodman

Dr. Margaret Goodman, Voluntary Anti-Doping Association, neurologist.

Provided background of VADA. Primary purpose was to encourage and expand anti-doping policies. Survey of the states revealed that combat sports is “behind the curve” on anti-doping. Asserted anti-doping is needed to improve the prestige of our sports. Pitfalls for Commissions. Policies must be: 1. Consistent. 2. Standardized. 3. Understandable. Offered assistance to programs. There can be no fair anti-doping program *without education*.

Margaret@VADA-testing.org

Statement by Pat English. Pat engaged spoke about drug testing and the need to have all tests released directly to the Commissions.

Skip Brown?, D.C., requested publishing ABC Prohibited List.

Pat Panella, Maryland, discussed various forms available to ABC members.

Thomas Yu, World MMA Association, Sanctioning Body.

Summary of presentation. Mr. Yu stated that he saw a “huge need for unifying sanctioning bodies worldwide.”

Introduced World MMA Association. Andy Foster from California asked if he was a sanctioning body. World MMA Association is the sanctioning body for Mexico. Seeks to enforce ABC guidelines worldwide. Mr. Yu answered questions about his organization and its relationship to Commissions and regulators around the world.

Kenny Reels (Foxwoods) recommended setting up a committee of the ABC to understand potential relationship.

President Mazzulli stopped the motion and asked for information from Mr. Yu which he promised to disseminate to ABC members.

Jon Frank, United States Fight League (USFL)

Presentation Summary. Introduced self; retired law enforcement officer and U.S. Marine. Former fighter. Described “youth pankration.” Began in 2001. Purpose was to host youth pankration fights (dual meets). Described the number of events his organization has held in some detail as well as number of youth in each category. Pankration is not MMA. Head strikes and knockouts are not legal. Scoring is not based upon damage but rather techniques. Score points for technique. Damaging techniques are not allowed. Safety equipment is more substantial. Mr. Frank claimed his organization has a good safety record with a low injury rate. Stated that media coverage is often unfair. His organization faces many challenges, most notably, bad press. jon@fightleague.com

After Lunch:

Frank Babcock, UMMAF, MMA Sanctioning & **Ryan Brueggeman, Referee UMMAF**

Presentation Summary. Babcock gave the history of organization. 2001 created KICK International to regulate amateur MMA/Kickboxing. Split with IMMAF. IMMAF covers kickboxing KICK regulates kickboxing.

White described what his organization can do for state commissions. His organization can step in if the state does not require it. If the state does require it, his organization can still provide officials and work with the commission.

White recommended having true unified rules for amateurs. **Matthew Valenzuela**, Arizona, provided testimonial involving co-sanctioning with IMMAF. He stated IMMAF provided world class officials.

Densign White, CEO, IMMAF

UFC sponsors IMMAF in some capacity. Discussed the IMMAF structure and vision. Still working toward getting recognition with the International Olympic Committee although he was vague about this. Discussed the anti-doping policies of his organization.

Mr. Brueggeman hosted a question and answer session.

Casey Oxendine, CEO Arena Combat

Presentation summary. Mr. Oxendine presented the rules and background of 2 on 2 combat. He was a fighter and promoter in Tennessee. Mr. Oxendine provided a video which described and explained the “sport” of arena combat. He claimed it has been allowed in two states: South Carolina and Mississippi. Mr. Oxendine answered questions. He acknowledged there is no reporting to any database at this time but that is one of the reasons he has asked to present at the ABC. He seeks to legitimate his sport while innovating. Numerous questions were asked about the structures inside the cage and other safety related questions. His goal is “continue the evolution of excitement in combat sports.”

Mike Mazzulli, New President - Reminder of the Silent Auction

Open Forum Begins with:

Bill Colbert/ Utah, indicated he is concerned about the proliferation of sports. As sports evolve, commissions have a difficult time keeping up. A speaker who could not be identified suggested that the Ali Act should be applied to MMA and made other points.

Lydia Robertson, Arkansas- The 2016 Convention shall be held in Las Vegas (Baby). Hotel Rooms \$75 per night \$120 weekend rate; will be less than published rate. The dates were estimated to be July 28 through August 3, 2016.

President Mazzulli advocated for inspector’s training at ABC convention. He also advocated for quarterly meetings from the Board of Directors, the creation of a one stop website and a Newsliner for internal communications on the website to deal with “bad apples.”

Committees

The current standing committees outlined in the by-laws are:

- Medical
- Legal
- Rules (Sean Wheelock)
- Training and Education
- Disciplinary
- Compliance
- Pension
- Trust Fund

Housekeeping – 6 o’clock Reception in Room D; Tim Lueckenoff, Missouri, announced the dinner was cooked chicken. Tim Lueckenoff, Missouri, moved to close meeting seconded by Lydia Robertson, Arkansas. The meeting was closed by consensus.